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“students of month”

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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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75 CENTS ~ 16 PAGES

Local FFAers ready to “meat the need” (again)

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Cass City Junior-Senior High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) members are gearing up to

“meat” a very basic and vital need in their community once again in 2016.

The teens, many of whom are still savoring the success of utilizing a \$2,500 grant to raise livestock and then processing and donating hun-

dreds of pounds of meat to Revive Ministries for distribution to needy families in the Cass City area last year – have been awarded another \$2,500 grant to repeat the project.

In both cases, the grants have been

awarded through the FFA: Food For All program, which provides funding to local FFA chapters to support year-long service-learning projects that address hunger in their communities.

In 2016, a handful of local junior high FFA members took the challenge to heart under the guidance of Russ Weyer, Cass City Junior-Senior High School's agriscience teacher and FFA advisor, as well as their family members. And, with a number of generous individual and service club donations, they managed to donate an impressive 600 pounds of beef, another 500 pounds of pork and roughly 1,600 pounds of chicken under the project title, “Meating the Need for Our Village Hunger Project”.

“We are going to do a lot of the same things with the grant money (this year),” Weyer said of the plan for this year's project. “However, we are looking at changing to include doing more egg production, where several members will be raising hens to produce eggs in which we can donate eggs to Revive,” he added.

“We feel that this is a good opportunity to continue helping our community. We were witnessed to the need of it throughout the donations and want to continue making an impact on the community of Cass City.”

That impact came from a small group of students that included Addy Battel, Pearl Daskam and Ethan Healy, all eighth grade students, and freshman Shane Auten, along with their parents.

“This year I'm going to try to get more of the high school students involved in it,” Weyer said. “I know a lot of the high school students are interested in it, so it should be an easy

transition.”

Sue Stuever Battel, the mother of Addy Battel and who was instrumental in writing the Food For All grant applications, indicated this year's effort will expand on what the local junior high FFA chapter – now boasting more than a dozen members – accomplished in 2015.

“The \$2,500 grant will allow them to raise more meat animals to have processed and donate to the food pantry,” Battel said. “A few things are new this year. Even more young people will have the opportunity to raise animals. They keep records of their animals, manage the nutrition, monitor their health and calculate expenses.”

This year, the students will be raising some lambs so food pantry clients will have the opportunity to choose ground lamb if they like.

“It can be used in recipes that call for ground beef or ground pork,” Battel noted. “Whole frozen chickens were a big hit so they will be raising even more of those this year. They're a good donation because families can roast a whole chicken for one meal and use leftovers the

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LINDSAY JENSEN AND her daughter, Kenleigh (left), and Lindsay's mother, Winnie Jensen, have plenty to smile about these days following a car accident one year ago that left the 2006 Cass City High School graduate paralyzed by a spinal cord injury.

Long road to recovery

Cass City's Lindsay Jensen beating the odds in her battle back from a spinal cord injury one year ago

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

It took just seconds for a car accident to turn Lindsay Jensen's life upside down.

It's taken months to get her life back, but the Cass City woman has already proven herself up to the task of beating the odds after suffering a spinal cord injury that robbed her of the ability to do things most other people take for granted.

And she isn't finished yet.

Jensen, 27, recalled the crash – and what it's taken to regain the use of her limbs since – during an interview Friday, which marked the one-year anniversary of her accident on Cemetery Road.

“I was south of town, not even a mile. I ran home to get lunch from my house, and I came back and pulled over for a fire truck,” said the 2006 Cass City High School graduate, who lived in the Deford area and was working at Coach Light Pharmacy in town at the time, with plans to start a new job as a physician's assistant in Caro the next day.

But those plans changed dramatically when Jensen resumed her drive into Cass City and her vehicle began sliding on the slush-covered roadway. “I over-corrected and rolled over in a ditch,” she said.

In the process, Jensen fractured two cervical vertebra (the bones that interlock with each other to form the spine), and two pieces of one of those bones pierced her spinal cord.

Jensen said she wasn't aware of the severity of her injuries as first responders transported her to Hills and Dales General Hospital.

But even as the staff prepared to transfer Jensen to Covenant Hospital in Saginaw, her mother knew the injuries were serious.

“I knew at Hills and Dales because I worked there for over 35 years,” said Jensen's mom, Winnie, who left her job as an OR technician there to help her daughter and family, including Lindsay's daughter, Kenleigh, who was just four months old at the time. Winnie and her husband, Jeff, would go on to make arrangements to complete renovations of their home so Lindsay and

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CASS CITY FFA members Pearl Daskam (center) and Addy Battel (far right) help unload about 400 pounds of processed chicken at Revive Ministries, represented above by Gail Tuckey, last summer in conjunction with the Meating the Need for Our Village Hunger Project”. The local FFA group has secured another \$2,500 grant to continue the project in 2016.

Novesta, Ellington townships take property owners to court

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Blight issues are at the heart of two civil lawsuits recently filed by officials in Novesta and Ellington townships.

Novesta Township has filed suit against property owner Dennis M. Woloshen over a dilapidated home in Deford, which township officials say violates a local dangerous buildings ordinance.

Woloshen, who now resides in Lapeer, remains the owner of the property, where his former residence sustained significant fire and smoke damage about three years ago and has since set vacant. The roof of the home at 5920 Bruce St. has partially caved in, leaving the structure open to the elements, and there is no electrical service.

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Student immunization waivers down statewide; local numbers inconsistent

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

State health officials say a new rule change related to non-medical vac-

nation waivers for Michigan students has resulted in a whopping 39-percent drop in the number of waivers submitted this year compared to the same time last year.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) officials, who announced the decrease in a new release issued last week, noted the estimate is based on preliminary data.

In 2014, Michigan had the sixth highest immunization waiver rate in the country, with more than five percent of kindergarten children not receiving all required vaccines.

All Michigan kindergarteners, seventh grade students, and students moving from one school district to another are required to be up to date on certain immunizations or have a signed immunization waiver.

To address the high waiver rates in Michigan, a new rule went into effect in January 2015 that requires parents seeking a non-medical waiver for their child's vaccinations to meet with local health department staff before obtaining the waiver.

The change was implemented to

prevent more children from being susceptible to serious vaccine-preventable diseases, according to state health officials, who note that children who are not vaccinated also pose a health risk to babies too young to be vaccinated, the elderly, and youngsters and adults who can't be vaccinated due to medical issues or who have suppressed immune systems, such as individuals undergoing chemotherapy.

In the past, parents could obtain a waiver from a school by signing a paper at the time of enrollment stating they have a philosophical opposition to vaccines.

Now, the law requires parents seeking a waiver to first obtain the necessary paperwork from their county health department and sit through an education session focusing on vaccines and the diseases they are intended to prevent.

“By ensuring that parents have the opportunity to address and discuss concerns with their local health department, we're providing parents with knowledge they can use when

Please turn to page 7.

Threat prompts lockdown in a second Thumb district Friday

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

For the second time in 10 days, Thumb law enforcement officers were called out Friday to investigate a written threat in a school restroom.

This time the threat was reported in the Laker School District, where officials contacted the Huron County Sheriff's Department early Friday afternoon after a student discovered

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Chamber of Commerce to honor local citizens

Dozens of Cass City area residents are expected to gather this weekend to honor at least two local citizens whose contributions stand out in the community.

The presentation of the coveted Citizen of the Year Award – a local tradition spanning more than five decades – along with the presentation of the Junior Citizen of the Year Award will take place during the annual Cass City Chamber of Commerce Dinner, slated for Saturday starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Cass City VFW Hall on Veterans Drive.

Tickets for the event, which includes dinner, are available for \$26 in advance and can be purchased at Chemical Bank, Independent Bank, Thumb National Bank and Rawson Memorial District Library. They will also be available at the door for \$31.

Honoring local residents who devoted themselves to making life better in Cass City was the motivation behind establishing the Citizen of

Please turn to page 7.

Owen-Gage announces students of the month

The focus for Owen-Gage's students of the month for January is a "Responsible Learner". A student who is a responsible learner is a self-directed learner, appreciates education, and is interested in continuing their education. This student also develops life-long learning habits, has a sense of community and global responsibility, and articulates a future vision.

The following students have been chosen: Hailey Forman, kindergarten (elementary level), daughter of Carl and Jaclyn Forman; Boyd Evans, seventh grade (junior high level), son of Maurice and Tanya Evans; Megan Fritz, ninth grade (high school level), daughter of Randy and Debbie Fritz; and Jacob Wright, twelfth grade (senior student), son of Brian and Rhonda Wright.

Special recognition goes to the "Senior Student of the Month", Jacob Wright. Jacob has been very active in sports and has won numerous awards throughout high school. He has been a member of the football, basketball, baseball and golf teams all four years. Jacob was a member of the high school band for three years, where he played percussion.

Jacob was inducted into the Owen-Gage Chapter of the National Honor Society as a junior. He has been on the honor roll and a member of the 3.0 Honors Club all throughout high school. Jacob has held class offices: class treasurer and student council representative as a freshman, class vice-president as a sophomore, student council treasurer as a junior, and currently is senior class representative to the student council.

Jacob was a homecoming representative his sophomore and junior years and a candidate for homecoming king as a senior. He also was a snowball representative his junior year and has been nominated as a snowball king candidate this year. As a junior, Jacob served on the prom committee and as a member of E4P (Everyone for Prevention), which is a group for the prevention of substance abuse.

He has been on the yearbook staff since his sophomore year. Jacob has been an Owen-Gage representative to the Youth Advisory Committee (Y.A.C.) since his sophomore year. He has attended the Huron Area Technical Center enrolled in the marketing program the past two

years, through which he has been a member of DECA and is currently doing on-the-job training at McDonald's Food & Family in Bad Axe. In his spare time, Jacob enjoys hunting, fishing and snowmobiling.

Jacob plans to attend Delta College to pursue a career in business. Jacob has also recently signed to play baseball at Delta College.



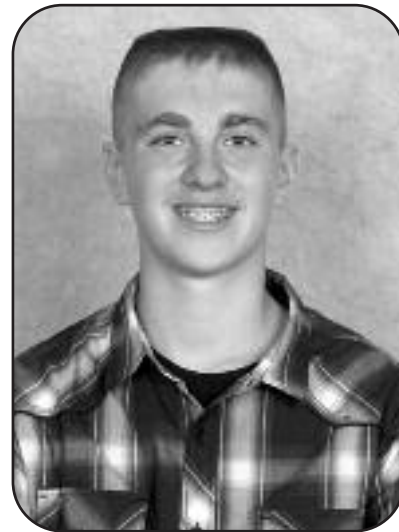
Jacob Wright



Hailey Forman



Megan Fritz



Boyd Evans

Cass City FFAers ready to compete

Cass City Junior-Senior High School will be represented by 16 students at a Future Farmers of America (FFA) competition today (Wednesday) at the Sanilac Career Center.

In the Job Interview contest, students have to prepare a resume and cover letter and complete an application letter and a 15-minute job interview. This year Cass City FFA has the following students competing in the job interview event: Caitlin Hyatt, Jesse Nye, Alex Naegele and Stephen Long.

In the Prepared Public Speaking contest, students develop a prepared speech, lasting six to eight minutes, and present it in front of three judges. Afterwards, the students have five minutes to answer questions from the judges on their speech topic. This year Cass City FFA has Heaven Hartwick competing in the prepared public speaking contest.

In the Demonstration contest, students prepare a 10- to 15-minute teachable activity in which they must demonstrate four different components of a larger topic. Students have five minutes to set up their speech and another five minutes to answer questions from the judges after they finish their presentation. Cass City's Sam London and Kristen Bradley will both be competing in the event as they demonstrate how to create a heat box.

In the Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest, students are given 30 minutes to write a four- to six-minute speech on global agriculture and agricultural marketing, food and fiber systems, agriscience and technology, or natural resources and environmental stewardship. Students present their speech and answer questions from the three judges.

This year Cass City FFA member Joseph Sieradzki will be among the competitors in this event, speaking in the agriscience and technology category.

In the Creed Speaking contest, students present the National FFA Organization creed, which was written by E.M. Tiffany and adopted at the 3rd National FFA convention in 1930.

Students have four minutes to present the creed, then they answer questions asked by judges. This year Pearl Daskam will be representing Cass City in this event.

In the Junior High Public Speaking contest, students present a four- to six-minute prepared speech on an agricultural related topic. After speaking, the students questions asked by judges. Representing Cass City in the event will be Addy Battel.

In the Junior High Conduct of Meetings contest, students conduct a meeting using Robert's Rules of Order. Students have to perform opening and closing ceremonies as well as demonstrate specific abilities during their meeting. Students find out what those abilities are when they are in the prep room on contest day.

This year, Cass City FFA has the following students performing in the junior high conduct of speaking contest: Cody Sangster, Emily Bootz, Meredith Morrel, Isabella Hill, Mariah Mellendorf, Mathew Danks and Ethan Healy.

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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January 27

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

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In Our OPINION..

Guest Author
Kim Salerno

Vaccine can reduce cervical cancer risk

January marked the passing of another Cervical Health Awareness Month in Michigan, but the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding all women to improve their health by staying current on their cervical cancer screening throughout the year.

That's good advice. In 2012, 313 Michigan women were diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer, and in 2013, 128 Michigan women died from the disease.

Between 2006 and 2011, Michigan ranked 25th in the nation in deaths from invasive cervical cancer, but mortality rates in the state have declined in recent years – from 2.43 deaths per 100,000 women in 2000 to 2.17 deaths per 100,000 women in 2013.

The Pap test – a simple, affordable, and easy-to-administer screening test to detect cervical cancer – is widely available. Still, more than half of cervical cancer deaths are seen in women who have either never had a Pap test or have not undergone the testing in more than five years.

“Human Papillomavirus or HPV vaccination is also very important because it can prevent about 85 percent of all cervical cancer cases in the United States,” says Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive of the MDHHS. “The HPV vaccine is safe, effective, and produces better immunity when given at the recommended age of 11-12 years. It can prevent cervical cancer in women as well as other cancers in both women and men.”

Three doses of HPV vaccine are recommended for girls and boys at 11 to 12 years of age, but the vaccine can be given up through age 26. However, as of September 2015, only 30.5 percent of females and 19.3 percent of males ages 13 to 17 had received the entire three-dose vaccine series, according to Michigan Care Improvement Registry data.

Vaccines for Children (VFC), Medicaid, MI-Child, and most health insurances pay for the HPV vaccine. If your child does not have health insurance, or does not have insurance that covers these vaccines, ask your health care provider or local health department about the VFC program. VFC provides no-or-low cost vaccines to eligible children, 18 years of age and younger.

Health officials say screening for cervical cancer should begin at age 21.

Through the Healthy Michigan Plan, women's preventive health care – such as screenings for cervical cancer, mammograms, prenatal care, immunizations, and other services – is covered without co-pays. Pap tests are available at many community-based clinics, and for women ages 40-64, Pap testing is accessible through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control and Navigation Program (BCCCNP). For more information is available by calling 1-800-922-MAMM (6266).

You can learn more about HPV and cervical cancer by simply talking to your health care provider and by visiting the website, www.michigan.gov/hpv or www.michigan.gov/cancer.



Let's face it, even the mere thought of cancer is frightening, but early diagnosis and treatment saves lives.

There's no time to waste. Getting screened now could help to ensure you'll be there for the loved ones in your life for many years to come.

Slices of Life

by Jill Pertler

Owned by cats

I have two cats, or better put, they have me. Cats aren't actually owned by humans. It's a fallacy perpetuated by dogs that delight in being owned and coming when they're called.

My cats grace me with their presence when they want, not when I call. They strut through the house with the dignity of royalty. Never mind they were both abandoned as kittens. One was found in a cardboard box on the side of the road, the other wandering the parking lot of a home improvement store. Technically, they have humble roots and should be thankful we took them in and provided a warm spot for their naps.

But they know nothing of technicalities or humility. They are cats. And as such, they are assured, without any hint of a doubt, they are the supreme beings of our domicile, the planet, and most likely the entire universe. They possess powers and authority incomprehensible to mere humans.

Not only that, they may want to kill us. Cat research made the news recently when a study compared domestic cats to larger cats in the wild saying both breeds have strong characteristics related to dominance, impulsiveness and neuroticism. And, both are predators with an instinct to hunt and eat their kill. Some researchers concluded that our cats would kill us, if only they could. Trouble is, we're too big.

So although cats are smarter and better than humans in every way possible, in this case, size does matter.

In addition to their extremely honed balance, superkinetic jumping skills and other worldly hunting abilities (among countless additional attributes) my cats are telepathic. At various times of the day – at their choosing – they sit atop a perch on the cabinet directly in front of the TV and stare with the tenacity and intensity of Spock doing a mind meld. This is because I think they are attempting a mind meld by telepathically sending the message, “Give me all the catnip, simple worthless human.”

Unfortunately, as a simple human, I am not as evolved as the feline species and as such have not yet mastered the skill of telepathy. I can only guess what they desire because when I get up to fetch a cup of

tea from the kitchen, they follow me greedily and alternate the death stare between their treat dish and yours truly.

Which brings me to the most astounding and impressive fact about my elusive and elite felines. Despite their haughty temperament and persnickety demeanor, I've taught one of them to perform a cat trick.

He doesn't exactly perform on demand. He has to be in the right frame of mind and know it is time for his daily dose of nip. Then, and only then, he will shake hands.

That's right. My cat shakes hands. If I hadn't witnessed the feat (or better put, paw) with my own eyes, I wouldn't have thought it possible because as a general rule, my cats don't do anything I ask of them. They also don't particularly like people pawing with their paws, which under normal circumstances would make shaking hands with a human a deplorable experience.

It probably is deplorable. I never said my cat enjoys shaking his paw. I said he will do it – for the right price, or in this case cat treats.

I'm sure there will come a time when his hatred for cat tricks overcomes his desire for treats. At that point he will probably give in to his cat instincts and attempt to kill me.


For now, though, I still have the upper hand.

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.

Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)



A recent story in the Chronicle focusing on a Skype meeting between some Cass City Junior-Senior High School students and Cass City native and former Astronaut Brewster Shaw led a former area resident down memory lane.

“I thoroughly enjoyed your recent article about Brewster Shaw,” Martha E. (Martinek) Parsons, now of Casa Grande, Ariz., wrote in a note to the Chronicle last week. “I was a ‘live-in’ babysitter for the four Shaw children for my entire senior year in high school.”

“Brewster was a very cute little four-year-old at the time,” Parsons added. “I have been following his remarkable career for many years. I feel very proud to have been a very small part of his young life.”

With cloudy skies forecasted for western Pennsylvania on Tuesday morning, it's unlikely famed groundhog Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow after emerging from his burrow.

According to legend, if Phil sees his shadow on Feb. 2, the scared groundhog returns to his burrow and the United States is in store for six more weeks of winter. But, if he doesn't see his shadow, the country can expect warmer temperatures and an early spring.

Regular Rabbit Track readers may recall that I was sold a bogus ticket to the Big 10 football championship game in Indianapolis late last year.

Fast forward to Sunday, when once again I had two MSU game tickets in hand, but three in the family wanting to attend the Spartans basketball game against Rutgers.

So, once again I handed the tickets to my children Kacey and Parker, while seeking the services of a scalper to gain entry to the event.

This time, however, I quickly scored what the ticket vender called a “get in ticket” for twenty bucks. But to my delight and with four empty seats open just a few rows behind the Izzone, we were all treated to an up close view at the Jack Breslin Center.

I wouldn't consider this small world department worthy, but seated just two rows and a few seats towards center court at the MSU arena Sunday was Cass City grad Erika Martin.

Judging by what I saw, it came as no surprise that our 2015 Junior Citizen of the Year seemed well-adjusted to college life and appears to be enjoying her time on the East Lansing campus.

Letters to the Editor

Dec. 7 should be a federal holiday

Dear editor,

I write the same thing every year and am going to write it again this year.

It is about Pearl Harbor Day, 7 December 1941 — “A day that will live in infamy”. It was business as usual; the courthouse was open, the post office was open, the banks were open, there was very little on television or the radio. How soon a nation forgets! I do believe Gov. Rick Snyder did order flags to be flown at half-staff.

To me, 7 December should be a federal holiday. It rates along with Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day and others. Of course, Christmas is the greatest holiday — the birthday of Lord Jesus.

Many, many lives were lost that day. Many, many more lives were changed forever, including mine. God bless America! Hope 2016 is a good year!

Sincerely,

Dagmar M. Brown
U.S. Navy retired
Cass City

We're fortunate to have Hills and Dales

Editor,

I am writing to say how much I appreciate the employees at Hills and Dales General Hospital. I had a recent 8 day stay there and could not have asked for better care. This includes those employees from every department.

I feel fortunate to have such a good facility in our area. It saves family and friends from having to drive a great distance.

Sincerely,

Peggy L. Nordquist
Cass City

<p>CASS CITY CHRONICLE</p> <p>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</p>	<p>PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6550 MAIN STREET, CASS CITY, MICHIGAN, by Clarke Haire, publisher.</p> <p>Periodical postage paid at Cass City, Michigan 48726.</p> <p>POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CASS CITY CHRONICLE, P.O. BOX 115, CASS CITY, MI 48726.</p> <p>National Advertising Representative, Michigan Weekly Newspapers, Inc., 257 Michigan Avenue, East Lansing, Michigan.</p> <p>For information regarding newspaper advertising and commercial and job printing, telephone: (989) 872-2010.</p>	<p>News Staff</p> <p>Clarke Haire Publisher clarke@ccchronicle.net</p> <p>Tom Montgomery Editor tom@ccchronicle.net</p> <p>Krysta Boyce Sr. Sales Executive sales@ccchronicle.net</p> <p>Deb Severance Composition</p> <p>Tina Pallas Columnist</p> <p>Jill Pertler Columnist</p>	<p>Rates & Policies</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Subscription Rates</p> <p>Tuscola, Huron & Sanilac counties - \$23.10 per year. In Michigan - \$27.50 per year. Out-of-State - \$29.70 per year. College - \$15 per year. Email subscriptions - \$22 per year. Payable in advance. Discounts available for multi-year subscription.</p>	<p>Obituary Rates</p> <p>Obituary notices cost \$20 per insertion. There is a \$5 additional charge for including a photo.</p> <p>Advertising Rates</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Social News</p> <p>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.</p>
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Reporter's notebook

Another birthday,
another chance...

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



It's my birthday today, and although I may have exaggerated slightly regarding my age in this space in the past, I don't mind revealing that I'm 54.

Not so bad, unless I begin to consider how many years it's been since I graduated from high school (36) and college (32), the number of decades since I said "I do" (3.4), and the age of my oldest child (30 years plus change).

Time really does fly, and the clock seems to pick up speed as the years go by, you know?

Still, I can't imagine ever whining about the passing of another birthday. Of course, these days I celebrate because I'm still on this earth, but it's also an ideal time to take stock of my life and to spend a little time simply being grateful for all those who have helped to shape my life and career over the span of more than half a century. Wow, has it been that long?

It goes without saying that my parents and siblings, my wife and children, and other family members have had the greatest impact on helping me to figure out who I am, and most will agree I've grown into a reasonably okay smart alec who found his own place in a career that enables me to explore a love of writing that I've had since I was a kid.

I owe a debt of gratitude to many others, too, however – even to all the classmates, from kindergarten on up to high school, who teased me mercilessly because of a minor birth defect that left me with a bald spot on my head from birth (actually, it was a sizeable birthmark that turned out to be a breeding ground for benign tumors, which surgeons removed every four years or so until my 15th birthday).

Those kids forced me to hone a sense of humor that proved to be a great defense. More importantly, they gave me the gift of compassion.

At East Kentwood High School, journalism teacher Dirk Nebbling taught me how life-changing a few words of encouragement can be to a young person with no direction in his life. Don Druart, who taught band in the same district for many years, helped me understand, firsthand, that dedication and enthusiasm can enable a student who isn't the most talented musically to fit in and make a contribution.

Both helped prepare me for classes at Grand Rapids Community College and, later, CMU, where I also owe a debt of gratitude to a select group of professors, each of whom instilled in me skills and an understanding of the craft I would pursue for a lifetime.

As a reporter, my first employer — then the publisher of a solid weekly paper in northern Michigan — taught me that meanness, plain and simple, combined with an apparent inability to offer constructive criticism, has no place in journalism or any other field.

He gave me a gift, too, one that (hopefully) many summer interns at the Chronicle have benefited from, because I vowed long ago to encourage and share my experiences as a reporter and editor with students — without belittling or talking down to them.

Since I began my tenure at the Chronicle more than 29 years ago, I've encountered countless folks who have had a lasting impression on me both as a person and as a journalist.

Some of those encounters haven't been pleasant, but even the most uncooperative, cantankerous source has made me a better reporter by teaching me perseverance and an understanding that there's more than one way to get the job done.

There have been far more friendly, faithful sources in my experience as a reporter in the Thumb.

Those men and women have given me the opportunity to not only prove myself and earn their trust; they've also instilled in me a passion to do whatever it takes to be accurate, compassionate and, in the end, as human as I can be in a job that has a tendency to make folks like myself seem cold, cynical and distant.

Sometimes that isn't easy, but with the passing of another birthday, I'm looking forward to more opportunities to pass on the positive lessons I've learned in the past.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2011)

Allyson Bell and TJ Terrell were married June 19, 2010 in a ceremony at South Lansing Christian Church in Lansing. The reception followed at The Lexington of Lansing. Pastor Frank Weller performed the wedding. The bride is the daughter of Marilyn Schwartz of Southfield, and Harvey Bell of Deford. She is currently attending the Accelerated Second-Degree Nursing Program at the University of Michigan-Flint and will be graduating in December 2011. The groom is the son of Timothy and Kathy Terrell of Madrid, Iowa. He is the assistant manager of a tree nursery in Haslett. The couple currently reside in Swartz Creek. The matron of honor was Kaylee Long of Goodells, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Michelle Gross, friend of the bride; Katie Terrell, sister of the groom; and Emily Forrest, cousin of the bride. The best man was Dan Terrell of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Ryan Tarzwell, friend of the groom; Aaron Long, brother-in-law of the bride; and Aaron Bell, brother of the bride. The hostess was Angela Banet, friend of the bride. The personal attendants were Andy and Kristen Monroe, friends of the bride. Vocalists were Amy Emmert, family friend of the bride; and Kathy Forrest, aunt of the bride. A special scripture reading was performed by Charles Emmert, family friend of the bride. The couple enjoyed a short honeymoon on Mackinaw Island following their wedding.

Megan McLaren has been named Owendale-Gagetown School's "Senior Student of the Month" for January McLaren is currently taking general education college classes through Delta College at the Huron Area Technical Center. She also has been taking piano lessons all through high school. She currently is a stat keeper for the Bad Axe Hockey League, has been an active member of the Gagetown Nazarene Church's youth group and also teaches Sunday school to preschool age children. McLaren is the daughter of Brian and Jennifer McLaren of Owendale. She plans to attend Olivet Nazarene University in the fall to pursue a career in physical therapy.

10 YEARS AGO (2006)

Misty Lynn Jensen and Victor Eugene Mejia, Jr. announce their engagement. Misty is the daughter of James and Lori Jensen of Brown City, and the granddaughter of Tom and Norajan Little of Cass City and Georgine Jensen and the late Ken Jensen of Arizona City, Ariz. She will graduate in April with a Bachelor's Degree in ad management. Victor is the son of Maria Helena Mejia and the late Victor Mejia of Eugene, Ore. He is a manager at Rent-A-Center in Adrian. A Sept. 3, 2006 wedding is being planned. They will reside in Seattle, Wash.

Paul and Sechenia Britt of Cass City announce the birth of their son, Lance Paul. Lance was born Dec. 22, 2005. He weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 2 1/2 inches long. His grandparents are Quiornara Aparicio and Rolondo Aparicio, of Panama, and Richard and Pat Britt of Cass City. Great-grandmothers are Fanni from Panama and Geraldine E. Britt of Cass City. He joins a brother at home, Jeremy, 2.

Two area residents have been named to the dean's list at Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, for the fall semester. They are Dale Minkler of Gagetown, a senior majoring in electrical engineering, and Brandon Wyckoff of Kingston, a junior majoring in forensic chemistry.

25 YEARS AGO (1991)

Former Cass City resident Blake Fisher recently graduated from the Arizona Automotive Institute, Phoenix, Ariz. He is the son of Arthur and Jean Fisher of Cass City. Fisher graduated with high honors at the institute and was recognized for achieving perfect attendance. A 1982 Cass City High School graduate, he works as a diesel mechanic for Empire Power Systems, Phoenix, Ariz. He and his wife, Sheri, reside in Glendale, a suburb of Phoenix, with their children, Derek, 7, and Jacinda, 3.

Delta College official recently named 540 students, including one from Cass City, to the school's honors recognition list for the fall 1990 semester. The local student is Linda M. Mellendorf of Cass City.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Bonnema and girls, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Briolat and family, and Mrs. Laurie O'Malley and family of Uby, Mrs. Tom Talaski Jr. of

Bad Axe, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Moore and family of Snover, Mrs. Dan Gedert and girls, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Gibbard and family and Mr. and Mrs. Evans Gibbard were Sunday afternoon guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Taylor and Brian for birthday cake and ice cream in honor of Brian Taylor's first birthday.

35 YEARS AGO (1981)

Timothy Muz graduated in December from Michigan State University with a B.S. degree in crop and soil science. The 1976 graduate of Cass City High School is the son of Florence Schell of Cass City and the late Michael Muz. He presently is in Florida, seeking employment in agribusiness.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Brown of Cass City announce the engagement of their daughter, Debra Lee, to Larry Osentoski, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Osentoski of Uby. Debra is a 1980 graduate of Cass City High School and is employed at Lyntex in Uby. Larry is a 1975 graduate of Uby High School and is employed at Active Industries in Elkton. A July 25 wedding is planned.

Cass City High School junior Julie Vargo has won two blue ribbons in the East Central Michigan Scholastic Art Awards competition, which qualified her entries for national competition. Her award winners were a 15-by-18-inch pencil drawing of enlarged pencils, which also won a Hallmark honor award, and a color photograph, a double exposure of an antique tractor, which also won the Kodak Medallion of Honor.

40 YEARS AGO (1976)

Clifford Croft, Cass City, was elected president of the Michigan Retail Lumber Dealers Association at its 87th annual convention held in Grand Rapids Tuesday. Over 2,000 lumber dealers and exhibitors attended the convention held at the Civic Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Doerr and son Tony were week-end guests at the Clifford Wright home at Whitmore Lake to attend the silver wedding anniversary party Saturday evening for Mr. and Mrs. Richard Holcomb of Ypsilanti. Thirty-eight relatives and friends surprised the Holcombs. Richard Holcomb and Miss Pauline Wright were married in Cass City, Feb. 3, 1951. They have four children, Rick, Lori, Mike and Steve, all of Ypsilanti. Also attending were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thorp and family and Mrs. Lela Wright of rural Caro.

Married Jan. 30 in Caro were Miss Janice Hurd and Joseph Viney, both of Cass City. Attending the couple in the doubling ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. John Crandell. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Hurd and the bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Patricia Viney of Cass City. Relatives and friends attended a reception for them Saturday evening on Little Rd., where they are making their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Brown arrived home Friday evening from Florida. Mrs. Brown flew down to spend a month there. Mr. Brown drove down and was there for two weeks. They were at Marco Island with their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Eisinger, and eight-month-old daughter, Estee. While in Florida they also saw Mrs. Brown's father, Bert Hendrick.

Michael Stec of Cass City, inspection foreman, Walbro Corporation, completed the Unit II course Friday, Jan. 23, in Wittenberg University's Management Development Program. The courses concentrate in four areas-behavioral studies and motivation, communications and leadership, management functions and methods, and economics and personnel relations.

Airman Richard Feury, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank F. Feury of Uby, has been selected for technical training in the U.S. Air Force supply field at Lowry AFB, Colo. The airman recently completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Tex., where he studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special instruction in human relations. Airman Feury is a 1971 graduate of Uby High School. His wife, Airman Marlene A. Feury, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clem Messing of Ruth.

50 YEARS AGO (1966)

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Brown of Cass City, announce the engagement of their daughter, Shirley Alison, to Carl L. McIntosh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lorn McIntosh of Snover. Miss Brown graduated from Cass City High School in 1985 and is now employed at Walbro Corporation. Her fiancé is a 1961 graduate of Cass City High School and a 1964 graduate of Ferris State College. He is now

employed by John Snell Engineers in Lansing. A summer wedding is being planned.

Mrs. Roy Miller of Pinconning is spending this week with her daughter, Mrs. John Haire, and family. She came to Cass City with the Haires Sunday from Freeland.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cumper left last Saturday morning for a vacation in Florida. They planned to spend several days at Atlanta at a Roofing convention.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mosher received word that their son, SP-4 Frank Mosher, is to leave Korea for the States about March 15.

Mrs. Jacqueline Freiburger, wife of Bernard Freiburger, received her master's degree in administration and supervision or elementary schools at commencement exercises held at Finch Fieldhouse Saturday at Central Michigan University. Mrs. Freiburger taught at Sandusky, Deford, and Caro, and is now teaching second grade in Cass City. The couple has three children, a daughter, Linda, is a CMU freshman. Bernard Jr. and Kart are students in Cass City. Also receiving a MA degree Saturday was Robert Sullivan, a brother of Mrs. Freiburger. He is an instructor at Central in the physical education department and the backfield football coach.

75 YEARS AGO (1941)

After being in business in Cass City for 41 years, Harry Young sold his interest in the Cass City Meat Market this week to James R. Gross, who becomes a partner with Fred Maier at this food center. Mr. Gross has had a valuable experience in the meat business. For several years, he worked for his father, Robert Gross, in a meat market in Toledo, Ohio, and the last eight years he has been a traveling representative of the Swift Packing Co.

Maurice C. Ransford, local attorney, was on, Saturday elected president of the Caro Board of Commerce. Frank; B. Campbell was elected vice president. Other directors are George N. Robinson, Arthur M. Willits, D. U. Whildin, H. H. Purdy and Karl Kinsey. W. H. Gildart was re-elected secretary.

Charles Keen, music instructor in the Cass City High School, was a member of a clinic band at the University of Michigan recently when the group rehearsed contest numbers which will be played by high school bands of the state this year at band festivals and contests. Mr. Keen played first clarinet in the clinic band and his invitation to be a member of that group came from Professor Revelli of the university's music staff.

Mr. and Mrs. William Schwegler entertained at dinner on Thursday evening, Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Kenney, sons, Jack and Clare, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Schwegler and daughter, Miss Marjorie. The dinner was in honor of the birthdays of Mrs. Schwegler and Mrs. Kerney.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Ivan Niergarth, daughter, Patricia Ann, and Miss Verda Zuschnitt visited Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kelly at Mt. Pleasant Saturday. Mr. Niergarth and Miss Zuschnitt attended a guidance conference sponsored by Central State Teachers' College, Mt. Pleasant.

Mr. and Mrs. Audley Horner and children of Farmington spent Friday with Mrs. Homer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Warner. Mrs. Homer and children remained until Monday. Other dinner guests on Sunday at the Warner home were Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Henderson of Deford.

100 YEARS AGO (1916)

On January 24, the Shabbona Creamery Co. took over and began Operating the factory known as the Marlette Creamery, having purchased the same from the Sanilac County Creamery Co. of Brown City. This factory is in the best of condition and up-to-date. The reason for selling this factory was ill health of the secretary and manager and heaviest stockholder, John E. Ross, of Brown City.

If the paper on which the Chronicle is printed appears slightly yellow it is isn't due to any change in its editorial policy, but to a scarcity of bleaching chemicals at the paper mills due to the war. All other papers in this country are similarly affected.

The people of this state, by constitutional amendment, voted that traveling salesmen who could not be at their places of residence on election day should have the right to vote nevertheless, and provided that official ballots should be mailed to them in time so that they could mark them and return them to the city, village, township or county clerk in time for delivery to the election boards on election day.

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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 • www.casscitymc.org



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.



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

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



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 following worship
Pastor: Rev. Linda Graham



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-2770
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Steve Bagnall
www.goodshepherdlutherancasscity.webs.com



**Living Word Worship Center
Church of God**

6536 Houghton Street, Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-4637
Sunday School: 10 a.m. Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.
Family Training Hour: Wednesday 7 p.m.
(including youth and children's services)
Pastor: Rev. Mark Karwowski
Website: www.lwccog.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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Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Minister: Brad Speirs • Youth and Family Minister: Josh Morford
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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



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Immunization waivers down statewide

Continued from page one.

making a decision about vaccinating their child," said Nick Lyon, MDHHS director.

"Michigan's local health departments have been instrumental in working with and educating parents who have had concerns about vaccines and I applaud them for their understanding, assistance and dedication," Lyon added.

Under current state law, parents of youngsters entering kindergarten must show proof of immunizations for measles, pertussis, polio, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, chicken pox,

diphtheria and tetanus, unless a waiver is obtained. By the time students reach the seventh grade, they must be immunized against meningococcal and receive a DTP or DTaP booster for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. Again, parents can seek a waiver for those vaccines.

So far this school year, there have been nearly 8,000 fewer vaccination waivers for children entering Michigan's schools.

Statewide, the kindergarten immunization waiver rate dropped from 5.18 percent to 3.32 percent between the fall of 2014 and the fall of 2015; the seventh grade rate decreased

from 4.55 percent to 2.78 percent; and the rate for new students to a school district fell from 4.28 percent to 2.47 percent.

"This improvement in our vaccination coverage rates means that more kids are protected from outbreaks and serious vaccine-preventable diseases," said Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive for the MDHHS. "Unfortunately we have not eradicated some very serious diseases that affect children and adults alike. We continue to see outbreaks of pertussis, (whooping cough) and chickenpox in areas of Michigan as well as nationwide."

Chamber of Commerce to honor local citizens Saturday during Cass City gala

Continued from page one.

the Year Award, first presented to the late Willis Campbell back in 1963, the same year school officials named the former Campbell Elementary School after the local administrator.

Each year a committee composed of the previous five years' Citizens of the Year, along with a permanent

representative appointed by the chamber board of directors, selects the recipient or recipients of the award after considering nominations offered by the community as well as by the board members themselves.

The criteria used in the selection process includes the following:

*The importance of a body of work over many years rather than a single

year's accomplishments.

*The need to recognize contributions within the scope of the individual's profession, but above and beyond the call of duty.

*The recognition that an individual might be a member of a number of organizations but not a strong contributor to any of them, versus another who might have concentrated his or her efforts in one particular discipline and accomplished great things.

*The desire of the community to acknowledge, from time to time, "unsung heroes" — those individuals who may provide services for the elderly or the infirmed, such as taking them shopping or on other errands, supporting them, visiting with them — but who rarely are involved with organizations, titles and the so-called "power structure".

While the winner of the Citizen of the Year award is kept a mystery until Saturday night's announcement, the Junior Citizen of the Year winner will be selected from a list of nine candidates. They are Kelly DeLong, daughter of Dirk and Misty Delong, Mason Erla, son of Chuck and Michelle Erla, Meredith Fisher, son of David and Tracy Fisher, Parker Haire, son of Clark and Karen Haire, Tyler Laster, son of Corey and Holly Laster, Tara Nicholas, daughter of Terry and Melanie Nicholas, Lauren Potter, daughter of Bill and Paula Potter, Sophia Romain, daughter of Shawna Kamrad and Rodney Romain, and Bransen Stimpfel, son of Thomas and Sloane Stimpfel.

Obituaries

Larry Finkbeiner

Larry Alvin Finkbeiner, 72, of Caro, died Friday, January 29, 2016 in Agape Care Systems, Caro. He was born October 11, 1943 in Cass City to Walter Theodore and Ruth Esther (Hendrick) Finkbeiner. He married Sandra Blomberg July 9, 1977.

Larry retired from General Motors after 30 years as a supervisor. He loved flying his own airplane and was a member of the Caro Airport Authority. Larry once built a runway while on a missionary trip to Togo, Africa. He made trips to Alaska, the Upper Peninsula and Idaho to hunt and fish. Larry enjoyed photography and owned Backwoods Studio. He made films to take to various hunter's banquets and took videos for the Buckley Steam Engine Show. Larry was also elected as a member of the Ellington Township Board.

Larry is survived by his wife, Sandra; daughters: Alice (David) DeLeary of Boynton Beach, FL, Cathy White of Kingston, step-daughters: Corinna (Marvin) Baumgarten of Oilton, OK, Darla Whitney of Kingston; brothers: Donald Finkbeiner of Cass City, Eugene (Mary) Finkbeiner of Sumter, SC; step-brothers: George (Norma) Fisher of Cass City, Arthur (Jean) Fisher of Cass City; step-sisters: Carole Ann Hartwick of Cass City, Kathleen (Charles) Hartwick of Cass City, Jeanne (John) Shagena of Kingston; 12 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother, Tim Finkbeiner.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Funeral service were held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 3, 2016 in Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City with Pastor Chuck Carr of Cass City First Baptist Church officiating. Memorials may be made to Family Discretionary Fund. Family and friends may share memories, prayers and stories with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.

Garry Gamet

Garry Fred Gamet, 70, of Caro, passed away Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at his home.

He was born November 13, 1945 in Flint, the son of the late Fred and Phyllis (Hoskins) Gamet.

Garry was a 1964 graduate of Vassar High School, and attended GM Institute and Spring Arbor College. He worked as a salesman for much of his life, and retired in 2010 from Erla's Grocery Store where he had been employed for seventeen years in the frozen food department. Garry enjoyed deer hunting, small game hunting, and was known to occasionally "wet a line." He was a member and current secretary of the United Sportsman Alliance.

Garry is survived by three sons, Pete & Kathy Gamet of Gagetown, John Gamet of Three Rivers, Andrew Gamet of Otsego; grandchildren, Amber, Joshua, Jacob and Anthony Gamet, Danielle & Derrick O'Brien, Kyle Davis, Krystal and Courtney Gamet; two great-grandsons, Christian and Elijah; four brothers and their spouses, Kenneth & Jan Gamet of Vassar, Ted & Connie Gamet of Vassar, Dave & Brenda Gamet of Millington, Jack & Doris Gamet of Vassar; one aunt, Janeen Hoskins; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Garry was preceded in death by one uncle, Ray Hoskins.

In keeping with Garry's wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 6, at the Deford Community Church with Pastor David Cooper officiating. The family will be present to receive friends at the church on Saturday, February 6, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service at 12:00 p.m. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorial contributions to the Gamet Family Discretionary Fund, c/o Pete Gamet, 205 West Sherman St., Caro, MI 48723. The family was assisted with these arrangements by the Ransford Collon Funeral Home of Caro. Friends may share memories, thoughts and prayers online at www.RansfordCollon.com.

Shirley Wrona

Shirley Ann Wrona, 70, of Deford, passed away Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at her home, with her loving family by her side.

She was born January 8, 1946 at Detroit's Women's Hospital, the daughter of the late Norbert and Florence (Paultanis) Szambelan.

Shirley was a 1964 graduate of Hamtramck High School.

Shirley was united in marriage with Louis Robert Wrona on May 22, 1965 at St. Albertus Catholic Church in Detroit. This past year the couple celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren.

Shirley was employed at St. Michael's of Wilmot and St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Mayville as their secretary for more than twenty-five years until her retirement in 2014. Shirley's children and grandchildren were the center of her life and she showed them love and support every single day of their lives. She loved spending time and talking about the good ole' days with her best friends of more than fifty years, Sophie and Ken Megge, and loved and cherished watching their family grow alongside her own.

Shirley is survived by her loving husband of more than fifty years, Louis (Bob) Wrona of Deford; two children, Robert Wrona of Brighton, and Julie & Jeff Owens of Deford; grandchildren, Andrea Mikolon, currently attending Grand Valley State University, and Jason Mikolon, a senior at Cass City High School; sister, Marie Kay of Romulus; and several nieces and nephews.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Florence and Earl Dopke of Deford; her father, Norbert Szambelan of Richmond; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Rose & Leo Mellerowicz, Joe & Irene Wrona, Ted & Irene Wrona, Bruno & Gerry Wrona, Dolores & Raymond Sobczak, Alice & Mike Kamsuik, Mary Wrona; a nephew, Eric Wrona; and nieces, Lori Adams and Kathy Mills.

In keeping with Shirley's wishes, cremation has taken place. No services are being planned. Shirley requested that all of those whom cared for and loved her, spend a moment of silence in her memory and to continue to love and care for one another. The family was assisted with these arrangements by the Ransford Collon Funeral Home of Caro. Friends may share memories, thoughts and prayers online at www.RansfordCollon.com.

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Cass City Chronicle
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Jensen beating odds after crash

Continued from page one.

her family could move in. The prospects of returning to some form of normalcy were intimidating, Winnie acknowledged. "She (Lindsay) had a job, was a mom, had her own place," she said. "I didn't realize the extent of what we would have to do." Lindsay underwent surgery at Covenant, where she stayed for two weeks, including one week in the intensive care unit on a ventilator. Her paralysis was diagnosed as "incomplete quadriplegia".

Quadriplegia is form of paralysis, due to damage to the cervical segments of the spinal cord, in which all four limbs are affected. The condition doesn't necessarily result in total paralysis or loss of function, especially in the case of incomplete quadriplegic spinal cord injuries, Winnie noted.

The family initially planned to transport Lindsay to a facility in Marlette to begin the long road to rehabilitation. However, a chance discussion with a nurse at Covenant prompted the family to instead consider sending Lindsay to Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, a Grand Rapids facility that is affiliated with the Christopher Reeves Foundation and is one of the top rehab hospitals in the nation.

Ironically, personnel from Mary Free Bed were at Covenant presenting a seminar while Lindsay was still hospitalized. After talking to them the next day, the plans were set for what would be a 97-day stay in Grand Rapids, followed by many repeat journeys back to Mary Free Bed since.

"The next day after I got there, they got me in a chair and I was doing (exercises) with my hands," Lindsay recalled, adding the schedule of rehabilitation designed to help her regain functions she had lost was rigorous and involved a lot of hard work, sometimes leaving her in tears. "I struggled to feed myself when I got there," she said. "It was definitely tough to be away from Kenleigh that long. They (family) would bring her on the weekends, but that's not long enough."

"It is a lot of work, but at least she's here to do it," commented Winnie, who along with Lindsay couldn't say enough positive things about the staff at Mary Free Bed. "They're excellent. The whole staff treats you like family," Winnie commented.

Mary Free Bed officials, meanwhile, were impressed with Lindsay, too, featuring her and her family in the facility's brochures and in some YouTube videos.

"Eventually things got better," Lindsay said, noting she was able to move her foot for the first time last February, just before Valentine's Day.

"And we were thrilled," Winnie said.

Lindsay, her mother and a close friend were trained and worked together during her rehabilitation through May. Since then, the three women and Kenleigh traveled weekly back to Grand Rapids for outpatient therapy, Monday through Wednesday.

Lindsay has also enjoyed the support of many others, including Kenleigh's father, Tyler Nicholas, and two aunts - Mary Lou Burns and Elaine LaJoie, both retired RNs and Cass City area residents.

During Lindsay's inpatient stay, Nicholas worked during the day and took his baby home at night to care for her. While he was working, family members cared for Kenleigh. Nicholas even managed to rig a lift to allow Lindsay to join him in fishing and took her hunting last fall, and she bagged her first doe with a crossbow.

The Cass City community was there for the family, too, turning out in droves for a benefit spaghetti dinner, auction and raffle at the Deford Community Church last spring.

"The community was overwhelmingly generous, and my family kicked in and put it all together. It was marvelous," Winnie said. "We're so thankful for all the people who came out for the fundraiser. It helped enormously."

After a full year, Lindsay is still working hard to keep up with her 14-month-old, who is now walking herself. Lindsay can stand and take steps with the aid of custom-built leg braces and a walker. She has a van that accommodates her electric wheelchair, and Mary Free Bed personnel trained her to drive a vehicle using only her hands. She has also undergone a couple more procedures designed to enable her to continue strengthening her muscles.

These days, she's feeling very thankful. "She appreciates things more," Winnie said.

Lindsay smiled and nodded, adding, "Definitely."

"At the beginning, I never thought I'd be where I am today - I couldn't even hold her (Kenleigh) at first. It just seemed like (it was) taking forever," she said. "My hands are still weak, but I have my movement back."

Today, Lindsay is focusing on her family and her future. She and Tyler recently closed on a home of their own, and she's continuing to gain her muscle strength and control, with plans to eventually say goodbye to her wheelchair. It's a goal she's optimistic about, considering the therapists at Mary Free Bed have told her she still has a long way to go before she exhausts her potential for improvement.

"Nobody's going to tell me (it's going to happen) until it happens, but I definitely hope to walk, for sure," Lindsay said.



AT RIGHT, Jensen proudly displays the first doe she bagged with a crossbow last fall. Above, Jensen, Kenleigh and Tyler Nicholas pause for a quick photo during her stay at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Rapids.



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POOL THERAPY has played a vital role in Jensen's rehabilitation at Mary Free Bed, and the staff there arranged for Jensen's daughter, Kenleigh, to join her in the water on the weekends when possible.



JENSEN TOOK THE first of many steps to come in this photo taken during one of her therapy sessions at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital.

CHRONICLE SPORTS

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



WHO'S BALL? Cass City's Darren Miller and Vassar's Lamont Morrison look to the referee during Friday's Greater Thumb West contest to rule on their dispute for the ball.

Lady Red Hawks show better rhythm in defeats

The Cass City girls basketball team will kick off the second half of their Greater Thumb West schedule this week on the road against Bad Axe and Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port.

Following Tuesday's contest with the Hatchets, Coach Steve Hollocker's Red Hawks will look to earn their first league win since 2014 in a rare double header with the varsity boys team in Pigeon.

If Cass City's latest contests are any indications, the Laker gals better take notice.

"I feel like we are definitely starting to play better together as a team. Although we lost both games last week I see signs of us improving as we head into the last month of the season. Our outside shooting has been better recently and we seem to have found an improved rhythm on offense," said Hollocker.

Against Vassar on Thursday, Rylie Weiler and Lauren Dickinson kept the Red Hawks in contention throughout the night with a variety of timely jump shots, although a final quarter flurry by the sophomore guards wouldn't be enough for the hosts to overcome a huge discrepancy at the foul line in the 36-31 decision.

Cass City took an 11-7 advantage into the second quarter as Weiler hit from the premiere and was also able

to get to the lane in the early going. The sophomore point guard started a 9-4 run with a 12' jumper and ended the rush with a lay-in on a pass and steal by Sayge Cuthrell.

After a Cuthrell offensive rebound extended the gap to 13-7, Vassar fought back with 11 unanswered points, before another Cuthrell put-back helped Cass City to trail just 20-15 at the break.

Both teams went cold from the floor in the third quarter, but Jenna Huizar's buzzer beater had the visitors on top 24-19 entering the final eight minutes.

Dickinson and Weiler took over the scoring chores for Cass City down the stretch. Back-to-back baskets, including a trey by shooting guard Dickinson, would reduce the gap to 28-24 with less than five minutes remaining.

Moments later, however, Macy Zwerk was sent to the foul line and the Cass City foul put the Vulcans into a double bonus situation for the rest of the night. She converted both tosses, part of a 10-1 difference in attempts at the stripe in the closing minutes.

After a Cass City time out, Zwerk followed her freebies with a corner jump shot and suddenly Vassar was in front 34-26.

With her team on the verge of fold-

ing, Weiler had other ideas and five straight points by the varsity rookie had Cass City poised to sneak out victory.

Down 35-31 with just 41 ticks left on the clock, Cass City sent Becca Huizar to the line twice, where she split tosses to help hold off upset-minded Cass City.

Becca Huizar recorded a game-high 13 points to lead Vassar, while sister Jenna Huizar added 9 points and Zwerk eight.

For Cass City, Weiler finished with a career-best 12 points, while Dickinson chipped in 7 markers and Cuthrell 6 points and 16 rebounds.

BROWN CITY

A big first quarter propelled guests Brown City to a 37-27 victory Tuesday, in Cass City.

The hosts were held to a Kelsey Bouverette basket and free throw in the opening period and would trail 14-3 early, before taking a 25-14 deficit into the locker room.

Kendal Muxlow was the lone player on either team to reach double figures. She finished with 13 to pace Brown City.

Bouverette tossed in 8 points and Cuthrell 7 points to top the Cass City scorers.

Girls' Basketball Standings

Greater Thumb West			
	W	L	W L
Reese	5	0	9 3
EPBP	3	2	7 6
USA	3	2	9 5
Bad Axe	2	3	7 6
Vassar	2	3	4 8
Cass City	0	5	2 10
Greater Thumb East			
	W	L	W L
Marlette	5	0	11 2
Sandusky	4	1	12 1
Harbor Beach	3	2	8 5
Brown City	2	3	10 3
Ubyly	2	4	4 9
Memphis	0	5	2 11
NCTL			
	W	L	W L
Kingston	6	0	9 3
Deckerville	5	1	6 4
Peck	3	2	6 6
North Huron	4	3	5 7
Dryden	2	5	3 10
Mayville	1	5	1 9
Caseville	0	6	1 7
Summit League			
	W	L	W L
SASA	4	0	9 1
BCAS	4	1	11 2
Flint Int.	2	1	5 4
Akron-Fair.	1	4	3 9
Owen-Gage	0	5	3 10

Dickson leads Cass City wrestlers at invitational

It wasn't the week Coach Don Markel was hoping for as the Cass City wrestling team continues with preparations for Saturday's Greater Thumb Conference League Meet at Brown City.

The Red Hawks will need to finish ahead of front runner Bad Axe at the Greater Thumb Conference finale to successfully defend their conference crown. Markel feels Cass City's latest efforts won't get the job done.

"We had a very flat week going 3-4 for the week. We are missing opportunities to pin opponents when we have them on their backs. We have a lot of work to do this week in practice if we hope to repeat as league champions," he said.

On Saturday, at the Midland Bullock Creek invite, Cass City placed 4th in the eight-team field. While the Red Hawks were able to defeat a pair of Saginaw schools over the weekend - Nouvel surren-

dered 52-12 and Heritage fell 54-27 - setbacks to Chesaning 55-18, Corunna 40-34 and Essexville-Garber 54-27, ended Cass City with a disappointing 2-3 effort on the day.

Chesaning held off runner up Corunna for team honors, while Essexville-Garber, Cass City, Bay City Central, Saginaw Heritage, Mildand Bullock Creek and Saginaw Nouvel complete the team rankings.

Wyatt Dickson went undefeated in the 145 and 152 weight classes to lead Cass City. Dickson's wins included an 11-0 major decision over Nouvel's Joe Moskal, and falls over Heritage's Maclean Zollinger (1:59) and Chesaning's Nate Martin (3:03).

Other Red Hawks singled out by Markel for outstanding efforts included Alex Jeffrey and Eric Peters each of whom went 4-1 for Please turn to page 10.

Vassar spoils Snowcoming in Cass City

There have been stretches when the Cass City boys basketball team struggled to score points. And although the spell lasted for nearly the entire game Friday, it was the opening quarter that squashed this year's Snowcoming festivities for the host Red Hawks.

Vassar made sure they didn't get caught looking ahead to their upcoming games against title contenders Reese and Bad Axe to end play in January. Instead, the Vulcans kept their outside Greater Thumb West title hopes alive with a double digit victory that wasn't as close as the final outcome suggests.

With the 46-29 win, Vassar improved to 2-2 in the GTW, 9-4 overall, while Cass City slips to 1-3 in the GTW, 5-8 overall. The Vulcans will travel to take on undefeated Bad Axe Friday, while the Red Hawks hit the road hoping to sweep their regular season meetings against cellar-dweller Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port.

Colton Fabbro scored on consecutive old-fashioned three-point plays to hand Vassar a quick 6-0 lead, before Logan Schenk's basket on an assist from Parker Haire gave the Red Hawk student body something to cheer about with 6:21 on the clock.

The cheers, and Cass City's hopes of victory, would fade behind a 14-1 run to close the initial period. A Schenk free throw toss would be the Red Hawks' only other point during the opening eight minutes.

"We want to get every rebound," preached Vassar Coach Chuck Fabbro between quarters.

And that's nearly what the visitors did in the second quarter. Still, baskets by Sawyer Cuthrell and Darren Miller had Cass City headed in the right direction prior to the break, only to see the Vulcans control the glass on their way to a 27-9 margin after two quarters.

Vassar padded their advantage in the third quarter. The Vulcan defense limited Cass City to a pair of short Haire jump shots in the period and allowed the Vulcans to take a demanding 35-13 edge after three quarters.

Cuthrell would open the final period with back-to-back treys, but the Red Hawk leading scorer was disqualified on fouls with just over five minutes remaining.

Trailing 38-19, Haire scored Cass City's final 10 points to help limit the damage that was too much to overcome since early in the night.

Fabbro and Haire each scored 14 points to share game-scoring honors.

BROWN CITY

Cass City suffered a Greater Thumb Conference crossover defeat Wednesday to visiting Brown City.

The Red Hawks led by five at the intermission, but a 22-11 final quarter scoring advantage propelled the Green Devils to a 55-48 victory.

For Cass City, Haire and Schenk netted double figures in vain with 15 and 12 points, respectfully.

Boys' Basketball Standings

Greater Thumb West			
	W	L	W L
Bad Axe	4	0	12 0
USA	3	1	8 3
Vassar	2	2	9 4
Reese	2	2	8 3
Cass City	1	3	5 8
EPBP	0	4	4 7
Greater Thumb East			
	W	L	W L
Marlette	4	0	9 3
Harbor Beach	3	1	8 3
Sandusky	3	1	8 4
Ubyly	2	3	5 7
Brown City	1	3	4 8
Memphis	0	5	1 12
NCTL Stars			
	W	L	W L
Deckerville	6	1	6 5
Kingston	6	1	6 6
Dryden	5	1	9 2
Mayville	3	4	4 6
NCTL Stripes			
	W	L	W L
Peck	4	3	5 6
North Huron	2	5	2 9
CPS	1	5	3 7
Caseville	0	6	0 7
Summit League			
	W	L	W L
BCAS	4	1	5 5
SASA	2	1	4 6
Flint Int.	2	1	4 6
Owen-Gage	3	2	10 2
Akron-Fair.	0	7	1 9



ROYAL COUPLE. Mandy Czekai and Joseph Kampo highlighted Friday's Snowcoming celebration in Cass City when the Red Hawk seniors were announced as the 2016 winter party queen and king during halftime of the boys basketball game.

Owen-Gage cagers deliver in non-conference victory

Owen-Gage upped their boys basketball record to 10-2 Thursday and perhaps more importantly, delivering what Coach Brian Wright called a lot of water to the Flint Michigan School for the Deaf which has been affected by the city's national news water problems.

David Binder poured in 30 points and Jacob Wright added a triple double in the 70-34 non-conference victory. Wright pitched in 15 points, 14 rebounds, 10 assists and four blocks for the Bulldogs who outscored their

hosts in every quarter. Dan Good had 11 rebounds, seven points and four assists for the winners.

Earlier in the week, Owen-Gage rallied for a 46-39 victory over Saginaw Arts and Science Academy. Trailing 35-28, Wright exploded for 14 points in the final eight minutes to complete the comeback. He registered a team-high 21 points. Good added 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Binder scored nine points and collected six rebounds.

State ranked Caro prevails

Continued from page 9.

the day.

NON-LEAGUE

Hosts Caro dominated a double-duel match with Cass City and Akron-Fairgrove earlier in the week.

The Red Hawks had their way against the Vikings and posted a 60-15 victory, but fell to the state

ranked Tigers 61-18.

Taylor Cowdry and Dickson recorded a pair of victories in the non-conference match for Cass City.

In the 103 weight class, Cowdry pinned Dustin Southgate, Akron-Fairgrove, in 28 seconds, and Isaac Newton, Caro, in 3:37. Dickson's wins were both by forfeit.

Cass City's overall dual meet season record is 30-12.

Free fishing weekend nears

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds everyone that the annual Winter Free Fishing Weekend is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 13, and Sunday, Feb. 14. That weekend, everyone – residents and non-residents alike – can fish without a license, though all other fishing regulations still apply.

Michigan has celebrated the Winter Free Fishing Weekend every year since 1994 as a way to promote awareness of the state's vast aquatic resources. With more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams, and 11,000 inland lakes, Michigan and fishing are a perfect match.

"Michigan offers many enjoyable winter outdoor activities, and fishing is among the most popular options," said Bill Moritz, DNR director. "We

encourage everyone to get outside this February and explore the angling opportunities available throughout the state – on your own, with your family or with some good friends."

Organized Winter Free Fishing Weekend activities are being scheduled in communities across the state to assist with public participation. These activities are coordinated by a variety of organizations, including constituent groups, schools, local and state parks, businesses and others.

A full listing, which will be updated as new event information becomes available, can be found online at michigan.gov/freefishing. This website also offers an online toolkit for those who would like assistance in planning and promoting a local event.

Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

2016 Basketball Picks Feb. 2-5



Krysta Boyce



Clarke Haire



Geoff Morgan



Doug Hyatt

BOYS' BASKETBALL

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3

Cass City at Bad Axe
Reese at Vassar
Marlette at Sandusky
Ubyly at Harbor Beach

Bad Axe
Vassar
Marlette
Harbor Beach

Bad Axe
Vassar
Marlette
Harbor Beach

Bad Axe
Vassar
Marlette
Harbor Beach

Bad Axe
Reese
Marlette
Harbor Beach

FRIDAY, FEB. 5

Vassar at Bad Axe
Cass City at EPBP
Reese at USA
Ubyly at Marlette
Kingston at Caseville

Bad Axe
Cass City
USA
Marlette
Kingston

Bad Axe
Cass City
Reese
Marlette
Kingston

Bad Axe
Cass City
USA
Marlette
Kingston

Bad Axe
Cass City
Reese
Marlette
Kingston

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

TUESDAY, FEB. 2

Cass City at Bad Axe
USA at EPBP
Ubyly at Harbor Beach
Marlette at Sandusky
Owen-Gage at Flint Int.

Bad Axe
USA
Harbor Beach
Sandusky
Flint

Bad Axe
USA
Harbor Beach
Sandusky
Flint

Bad Axe
USA
Harbor Beach
Marlette
Owen-Gage

Bad Axe
USA
Harbor Beach
Sandusky
Flint

THURSDAY, FEB. 4

USA at Reese
Ubyly at Marlette
Kingston at Caseville

Reese
Marlette
Kingston

Reese
Marlette
Kingston

Reese
Marlette
Kingston

Reese
Marlette
Kingston

FRIDAY, FEB. 5

Cass City at EPBP

EPBP

EPBP

EPBP

EPBP

Last Week's Results

12-3
60 - 24 71%

10-5
61 - 23 73%

12-3
62 - 22 74%

13-2
66 - 18 79%

Season Results

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Schneeberger's

ATHLETE of the WEEK



VICTORIA MATHEWSON

Victoria Mathewson is Schneeberger's choice for their Athlete of the Week award winner.

The Cass City senior gymnast turned in a pair of regional quailing scores Saturday at the St. Johns Inviational to advance into regional competition pegged for later in the year.

Mathewson placed 27th in the vault with a mark of 8.050 at the 10-school affair, the fourth time she has met or exceeded the regional qualifying standard during the year, required to participate at the post season meet in the event.

Mathewson also earned her fourth regional score in the bars with a mark of 6.8. Her score was the 17th best on the day.

Victoria is the daughter of Amy and Delbert Mathewson.

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Cass City Jr./Sr. High School 2015-16 Winter Sports Schedules

Support your favorite teams all season long with this guide to Cass City High School's big games!

Varsity Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT
12/9	Mayville
12/11	Sandusky 51, CC 36
12/14	CC 46, Capac 34
12/16	CC 56, Memphis 48
12/18	Marlette 48, CC 34
1/6	BCAS 59, CC 35
1/8	CC 47, Lakers 26
1/15	Reese 48, CC 30
1/18	CC 51, Caro 45
1/22	USA 59, CC 58
1/27	Brown City 55, CC 48
1/29	Vassar 46, CC 29
2/3	Bad Axe
2/5	Lakers
2/12	Reese
2/17	Ubly
2/19	USA
2/26	Vassar
3/3	Bad Axe
3/7-11	District @ Harbor Beach - TBD

Games begin at 7:30 p.m.

Follow our Hawks at Home

JV & Varsity Boys' Basketball

Feb. 12 vs. Reese
JV starts at 6:00 p.m.

JV & Varsity Girls' Basketball

Feb. 11 vs. Reese
JV starts at 6:00 p.m.

Wrestling TEAM DISTRICTS Feb. 10

Varsity Girls' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT
12/1	CC 53, Mayville 13
12/4	Marlette 50, CC 28
12/10	Sandusky 68, CC 46
12/15	CC 36, Memphis 27
12/17	Bad Axe 45, CC 26
1/7	Lakers 58, CC 37
1/14	Reese 73, CC 29
1/19	Caro 48, CC 25
1/21	USA 60, CC 20
1/26	Brown City 37, CC 27
1/28	Vassar 36, CC 31
2/2	Bad Axe
2/4	Lakers
2/9	Akron-Fairgrove
2/11	Reese
2/16	Ubly
2/18	USA
2/25	Vassar
2/29-3/5	Districts @ USA TBD

Games begin at 7:30 p.m.

Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT
12/9	Mayville
12/11	Sandusky @ SVSU
12/14	Capac @ 5:30 P.M.
12/16	Memphis
12/18	Marlette
1/6	BCAS
1/8	Lakers
1/13	Harbor Beach
1/15	Reese
1/18	Caro
1/22	USA
1/27	Brown City
1/29	Vassar (snowcoming)
2/3	Bad Axe
2/5	Lakers
2/12	Reese
2/17	Ubly
2/19	USA
2/26	Vassar
3/3	Bad Axe
3/7-11	District @ Harbor Beach - TBD

Games begin at 6 p.m.

WRESTLING

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
12/9	Bad Axe/Brown City	6:00 p.m.
12/12	Marlette Team Tourny	8:00 a.m.
12/16	Mayville/Ubly	6:00 p.m.
12/19	Cros-Lex Team Tourny	9:00 a.m.
12/29	Mayville Ind. Tourny	TBD
1/6	Sandusky/Brown City	6:00 p.m.
1/9	N. Branch Team Tourny	9:00 a.m.
1/13	Ubly/Vassar	6:00 p.m.
1/16	Flushing Team Tourny	8:00 a.m.
1/20	Marlette/Memphis	6:00 p.m.
1/23	Mayville Team Tourny	9:00 a.m.
1/27	Caro/Frankenmuth	6:00 p.m.
1/30	Bullock Creek Team Tourny	8:30 a.m.
2/6	GTC Lean Meet @ Brown City	TBD
2/10	Team Districts	TBD
2/13	Individual Districts@Mayville	TBD
2/17	Team Regionals@N. Lothrop	TBD
2/20	Individual Regionals@N. Lothrop	TBD
2/26-27	Team State Finals @ Mt. Pleasant	TBD
3/3-5	Indiv. State Finals @ Auburn Hills	TBD

Junior Varsity Girls' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT
12/1	CC 44; Mayville 6
12/4	Marlette 40; CC 27
12/10	Sandusky 48; CC 26
12/15	Memphis 46; CC 5
12/17	CC 50; Bad Axe 26
12/22	BCAS 28; CC 22
1/7	Lakers 45; CC 33
1/14	Reese 45; CC 23
1/19	Caro
1/21	USA
1/26	Brown City
1/28	Vassar
2/2	Bad Axe
2/4	Lakers
2/9	Akron-Fairgrove
2/11	Reese
2/16	Ubly
2/18	USA
2/25	Vassar
2/29-3/5	Districts @ USA TBD

Games begin at 6 p.m.

GYMNASTICS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
1/9	Fraser	9:00 a.m.
1/12	Vassar	6:30 p.m.
1/16	Milford-Lakeland	8:30 a.m.
2/4	Fenton	6:30 p.m.
2/13	Vassar Invite	10:00 a.m.
2/25	Vassar	6:30 p.m.

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State records 4 cases -- one fatal -- of listeriosis

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has been collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and local health departments in Michigan on a multistate foodborne outbreak of listeriosis, including four cases and one death in Michigan.

Twelve people in six states have been infected with the outbreak strain of *Listeria monocytogenes* since July 5, 2015, including Indiana (one), Massachusetts (one), Michigan (four), New Jersey (one), New York (four), and Pennsylvania (one).

All people range in age from three to 83 years, and the median age is 66. Sixty-nine percent of ill people are female. All of the cases reported being hospitalized, and one person from Macomb County, Mich., died as a result of listeriosis.

The source of the illnesses was not known until January 2016 when the laboratory result from packaged salad collected at a Dole processing facility in Springfield, Ohio, was linked to the illnesses. The CDC is recommending that consumers do not eat, restaurants do not serve, and retailers do not sell packaged salads produced at the Dole processing facility in Springfield, Ohio.

The company is withdrawing all packaged salads currently on the market that were produced at this facility.

These packaged salads were sold under various brand names including Dole, Fresh Selections, Simple Truth, Marketside, The Little Salad Bar, and President's Choice. They can be identified by the letter A at the beginning of the manufacturing code found on the package.

At this time, there is no evidence to suggest that packaged salads produced at other Dole processing facilities in the United States are linked to illness.

Listeria can cause a serious, life-threatening illness. Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness, muscle aches, and nausea, sometimes diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms.

The disease primarily affects pregnant women, newborn babies, older adults, and adults with weakened immune systems. The incubation period is typically between two and three weeks, but can be as long as 70 days. People experiencing these symptoms and who may have consumed this packaged salad product should seek immediate medical attention.

For more information about the investigation, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/listeria/outbreaks/bagged-salads-01-16/index.html>.

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Board of Trustees will meet the third Thursday of the odd months at 7:00 pm

January 21
March 17
May 19
July 21
September 15
November 17

Annual Meeting Saturday March 26 at 1:00 pm

Planning Commission will meet the third Thursday of the even months at 7:00 pm

February 18
April 21
June 16
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CALL US TODAY!!!

This is a country home for you with new vinyl siding in 2014, new windows and doors in 2013, new cupboards in 1999 and a new roof in 2011. The pole barn has 220 amp and studio has water and electricity. The well is 182 feet with a new pump tank and supply line in 2014. What better area than this than the 5 acres with mature trees, grapes, and an orchard! In addition to the studio and pole barn is an additional building that can be used as a man cave or play house with various updates!



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Well maintained older home in Harbor Beach with lots of curb appeal. This home has 4 bedrooms and 1 1/2 baths. It also features very nice hardwood floors and a beautiful partially opened stairway with bookcase. There is a nice rear room and balcony to enjoy the well-manicured backyard enclosed by a vinyl privacy fence. There is also a 2nd garage in the back. The basement is neat as a pin with plenty of storage. That is where you will find the laundry room and a room with a fireplace that could be easily finished off. New furnace in 2012, has central air, newer windows and wiring. Come take a look. HB-128



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Townships suing landowners

Continued from page one.

According to records filed in Tuscola County Circuit Court, township officials asked county building inspector Curtis Stowe, who works for South Central Michigan Construction Code Inc. (SCMCCI), to inspect the structure. Stowe subsequently deemed the building to be dangerous.

The township then scheduled a public hearing last November to review Stowe's findings and discuss the next step. Woloshen was notified about the meeting but did not attend.

Novesta Township Supervisor Ralph Zinnecker said Woloshen has, in fact, failed to respond to repeated contacts from the township, prompting officials to seek demolition of the house because it presents a safety risk. The board sought bids for the demolition last month and accepted a low bid of \$6,900, according to Zinnecker, who said the cost will be attached as a lien to Woloshen's tax bill.

Court records state township officials are also seeking court costs and attorneys fees related to the case.

In neighboring Ellington Township, also in northeastern Tuscola County, meanwhile, officials have filed suit against Mary V. Smith, trustee of the Mary Venema Smith Trust, owner of property at 2770 E. Caro Rd.

The suit asks the court to grant the township permission to enter the property and remove a semi-trailer that officials say constitutes a violation of the Ellington Township Blight Ordinance.

The township would attach the cost of removing and disposing of the trailer as a tax lien to the property owner's tax bill, according to court records, which state the township is also seeking court costs and legal fees stemming from the suit.



NOVESTA TOWNSHIP officials say Dennis M. Woloshen, the owner of this Deford residence ravaged by fire three years ago, has repeatedly failed to respond to the township's requests that he repair or raze the structure at 5920 Bruce St. The township has taken its case to Tuscola County Circuit Court, where they hope to receive permission to demolish the structure in the near future.

Threat prompts lockdown and search at Lakers

Continued from page one.

a message claiming a bomb was going to explode at the high school. "That message was located by a 16-year-old Laker student who immediately reported it to school staff," Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson reported. "The school was evacuated, with the students and staff being taken to the adjacent school and the premises sealed off. Sanilac County Sheriff's Office responded with their bomb sniffing dog."

After finding nothing suspicious during a search of the building and parking lots, investigators decided to suspend the operation, Hanson said.

"The investigation will continue, and anyone who has any information about this incident is asked to contact our office during regular business hours at (989) 269-6500 or Huron Central Dispatch anytime at (989) 269-6421," the sheriff said, not anyone can also submit anonymous information by calling the TIPS line at (989) 269-2861.

A similar incident prompting a school lockdown was reported Wednesday, Jan. 20, at Kingston High School, and Kingston officials reported a second suspicious situation Tuesday, Jan. 26, although the school day was not interrupted last week.

"Staff, students, and community members may have noticed police and/or security related personnel in and around the high school today (Jan. 26)," Kingston Supt. Matt Drake posted on the district's Facebook page. "A questionable message was discovered in one of our bathrooms. Law enforcement was contacted as a precaution. They responded, collected evidence and discussed a course of action. It was determined that staff and students' safety were not in jeopardy and we continued on with our school day."

"We have increased our hallway patrols, started a sign-in and sign-out policy for students in all classes throughout the day, and we have worked with our private security company to make a few other upgrades," Drake wrote.

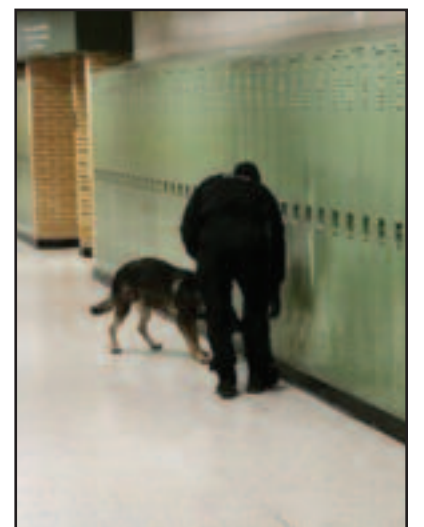
"This activity is very frustrating and we are doing all that we can do to catch the person(s) responsible. Because there is an on-going investigation, there are details and information that is not being released at this time, and I know that can be disconcerting. I assure you that the safety of students and staff is always our number one concern. I will keep you all updated and as informed as possible."

School officials initiated the Jan. 20 lockdown after a student discovered a "general mass threat" written on a bathroom stall at the high school. A search by police and a canine unit turned up nothing.

Making such threats is a criminal act that could bring a myriad of serious charges, according to Thumb law enforcement officials and prosecutors, who urge students to utilize the state's OK2SAY program if they have information related to the recent threats.

The project uses a comprehensive communication system to facilitate tip sharing among students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and law enforcement officials.

OK2SAY enables students to confidentially report information related to potential harm or criminal activities directed at students, school employees and schools by calling 8-555-OK2SAY (855-565-2729), texting 652729 (OK2SAY), or via email at OK2SAY@mi.gov.



THE SANILAC COUNTY Sheriff's Department Canine Unit was called in during Friday's investigation into a bomb threat at Laker High School Friday. (Photo courtesy of the Huron County Sheriff's Department)

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Foster grandparents in demand in Thumb area school district classrooms

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

If you're an older adult who is maybe rethinking retirement with plans to spend some time volunteering for a good cause, and you enjoy working with youngsters, Kristy Anderson has a great opportunity for you.

Anderson serves as manager of the Human Development Commission's (HDC) Thumb Area Foster Grandparent Program, which matches senior volunteers with students in school settings throughout the Thumb.

There currently are some openings for new volunteers to join the program. Participants who meet certain income guidelines receive a small stipend and travel reimbursement, according to Anderson, who says the rewards – for seniors and children alike – are immeasurable, even life-changing.

HDC officials have sponsored the Thumb Area Foster Grandparent Program since 1978. Currently, the program has about 45 seniors placed in area elementary and middle schools, preschools, Head Start centers and intermediate school districts.

"The local foster grandparent volunteers have been assigned 67 different students to focus their time and attention on," said Anderson, who noted the seniors' presence in the classrooms yields positive results in a variety of ways.

"We predict that all 67 students will show at least moderate improvement in literacy, math and general academics, including increased attendance and class participation," she said. "The foster grandparents are able to help achieve the improvement through one-on-one learning situations and extra attentions to students who need it the most."

"While the volunteers focus their time on students with special or exceptional needs, they are truly 'grandma' or 'grandpa' to the entire school," Anderson added.

And students are not the only ones to benefit from the foster grandparent program.

"Volunteers also benefit through this intergenerational experience," she said. "After retirement, seniors are more like to become isolated, lonely and even depressed. The foster grandparent program encourages seniors to be more active, have increased social ties, and find purpose in what they are doing."

"The volunteers are able to see the achievement in the students and hear kind words from students as they build relationships within the school," Anderson continued.

Wendy Jacot, who serves as HDC's human resources and marketing manager, agreed, saying the program offers senior volunteers an opportunity to stay active in their communities by using their time, experience and wisdom to help youngsters succeed.

"They increase their social ties to the community and wake up knowing there are people who are counting on them," Jacot said.

"The students gain one-on-one attention from a caring adult in the classroom," she explained. "Most students working with foster grandparents show an increase in math and literacy skills, increased attendance, increased interest in school, and complete and turn in more homework assignments."

Jacot added, "All the students see another kind, loving adult in the classroom who cares about their success."

Editor's note: Area residents interested in learning more about the Thumb Area Foster Grandparent Program and how to get involved are encouraged to call HDC at 1-800-843-6394.

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Go RED For Your Health!

Heart disease is the #1 killer of women in the U.S.

"Hills & Dales Emergency Room is staffed by Board Certified ER Physicians who are ready to take care of you if you experience any symptoms of a heart attack."

Know the Signs.
1 in every 4 women lose their lives to heart disease...
Don't let it be YOU!

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