

Charter celebration on tap for new Lions Club

Page 4

Kingston voters reject bond issue proposal

Page 7

Whooooo are you looking at?

Photos, page 16

# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 110, NUMBER 1

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016

75 CENTS ~ 16 PAGES - 2 SUPPLEMENTS

## Swales: heroin plays no favorites when it comes to the victims

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Users call it junk, dragon, smack, horse, tar and dope, among other things. Most area residents are more familiar with the proper name: heroin.

It's a name health and law enforcement officials are using more and more these days, thanks to a growing epidemic of prescription drug abuse that prompts many addicts to switch to the cheaper but far less predictable street drug as they repeatedly pursue the dramatic "high" heroin delivers.

It's a serious issue, one that is impacting – and taking — lives here, in the Thumb, as well as across the rest of Michigan and beyond.

Michigan State Police Trooper Mark Swales addressed heroin use, prescription drug abuse and, equally important, ways parents can look for signs of trouble in their own homes during a 2 ½-hour program in Cass City Saturday. About two dozen area residents attended the event, organized and hosted by the Tuscola County and Huron County health departments and funded by a Michigan Abstinence Grant.

"This is a growing problem. This is not only in our area, but across the country," Swales told the group, adding heroin doesn't discriminate when it

*Experts say heroin use is up, in part due to a growing epidemic of prescription drug abuse that prompts addicts to switch to the cheaper but far less predictable street drug.*

and live in nice neighborhoods far from Detroit, Flint and other cities.

"This is an addiction that can affect anybody," Swales added. "The reality is, this is a problem right here."

Swales, who works out of the state police post in Caro, serving as the community service trooper for Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties, explained heroin is made from the resin of poppy plants, with much of the drug supply originating in Afghanistan.

Heroin traffickers in this country "cut", or add other substances, to heroin before selling it, primarily to drive up profits. Those other substances can range from powdered milk to insect repellent, making it impossible for users to know what they are buying, Swales said.

Addicts ingest the drug in a variety of ways – by injecting, smoking or snorting it (some users, for example, place doses of the drug on a piece of tinfoil, heat it underneath with a lighter and inhale the smoke). "But it's the same drug no matter how you take it in," he said. "It's a terrible drug. The addiction is almost instantaneous – they try it one time and they're hooked."

Heroin has been strongly linked to addictions involving prescription medications such as oxycodone, also known "hillbilly heroin" and sold under the brand name "OxyContin", as well as hydrocodone, methadone and other

Please turn to page 8.

## Deputies seeking charges against pair in morphine trafficking investigation

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Huron County sheriff's deputies executed a trio of search warrants last week in connection with an investigation into morphine trafficking in the Thumb.

Deputies, assisted by Sebewaung police, executed two warrants simultaneously last Wednesday in the village of Sebewaung.

"The first search warrant took place at the Dix Apartments, where a 59-year-old man was questioned and released. Morphine, syringes and a crack pipe were seized," Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson reported. "Felony charges will be sought against the man."

"The second search warrant was executed at the Sebewaung Terrace Apartments, where a 55-year-old woman was questioned and released," Hanson said, adding officers discovered and seized morphine and cash. "Felony delivery of morphine charges will also be sought against this woman from the Huron County Prosecutor's Office."

While executing those warrants, deputies obtained additional information that led to a third warrant, which officers served Thursday in the 5800 block of Bay City-Forestville Road in Sanilac County's Delaware Township, according to Hanson.

"Our deputies and members of the Sanilac County Drug Task Force located prescription medication, marijuana, cash and two firearms," he said. "Those items were seized by the Sanilac County Drug Task Force for consideration of possible felony charges in the future."

"The sheriff's office has identified that illegal use and sales of prescription medicine have somewhat been on the increase within the last six

months," Hanson said. "Local hospital officials are working collaboratively with local law enforcement officials in order to utilize programs such as the MAPS system (Michigan Automated Prescription System) to better serve the patients and the community."

Please turn to page 16.



**TROOPER MARK Swales, community service trooper from the Michigan State Police post in Caro, discusses the alarming increase in prescription drug and heroin use among youth during a special program presented to about two dozen parents and other area residents Saturday at the Charmont in Cass City.**

## Tuscola voters give big 'thumbs up' to Extension programs, 4-H

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

If you live in Tuscola County, chances are good that sigh of relief you heard following last week's presidential primary election came from members of a committee that has worked tirelessly to promote a proposed tax levy to continue funding for MSU Extension programs, including 4-H, in the county.

Not that those volunteers were all that worried, given the variety of services and programs MSU Extension provides, and the hundreds of youths impacted by their participation in 4-H.

And the fact that the requested tax – just one-tenth of a mill – would provide all of that at a cost of just \$5 more a year to the owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000.

"I had my heart set on a three-to-one win all along, and we hit the

mark," a relieved Jackie Garner commented last Wednesday. Garner, aside from serving on the committee promoting the levy (The Friends of MSU Extension and 4-H), is a veteran of 4-H programs in the county, currently serving as Tuscola County 4-H Council president as well as treasurer of the Tuscola County Fair Board.

"We wanted to not just win, but make a point," Garner added. "Counties across the state had their eye on these results, as they all have tough budget decisions to make. It's our hope that they see how valuable MSU Extension programming is and find a way to keep it included in their budgets for many years to come."

Voters overwhelmingly approved the tax on a vote of 9,781 votes of 3,926 votes. The levy is expected to generate \$173,000 a year, but Garner indicated residents' support of the measure means much more than

assurance that Extension officials will be able to make financial ends meet over the next few years.

"The 4-H youth won't see any changes from what they are used to, as we were lucky enough to avoid a 'gap' in programming, but they know now that 70 percent of Tuscola county was willing to take time to vote in their favor, pledge \$5 to \$10 for the next 6 years, and I really think that will give them a confidence that is priceless," Garner said.

"We look forward to celebrating the 135th Tuscola County Fair July 24-30, and are already planning a community appreciation ice cream social to start the week."

At stake in the MSU Extension millage vote was closure of the local MSU Extension office in Caro, marking the elimination of a number of services and programs in addition to 4-H, including farm visits and

Please turn to page 7.

## Farm Credit names local teen among top leaders



*Battel one of 100 honored nationwide for giving back to their communities*

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

It's been quite a spring for 13-year-old Addy Battel, who earned the right to represent the Cass City Junior High FFA Chapter in competition at the Michigan FFA State Competition, and who topped off that accomplishment last week with a second place finish overall in the Junior High Public Speaking category.

But recognition of Battel's skills took on a broader shine earlier this week when Farm Credit officials named her among their 100 Fresh Perspectives honorees, all selected during a nationwide search for outstanding leaders in their communities. Those named to the list were chosen from a field of several hundred individuals nominated from various states, including Michigan.

In a news release issued Tuesday, Farm Credit officials said the 100 Fresh Perspectives leaders all

Please turn to page 6.

**ADDY BATTEL, 13, pictured above demonstrating her public speaking skills during a Cass City board of Education meeting last month, was named among this year's Farm Credit 100 Fresh Perspectives honorees this week following a nationwide search for nominations of individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in their communities.**

# Retford "featured student" at MSU

An Owendale resident was recently recognized as a "featured student" by the Michigan State University Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences.

Adam Retford, a 2015 graduate of Owen-Gage High School and the son of John and Gina Retford, is enrolled in MSU's Agricultural Technology Certificate Program.

"I chose this course of study because I grew up on a small family cash crop farm and have always had a great interest in the industry," Retford said. "My future plans include continuing to operate our family-owned farm, where we grow corn, dry beans, wheat and sugar

beets. I also plan to obtain employment off farm and would like to become an agronomist.

"Our farm has been in our family for over 100 years, so I have been inspired to farm during my whole life," Retford added.

"I learned of this program (at MSU) through a close friend and, after much research, decided this program was well suited for my personal growth and career development for my future plans. I chose PSM (plant, soil and microbial sciences) because the program covers so many areas that I will use in the future.

"I have learned many types of farm practices and about precision farm-

ing," Retford continued. "The courses at MSU have been very useful, and it will be interesting to see how much improvement we will see in the future. I am very happy with my decision and continue to enjoy my time at MSU."

## Huron County RTL set to host benefit dinner

Huron County Right to Life will be hosting its Focus on Life 2016 annual Benefit Dinner Tuesday, March 29, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bad Axe.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 7 p.m. with dinner catered by Dian Volmering and music provided by the Gunden Family from RU Ready Ministries in Pigeon.

Michigan native Peter Brooks is this year's guest speaker. Brooks has been very active in the prolife movement, serving on Right to Life boards in Lansing and Albuquerque. For reservations, call Jeanne Gusa at (989) 658-8701.



Adam Retford

# SUDOKU

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

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

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# Fellowship of the Saints

*They shall take up serpents: and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.*

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# In Our OPINION..

**Clarke Haire**  
Publisher

**Tom Montgomery**  
Editor

## State task force taking on abuse

Michigan State Police Community Service Trooper Mark Swales offered some area parents some important, although unsettling, information Saturday in Cass City on the rise of drug use among youth across the Thumb and state.

The program, organized by the Tuscola County and Huron County health departments, focused in part on a growing trend of addiction to strong prescription pain killers and, when those are no longer available, a cheaper but far more unpredictable drug: heroin.

Michigan health and law enforcement officials agree it is nothing less than an epidemic, and it's killing young people as well as older users who overdose while pursuing that perfect "high".

In fact, the number of drug overdose deaths in Michigan rose by 14 percent in 2014, according to data released last week by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

"Prescription drug and opioid abuse is a problem that is impacting communities all across our state," said Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, chair of the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force, which was formed last fall at the request of Gov. Rick Snyder.

"We are coming together to reverse this trend that is hurting Michiganders across every geographic and demographic category," Calley added. "No family is immune from this, so all families must come together to fight the stigma of addiction and know that it's okay to ask for help."

The data shows that the total drug poisoning deaths increased from 1,535 in 2013 to 1,745 in 2014 – continuing an upward trend since 2012.

In 2014, this was the number one cause of injury-related death in Michigan. For a few years prior to 2012, the number of drug poisoning deaths had appeared to level off, following a general rise since the late 1990s. In 1999, there were 455 drug poisoning deaths in Michigan.

The new data comes as MDHHS officials are continuing their efforts to address opioid and heroin use in the state. In October, the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force released several findings and recommendations related to the abuse of these drugs in Michigan and strategies to curb them.

"As members of the healthcare community, we need to work together and engage all of our partners to combat the opioid epidemic in Michigan," said Tim Becker, chief deputy director of MDHHS. "The Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force recommendations will continue to guide our efforts on this issue moving forward."

According to the data, heroin-related deaths were more than three times higher among men (seven per 100,000) than women (2.1 per 100,000) in 2014. The rate for heroin-related deaths was highest among young adults ages 25 to 34 (11.3 per 100,000). Adults ages 35 to 44 had the highest rate for deaths involving opioid analgesics (12 per 100,000).


Moreover, men died at a higher rate than women from opioid and heroin use (21.4 deaths of men per 100,000, compared to 14.1 deaths among women), according to the data.

We appreciate the task force's efforts in further identifying the extent of prescription drug and heroin abuse, and we hope it will continue its work by focusing on ways to help those chained to these drugs locate and secure the assistance they need to break free from their addictions.

# Slices of Life

by Jill Pertler

**Daylight saving - nighttime snoozing**




Spring forward; fall back. Twice each year we reset the clocks. In the fall, I relish the extra hour of sleep I think I get because 6:00 a.m. is really 7:00 a.m. – or it feels that way for a couple days at least.

But you know what they say. There's no such thing as a free lunch or free extra hour of sleep. Come spring, it's time to pay the piper and relinquish an hour. Suddenly, 7:00 a.m. feels like 6:00 a.m. – for at least a couple days.

Why do we do this to ourselves? (Good folks in Arizona and Hawaii, please ignore the question, since you are smart enough to set your clocks and leave them be.) Daylight saving time. Just what are we saving and when do we save it – when we fall back or spring ahead?

I've always been told the practice has to do with farmers. Make hay while the sun shines, and all that jazz. I was misinformed. According to Wiki: "Historically, retailing, sports and tourism interests have favored daylight saving, while agricultural and evening entertainment interests have opposed it." If farmers didn't invent daylight saving time, who did?

Some credit the creation of the phenomenon to Benjamin Franklin, who suggested getting up at sunrise and going to bed at sunset would help save candles. "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." Although Mr. Franklin was a practical man and in favor of saving candles, he is not the father of daylight saving time.

That honor goes to a guy in New Zealand named George Hudson. He proposed modern daylight saving time in the 1800s because he was interested in having more daylight after work to pursue his hobby of collecting bugs. Creepy, but true. An Englishman, William Willett, came up with the same idea a few years later because the setting sun was cutting into his evening round of golf. Bogey to that.

Golf and insect-collecting may have been fine and good reasons to spring ahead, but the idea didn't catch on here until there was an even bigger rationale for widespread implementation: war. During World War I, The U.S., Russia and many European countries implemented daylight saving time as a way to conserve coal. (Similar to Ben Franklin's idea, but without the candles.)

The war ended and so did daylight saving time in most places. There was no federal law regulating the practice, which caused confusion between time zones and especially with the transportation industry. Apparently people kept missing their trains. So, in 1967 a federal law resurrected widespread daylight saving time. Individual states could follow certain rules to opt out, but most were all in – where they remain today.

In addition to keeping people from missing their plane or train, daylight saving time saves energy because people naturally sleep later the morning and stay up to all hours of the night (burning more proverbial candles as


they do). If the sun is shining later in the day, less energy is needed to light the streets and heat our homes. A 2008 report that undoubtedly required the time and energy of a number of U.S. Department of Energy employees reported a nationwide electricity savings of about 0.03 percent during daylight saving time. Electrifying results for sure.

There you have it: palpable evidence that daylight saving time benefits us. I only wonder why we switch back and forth. If setting our clocks ahead is a good thing, maybe we should just stick with it and save on energy ourselves. You know, the energy it takes to reset the clocks twice a year. I'll light a candle to that.

## Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)



They're back. Spotted Monday on the streets of Cass City were local Lions Club members peddling their chocolate – both white and dark – bunnies to help raise money for endeavors of the civic-minded group.

Cost for their Easter treats are 4 bucks each or three for \$11. To help with their fundraising efforts contact any club member, including Treasurer Eric Brown who can be reached during the day at Thumb National Bank in Cass City.

\*\*\*\*\*

Attention residents of Huron and Tuscola counties.

Rep. Ned Canfield invites residents of the 84th House District to attend his in-district office hours on Friday, March 25 at the Caro Area District Library, 840 W. Frank St. in Caro from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

No appointment is necessary. People unable to attend office hours are encouraged to contact Rep. Canfield by phone at 517-373-0476, or by email at EdwardCanfield@house.mi.gov<mailto:EdwardCanfield@house.mi.gov>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Department of Natural Resources has announced release of the 2016-2017 Michigan Fishing Guide, which includes rules and regulations effective April 1, 2016, through March 31, 2018. Copies of the two-year guide can be obtained at any location where fishing licenses are sold.

Anglers should note this year's publication is a two-year guide, covering regulations for both 2016 and 2017.

As in the recent past, this year's guide is intended to be useful to anglers in the field by being printed on higher-quality paper to better withstand the wear and tear of fishing in Michigan, produced in a smaller physical size to better fit in tackle boxes, and printed in an easier to read font size.

This is the second year the DNR solicited photos from the public for possible use on the cover of the guide. This year's selected photo is of Grand Haven's north pier and was submitted by Eric Zattlin. The DNR will be collecting potential cover photos for the 2018-2019 guide as well. The DNR is looking for photos that focus on places to fish, not so much on people or fish species themselves. Interested individuals can send their submissions to DNR-Fisheries@michigan.gov. (Right up your ally Cheryl Osentoski).

The 2016-2017 Michigan Fishing Guide also is available in a user-friendly, electronic format online at michigan.gov/fishingguide.

Remember, tight lines Matt Lynch and to all Thumb area fishermen (and women).

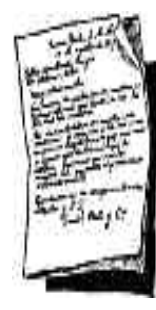
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The 66th annual Sanilac County Band Festival for junior high school bands will be held on Tuesday, March 29th at 7 p.m. in the Carsonville-Port Sanilac High School.

The event will begin with an individual performance of two selections by each of the seven participating bands. Highlighting the evening will be a performance of the 2016 Sanilac County Junior High School combined band under the Direction of Mrs. Tavia Zerman, director of bands, Grand Ledge Middle School.

Bands participating in the festival will represent the communities of Brown City, Carsonville-Port Sanilac, Croswell-Lexington, Deckerville, Marlette, Peck and Sandusky.

## Have a concern? A complaint? Just want to voice your opinion?



### The Cass City Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor.

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

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

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## CALENDAR EVENTS

Deadline for submitting items in the calendar is the Friday noon before publication. Please send calendar items to:

Cass City Chronicle P.O. Box 115, Cass City MI 48726

Phone: (989)872-2010 Fax: (989)872-3810 [chronicle@ccchronicle.net](mailto:chronicle@ccchronicle.net)

### Wednesday, March 16

•Spoonfuls of Plenty Free Community Meal, 4-6 p.m., LeeRoy Clark Building, 435 Green St., Caro. Open to anyone wanting a hot, home-style meal.  
•Spaghetti Dinner at Cass City VFW Hall from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Take out available. For more information call (989) 872-4933.

### Thursday, March 17

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

### Saturday, March 19

•Revive Food Pantry, from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Must live in the Cass City School District and meet the financial guidelines. For more information, call (989)551-7803.

### Monday, March 21

•Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Uby. For more information, call Angela R. at (989) 658-2319.  
•AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 553-5932.

### Tuesday, March 22

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

## Charter celebration on tap for new Lions Club in Sanilac Co.

A new Lions club is being established in the Thumb, with plans set for 25 men and women to celebrate the charter night of the Frieburg Saint Ignatius Lions Club at the Saint Joseph Parish Hall in Argyle Sunday, April 3, at 1 p.m.

During the ceremony, District Governor Justin Faber will present the members of the new club with their official charter. Members of the Uby Lions Club, which sponsored the formation of the Frieburg Saint Ignatius Lions Club, will also be on hand to congratulate members of the new organization.

"I am proud to welcome these men

and women into Lions. Sanilac County will be proud to have such a fine group serving their community," Faber said.

The Frieburg Saint Ignatius Lions Club plans to become involved with helping those in need in the Frieburg area. The new club will meet on the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Saint Ignatius Parish Hall.

Lions clubs are a group of men and women who identify needs within the community and work together to fulfill those needs. For more information or to get involved with the Frieburg Saint Ignatius Lions Club,

contact Penny Guigar at (989) 658-8798.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.3 million members in approximately 45,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world.

Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired and made a strong commitment to community service and serving youth throughout the world. For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit the website [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org).

## Tuscola County Sheriff's Department reinstates child car safety seat program

The Tuscola County Sheriff's Department has reinstated its child car safety seat program.

The program provides instruction and safety tips for child car seats, with deputies working in a partnership with the Safe Kids Greater Thumb and Saginaw Organization.

"We hold car seat events throughout Tuscola County, (and) the public is welcome to attend," Tuscola County Undersheriff Glen Skrent said. "At the event, certified technicians from the sheriff's office and Safe Kids

will check the car seat to determine if it is appropriate for the child. We will also check to determine if the car seat is expired or recalled.

"If the car seat is not appropriate, the seat will be replaced if (possible)," Skrent added. "If the seat cannot be replaced, information will be provided about what would be safest for the child."

The next child safety seat program event will be held in conjunction with the 18th annual Highland Pines Fun Fair, scheduled for Saturday, April 23, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

Highland Pines School in Caro.

There will be more events scheduled once the event dates are determined.

Organizers recommended that parents or guardians bring their vehicles, car seats, and children to the event so that proper instruction and inspection can be completed.

More information is available by contacting Deputy Josh Herman at (989) 673-8161 (ext. 4045) or via email [jherman@tuscolacounty.org](mailto:jherman@tuscolacounty.org).

## Circuit court proceedings

### Several appear recently on felony charges

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

\*Donald G. Hubbard, 61, Vassar, pleaded guilty to charges of delivery/manufacture of five to 45 kilograms of marijuana and possession of marijuana June 19 in Vassar Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case and bond was continued at \$15,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

\*Joshua M. Rosebush, 26, Vassar, pleaded guilty to two counts of retaining/stealing a financial transaction device without consent of the device holder, and one count of assaulting or obstructing a public officer Dec. 23 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at \$50,000 and the defendant was

remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

\*Kirk I. Pero, 45, Vassar, pleaded guilty to delivery/manufacture of marijuana, second offense, June 19 in Vassar Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at \$30,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

\*Mitchell D. Blake, 37, Vassar, pleaded no contest to two counts of attempted assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and one count of reckless driving June 16 in Arbel Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$10,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

\*Marc A. Finatri, 42, Millington, received a six-month delayed sentence following his pleas of guilty to charges of possession of a dangerous weapon and operating a motor vehicle while impaired Aug. 1 in Millington Township.

He was also ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$1,808.

\*John D. Vanderpool, 42, Akron, was sentenced to 365 days in the county jail following his conviction on a charge of possession of a controlled substance Sept. 18 in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,258.

\*Albert H. Kitchen Jr., 43, Marlette, received a one-year delayed sentence following his pleas of guilty to two counts of manufacturing or delivering a prescription form, or counterfeit prescription form March 11, 2015, in Koylton Township.

He was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,826.

**VOTE YES!**

4H Forever

What happens if the millage **PASSES?**

- MSU Extension office will remain open and farm visits, programming, and research trials will continue
- 4-H will continue with full-time 4-H coordinator

**March 8**

**Thank You for voting YES!**

The deadline for NEW 4-H members to enroll being April 1st and to Call MSUE and ask for Cathy or Heather at 989-672-3870 for Club and Activity information.

**NOW OPEN!**

*Come in We're OPEN*

**New Daily Specials!**

**Crossroads Restaurant**

8510 N. Van Dyke Rd., Cass City  
(989) 872-2681

**HOURS:**  
Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday  
7 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
--  
Friday  
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Come Celebrate**

St. Patrick's Day

Live and Silent Auctions

16th Annual Cass City Rotary St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Raffle

Gun and Jewelry Raffle

Music By Dave LeMaster

Green Beer

Reverse 50/50 Raffle

**Saturday**  
March 19, 2016  
Cocktails 5:30  
Dinner 6:30

Cass City VFW Hall

Tickets \$30.00 each, Includes Dinner, Drinks and Dancing  
Available at Thumb National, Independent Bank, Knights Inc. or from any Cass City Rotary Member!

Not all scars show.  
Not all wounds heal.  
Sometime you can't see the pain that someone feels.

Listen close to what your friends or family are not telling you.



A phone call is one of the first steps toward recovery.

**Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems**  
989.673.6191 or 1.800.462.6814  
Emergency Services Available 24/7  
Services are confidential.  
[www.tbhsonline.com](http://www.tbhsonline.com)

**Reporter's notebook**

**I'm ready to go back to school...**

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

It was the late English Poet Alfred Lord Tennyson who penned the familiar line, "In the spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love."

I can relate to that feeling this time of year, although it isn't a new romantic interest that has me feeling a bit giddy — my wife tends to frown on that sort of thing anyway — and it's been awhile since someone referred to me as a young man.

This annual bout of early spring fever has everything to do with the anticipated arrival of the Chronicle's summer news/editorial intern.

In just a few weeks we expect to welcome Conner Emery to our staff. Conner, a junior journalism major at Central Michigan University, is from the Lapeer area and is somewhat familiar with the Thumb, so small town living won't be anything new for him.

But he has some pretty big shoes to fill. Former Chronicle interns have gone on to some pretty impressive careers, although not all have remained in the field of journalism.

Among former interns in recent years, Cass City's Mason Doerr (who spent two summers with us) is now editor of the Michigan Hospitality Review, a monthly publication of the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association in Lansing. Former intern Patricia (Emenpour) Young, meanwhile, is assistant director of admissions at CMU these days, while another intern, Kelli Ameling, serves as managing editor of the Lander Journal in Lander, Wyo.

I sometimes wonder if a portion of our internship alumni look back at their summers at the Chronicle and ask themselves, "What was I thinking?!"

Seriously, I suspect most of the young women and men who have passed through our doors have benefited from their experiences. It's certain I have always appreciated their great work ethic, sense of humor and dedication to writing interesting, accurate accounts of life in the Thumb.

Of course, I'm hoping we'll have the same memories of Conner after he returns to CMU in August to finish his education.

In the meantime, while the arrival of the summer intern means I can look forward to some welcome additional copy and photos, it also marks the start of a refresher course in journalism for me. I've made community journalism a career spanning nearly 31 years now — most of that time here at the Chronicle — but I never cease to learn a few things from our summer rookies.

And it won't be long before I'll be going back to "school".

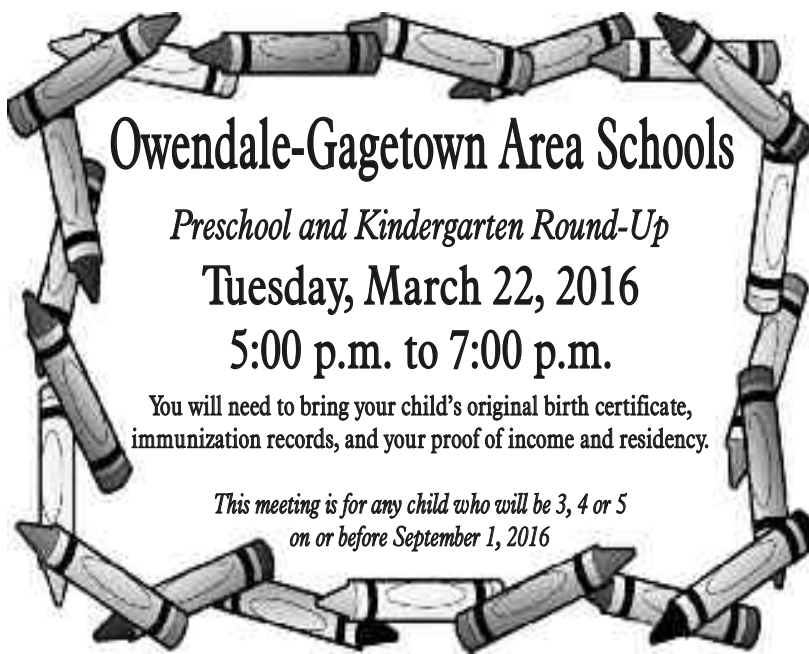
Interns have plenty to offer in this real-life classroom. Sometimes it's as simple as a reminder to look at a story idea from a different angle, or to work at incorporating more graphics into news and feature stories. Often, just being around their youthful enthusiasm is the shot in the arm I need to rejuvenate after a long winter.

These young future professionals will take their learning experiences — good and bad — with them as they pursue their own careers. I try to be mindful of that when I offer them a piece of constructive criticism.

I also try to convince them that dementia evidently is one of my charming attributes — by constantly repeating: accuracy, accuracy, accuracy; and ALWAYS ask those you interview how to spell their name correctly, and then do it; check your facts, and then check them again, etc.

One of these days I'm going to put it on a CD.

In the meantime, I'm looking forward to another summer of teaching — and learning.



**Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools**

*Preschool and Kindergarten Round-Up*

**Tuesday, March 22, 2016**

**5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

You will need to bring your child's original birth certificate, immunization records, and your proof of income and residency.

*This meeting is for any child who will be 3, 4 or 5 on or before September 1, 2016*

*Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the cheerful lads and lasses of Sherwood on the Hill in Gagetown, and enjoy a feast!*

**Dinner Choices:**

Cornbeef & Cabbage - \$11.95  
Seafood Platter - \$17.95  
Grilled Chicken - \$10.95  
Steak & Lobster - \$22.95  
Perch - \$15.95

**Dinners Include:**

Wine, Soup, Salad, Roll, Potato & Dessert

**Sherwood on the Hill, Gagetown**

Please call (989) 665-9971 or (989) 550-9971 to make your reservation by March 15.

Look in next weeks' Chronicle for our Easter Menu! Easter Reservations deadline will be March 23rd.



# Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



## 5 YEARS AGO (2011)

Ashleigh Brooke Finley and Kurt Allen Hanby, together with their parents, announce their engagement. Ashleigh is the daughter of Jill Finley of Plymouth, Ind., and Paul Finley of Crestview, Fla. She is a 2006 graduate of Plymouth High School and graduated from Bethel College, Ind., in 2010 with a Bachelor's Degree in elementary education. Kurt is the son of Jim and Rita Hanby of Cass City. He is a 2007 graduate of Cass City High School, and will graduate from Bethel College in December 2011 with a Bachelor's Degree in international business and a minor in economics and finance. The couple is currently planning a July 9, 2011 wedding at Koontz Lake Missionary Church, Ind.

## 10 YEARS AGO (2006)

Winners of this year's Knights of Columbus Free Throw Shoot district competition, held at Cass City Middle School are Adrianna Pena, Cass City; Marcus Hale, Kingston; Taylor Nicol, Kingston; Bobby Rich, Sandusky; Alliah Riddle, Cass City; Alexandra Pena, Cass City; Cory McGuire, Sandusky; Dillon Howe, Marlette; Kristen Krahnke, Sandusky; and Cody Ross, Cass City. These students will represent the area at the diocesan level free throw shoot in Bay City.

Cass City senior Scott Meeker's Red Hawk wrestling career came to a close Friday during the individual state finals in Auburn Hills. Meeker, a 2-time state finalist, fell to South Haven's David Harding at 3:52 by pin Thursday in his opening 275 pound Division 3 match. Meeker then rebounded on Friday, in the consolation bracket, to pin Napoleon's Todd Anderson in 56 seconds before being sent home by Frankenmuth's Alex Deschaine who recorded a pin in 3:28. Meeker's season ends with a lofty 47-8 mark and a career record of 130-43.

## 25 YEARS AGO (1991)

Jane Mitchell presented the program on Louisiana Friday at the Cass City meal site, when 22 were present. The monthly birthday dinner will be held Friday and a speaker will be the dietician from Hills and Dales Hospital. Her subject is cholesterol. The group's Easter dinner is scheduled Monday, March 25, and there will be no meeting Good Friday.

Cass City Intermediate School officials have named the school's "most motivated," students for the month of February. They are fifth graders Suzanne Smolarkiewicz, Ryan Bennett, Janis Mastie, Stephanie Bursleson and Jennifer Beckwith, and sixth graders Collier Bogart, Amanda Deering, Chad Diegel, Mike Peruski and Nathan Buehrly.

## 35 YEARS AGO (1981)

There's a new member of the Marv Winter family, Sue Ellen, a five-month old lion he purchased from Lion Country Safari in Florida. With her is son Kent, 6. The lion eats 6-8 pounds of raw meat every other day and will reach full size of 250-300 pounds in two years. Winter, of Van Dyke Road, plans to keep the animal, which will be declawed, unless it gets too wild. If it does, he will give it to a zoo.

Rev. Eldred Kelley officiated at the baptism of ten-week-old Susan Kay O'Hara, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David O'Hara, during the 11 o'clock worship service in Salem UM Church Sunday, standing with the parents at the altar during the baptism were Mr. and Mrs. Robert O'Hara and daughter Leanne of Utica and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Morgan and son Jim.

Mrs. Joe Sherman and daughter Johanna of East Point, GA, were honored at a baby shower Tuesday night, March 10. About 50 ladies attended. The shower was given by Linda Helwig, Shirley Shaw and Shirley Heronemus in the fellowship rooms of the First Baptist church. Mrs. Sherman has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wells, and sister Sharon.

## 40 YEARS AGO (1976)

Gagetown Village Council moved to end topless dancing in the village Tuesday night, but the performances may not fade into history without a fight. Council approved a proposed ordinance banning both topless and bottomless dancing by a 3-0 vote, with two councilmen abstaining. The action came in the wake of a petition drive demanding action. Over 90 signatures were reportedly collected in a drive spearheaded by two area ministers, Rev. Paul L. Amstutz and Rev. Gary Bugaski. The show itself wasn't the issue. "We aren't kicking about the show," he said. "What the

people are hollering about is the topless part." Sally Goff, daughter of Al Bennett, who owns the bar and hotel where the dancing is held, challenged the validity of the petition signatures opposing the dancing.

The son of an Ugly resident has been decorated with the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Mather AFB, Calif. Sergeant Philip M. Weltin, whose father is Fredrick T. Weltin of RR 1, is an administrative specialist and was cited for meritorious service at Wurtsmith AFB, Mich. He now serves at Mather with the 320th Bomb Wing, a unit of the Strategic Air Command. The sergeant is a 1971 graduate of Ugly High School. His wife, Diana, is the daughter of Mrs. Theresa Taylor of Ugly.

Melinda Kirm, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kirm of Cass City, is spending the month of March in Spain as part of her study program at John Wesley College. She and 30 fellow students left March 3. The students will study in Madrid and four other cities, including Cordoba, Granada, Malaga and Sevilla.

## 50 YEARS AGO (1966)

Alma College will receive two outstanding students next fall if the plans of the two top Cass City senior scholars are fulfilled. Both the valedictorian and the salutatorian have indicated a desire to attend the school. Mary Lou Spencer is the valedictorian of the class of 1966. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Spencer of Tyre, Miss Spencer won the top honors with a nearly perfect grade point average of 3.98. In high school, her major academic interests have been music and mathematics. As a member of the band she won many honors. She is a member of the National Honor Society. Her most recent academic achievement was becoming a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship qualifying competition. Winners of these coveted scholarships will be announced later this spring. Salutatorian of the class is Richard L. Hartwick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hartwick of rural Cass City. Hartwick compiled a grade point average of 3.8 and he

hopes to turn his interest in mathematics into a career in accounting, his possible major at Alma College. Baseball is his favorite sport and he has gone out for the diamond squad each year of his high school career. A member of the National Honor Society, Hartwick served as Junior class president.

## 75 YEARS AGO (1941)

Dr. I. A. Fritz was 80 years old Sunday, Mar. 16, and to celebrate the event a number of his family came to spend the day with him at his home, corner of Houghton and Seeger Street's. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Smith, daughter, Janice Ruth, and Miss Mildred Fritz of Detroit; Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Edgerton of Clio; Francis Fritz and son, Jerry, Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Fritz and son, Michael, of Cass City. Dr. I. A. Fritz was born in Columbia County, Pa., on March 16, 1861, and was graduated from the Chicago School of Dentistry. He started the practice of his profession in Cass City on his 22nd birthday in 1883. He had first intended locating in Bad Axe, but after a few days' consideration, decided on this place and on the last day of his 21st year he made the trip from Bad Axe to Cass City walking the greater part of the way, carrying his dental instruments in a small bag, and stopping in Greenleaf to buy a lunch. He has remained living and working in Cass City.

## 100 YEARS AGO (1916)

McKim & Son are busy this week installing new machinery and equipment in the Service Garage formerly the Doerr Garage. The firm are installing a motor and will use electricity for power. The garage is not yet open for business but expects to be ready in a week or ten days before the spring auto fever gets into the motorist's system.

The Art Club met at the home of Mrs. Harry Young on Wednesday afternoon. A shower in honor of the baby of Mrs. James Crane was given. Needlework occupied the afternoon hours and the hostess served a delicious luncheon.

## NOTICE OF MEETINGS for Evergreen Township Board

**March 19 at 9 a.m.**  
To prepare the budget.

**March 22 at 7:30 p.m.**  
Budget hearing followed by regular meeting.

**April 5 at 7:30 p.m.**  
Planning Commission meeting.

All meetings are held at:  
**Evergreen Township Hall,  
5514 Shabbona Rd., Decker  
Arthur Severance, Clerk**



**Good Friday Service**

7:00 pm

**Easter Services**

**Sunrise Service**

8:30 am

Breakfast following

**Easter Service & Cantata**

"A Living Hope"

10:30 am

**First Baptist Church**  
6420 Houghton St, Cass City

Nursery Care available for all services



# Kingston School District voters reject bond proposal

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Voters in the Kingston Community School District signed off on renewal of the district's 18-mill non-homestead operating tax levy for another 10 years during last week's presidential primary election, but rejected a proposed \$6 million bond issue.

The bond issue, which failed by just under 100 votes, 546 to 447, would have funded a myriad of what school officials described as long-overdue building and equipment upgrades ranging from technology needs to roof replacement.

The non-homestead operating levy, in place since Proposal A was passed in 1994, was approved 594 to 404. The tax impacts only non-homestead property, such as industrial, commercial and second homes. State law requires every school district to levy the tax or lose a significant portion of their state funding.

The bond issue, meanwhile, would have generated an estimated \$6,010,000, which school officials planned to pay back over a period of 20 years.

However, last week's vote left Kingston Supt. Matt Drake and the district's board of education wondering what happened.

"I don't know. I think we're going to have to re-tool it (proposal)," a disappointed Drake said, adding he doesn't know if voters rejected the bond based on specific proposed upgrades, or if it was just a matter of

not wanting to shoulder a tax increase. "What I'd like is to hear from the 550 people who said 'no' and see if there's something we can do," he said.

The sheer number of voters may have been a factor. The turnout was a surprise, although it was a presidential primary, Drake said, noting Kingston area residents approved the district's last millage with all of 240 "yes" votes.

Drake said he will discuss the results with the board in order to begin the process of determining what school officials will do next.

"We're not throwing in the towel," added Drake, who pointed out that regardless of whether or not a bond issue is passed, the district cannot ignore some expensive repairs in the near future, including replacement of rooftop heating unit that failed over the winter, and replacement of floor tiles in the high school that were manufactured with asbestos and are deteriorating.

The Kingston Board of Education's next meeting has been moved up due to spring break and is scheduled for Monday, March 21. The normal meeting time is 7 p.m., but Drake said school officials may decide to meet a half-hour earlier to discuss the bond issue vote. If that decision is made, the district will post the new time in advance of the session, he added.

The proposed bond issue would have increased the district's tax rate by just over three mills, from 5.62 to

8.72 mills, then gradually begin to fall after four years. Projections called for the rate to drop below five mills by 2028 as school officials pay off existing debt.

For the owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000 — \$50,000 in state equalized valuation (SEV) — the measure would have cost an additional \$155 annually.

According to Drake, the slate of improvements included in the proposal rejected by voters last week was whittled down from a "wish list" totaling some \$10 million in upgrades.

Among the items needing attention are the elementary and high school roofs, which should be replaced. Some of the existing roof sections are 20 years old or older, and sections have already failed, causing interior water damage, according to school officials.

Also on the replacement list is the

district's late 1960s-era boiler and an antiquated 1,000-gallon hot water tank.

The water tank served a purpose in its time, back when students were required to shower after gym classes, Drake said, but school officials don't need anywhere near that capacity now, and today's equipment uses energy on a demand-basis rather than, for example, heating 1,000 gallons of water then keeping it hot 24/7.

The Kingston High School gymnasium floor and bleachers also need to be replaced — both are original equipment installed back in 1970s. Another concern, according to Drake, are the asbestos tiles at the high school. The tiles themselves don't present a health risk, but dust from the tiles as they disintegrate could, and that's what's beginning to happen, he said.

"Our science labs are horrible," he

continued. "They're original equipment also."

Roughly \$237,000 in bond money would have been earmarked for technology upgrades, the purchase of iPads and other computer equipment for student use, as well as installation of "interactive white boards" — basically high tech projectors — in all elementary and high school classrooms. School officials have already started on that project using general fund dollars.

The expansive list of improvements includes replacement of windows throughout the district, repairing parking lots and sidewalks, and upgrades to school security systems. The girls' locker room would undergo a facelift, and nearby athletic field bleachers would be replaced. School officials had also hoped to replace an existing concession stand/public restroom building with a new, \$355,000 facility.

## Thumb area voters follow state trends in primary; Sanilac citizens generous at polls

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

A majority of Thumb area residents followed in their peers' footsteps in the March 8 presidential primary election, helping to give the state's primary victories to Republican front-runner Donald Trump and Democrat Bernie Sanders, whose win was considered a surprising setback for Hillary Clinton.

In Tuscola County, Trump garnered 3,750 votes — a little over 42 percent of the votes cast — easily defeating challengers Ted Cruz (2,668 votes or 30 percent), John Kasich (1,268 or 14 percent) and Marco Rubio (648 or 7.3 percent).

Sanders, meanwhile, led all Democratic candidates with 2,532 votes (54.3 percent), followed by Clinton's 1,984 votes (42.6 percent), according to the unofficial results.

Likewise, Huron County voters supported Trump for the Republican nomination, giving him more than 43 percent of the vote (2,346 votes), compared to 1,250 (nearly 23 percent) for Cruz, 1,056 (a little over 19 percent) for Kasich and 515 (about nine percent) for Rubio.

Sanders won the majority of Huron County votes for Democrat with 1,184 votes, or nearly 52 percent, compared to Clinton's 1,050 votes (46 percent).

In Sanilac County, Republicans gave Trump nearly 45 percent of the vote (3,279), while Cruz came in second with 1,588 votes (21.7 percent), Kasich garnered 1,407 votes

(19.2 percent) and Rubio received 568 votes (7.75 percent).

Among Democrats, Sanders received 1,485 votes (53.8 percent) and Clinton, 1,160 votes (42 percent).

### SANILAC COUNTY

Sanilac County residents proved generous in supporting several millage requests on last week's ballot.

Among them was a request for two-tenths of a mill to equip and operate a veterans service office to provide support and assistance to veterans through a county department of veterans affairs.

The measure, which passed 7,419 to 2,788, will be levied for six years, through 2021, generating roughly \$300,000 in the first year. A portion of the millage may be captured by local Tax Increment Finance authorities, Brownfield Redevelopment authorities and downtown development authorities.

For the owner of a home with a market value of \$50,000 (SEV of \$25,000), the levy will cost \$5 more in taxes annually. The owner of a \$100,000 home will pay an extra \$10.

Another proposed new millage will pay for county-wide recycling services. Voters supported the requested tax — .15 of a mill for four years — by a vote of 5,199 to 4,960.

The levy will generate an estimated \$230,000 in the first year and translates into an additional \$3.75 in taxes for the owner of \$50,000 home and

an extra \$6 for the owner of an \$80,000 home.

Sanilac County officials also asked voters to approve a pair of millage renewals, including two-tenths of a mill for four years, through 2019, to fund medical control emergency services. The request was approved, 7,312 to 2,844.

The revenue is used to support coordination of ambulance and emergency services, advanced training of emergency medical personnel, physician supervision and ambulance-life support equipment, as well as to support community ambulance services under the direction and supervision of the Sanilac Medical Control Board.

The other renewal, two-tenths of a mill for the Sanilac County Medical Care Facility, passed by a vote of 6,190 to 3,941. The tax will continue to be levied for another six more years, generating about \$300,000 in the first year.

### Argyle Township

In addition, the primary ballot featured three measures in Argyle Township, where voters approved a pair of millage requests, but rejected a proposed zoning ordinance amendment to establish a Wind Energy-Overlay District in the township.

The Argyle Township Board last summer adopted the zoning amendment, which would have allowed for the development of utility grid wind energy systems in the township. Voters turned the measure down, 161 votes to 139 votes.

The township's one-mill fire protection tax was approved, 206 to 83. Officials asked for renewal for four years to continue funding the fire department, including the purchase and maintenance of equipment. The tax levy raises about \$23,300 annually, costing the owner of a \$50,000 home roughly \$25 a year.

Township residents also said "yes" to renewal of two mills for roads, 194-94. The tax will be levied for another four years, generating about \$46,500 annually to fund road construction, improvements and maintenance. The levy translates into \$50 in taxes for the owner of a \$50,000 home.

### Moore Township

In Moore Township, meanwhile, residents approved renewal of a two-mill road millage, 212 to 109. The tax will be levied for four more years, through 2020, with the revenue earmarked for repair, maintenance and construction of roads in the township. The levy will raise an estimated \$71,625 in the first year.

## Voters give 'thumbs up' to Extension

Continued from page one.

research trials, local soil testing and insect/plant disease identification services, and Master Gardner programming. In addition, the county's MSU Extension office accesses additional staff and resources — paid for with state and federal dollars — to serve county residents.

The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners, faced with a projected general fund budget deficit of several hundred thousands of dollars over the next few years, made the decision to turn to voters for additional millage last summer. They also passed a motion to continue financially supporting local Extension programs until the election and — presuming voters supported the millage — until tax revenue from the millage is collected.

**H&R BLOCK**

**COMPLICATED TAXES? BRING IT ON.**

TAXES ARE COMPLICATED.

**YOUR LOCAL OFFICE(S):**  
1145 CLEAVER RD  
CARGO, MI 48723  
589-673-3257

101 S MAIN  
VASSAR, MI 48768  
589-823-8741

# ONLINE AUCTION

Tues., March 22 | 8 a.m. | 6233 Church Street, Cass City, MI

## Erla's Supermarket & Meat Processing

*Erla's is closed, selling all assets. Auction highlights include:*

Stake Trucks	Meat Slicers
Box Trucks	Mixers
Transport Vehicles	Tables
Several assorted Forklifts	Coolers
Very large assortment of Deli Equipment	Gondola & Store Shelving
Smokers	Shopping Carts

and much more!

For more information visit [Orbitbid.com](http://Orbitbid.com) or call 866-672-4806.

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**WED. & THURS. 7:30**  
**RYAN REYNOLDS ACTION/COMEDY**  
**“DEADPOOL” (R)**

---

**STARTS FRIDAY (FAMILY FUN)**  
**EVENINGS 7:30 - SUNDAY MATINEE 4:00**  
**NO MON. & TUES.**  
CHILDREN \$4.00 - TEEN/ADULTS \$6.00

THE CITY WHERE ALL KIND OF ANIMALS  
LIVE TOGETHER AND GET ALONG....  
WALT DISNEY'S ANIMATED  
**“ZOOTOPIA” (PG)**

---

Free Saturday Matinee - March 19  
Show begins at 2 p.m. (Doors open at 1:30 p.m.)  
Walt Disney's **“Inside Out”**  
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**CASS CITY'S JEFF Wills**, a part-time Cass City Department of Public Works employee for the past six years or so, put his artistic skills to work over the winter and created a special top for a trash receptacle at the village's arts and crafts building. Wills said he recycled some old, damaged stop signs, shaping and riveting them together and then completing the project with a colorful paint job.

**Heroin doesn't discriminate**

*Continued from page one.*

opioid pain killers. Prescription drug abuse has reached epidemic proportions both nationally and in Michigan due to the increased availability of prescriptions, coupled with general misperceptions regarding the safety of physician-prescribed medications, according to the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force.

According to published raw data from the Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS), more than 21 million prescriptions for controlled substances were written in 2014 – roughly four million more prescriptions than were written in 2007, despite the fact that Michigan's population slightly decreased over the same time period.

The number of drug overdose deaths, a majority of which involve prescription drugs, has tripled since 1999.

Experts say the surge in the use of heroin – also classified as an opioid – is closely related to the growing prescription drug epidemic, according to Swales, who noted Michigan ranks 18th in heroin overdose deaths, which numbered nearly 730 between 2010 and 2012, compared to 271 deaths between 1999 and 2002.

Admissions to publicly-funded programs for heroin treatment, meanwhile, doubled from 6,500 in 2002 to about 13,600 in 2013.

Addiction to illicit drugs such as heroin often stems from simple economics; the pricier prescription drugs prompt addicts to seek out street alternatives, including heroin and cocaine.

Swales cited oxycodone as an example. Eight milligrams can cost \$80, compared to \$10 for a dose of heroin. On the other hand, it isn't uncommon for a heroin user to build up to a habit demanding \$150 to \$200 a day to support. "Heroin is the cheaper, easier-to-get alternative, (but) even users will tell you they'd rather have the prescription drugs because they know what they're getting," Swales said.

So what sort of signs of drug use should parents be on the lookout for? According to Swales, there are many, including very small pupils, needle track marks on the arms and other areas of the body, changes in eating habits and/or weight gain or loss, changes in sleeping habits, changes in attitude/personality with no obvious cause, changes in a young person's circle of friends, lack of motivation, paranoia, secretive behavior, chronic dishonesty, missing money and/or prescription drugs from the home, loss of interest in family and enjoyable activities, and changes in personal habits.

While a number of those signs can be subtle, the physical effects of prescription drug abuse and/or heroin abuse are devastating when it comes to long-term use – liver disease, infections of the heart valves and lining, kidney damage, the risk of HIV infection and, of course, death are among them.

During Saturday's program, Swales also addressed underage drinking. While not necessarily on the rise, underage drinking is another serious issue facing parents everywhere, including the Thumb.

In fact, a 2013-14 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) survey of students in a half-dozen public school districts in Tuscola County revealed that 55 percent of high school freshmen and nearly 70 percent of seniors reported they had consumed alcohol, with more than 18 percent of freshmen and 14 percent of seniors saying they had their first drink before they celebrated their 13th birthday.

Swales indicated the numbers aren't surprising, considering the money alcohol companies spend on advertising, not to mention the introduction of "alcopops" – fruit-flavored beverages that naturally disguise the taste of alcohol – as well as a select number of so-called energy drinks that also contain alcohol.

Nationally, every year 1,700 college students died from alcohol-related accidents. It's a drug, although legal and commonly accepted, that takes more young lives than illegal drugs combined in this country, Swales pointed out.

Studies show that most kids get alcohol from home and consume it at home or at a friend's home. Parents often aren't aware, but some are, according to Swales, who said there are adults who allow their own underage children to consume alcohol at home in the belief that they are safer there than at a party or other location.

Those parents are misguided, not only because alcohol can result in long-term health problems to bodies that aren't fully developed, but also because adults who allow minors to consume the drug are legally responsible for anything that happens in connection with the consumption of alcohol.

While there's no foolproof way to prevent youth from drinking, Swales encourages parents to talk to their kids, do all they can to ensure alcohol and/or prescription drugs are not accessible by minors in the home, and model the sort of positive behavior they want to see in their children.

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## KINGSTON GALS WIN REGIONAL

In a Class D regional final between two familiar and evenly matched teams, it would be Kingston advancing into this week's quarterfinal action with an electrifying overtime victory Thursday at Akron-Fairgrove High School.

For the third straight year, the Lady Cardinals end the season for Bay City All Saints, this time needing extra time to register the 33-32 decision. The Lady Cougars have

increased their win total every year since leaving the Greater Thumb Conference three years ago and will enter an 18-4 overall mark into the history books after the championship thriller that was tight from start to finish.

The see-sawing contest saw Kingston leading 8-6 after one quarter, but trailing 11-10 after two. Entering the final eight minutes of regulation, the score was tied 17-17.

The Cougars had a golden opportunity to take control of the contest during the opening half when Kingston's leading scorer Sarah Savage was sent to the bench at the start of the second quarter with her second foul.

Instead, Kingston relied on four freshmen, including silky smooth point guard Camryn MacGuire and talent-rich forward Carley Smith – to limit the damage with Savage watching from the pine.

Although the Kingston underclassmen made several key plays throughout the night to spark the winners, it was Lady Cardinal seniors Maddie Cofer and Savage that delivered in crunch time.

Both had ice water in their veins, as pressure-packed free throws from the pair handed Kingston back-to-back crowns.

First to the line was Cofer. Her charity toss with just 2 ticks on the clock sent the game into the extra session, where she would convert two more critical freebees to even the score at 32-32.

Then it was Savage's turn and with six seconds remaining, her game-winning toss sent the Cardinals into Tuesday's tournament action in Davison, where they were to have met Waterford our Lady of the Lakes at 7 p.m.

Cofer paced the Cardinals with 11 points, while Savage added nine.

For the Cougars, Rachel Anderson led the way with 11 points.



**LOOKING for an open teammate is Kingston freshman Carley Smith. She is defended by Bay City All Saints' Paige Judd during the MHSAA Class D regional final at Akron-Fairgrove High School.**



**CELEBRATION TIME.** The Kingston basketball team – including seniors Sarah Savage (31), Kali Powell (12) and Maddie Cofer (22) – react after the Lady Cardinals captured their second straight regional crown with a heart-wrenching overtime victory.

## Four Red Hawks named GTW basketball all-stars for 2015-16

### Cuthrell top pick for Cass City girls

The 2015-16 Greater Thumb West girls' basketball all-conference selections include a pair of Reese Rockets and Unionville-Sebewaing Area (USA) Patriots, the top two teams in the final league standings.

From conference champion Reese, seniors Emily Fleischmann and Maddie Coulter landed on the dream team, along with Patriots senior Kayla Gremel and sophomore Lauren Adam. The Rockets finished 9-1 in Greater Thumb West (GTW) action, while the Patriots finished one game back at 8-2.

Bad Axe, Vassar and Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port each had solo players on the fantasy roster. Hatchet junior Breyton Meeks, Vulcan senior Becca Huizar and Laker senior Mariah Cook round out the first team picks. Coulter, Huizar and Cook are all repeat choices among the GTW best players, according to the vote of the 6-school association of coaches.

Highlighting the GTW all-conference second team was Cass City sophomore Sayge Cuthrell. The 2-year varsity letter winner averaged a double-double, leading the Red Hawks with 10.3 points per game average (206 points), and 11.7 rebounds per game averaged (234 rebounds). She also had 34 blocks and 42 steals.

"Sayge continues to develop into a dominant force on both ends of the court," Cass City Coach Steve Hollocker said.

Rounding out the second team selections are USA junior Marisa Morton, USA senior Nicole Bauer, Bad Axe senior Kayla Essenmacher, Reese freshman Taylor Findlay, Reese junior Carlee Selle and Vassar senior Jaylee Burnham.

At the top of the GTW all-conference honorable mention listing is Cass City sophomore Kelsey

Bouverette. Her stat line included 6.3 points per game average (126 points), and 6.1 rebounds per game average (121 rebounds), along with 24 blocks and 30 steals.

"Kelsey is a player on the rise and has a bright future ahead," said Hollocker.

Other players receiving GTW honorable praises included Bad Axe's Kait Kociba, Natalie Breault and Hannah Young; Vassar's Macy Zwerk and Jenna Huizar; Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port's Michelle Schulze, Cheyanne Valentine, Sadie Muntz and Monica Jobes; Reese's Abbie Ackermam and Sophee Robinson; and USA's Rylee Zimmer.

### Haire dream team choice for CC boys

The 2015-16 Greater Thumb West boys' basketball all-conference picks include Cass City guards Parker Haire and Sawyer Cuthrell.

Haire was one of six seniors on the Greater Thumb West (GTW) dream team, while Cuthrell landed on the all-conference second team, determined by the vote of league coaches.

Haire put together a senior season to remember, averaging over 13 points per game and nearly eight rebounds per game, both team highs for first year coach Tyler Erla. The 6'1" playmaker was also named Most Valuable Player of the annual M-81 Clash contest with neighboring Caro, scoring a career-high 24 points in the Red Hawk victory.

"Parker was the hardest working senior on the team," said Erla. "He put in the most time over the summer and was either in the gym or at the park. Parker was the most improved player from last year, a great offensive rebound."

The GTW all-conference first team also included repeat selections Tommy Morneau and Andrew Sutton from Bad Axe, Aaron Saenz, Unionville-Sebewaing Area, and

Vassar's Tyler Humpert.

Thumb Player of the Year candidate guard Morneau and forward Sutton were key contributors for the GTW champion Hatchets that finished the regular season 20-0. Saenz, a crafty southpaw, led the Patriots in scoring and posted 23 points in the district final to help upset then undefeated Bad Axe. Humpert, Vassar's 6'6" center, is well-known for his athletic ability around the Thumb.

Rounding out the first team choices is Reese's Kyle Gnatkowsky.

Turning to the GTW all-conference second team, Cuthrell, a 3-year varsity player who started every game since his sophomore season, averaged 11 points per game. A lightning quick ball handler and clutch shooter, Cuthrell is joined by Bad Axe senior Jon Messing, USA junior Mike Kemp, Vassar senior Colton Fabbro, Reese junior Jake Galsterer, and Reese sophomore Kyle Stockmeyer on the elite roster.

"Sawyer played hard every night. Nobody took the ball away from Sawyer with a man-to-man press. He ran the point and always guarded the best opposing player. That's no easy task, and no one scored 20 points on him all year," Erla said.

The GTW Honorable Mention all-conference players were Bad Axe's Martin Messing and Mason Krug; USA's Gage Lopez and Isaiah Williamson; Vassar's Logan Amend and Lamont Morrison; Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port's Brennen Wissner, Keegan Valentine and Seth Bowles, and Reese's Andrew Jaskan.



## SPECIAL DELIVERY

**CASS CITY students – including, from the left, Noah Zaleski, Kyle Jordan, Lucas Swiderski and Bryce Fernald – donated and delivered an estimated 400 cases of water last week to the residents of Flint, where the city's water crisis has gained national attention.**

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## 2015-16 GREATER THUMB EAST BOYS BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE PICKS

### FIRST TEAM

Jason Gaffke	Harbor Beach	Senior
Cody Siemen	Harbor Beach	Senior
Andrew Storm	Marlette	Senior
Brandon Potter	Sandusky	Senior
Danny Hale	Sandusky	Senior
Jeffrey Wright	Ubly	Senior

### SECOND TEAM

Isaac Dale	Marlette	Junior
Ethan McKenney	Marlette	Junior
Josh Dekam	Sandusky	Senior
Calvin Cook	Brown City	Sophomore
Joe Hagner	Brown City	Senior
Eric Burgess	Brown City	Senior
Wesley Wolschleger	Memphis	Junior

### HONORABLE MENTION

Justin Miller	Sandusky	Senior
Joe Stone	Sandusky	Senior
Barret George	Marlette	Junior
Hunter Kelly	Marlette	Junior
Caleb Muxlow	Brown City	Junior
Michael Tkalcac	Brown City	Senior
Gavin Gerstenberger	Memphis	Junior
Tyler Balon	Memphis	Sophomore
Brady Kirsch	Harbor Beach	Junior
Ryan Siemen	Harbor Beach	Sophomore
James Schelke	Harbor Beach	Sophomore
Jonathan Brandel	Ubly	Junior

## 2015-16 GREATER THUMB EAST GIRLS BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE PICKS

### FIRST TEAM

Emily Schaub	Marlette	Sophomore
Haley Cross	Marlette	Senior
Grace Kozfkay	Harbor Beach	Senior
Kendal Muxlow	Brown City	Freshman
Haley Nelson	Sandusky	Sophomore
Madysen Jansen	Sandusky	Sophomore

### SECOND TEAM

Caitlin Quade	Marlette	Junior
McKenna Wolschleger	Harbor Beach	Junior
Jenna Arndt	Harbor Beach	Junior
Taylor Pitts	Brown City	Senior
Olivia Liebler	Brown City	Senior
Janelle White	Ubly	Sophomore
Lexi Rutkowski	Ubly	Sophomore

### HONORABLE MENTION

Morgan Klein	Marlette	Senior
Alissa Bradeen	Marlette	Junior
Emily Richardson	Memphis	Junior
Jenna Lesch	Memphis	Junior
Emily Merritt	Memphis	Senior
Ashley Sweeney	Ubly	Senior
Ally Blank	Sandusky	Junior
Hannah Long	Brown City	Senior
Mae Woodke	Harbor Beach	Sophomore

# Schneeberger's - ATHLETES of the WEEK



Schneeberger's chooses the entire Kingston girls' basketball team as their Athletes of the Week award winners.

The Lady Cardinals have become the pride of the Thumb, winning back-to-back Class D regional championships that complement nicely Kingston's string of three straight district crowns and multiple North Central Thumb League banners.

The 2015-16 champs are Carley Smith, Jade DeLong, Cira Skinner, Camryn MacGuire, Kali Powell, Maddie Cofer, McKenna Corlis, Sarah Savage, Lily Lyons, Jillyan Dinsmore, Kristina Henderson and coach Jay Green.

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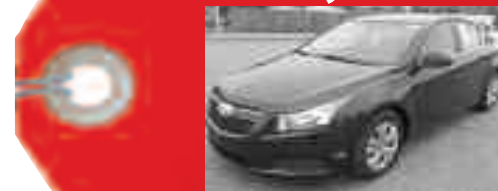
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# Cass City Jr./Sr. High School 2015-16 Winter Sports Schedules

**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 57, CC 50
2/5	CC 52, Lakers 34
2/12	CC 63, Reese 60
2/17	CC 30, Ubly 22
2/19	USA 69, CC 40
2/26	Vassar 61, CC 35
3/3	Bad Axe 47, CC 38
3/7	Ubly 59, CC 57

Games begin at 7:30 p.m.



## 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 63, CC 44
2/4	Lakers 50, CC 37
2/11	Reese 60, CC 21
2/16	Ubly 46, CC 15
2/18	USA 59, CC 24
2/23	Harbor Beach 66, CC 28
2/25	Vassar 52, CC 29
2/29	USA 58, CC 18

Games begin at 7:30 p.m.

## Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT
12/9	CC 49, Mayville 10
12/11	CC 46, Sandusky 44
12/14	CC 44, Capac 43
12/16	CC 50, Memphis 22
12/18	CC 51, Marlette 36
1/6	CC 53, Bay City 39
1/8	CC 55, Lakers 35
1/13	Harbor Beach 42, CC 37
1/15	Reese 58, CC 30
1/18	CC 49, Caro 48
1/22	USA 64, CC 47
1/27	CC 40, Brown City 34
1/29	Vassar 56, CC 50
2/3	CC 59, Bad Axe 51
2/5	Lakers 38, CC 34
2/12	Reese 63, CC 44
2/17	Ubly
2/19	USA
2/26	Vassar
3/3	<b>Bad Axe</b>
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	<b>Ubly/Vassar</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
1/16	Flushing Team Tourny	8:00 a.m.
1/20	<b>Marlette/Memphis</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
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	<b>Team Districts</b>	<b>TBD</b>
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	CC 35, Caro 34
1/21	USA 45, CC 43
1/26	CC 35, Brown City 33
1/28	CC 39, Vassar 11
2/2	CC 51, Bad Axe 19
2/4	CC 50, Lakers 24
2/11	Reese 51, CC 40
2/16	Ubly
2/18	USA
2/23	Harbor Beach
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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**CASS CITY CHRONICLE**  
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# CLASSIFIEDS

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**Services**

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3-16-6

Real Estate for Sale

HELP WANTED - MediLodge of Cass City is looking for Certified Nursing Assistants-CNA to join their team! Please contact Billijo Estep, 989.872.2174, for more information or apply within.MediLodge of Cass City, 4782 Hospital Drive, Cass City, MI 48726. 11-3-2-3

HELP WANTED - Wanted: Part-Time Food Service Cook/Aide. Wanted: Full-Time Care Companions for Second Shift. Experience with the elderly and those with dementia preferred. Those interested in either position, please send resume to Northwood Meadows, c/o Mindy Zmierski, 6086 Beechwood Drive, Cass City, MI 48726 or via email: mzmierski@hdghmi.org by 03/31/16. 11-3-16-3

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## We've been busy OSENTOSKI REALTY & AUCTIONEERING



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### NEW!!!

Country home located between Caro and Kingston. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, family room with fireplace in basement part of home. Basement has egress windows and door. Sets on 1 acre, has covered deck on the back of the home to enjoy the outdoors. There is also a pole barn for extra storage and projects. Home needs some updates. Call listing agent for details and showing. K-478



### TAKE A LOOK!!!

Lovely home located in Cass City's Northwood Subdivision is a move in ready dream. This updated 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home boasts beautiful new flooring, a main floor master with en-suite bath and walk in closet and an open concept living, dining and kitchen area that is perfect for entertaining guests. There are two spacious bedrooms on second level, both equipped with large closets and plenty of natural light. Full updated bath on second level. The 2 car attached garage and new deck off the back adds to the curb appeal and location of this beautiful home. Make your appointment today. CC-148



### LOTS OF ROOM!!!

Much of the original charm still remains in this sturdy 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath home. Along with its extra tall ceilings, original woodwork and hardwood flooring, it also offers a bonus room on the main level that could easily be turned into a 4th bedroom, office or den. All the rooms are nice sized. One bedroom down, 2 up. In 2014 the exterior of the home was painted, new kitchen countertops were installed, to help with your heat bill insulation was blown in the exterior walls of the home, plus more. Come take a look. Ready to move in, just waiting for a family. CCT-516



### SOLD!!!

Beautiful log home setting on a very well manicured 5.16 +/- acres. The entire family will enjoy the home right down to the finished basement, front covered porch and rear decks that will allow you plenty of entertainment area or just the perfect place to relax and enjoy the view of the pond and wildlife. Cass City Schools. CC-148



## NOW TAKING CONSIGNMENTS FOR APRIL 9TH SPRING SALE

Located at the corner of Van Dyke & Pringle Rd., Cass City  
Contact us at 989-872-4377



Or Marty at 989-550-3400  
Or email your items to: osentoski Realty Co @ fronttier.com  
Fax: 989-872-4378

Call us for all your Real Estate needs!

Real Estate for Sale



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Call Barbara Osentoski

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528 N. State St., Caro, MI 48723



Needing more room? Imagine yourself in this lovely 2,250 sq. ft. 2-1/2 story home. Features 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, finished room on third level if you think you need it. Large kitchen, first floor laundry, covered side porch enters to a second kitchen. Great for canning. A must see and prices to sell at \$68,900. TCC1728



Located in the beautiful Village of Cass City, this 3 bedroom home has 3 bathrooms and first floor laundry. The master bedroom has a walk-in closet and an on suite with a garden tub. There is a sunroom overlooking the stamped concrete patio and above ground pool. Home also features a full finished basement for additional living space. This home has been well maintained and is move in ready. TCC1705



Cass City ~ 989-872-2248  
kellycorealty@gmail.com  
www.realestate-mis.com

Sebewaing ~ 989-883-2248  
kellysebewaing@gmail.com

www.kellyandcompanyrealestate.com



Take a Look! This nice 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath home has tons of potential! Full basement, fireplace, vinyl siding, new water heater and 1 car garage. A great space to call home! TCC1733



Affordable living with this 3 bedroom home within walking distance to downtown Cass City. This home features a den, formal dining room, good sized kitchen, living room and a heated basement. Call today on TCC1716.



Beautifully well maintained older home with lots of character. Open stairway, possible one bedroom down with 1/2 bath. Nice sun room off kitchen. 3 bedrooms upstairs with full bath. Home sets on an extra large corner lot nicely landscaped with a one-of-a-kind outdoor fireplace. Priced to sell at \$69,900 on TCC1710

Come check out this beautiful move-in ready home with all new flooring, neutral paint throughout, updated kitchen with brand new stainless steel appliances. 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 car garage all on a large corner lot. Also featured is a large enclosed sun porch and first floor laundry. This home is very well kept and beautifully landscaped.



# Whoooo are you looking at?



CASS CITY AREA Photographer Cheryl Viney Osentoski recently captured these beautiful images of owls near her Koepfgen Road home. Osentoski noted the birds are short-eared owls, one of the most widely distributed owls in the world, found across North America, South America and Eurasia, and on many oceanic islands. The birds with brown, golden color are females and the whiter specimens are males.

**SEMCO ENERGY ASKS CUSTOMERS TO KEEP METERS CLEAR OF SNOW AND ICE**

During the winter, here are a few ways to help protect gas meter equipment and gas appliances to avoid a potentially hazardous situation or service disruption:

- Clean and repair leaky seams in your gutters and downspouts to prevent melting snow and ice from building up on the gas meter or pressure regulator.
- Never allow snow to cover your natural gas meter or its pressure regulator or block your appliance exhaust vents.
- Please use caution when shoveling snow, plowing or snow blowing to avoid piling snow against the natural gas meter, regulator or appliance vents.
- Clear a path to the meter free from snow and ice for easy access.
- Remove soft snow build-up gently, using only a broom or your hand rather than a shovel that could damage the meter.
- Do not try to remove ice or frozen snow from the natural gas meter pressure regulator or piping. If you find your meter or pressure regulator covered in ice or frozen snow, do not attempt to remove the ice or use de-icer. Contact SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company, toll free, at 1 800 624 2019.

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DODGE CHRYSLER JEEP

## Deputies seeking morphine charges

Continued from page one.

community.” MAPS is a prescription monitoring program used to identify and prevent drug diversion at the prescriber, pharmacy and patient levels by collecting information related to controlled substance prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies and practitioners.

According to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, MAPS allows physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, physicians’ assistants, podiatrists and veterinarians to report and check on data related to a patient’s controlled substance prescription records, enabling them to determine if patients are receiving those substances from other providers, and to assist in the prevention of prescription drug abuse.

The information is stored in a secure central database that is accessible only by health professionals and law enforcement agencies.

“We will continue focusing on this problem as well as the other illegal drug activity in our county,” Hanson said. “Our office always encourages illegal drug tips by calling your local police department or by calling our office during regular business hours at (989) 269-6500 or Huron Central Dispatch’s non-emergency number anytime at (989) 269-6421. We’re also available on Facebook through our Huron County Sheriff’s Office Drug Task Force page.”

Residents who want to provide confidential information to the department can utilize a specially designated tips line at (989) 269-2861.

**Save the Date!**

Hills & Dales General Hospital presents our Annual Spring Health Fair

**Friday, April 8, 2016**  
**7:00am - 1:00pm**

**Lab Screens - All 3 for \$15**  
HBA1C (blood sugar), TSH (thyroid) and Cholesterol Panel  
*\*12 hour fast recommended*

**Carotid Artery Ultrasound Screen- \$55.00**  
*\*Must call (989)912-6295 to schedule this service, appointments are limited.*

**PSA Screenings**

**Free Blood Pressure & Oxygen checks**

**Free Balance Assessment**

**Light refreshments and important health information**

For questions about the Health Fair, please call Community Education at (989)912-6365 or visit [www.hdghmi.org](http://www.hdghmi.org)

**Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas**