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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 110, NUMBER 41 CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016 75 CENTS ~ 20 PAGES



THE NICOL'S Christmas Light Extravaganza is a popular attraction throughout the Thumb this time of year, and Joel and Jaime Nicol haven't disappointed with this year's display at their Germania Road home, about eight miles east of Cass City in northern Sanilac County. The holiday spectacle, featuring an estimated 155,000 lights synced with music on the radio (92.9 FM), will be up and running every evening through the end of December. "Lots of visitors this year," Jaime Nicol commented. "Like always, weekends have been the busiest. At the beginning of the season, I started with 3,800 followers on Facebook, and I'm almost at 5,000 (now)." See related photos, page 10.

Herron: "Terrible budget"

Council okays new '17 spending plan

by Mary Drier
Special for the Chronicle

The Cass City Village Council recently approved its 2017 budget, but unlike most years in recent memory, the new spending plan didn't receive a unanimous blessing around the council table.

In fact, new Trustee Tom Herron called the proposal "a terrible budget." Although the proposed 2017 Cass City Village budget is less than last year's, it includes some capital improvements, village officials said.

"Revenue levels are estimated to decrease. However, the impact of pending legislation leaves this uncertain," said village Clerk-Treasurer Nanette Walsh, who reported general fund revenues for fiscal year 2016 are on track to be \$1,342,741, with expenses of \$1,328,090.

The proposed 2017 general-fund budget is projected to have revenue of \$1,304,941 and expenses are estimated at \$1,301,764. Cass City's overall budget for all accounts shows revenue of \$4,224,547 and expenses of \$4,214,414.

Major sources of income are property taxes, state revenue sharing, user fees, utility fees and state, federal and local grants.

"State-shared revenues are received by the general fund and at this point are unknown," Walsh's report explained.

Revenue for major and local streets is expected to stay the same, and refuse collection rates will remain unchanged at \$12.32 per pick-up. However, there will be a 1.5-percent increase in water rates and a two-percent hike in

Please turn to page 10.

Board reviews lame duck winners, losers

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Cass City Board of Education briefly reviewed year-end legislative "winners" and "losers" and their impact on schools during the local board's final regular meeting of 2016 Monday night.

School Supt. Jeff Hartel outlined several pieces of legislation under consideration in Lansing during the lame duck session that ended Dec. 15. A number of measures failed to garner enough support for a trip to the governor's office. They included:

- *SB 102, which would have put an end to the current hybrid pension system and replaced it with a 401K plan for all new hires. The bill's failure was a win for schools, which would have seen a 67-percent spike in employer contributions for new employees, according to Hartel.
- *An income tax switch that would have altered the way income tax revenues are distributed into the School Aid Fund. The bottom line, Hartel said, is that passage of the measure would have authorized the diversion of 24 percent of income tax revenue that now goes into the School Aid Fund to be used for the state's tax refund obligations, costing schools the equivalent of roughly \$300 per pupil (\$430 million statewide).
- *SB 503 and 528 would have enabled local school districts to withdraw from their intermediate school districts (ISD), and would allow for an ISD to be dissolved if it received requests from at least half of the local districts in a county.
- *SB 567 would have allowed districts to begin school before Labor Day, provided they close the Friday just prior to the holiday. Most school officials interested in starting early would do so a week or two before they are allowed to now, Hartel commented, adding, "It appears this (legislation) will move forward to adoption" in the future.

Among the legislative "winners" headed for the governor's desk for a signature, meanwhile, were:

Please turn to page 10.

Police have suspects in hate crime probe

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Tuscola County Sheriff's Department investigators have identified suspects allegedly responsible for a hate crime targeting a county resident of Mexican descent last month in Koylton Township.

That's according to Tuscola County Sheriff-Elect Glen Skrent, who last week provided an update into the probe stemming from the Nov. 12 incident in which someone taped together several cardboard boxes in the shape of a wall and placed them in the victim's driveway on Smith Road. The culprits also spray painted vulgar graffiti on the boxes and driveway, and left a doll made of balloons hanging nearby.

"The wording was about Donald

Trump taking back America, and Mexicans suck," Tuscola County Sheriff-Elect Glen Skrent reported at the time, noting Deputy Steve Roland was dispatched to the scene to investigate.

"He completed a scene investigation and was then assisted by Detective (Robert) Baxter and Detective (Scott) Jones," Skrent said last week. "In following up with the case, the detectives were able to collect evidence and identify suspects. The detective's conducted many interviews and were able to obtain good information to complete the investigation.

"The sheriff's office was assisted by agents from the FBI," Skrent added. "The report has been completed and forwarded to the prosecutor's office for review."

The names of the suspects have not been released pending authorization of charges by the Tuscola County Prosecutor's Office.

The last major investigation of a hate crime in Tuscola County was in the fall of 2014 when a sign with "KKK (Ku Klux Klan) picnic" painted on it in orange letters was placed on an open piece of property along Shay Lake and Harden roads, in Dayton Township, which is adjacent to Koylton Township.

An ethnic intimidation investigation was launched not only because of the words written on the sign, but also because of where it was placed. The Shay Lake area was developed in the 1960s to early 1970s by African-Americans primarily from Detroit as a summer getaway area.

The KKK picnic statement referenced the era when white supremacist groups conducted lynchings. The case was never solved despite an intensive investigation.

Windfall?

County feeling dependence on wind farm tax revenue as income declines

by Mary Drier
Special for the Chronicle

Without the windfall of revenue generated by wind farm development, Tuscola County would be facing some very tough financial times.

While preparing the 2017 budget, county Controller Mike Hoagland completed an analysis of wind revenue and the impact of inflation on the general fund. His study revealed the county is greatly dependent on tax revenue that wind farms generate.

Tuscola County started receiving revenue from wind development in 2013. "Because of a number of factors, we are heavily dependent on revenue from wind development, but the revenue they generate declines quickly. We need to prepare for that," Hoagland pointed out. "With the exception of wind turbines, county tax base growth has been extremely limited. Wind development has produced some short-term revenue.

"However, under the current method of assessing and taxing wind turbines, the amount of revenue received declines substantially with time. This has already started and will make the financial situation worse."

The overall county budget for next year is expected to total \$54 million.

"It's a balanced budget this year and we will be able to put some funds towards capital improvements," said Hoagland, cautioning that some difficult decisions are on the horizon.

Several factors were studied in preparing the county's new spending plan.

Inflation rates were applied to actual audited general fund revenues to determine the amount of income that should have been received each year to keep pace with inflation from 2001 to 2015. The actual and inflation-adjusted revenue by year were compared to show the financial picture without turbine revenue.

The comparison underscored how financially dependent the county is on wind revenue, as well as the impact of depreciation.

"Actual general fund revenue is significantly below the amount that should have been received to keep pace with inflation. For the 2001 to 2015 period, total actual general fund revenue was approximately \$176 million compared

Please turn to page 7.



CASS CITY Junior-Senior High School students, under the direction of fine arts instructor Danielle Laming, have once again come through with a variety of holiday-themed art for the Chronicle's annual Christmas issue. Pictured above is an example created by junior Reed White. See pages 11-16 and 20.

Obituaries

Rita Corl

Rita Corl, 87, of Deford, died following a short illness, Tuesday, December 13, 2016 with her family by her side in Covenant Medical Center, Saginaw.

She was born October 5, 1929 in Detroit to Michael Raymond and Stella (Sobka) Babina. She married Glen W. Corl August 28, 1954 in Caro. He died July 17, 2000.

Rita is survived by her children: Charlene McNeil of Deford, Sue (Ed) Skukalek of Kingsland, GA, Glenda (Lee) Deering of Deford, Michael Corl of Deford and Sandy Corl of Cass City; grandchildren: Lisa (Chad) Biehl, Leann (Jason) Maurer, Sara Eisinger and Ashley (Brian) Maxwell; great-grandchildren: Taven, Liam, Greyson, Myah, Libby and Calden; several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her grandson, John Guc; sister, Cassie Stawarz; brother, Stanley Kissell. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 17, in Our Lady Consolata Parish St. Pancratius Catholic Church, Cass City with the Rev. Christian Tabares officiating. Interment will be in Novesta Township Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the 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.

Richard S. Little

Richard S. Little, 78, of Cass City, passed away on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at Carey's Young at Heart AFC Home in Caro.

He was born October 1, 1938, the son of the late Harry and Edith (McAuley) Little. Richard was a military veteran, and loved to travel. He was employed as a butcher, as well as a Spanish teacher at Yale. He was a Boy Scout leader for more than forty years, and a member of the Cass City Lions Club.

Richard provided aid to many civil service organizations in Cass City, orchestrated annual fund raisers and parades, and was honored as the Citizen of the Year.

In keeping with Mr. Little's desire to aid in scientific research, his body has been donated to Wayne State University School of Medicine. 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.

Kranz qualified for recertification for CFSP

Debra L. Kranz, owner of Kranz Funeral Home in Cass City, recently qualified for recertification of the designation of Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP) by the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice.

Kranz is a lifetime member of the academy.

A number of professions grant special recognition to members upon completion of specified academic

and professional programs, and CFSP is the funeral service industry's individual recognition.

"A select few have distinguished themselves among their peers within the funeral service profession as they continue their education to exceed the highest standards of care," said Patty S. Hutcheson, executive director, Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice Inc. "This achievement is especially notable

because Debra has voluntarily elected to participate in quality educational and service opportunities that surpass what the funeral service licensing board in Michigan requires. Debra has committed to a program of lifelong learning to serve...families in (her) community with a level of excellence expected of a CFSP."

Since its founding in 1976, the academy's goals have been to recognize practitioners who voluntarily enter a program of personal and professional growth, to raise and improve standards of funeral service, and to encourage practitioners to make continuing education a life-long process in their own self-interest, the interest of the families they serve, and the communities in which they serve.

To qualify for the award, a practitioner must complete a 180-hour program of continuing education activities and events. In addition, he or she is required to accumulate 20 hours annually to recertify.

Credits are awarded by the academy in the areas of academic activities, professional activities, career review and community and civic activities.

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8								3
5		8			7			4
							6	
	6		9	8		1		
		7				4		
		8		6	1			9
	5							
3		2				4		8
1								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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Answers from last week

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

*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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In Our OPINION..

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

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

DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

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

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

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

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

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

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

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier



I don't like Santa

I'm probably the only person who doesn't care much for the Jolly Ol' Elf dude dressed in red and white, with a big white beard, who seems to be around every corner this time of year.

Santa is the commercial specter of shopping until dropping, but for me he is just a painful reminder of the childhood incident when Santa caught me red-handed being bad.

I was about four years old and riding my tricycle around the dinner table that was pulled out because we were having people over. Having the table moved out of the way, allowed me to be closer to a Christmas display my mom had in the window that the table blocked. The display was of a plastic Santa, reindeer, and a sled that had real little presents that were wrapped in pretty paper. I was sure those small gifts were for me. They were kid sized.

I rode my bike round and round that table. The gifts were right there. They just had to be for me. I'm positive that toy Santa whispered to me to play with him and to open those tiny gifts.

It was so tempting. The wrapping paper on the gifts was so pretty. Surely, they were for me, and the table was moved out so I could finally open and play with them. I know mom had said not to play with them, but the table had been moved and the plastic Santa had said it was okay.

As I rode two more times around the table, I debated who had the most authority — mom or Saint Nick. After all, he was a saint, I reasoned. That rationale won. I reached out, touching the package wrapped in red paper.

As soon as I touched the gift, Santa peeked in the window. I was so scared I fell off the bike, screaming and crying. Santa saw me being bad!

For weeks, I was worried sick I wouldn't get anything for Christmas because I was such a bad girl. On Christmas morning, I did get some gifts. The tags said they were from mom and dad, and some said they were from Santa, but I doubted it.

It wasn't until years later, I found out what really happened. My dad and one of his friends would take turns dressing up like Santa to leave footprints in the snow, and to be seen walking around each other's yards. Supposedly, it was my dad's friend dressed as Santa who caught me being bad. Either way, the inci-

dent scarred me for life.

The popular Christmas song, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," underscores my issues with Santa:

"He sees you when you're sleeping.
"He knows when you're awake.
"He knows if you've been bad or good...
"You had better not cry.
"You had better not pout."
That is classic stalker behavior!


The rest of the song says that when he gets into town he is going to find out who is naughty or nice. That is a threat.

To this day, I don't like being around Santa, and I don't sleep too soundly this time of year. Because he knows if I'm sleeping or awake, so I try to be extra good for goodness sake.

Merry Christmas.

Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire



(And anyone else he can get to help)

From time to time our office will receive a phone call or letter from individuals requesting their name be withheld from being printed in the Chronicle. The request usually follows a brush with law enforcement officials and/or time spent in jail.

To those individuals who are found guilty of a felony in Tuscola County, our advice is to save your breath and a stamp — you can expect to see your name in this local paper.

There's little doubt that this week's Christmas edition — filled with Santa letters — is one of the Chronicle staff's annual favorites. Adding to the holiday section once again is some impressive art work from students at Cass City Junior-Senior High School.

Our thanks to Red Hawk fine arts teacher Danielle Laming, who once again helped to supply plenty of interesting creations from her students — all of which we received in a timely matter.

The Chronicle families would like to wish your family a Merry Christmas and happy New Year. Please note that our office will be closed on the next two Fridays to celebrate the holidays.

However, that won't change our delivery date as area subscribers can expect to get their papers delivered on Wednesday. Of course if you can't wait, newsstand copies will be available on Tuesdays.

Letters to the Editor

Runners need ounce of human courtesy

For some of us it starts at 5:30 a.m. with a coffee and a half hour of warm-ups, choosing the right attire for the coolness of the morning, and tying on those favorite shoes with more miles than some people's vehicles.

The sun is peaking and the air is fresh and it's a new beautiful day. You start out with a light jog with the hopes you have a little quicker pace than the day before. The birds are chirping, and is that a deer with its fawn I see in the distance? Which route should I choose today, which is the safest, where the traffic may be a little lighter or the route that doesn't have that dog that comes out at me? Maybe I should take a country route this time?

You get started and convince yourself that you're going to love all three, five, 10 or even 19 miles depending on your upcoming race. Then there are the days you're just glad it's over.

For some, it's the day that will change their life or their family's forever.

I am an avid runner, a wife, a daughter, a friend, a mother of two avid runners, and I am writing this article and sending it to any and all newspapers in hopes that it's printed. We who love the sport of running and enjoy the runner's high and the love of the outdoors need you, the public, to give us an ounce of human courtesy.


This is a letter in response to the several recent incidents involving local runners just doing what they enjoy, and it's taken away in a blink of the eye because drivers have a hard time just giving us a mere inch or so of space.

This week I will start training for the Boston Marathon, which will require 40 to 50 miles a week on the road in which I have been running for nine years.

I have had some of the best times running and some of the scariest times. I live on a very busy road. Some days I decide to face the traffic and just be on complete lookout, because my only other option is a side road with a dog that may not be tied up today. I enjoy the serenity of being alone, which is beautiful until that one vehicle slows and you want to be thankful for the courtesy not to fly by you.

Then, being a woman all alone, there's the fear of it being that truck with one or two guys that think you've Please turn to page 6.

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



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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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(USPS 092-00)

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

Wednesday, December 21

•Spoonfuls of Plenty Free Community Meal, 4-6 p.m., LeeRoy Clark Building, 435 Green St., Caro. Open to anyone wanting a hot, home-style meal.

Thursday, December 22

•AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 553-5932.
 •Community Lunch, noon, Shabbona United Methodist Church.

Saturday, December 24

•First Presbyterian Church will host Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

•Fraser Presbyterian Church will host Christmas morning service at 9:30 a.m.

Monday, December 26

•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.
 •Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary meeting, 11:30 a.m., Gilligans (no meetings July, August, December).
 •Tuscola County Right to Life meeting, 6:30-8 p.m., Caro Area District Library, 840 W. Frank St., Caro. For more information, call (989) 872-3259.

Tuesday, December 27

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

STANDING COMMUNITY CALENDAR ITEMS

First Sunday:

•Gagetown United Methodist Brunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., All you can eat. \$6 donation.

First Monday:

•Novesta Township Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Second Monday:

•Elkland Township Board meeting, 7 p.m.
 •VFW monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m., VFW Hall, Cass City.

Second Tuesday:

•Thumb Octagon Barn meeting, 7 p.m., fire hall in Gagetown.
 •Tuscola County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., HDC Intergenerational Building, 430 Montague Ave., Caro. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121.
 •Kedron OES #33 of Caro meeting, 7 p.m.
 •Huron County Family Caregiver Support Group, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Human Development Commission, 150 Nugent Rd., Bad Axe. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121.

Second Wednesday:

•Dorcas meal at Cass City United Methodist Church at noon. 1 1/4 mile north of Cass City. (989) 872-4604 for take outs.

Second Thursday:

•Caregiver Connection, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., Country Gardens, Scheurer Hospital, 203 N. Caseville Rd., Pigeon. For more information, call Merry at (989) 673-4121.

Third Tuesday:

•Living with Parkinson's Support Group, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Holiday Inn Express, 55 Rapson Lane West, Bad Axe. For more information, call Merry at (989) 673-4121.
 •Family Caregiver Support Group, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Harbor Beach Community Hospital Administration Building/Conference Center, 147 S. First St., Harbor Beach. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121
 •Uby Lions Club meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Uby Thumb Veterans Organization-Hall, 2165 Bingham St., Uby MI 48475. A pot luck is served prior to the meeting. Everyone is welcomed.

Third Thursday:

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

Third Saturday:

•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.

Fourth Monday:

•Cass City School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
 •Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary meeting, 11:30 a.m., Gilligans (no meetings July, August, December).
 •Tuscola County Right to Life meeting, 6:30-8 p.m., Caro Area District Library, 840 W. Frank St., Caro. For more information, call (989) 872-3259.

Fourth Wednesday:

•Owen-Gage School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
 •Huron County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, Huron Behavioral Health, Bad Axe. For more information, contact Rhonda Quinn at (989) 269-9293.

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

Fourth Thursday:

•Community Lunch, noon, Shabbona United Methodist Church.

Last Monday:

•Cass City Village Council meeting, 7 p.m., municipal building.

Every Monday:

•Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., 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.

Every Tuesday:

•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.)

Every Wednesday:

•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.

Every Thursday:

•AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 553-5932.

Woman arrested in assault probe

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Huron County Sheriff's deputies arrested an Elkton woman early Friday morning after responding to a domestic violence complaint.

Deputies were dispatched to a residence on Hoffman Street at about 1:40 a.m. after a male complainant alleged he had been the victim of

domestic assault, according to Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson.

"It was learned that he had fled his house, which was down the street from where he was currently at, because an argument between he and his girlfriend had turned physically assaultive," Hanson reported. "He claimed it ended with her pointing a 12-gauge shotgun at his head as she threatened to kill him. Deputies then

confronted the 34-year-old female suspect and (arrested) her for assaulting her 50-year-old boyfriend with the shotgun."

The woman's name was not released pending her formal arraignment on a charge of assault in Huron County District Court. Hanson said she was released from the county jail after posting a \$1,000 cash bond.

Police find cold suspect hiding in ditch

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Huron County Sheriff's deputies arrested a Bad Axe man for allegedly taking a vehicle that wasn't his Thursday night in Bingham Township.

The investigation was sparked by a call to Huron Central Dispatch at 9:40 p.m., with deputies dispatched to an area along Nugent Road, south of Wadsworth Road, to check on a vehicle in the roadway with no lights on and no one around.

"While we were en route, the complainant called back, stating the driver may have arrived at a nearby shed, which belonged to a friend of his. The complainant then learned no one

should be near or in the shed," Hanson said. "He also witnessed a pickup belonging at that shed, being driven into it with no one having permission to use it."

Bad Axe police responded to the scene to assist deputies. "With the driver of the pickup believed to be in the shed, a search was conducted. Foot tracks were found leading to a ditch, which eventually led to the discovery of a male hiding in a ditch culvert," Hanson said. "That individual, now suspect, was then removed from the culvert. He was extremely cold due to single digit temperatures and wet because of breaking through the ice in the ditch."

Bingham Ambulance Service personnel responded to the scene

because the man was somewhat hypothermic, according to the sheriff, who noted the suspect was transported to Huron Medical Center. After a period of time, he was released and lodged in the Huron County Jail.

The suspect, 26-year-old Kyle L. Marks, was formally charged by the Huron County Prosecutor's Office for unlawfully driving away an automobile (pickup), operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, driving with a suspended license and felony burglary without forced entry. He was also arraigned in Huron County District Court and remains in jail on a \$3,000 bond.

Circuit court proceedings

Several appear in court on charges last week

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

*Michael O. Morrison, 38, Vassar, was sentenced to 22 months to 15 years in prison following his plea of guilty to driving with a suspended or revoked license - causing serious injury July 18 in Juniata Township.

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

*Ryan S. Thornton, 24, Mayville, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 60 months probation following his plea of no contest to assault by strangulation May 28 in Indianfields Township.

He was also ordered to complete 480 hours of community service and pay costs and fines totaling \$258 plus attorneys fees of \$500.

*Rafael Ramirez, 43, Caro, pleaded guilty to a charge of domestic violence, third offense, Sept. 25 in Indianfields Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case and bond was continued at \$25,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Jason D. Irons, 47, Silverwood, pleaded guilty to possession of ammunition by a felon Sept. 29 in Dayton Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$50,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Jessica A. Mester, 34, Cass City, pleaded no contest to charges of assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer, and using emergency 911 for an unauthorized purpose Sept. 19 in Cass City.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$5,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Allen H. Marks Jr., 26, Vassar, was sentenced to 15 to 60 years in prison following his pleas of no contest to one count of criminal sexual conduct, second degree (involving a victim under the age of 13 years) and two counts of criminal sexual conduct (involving someone related to him) between November 2015 and January 2016 in Tuscola Township.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$394.

*Ronald P. Berger, 53, Fostoria, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 60 months probation following his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of

liquor, third offense, Aug. 20 in Millington Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to complete 480 hours of community service and pay costs and fines totaling \$1,258 plus attorneys fees of \$500.

*Douglas P. Stratton, 59, Deford, was sentenced to 90 days in jail following his pleas of guilty to possession of a controlled substance, second offense, and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor Oct. 9 in Kingston Township.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,008.

*David A. McComb, 33, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 24 months probation following his plea of guilty to assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer Aug. 3 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (two prior felony convictions).

McComb, who is identified in court records as being homeless, was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$858 plus attorneys fees of \$500.

*George D. Moore, 57, Clifford, was sentenced to 90 days in jail and 12 months probation following his pleas of guilty to possession of marijuana and operating a motor vehicle with a controlled substance in his body May 4 in Koylton Township.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,008 plus attorneys fees of \$500.

*Frederick T. Englehart Jr., 52, Caro, received a one-year delayed sentence following his pleas of no contest to two counts of assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer and one count of domestic violence June 3 in Indianfields Township.

He was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,158 plus attorneys fees of \$500.

*Cheley D. Demler, 24, Caro, was sentenced to 270 days in jail and 60 months probation following her plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor Aug. 17 in Caro.

She was also ordered to complete 480 hours of community service and pay costs and fines totaling \$1,258 plus attorneys fees of \$500.

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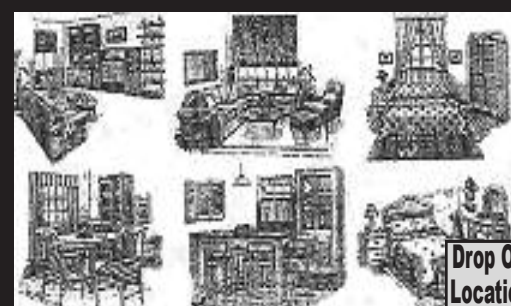
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Reporter's notebook



A few Christmas wishes on my list

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



It's been a considerable length of time since I visited Santa to share my Christmas list, but that doesn't mean I don't take a few mental notes of things I'd like to find wrapped up nice and neat and placed under my tree.

Unfortunately, most of the items I'm thinking of these days can't be wrapped up and decorated with colorful paper and a bow, largely because they involve personal effort.

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

Okay, so I realize "peace on earth" is a pretty unrealistic goal in these times – heck, I can't even imagine peace in this country anytime soon after the election year we've survived – but I wonder how many of our readers have any of the following on their Christmas lists this year, too:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finally, I wish all of our readers a really wonderful Christmas. Enjoy every moment with your loved ones and the spirit of giving this season brings.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2011)

Christin Harris has been named Owendale-Gagetown School's "Senior Student of the Month" for December. Harris has been very active in sports throughout her high school years. She has been a member of the volleyball, basketball and softball teams each year. She served as a captain in volleyball this year and is currently a captain for the basketball team. Harris has been a member of the high school band/marching band each year. Academically, Harris has been on the honor roll and a member of the 3.0 Honors Club each year. She has served as a student council representative for her class the past 3 years. As a freshman, Harris was a class representative for the homecoming court and as a senior was chosen as the 2011 homecoming queen. She was a member of the E.P.I.C.S. her sophomore year. She has been on the school's yearbook staff her junior and senior years and currently is the yearbook's editor. Harris is the daughter of Earl and Doreen Harris of Owendale. She enjoys sports and dirt track racing. Harris plans on attending Northern Michigan University to pursue a career in sports medicine.

The Cass City Middle School student council decided to hold 3 Red Hawk Magic Minutes to raise money for the Rotary's annual Christmas for Kids campaign. Through the generosity of the students and staff, student council was able to raise over \$200. Jose Torres, Shannon Kaweck, Tara Nicholas and Courtney Szczepanski went shopping at our local Family Dollar. A generous donation of toys was also made by Ed and Tisa Szczepanski in memory of their son, Chase.

The latest Red Hawk Award of Excellence recipients are Sophie Mazure, third grade; Chase Winter, seventh grade; and Megan Parrish, high school senior

10 YEARS AGO (2006)

The December "Red Hawk Award of Excellence" winners are Tara Nicholas, Stephanie Healy, Stephanie Steely and Kelsey Dillon.

The Cass City volleyball team's impressive start to the 2006-07 season continued Friday as the Red Hawks improved to 9-1-1 on the season with a pair of non-conference wins at Essexville-Garber. Coach Beth Howard's Red Hawks opened the night defeating host Garber in straight games, 25-22 and 26-24, before rallying to nip Bay City Western in the triangular match. In the Hawks' opening match, sophomore middle hitter Sarah Howard led the winners with 6 kills in 10 attempts. In the nightcap, Cass City dropped game one, 23-25, but rallied with back-to-back decisions of 25-22 and 25-23 to defeat Bay City Western. Individually for Cass City, Sara Meeker had 11 kills and 9 blocks; Amanda Langenburg 28 assists, 7 kills and 21 digs; Emily Schinnerer 22 digs; Megan VanVliet 21 digs; Carly Howard 17 digs; and Ashleigh Rabideau 17 digs.

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Deryll J. Schenk has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During the 6 weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercise and special training in human relations. Schenk is the son of Deanna Snyder of Uby. He is a 2006 graduate of Cass City High School.

25 YEARS AGO (1991)

Cass City resident Wayne Dillon gives a helping hand setting up the "Three Little Pigs" exhibit in Cass City's Storytime Display. The display starts at the corner of Church and Ale streets near the entrance Cass City Recreational Park.

Cindy Peyerck of Cass City is among the 93 Ferris State University students selected for inclusion in the 1991 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." Peyerck is enrolled in the FSU College of Allied Health Sciences. Students are chosen for listing in the annual directory by campus nominating committees and directory editors on the basis of academic achievements, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

Several Cass City Intermediate School band students participated in the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association District 3 Solo and Ensemble Festival, held at North Branch Earning a Division I rating for her clarinet solo was eighth grader Natalie Ponder. Division II ratings were given to Josh McNaughton, eighth grade, cornet solo; Codi Parker, seventh grade, flute solo, and Jocelyn Volz, eighth grade, alto sax-

ophone solo. Receiving Division III ratings were Jessica Frederick, seventh grade, flute solo; and Ed Hartwick, eighth grade, French horn solo. According to Mindy Nash, band director, all of the students worked very hard and deserve praise for their dedication and success.

The 1991-92 varsity cheerleaders are Pam Broyles, Melissa Micklash, co-captain Julie Adelberg, Kristi Turner, Kerry Guinther, Heather Wright, Roxanne Rutkoski, Nicola Kuperus and co-captain Krista Connolly.

Owen-Gage Junior High band students earned honors at the District Solo Ensemble Festival, held Dec. 7 at North Branch Schools. Students earning Division I medals for their top-rated performances were: Susie Roemer, Kate Powers, Ann Warack, Lisa Warack and Beth Nickerson (percussion quintet); Kate Powers (saxophone solo), Ann Warack (clarinet solo), Cory Rayl (flute solo), Adam Metzger (trombone solo) and Susie Roemer (piano and flute solos). Earning Division II ratings were Lisa Warack (flute solo), Beth Nickerson (trumpet solo), Rick Merchant and Adam Metzger (baritone saxophone and trombone duet), and Lisa Warack and Ann Warack (flute and clarinet duet).

35 YEARS AGO (1981)

Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Peters of Vassar had an early Christmas dinner Sunday when guests were Mr. and Mrs. Orval Hutchinson and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Easton of Cass City. Afternoon and evening guests were Mr. and Mrs. Carl McComb of Lapeer.

Mr. and Mrs. George Fisher Sr. entertained her family at dinner Saturday evening. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Sherwell Kelly of New Boston, Theo Hendrick, Mr. and Mrs. Don Whittenburg and Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Tracy. Mr. and Mrs. Don Finkbeiner, Jim, Clark and Sally joined them later in the evening.

Tammy Vatter and Chuck Bliss, both of Las Vegas, Nev., were married Oct. 24 at the Little Church of the West in that city. Tammy, daughter of Mary Vatter and the late Eugene Vatter of Decker, is employed with Robert's Realty, Inc. in Las Vegas. Chuck, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bliss of Cass City, is employed with O.C. Loveland Dist., also in Las Vegas. Maid of honor was Vera Francis of Colorado Springs, Colo. Best man was Tim Vatter of Las Vegas.

Karla Jo Kretzschmer has been selected as the recipient of the Owen-Gage Daughters of the American Revolution good citizen of the year award. Miss Kretzschmer is a senior at the high school. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Kretzschmer of Owendale. Miss Kretzschmer is a varsity cheerleader and participates in basketball, volleyball and softball. Her other activities include the presidencies of her freshman and senior class and offices in her sophomore and junior classes. She was a delegate from Owen-Gage to Girls' State in her junior year. Miss Kretzschmer is a member of the National Honor Society and ranks in the top five in her class. She plans to attend Central Michigan University in the fall of 1982.

Mrs. Audrey Leslie and Mrs. Sharon Wright were guests of Miss Robbie Leslie at Frankenmuth Tuesday.

Fire poster winners of the Elkland Township Fire Department fire prevention poster contest received their trophies last Thursday. They are Mike Hamilton, first; Jo Pratt, second, both Deford Elementary students, and Jeff Hrycko, third, Intermediate School. The contest for fifth graders was coordinated by elementary art teacher Trudy Muszynski.

40 YEARS AGO (1976)

Jim Winchester, Gagetown, is one of Hills and Dales General Hospital's oldest and most enthusiastic employees. Winchester has personally helped raise over \$8,000 in pledges in the current building campaign designed to raise a half million dollars, making calls after work and on weekends. He's worked at the hospital since it opened in 1960.

Friends here of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Campbell, who are in Stuart, Fla., for the winter, have learned that both Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have been patients in Martin Memorial Hospital in Stuart. Mrs. Campbell is recovering from a knee operation and Mr. Campbell was hospitalized after a fall in his home.

Mrs. Esther McCullough entertained eight women at a tea Thursday afternoon when guests of honor were Mrs. Euphemia McDonald and Mrs. Tillie McMahon. Both ladies recently marked their 91st birthdays.

Mr. and Mrs. Franz Chisholm of Gagetown were surprised with a 60th wedding anniversary dinner

party given by their children Sunday at the Lamplighter in Pigeon. A total of 44 persons attended, including children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives. A poem honoring her grandparents was written and taped by granddaughter Rainell Chisholm Bilicki of South Carolina and played back after dinner. A biography of the couple was given by Mrs. Robert Chisholm.

Members of the Hills and Dales Hospital Employee Steering Committee displayed a sample of certificates awarded during a victory meeting held last Thursday. Over \$67,000 was raised for the hospital's building fund campaign through employee pledges. Attendees were Dr. H.P. Schwartz of the medical staff, co-chairmen Dolly Tracy, Nadine Middaugh and Mary Kerbyson and administrator Bruce Kridler.

50 YEARS AGO (1966)

Linda Calka, Rosemary Fritz, Renee Rabideau and Nancy Zielinski attended a retreat at the Queen of Angels Retreat House in Saginaw Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10-11. Approximately 50 junior and senior high school girls from the Saginaw diocese attended.

Mr. and Mrs. Berkley Patterson, former Cass City residents, will observe their 60th wedding anniversary Monday, Dec. 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Errol Lloyd of Pontiac were week-end guests in the Homer Muntz home Dec. 3 and 4.

The Frances Belle Watson past matron's club of Gifford Chapter OES of Gagetown met at the Gagetown Masonic Temple Tuesday evening, with Mr. and Mrs. Archie McLachlan as hosts. Following a potluck supper, cards were played at three tables. In the business meeting the members decided not to meet during the winter months.

At the Edward Scollon home, 40 guests were present at a Christmas coffee hour Saturday, Dec. 10. Mrs. Scollon and Mrs. Thomas Herron were hostesses.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Parker of Cass City announce the engagement of their daughter, Janice, to Richard Hunt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Hunt, also of Cass City. A May 13 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Cooper of Deford announce the engagement of their daughter, Kay Ellen, to Ronald D. Monte, son of Mrs. Venetta Monte and the late Kenneth Monte of Deford. A late wedding is planned.

James Sweet, grandson of Mrs. Lucy Seeger, is home on furlough from an Air Force Base in Texas.

Miss Carol Copeland of Bay City spent the week end at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Copeland.

Mrs. Lucy Seeger had as guests, from Wednesday to Friday, her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Klinkman of Dearborn.

75 YEARS AGO (1941)

"Mickie" Littler of Cass City really had cause to be happy and to be proud of her Southdown lamb which was awarded the grand championship of the Junior Livestock Show in Detroit. It weighed 70 pounds and sold for \$245.00, at the rate of \$3.50 a pound.

M.B. Auten of Cass City has been named chairman of the Defense Bonds sales in Tuscola Co. by Dr. E.C. Swanson of Vassar chairman of the Tuscola County Defense Council. Mr. Auten and G.W. Landon chairman of the Tuscola Red Cross Chapter, attended a meeting of the defense council at Wahjamega on Wednesday evening.

G.A. Striffler found by wearing his wife's hat he landed first prize in a contest at the Michigan Farm Equipment Association convention at East Lansing last week. The prize was a \$5 hat for Mrs. Striffler. 85 men accompanied by their wives were all entered in the contest.

100 YEARS AGO (1916)

E. Reader, Frank Reader, Miss Ethel Reader, and Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Crawford were Christmas guests at the Wesley Harder home.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hartsell entertained Mr. and Mrs. Claude Martin, Mrs. Eva Maharg and son, Earl, for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. N. Bigelow, Miss Laura Bigelow, Miss Eleanor Bigelow and Mrs. Lucy S. Yost of E. Aurora, N. Y., will be New Year guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Bigelow.

Howard Retherford and Dennis Funk of Novesta township and Ed Griffiths are champion skunk hunters of Michigan. They base their claim on the result of Thursday morning hunt when they dug out 18 splendidly formed specimens of these animals renowned for their powers of ejecting an odoriferous secretion. The skunks were found on the John McCracken farm in Kingston township.

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Christmas for Kids bounty...

ORGANIZERS OF the Cass City Rotary Club's Christmas for Kids campaign last week reported this year's effort served nearly 90 families, providing toys, books, clothing and other gifts to 229 children. The 18th annual drive benefited 45 more kids this year compared to 2015.



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Letters to the Editor

Runners in need of courtesy

Continued from page three.

been waiting all morning for them to come along and give you some words of encouragement or cat calls. You hope as they pass you don't see their brake lights to create that fear in you, so you're always looking for that possible escape route.

Sometimes I choose to run on the main road, which many feel I'm crazy, but the fear of being alone is not there. You know within minutes another vehicle will be coming so you're not left alone with fearful thoughts. On this route you have to be on complete lookout with no distractions, no iPods, nothing but common sense to jump in the ditch when that driver doesn't give you enough space.

I know if I was a deer you would slow down and go around, but I'm a mere human and I should know ahead of time that you are not going to slow or give me any space. It is your road and how could I be so stupid?

I watch for the one out of three who are texting and drive by not even seeing me; the young man who thought it would be funny to swerve at me and watch me jump into the ditch. I love the elderly, but why should you slow down, or heaven forbid cross that yellow line? You prefer to white knuckle it past me. I love the guys in the big trucks that have the mirrors that stick out 20 inches but don't budge for you. Why? Because they have a truck and it's their road.

Nobody takes into consideration that there may only be eight inches of shoulder and that it's torn up by the tractors, or that it has rained and it is muddy and slick or that it is layered with ice and or snow, or that the runner is on their tenth mile and their legs are a little sore or feel like rubber, and dropping off that four-inch pavement to gravel could cause a trip.

Yes, we do it for the love of the

sport, for the exercise, and the high. Some may think runners should stay on a treadmill. That would make sense, but running two to three hours indoors on a treadmill is a nightmare in itself, and there is not the enjoyment of a fresh snowfall, that fawn that is playing in the field, or that bald eagle that just flew over my head. Then there's the satisfaction that I just ran 13 miles, or I just had my best personal record, or that one vehicle that gives you room and the driver yells out 'good job', and it gives you that motivation to continue.

Many of us enjoy gratification from a sport whether we play or watch, but most sports are practiced or played indoors or on a field or watched in your living room with no fear of being killed or injured by a vehicle, or attacked by a dog or, even worse, a human.

I ask and pray that the next time you're out and about, watch out for us, please. Yes, we are supposed to face the traffic — many do not realize this, but we need to face you so we can be alert to your actions at all times.

Please remember those two boys running are someone's children whose purpose is to better themselves and their times. That woman is a mother, daughter, wife; that man a father, son, husband. Please slow and go around. It only takes a few moments of your day. You don't want to be the reason there's a heart-broken child, father, mother, grandmother, grandfather, wife or husband.

In memory of Lisa Moore, 47, Frankenmuth; Tim Smith, 22, Columbia County; and I pray for the recovery of Wayne Roberts, 68, Sandusky; Amy Norris, 30, Dewitt; and Denise Goronay, 42, Handover.

Sincerely,
Sloane Stimpfel
Cass City



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4449 Koepfgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 989-872-2729

Worship Service 8:30 a.m. • Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service & Youth Group 6:30 p.m. • Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Phil Burkett • Associate Pastor: Joel Schwendinger • 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.)

Sundays - 10 a.m. | Wednesday - 7 p.m.

Pastor: David Cooper | 872-4055

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

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(Independent, Fundamental)

Barrier Free

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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

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6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5400 • Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

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Adventure: Wed. following school - 4:15 begins September 14

Pastor: Rev. Linda Graham



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: Steve Bagnall

www.goodshepherdlutherancasscity.webs.com



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Pentecostal

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Family Training Hour: Wednesday 7 p.m. (including youth and children's services)

Pastor: Rev. Mark Karwowski - Website: www.lwccog.net



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4631 N. Van Dyke, Cass City, MI 48726

Sunday School: 10 a.m. • Sunday Service: 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer Group 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. • Wednesday Kids' Club 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Pastor Dale Bullock 989-872-2828



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Saturday 5:00 p.m. April 1 thru October 31

Sunday: 8:00 a.m.

Parochial Administration: Fr. Christian Tabares



News briefs

Bill ensures tax break for vets

MICHIGAN — Legislation designed to provide tax relief to veterans organizations for fundraising activities was granted final approval by both the House and Senate last week.

Senate Bill 106 would amend the General Sales Tax Act to provide an increased tax exemption for veterans organizations for the purpose of raising funds for the benefit of an active duty service member or a veteran.

"Our veterans and their families give everything they have to keep us safe," said Senator Mike Green (R-Mayville), the bill's lead sponsor. "When a veterans service organization holds an event to benefit a current or past service member, the money raised should go directly to the cause."

The legislation was introduced after a community event was held to benefit Army Sgt. Travis Mills, of Green's district, who later discovered that the charitable contributions were subject to sales tax.

"We're talking about a true American hero," Green said. "Sgt. Mills and his family have given more than they were ever asked for our country and allowing them to keep money that their community raised for them is the right thing to do."

The bill will now go to Gov. Rick Snyder for consideration.

Local robotic teams take honors

CASS CITY — Both the boys' and girls' team in the Cass City School District's sixth grade robotics teams did well in recent competition.

Both teams competed in a VEX Robotics competition at the Huron Intermediate School District. The Thunder Phoenix team, which consists of Hunter Turnbull, Thomas Muter, Lukas Sheridan, Ethan Hunt and Gabe Schwendinger, took first place and will advance to the state finals. The next competition will be Jan. 28 at the Nissan Tech Center in Farmington Hills.

Also, on Dec. 10, the junior-senior high school RoboHawks traveled to Bad Axe to compete in the Huron ISD VEX Tournament. The event was their first, and the students did a great job building the robot, preparing for the event and even making adjustments as the tournament progressed. The RoboHawks made it to the finals and ended the day in sixth place out of 21 teams. Team members are Kalean Boyton, Tyler Czekai, Kevin Estrella, Anthony Pawloski, Imogen Sanders and Logan Severance

Be winter ready when on the road

THUMB AREA — With bitter cold temperatures here, Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies are reminding motorists to wear and keep some extra warm clothes in their vehicles while on the road.

Several times in years past, deputies have helped stranded motorists in very cold weather wearing inadequate clothing — sandals and no coat, for example — Tuscola County Sheriff-Elect Glen Skrent said.

Board approves ditch clean-out

CASS CITY — The Tuscola County Road Commission recently approved Butch Ortner's request to clean a portion of a ditch along Severance Road in Ellington Township.

MAEAP recognizes Ron Sting

CASS CITY — Ron Sting of Cass City was recognized by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners for his outstanding commitment to the environment and for assuring that agricultural resources and a quality of life are available for current and future generations.

Sting was received the recognition by achieving standards established through the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).

Board reorganization scheduled

CARO — The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners will meet 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, at the Purdy Building, 125 W. Lincoln St., Caro. The session will be a reorganizational meet to select a board chair and vice chair, schedule regular meeting dates and times, and to approve committee appointments.

The session will be preceded by the swearing in of Tuscola County elected officials, which is set to begin at 8 a.m. in the Tuscola County Circuit Courtroom.

Almost time to "bowl for warmth"

CARO — The Human Development Commission (HDC) in Tuscola County will host its second annual Walk For Warmth Bowling Scotch Doubles Tournament Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Brentwood, 178 Park Dr., Caro.

The tournament will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. The entry fee is \$30 per team of two, and each team will bowl three games. Scotch doubles format will be used: partner one throws the first ball. Partner two shoots the spare. If partner one gets a strike, then partner two throws the first ball of the next frame, and partner one shoots the spare, and so on.

For more information and to register, call (989) 673-4121.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

Wind farm windfall declining

Continued from page one.

to inflation-adjusted general fund revenue of approximately \$187 million," explained Hoagland. "In other words, \$11 million more in general fund revenue was needed to off-set the eroding impact of inflation. Without wind turbine revenue, the actual and inflation-adjusted revenue gap would have been even greater at over \$13 million."

A chart shows that since 2010, the gap in every year has exceeded \$1 million. In 2015, general fund inflation-adjusted revenue was \$14,118,716, compared to actual revenue of \$13,106,201 for a difference of \$1,012,515.

"In order to adjust to this situation, county officials have made many difficult decisions. Some of the adjustments made include staffing reductions, special purpose millages, consolidation of services," said Hoagland. "More tough decisions will have to be made in the future to keep the budget balanced."

"The first thing in solving a problem is acknowledging there is one and to work on a solution as soon as possible."

Besides the impact of inflation and decreases in state funding — along with more regulation requirements — operating expenses continue to increase. The county has a limited property tax base growth rate and a countywide millage rate of just 3.9141 mills.

"We are caught between a rock and a hard place," Hoagland said. "Other than requesting millage increases, the state does not provide county government with taxing authority. Without authority from the state to raise revenue, the county cannot offset inflationary increases. Without additional changes, the ability to continue to deliver state-mandated services at current levels will not be possible. This breaking point is fast approaching."

The trend of expenses outdistancing revenue is expected to continue.

"Budgetary pressures continue to mount with over-dependency on wind revenue, high staffing turnover rates, growing demands for multi-year union contracts, non-competitive wage structures in critical positions, new state and federal mandates, increasing regulations/requirements, etc.," Hoagland added.

Although more wind farm development is being planned for 2017 in northern Tuscola County by two different energy companies, the county is not banking on them to solve budget issues.

Consumers Energy officials filed paperwork for special use permits for 19 turbines to be built as phase II of their Cross Winds Energy Park in Columbia Township. And, NextEra Energy Resources LLC officials filed for special use permits for 52 turbines in Almer, Ellington and Fairgrove townships to develop Tuscola III Wind Energy Center. However, there is a moratorium on wind development in Almer and Ellington townships.

CHRONICLE SPORTS

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Cass City grapplers send message with easy wins

In their only action last week – Saturday's Cros-Lex Team Tournament was canceled due to inclement weather – Cass City came away with a pair of Greater Thumb Conference victories Wednesday night.

Coach Don Markel's grapplers took on Bad Axe and Ubyly in their conference opener and came away with two victories. The Red Hawks defeated Bad Axe, 63-17, to avenge their only league loss last season before going on to whip Ubyly, 77-6.

Double winners for Cass City (and their weight class) were Tylor Cowdry (103), Lucas Swiderski (112), Alex Jeffrey (119), Hayden Larkin (125), Drew Markel (130), Race Woloshen (140), Seth Osentoski (145), Darren Dickson (152), Wyatt Dickson (160), T. J. Moore (215), and Brad Baker (285).

Against the Hatchets, Charlie Hass pinned Cass City's Dustin Horne to give the visitors a short-lived 6-0 spread, before the Red Hawks reeled off seven straight wins. Moore, Brad

Baker, Brent Baker, Cowdry and Larkin all earned pins for the winners during the stretch of 42 unanswered points. Moore's pin in just 31 seconds was the fastest on the match.

Against the Bearcats, Cowdry, Eric Peters and Moore recorded pins for the Red Hawks. Ubyly failed to fill eight weight classes in defeat.

Cass City's dual meet record now stands at 8-1 for the season. They will head to Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port High School tonight (Wednesday) to try to improve to 3-0 in the GTC.



CASS CITY junior Dakota Cook, left, blocks Kristen Payhne from the ball during non-conference play Monday night against visiting Capac. The Red Hawks recorded a 36-28 victory to end play in 2016.

Red Hawk girls win ugly Monday

by Clarke Haire
Publisher

It wasn't pretty by any means, but with Monday night's victory over guests Capac, the Cass City Lady Red Hawk cagers improved to 4-3 to end play in 2016.

Despite bad passes that were off the mark and several good passes that were mishandled by the intended receivers — combined with numerous traveling and a few double-dribble calls — Cass City was able to collect a 36-28 victory over the Chiefs. While the Red Hawks girls will take a winning record into the new year for the first time in four years, they have yet to defeat a team

Lady Cards defense key in victories

Kingston Coach Jay Green must have learned something during his time at Michigan State University from Spartan basketball coach Tom Izzo - we'll play anybody, anywhere.

The Lady Cardinals string of high-quality early season opponents continues tonight (Wednesday) as they invade Sandusky for perhaps their toughest test of 2016.

To upset the undefeated Redskins, another defensive effort similar to Friday's effort at Deckerville most likely will be needed. After cruising to a 20-11 halftime lead, the Cardinals turned up their defensive pressure late, holding the Eagles to six points over the final two quarters, resulting in a 38-17 North Central Thumb League – Stars Division triumph.

"Our defense was very good in the second half," said Green after improving to 4-1.

Lily Lyons was the lone Cardinal in double digits with 11 points, while Jilyan Dinsmore added 9 points.

Charlotte Schulz had six points to top all Deckerville scorers.

with more wins than losses.

Both teams started slowly in their final contest before the holiday break. Three minutes into the non-conference affair, Capac broke the lid on the basket with a Kelsey Payne bucket, followed by a Kristen Payhne field goal to jump in front 4-0 with just over three minutes showing on the clock.

The Capac advantage didn't last as the hosts scored nine unanswered points to take a 9-4 edge into the second quarter. Sayge Cuthrell got things started for Cass City on a basket in the lane, followed by a Lauren Fernald trey that put the Red Hawks in front 5-4. They would never trail again.

Cass City used two field goals each from Cuthrell and Kelsey Bouverette to extend the gap to 19-8 at the intermission. But to their credit, the Chiefs used an 11-6 run to open the final half and would trail just 25-19 entering the final eight minutes of regulation play.

Capac continued to slice into the Red Hawk margin in the closing frame. Emma Shellenbarger heated up for visitors in the closing minutes, and a pair of field goals and two charity tosses would narrow the margin to 30-27 midway through the final quarter.

Capac would never get closer on the night as clutch free-throw shooting from Bouverette, Cuthrell and Rylie Weiler prevented the upset.

Cuthrell scored 12 points to pace Cass City, while Bouverette chipped

Girls' Basketball Standings

Greater Thumb West			
	W	L	
Reese	1	0	5
Bad Axe	1	0	3
USA	1	0	3
Cass City	0	1	4
EPBP	0	1	3
Vassar	0	1	1

Greater Thumb East

	W	L	W	L
Harbor Beach	1	0	5	0
Sandusky	1	0	5	0
Brown City	1	0	3	1
Marlette	0	1	3	2
Ubyly	0	1	2	3
Memphis	0	1	0	3

NCTL - Stripes

	W	L	W	L
North Huron	2	0	2	3
Peck	0	1	2	1
Caseville	0	1	1	2
CPS	0	2	0	3

NCTL - Stars

	W	L	W	L
Kingston	.3	0	4	1
Mayville	1	0	3	2
Deckerville	1	1	1	3
Dryden	0	2	1	4

BAD AXE'S Dylan Smith (top) and Cass City's Eric Peters battle during a 171-weight class match in Greater Thumb Conference play. Smith defeated Peters, 18-3. At the left, Red Hawk Wyatt Dickson stares down Hatchet Gary Janderson in a 160-weight class match. Dickson pinned Janderson in the second period.

Marlette knocks Cass City from unbeaten ranks with blowout victory

Not so fast Cass City.

After starting the season with three straight wins, the Red Hawks' boys' basketball was handed a reality check Friday at Marlette.

There, the host Red Raiders delivered Coach Tyler Erla's gang their

first defeat in convincing fashion. With the 75-30 non-conference drubbing, Marlette improves to 4-0 in early season play, while Cass City slips to 3-1 entering tonight's (Wednesday) contest against visiting Bay City All Saints.

Ethan McKenney recorded game scoring honors to lead the winners. McKenney knocked down seven shots from 3-point land on his way to 25 points. Marlette also had Charles McClatchie with 14 points, Bryce George with 11 and Isaac Dale with 10.

Marlette's fast pace attack built a 25-10 gap after one quarter before settling for a 47-19 cushion after

two.

For Cass City, Chase Winter registered eight points and Logan Schenk added seven.

Earlier in the week, Cass City traveled to Memphis and returned home with a 57-48 Greater Thumb Conference crossover victory.

The Red Hawks actually trailed 8-7 entering the second frame, but were able to take a 22-20 advantage at the break. Both teams traded baskets to open the final half, before Cass City exploded for 23 points in the final stanza to escape with the win.

Schenk poured in a career best 24 points to pace Cass City, while Brad Hacker hit for 15 points.

Owen-Gage rally falls just short

David Binder caught fire in the fourth quarter, but the Owen-Gage senior's antics wouldn't be enough to derail host New Haven Merritt Academy.

New Haven built an early double digit advantage as John Basile and Matt Shather's shots were on the mark and helped to establish a 21-8 edge after eight minutes of play.

Owen-Gage would outscore the academy for the remainder of the half, but still trailed 29-18 at the halfway point.

Another New Haven run to open the final half had the hosts leading 39-22 entering the deciding quarter, when Binder took control and tossed in 14 points. Binder hit five three pointers

on the night and finished with 24 points, 11 rebounds and eight steals. Still, it wasn't enough as New Haven held on for a 49-46 victory.

"We had a good comeback and showed a lot of heart, but couldn't overcome a 10-0 Merritt lead at the beginning of the game. We played great defense down the stretch," said Owen-Gage Coach Brian Wright.

Derek Vincent recorded his second double-double of the year for the Bulldogs and was credited with 16 points and 16 rebounds. Vincent also had five blocks, while Luke Retford snagged 14 rebounds.

For New Haven, Basile recorded 15 points and Shather 14 points.

Boys' Basketball Standings

Greater Thumb West			
	W	L	
Cass City	0	0	3
EPBP	0	0	2
USA	0	0	1
Bad Axe	0	0	1
Vassar	0	0	1
Reese	0	0	1

Greater Thumb East

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

NCTL - Stripes

	W	L	W	L
Peck	1	1	1	2
CPS	1	1	1	2
North Huron	1	1	1	2
Caseville	0	1	1	2

NCTL - Stars

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

Meet the Chronicle's new forecast team consisting of three men who think they know it all and one young girl that just might.

Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

2016 Basketball Picks Dec. 20-21



Saylor Cuthrell



Clarke Haire



Geoff Morgan



Doug Hyatt

BOYS' BASKETBALL	Saylor Cuthrell	Clarke Haire	Geoff Morgan	Doug Hyatt
TUESDAY, DEC. 20 Owen-Gage @ Mayville	Owen-Gage	Owen-Gage	Owen-Gage	Owen-Gage
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21 Bay City All Saints @ CC Kingston @ Sandusky	Cass City Kingston	Cass City Kingston	Cass City Kingston	Cass City Kingston
GIRLS' BASKETBALL				
TUESDAY, DEC. 20 Harbor Beach @ Imlay City CPS @ Peck Mayville @ Deckerville	Harbor Beach Peck Deckerville	Harbor Beach CPS Deckerville	Harbor Beach Peck Deckerville	Harbor Beach Peck Deckerville
WEDNESDAY, DEC 21 Kingston @ Sandusky	Sandusky	Sandusky	Sandusky	Sandusky
LAST WEEKS' RESULTS	10-4	9-5	9-5	9-5
SEASON RESULTS	22-10 (69%)	23-9 (72%)	21-11 (66%)	21-11 (66%)



DOUBLE TEAM. Cass City defenders Kacey Haire (24) and Rylie Weiler sandwich Bad Axe's Breyton Meeks during Thursday's Greater Thumb West contest. The senior forward scored 14 points as the host Hatchets won for the ninth straight time, 44-33.

Hatchets win

Continued from page 8.

in six points before twisting an ankle late in the game. The Red Hawks also had Fernald and Weiler with five points apiece, while sophomore Kacey Haire and Brianna Mester split eight markers.

Shellenbarger topped Capac scorers, finishing with 11 points.

BAD AXE

Bouverette return to the hardwood court Thursday, only to see hosts Bad Axe posted a 44-33 win to start Greater Thumb West action for both schools. The Hatchet victory marks their nine straight over Cass City dating back to the 2012-13 season.

The winners leaped out to an 8-0 start as Emma Cubitt had her way in the early going. The Red Hawks answered with baskets from Bouverette and Cuthrell, but Cubitt and high-scoring Breyton Meeks would help maintain the Bad Axe edge throughout the first half as each player connected on multiple shots from the floor during the second frame that ended with the hosts clinging to a slim 20-18 lead.

Meeks, who came into the affair averaging a double-double and 18 points per game, continued her assault on the Red Hawks after the break. She tossed in six points to single handily outscore the visitors in the third quarter, helping to put the hosts up 32-23 entering the deciding period.

There, the Hatchets hit on nine-of-13 free throw attempts, including a seven-of-eight showing from Hannah Young to hold off Cass City.

Bad Axe had three players reach double figures as Cubitt and Meeks both finished with 14 tallies, while Young added 10 points.

Cuthrell and Bouverette led the Cass City attack with 14 and nine points, respectively.

MEMPHIS

Eight Cass City players broke into the scoring column at Memphis as the Red Hawks overpowered their hosts.

The winners outscored the Yellowjackets 23-10 to the intermission and 23-14 down the stretch.

For Cass City, Cuthrell poured in 18 point to lead all scorers.

READ IT ONLINE

Schneeberger's ATHLETE of the WEEK

Senior Logan Schenk is Schneeberger's selection for their coveted Athlete of the Week honor.



The third year letter winner tossed in a career-high 24 points against Memphis last Wednesday, leading the Red Hawks to their third win in as many tries.

The Cass City big man couldn't be stopped in the paint. He recorded nine field goals and hit 6-of-11 free throws to lead the visitors to a 57-48 Greater Thumb Conference crossover win.

Logan is the son of Jim and Kathy Schenk.

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Council approves new budget

Continued from page one.

sewer rates for the coming year.

Herron, who criticized the decision to increase those fees, cast the lone "no" vote approving the new spending plan.

"I'm against a three-percent increase — 1.5 percent for water and two-percent for sewer. It keeps going up," said Herron. "They wouldn't even talk or look at making any cuts to the budget. It was just given a rubber-stamp. It's a terrible budget."

Although the December meeting was Herron's first as a council trustee, he has regularly attended council meetings and has been a vocal participant. Herron took the oath of office in late November.

According to village officials, an increase in revenues is negated by the number of vacant houses in the community that are purchasing only minimum water and sewer service. "The theme that runs through the (2017) budget is maximizing available resources to be able to continue quality of life services for residents," Walsh said.

For example, she added, "There will be improvements made to the pool and to the day camp playscape, and some hydrants will be replaced."

The Pinney Foundation will be providing a grant of \$16,000 for upgrades at the Helen Stevens Memorial Pool, including boiler and roof repairs/upgrades and the purchase of a pool vacuum; a shade unit for the day camp playscape, and cement pads.

"Also, there is a plan to develop a splash park," said Walsh, who pointed out the Pinney Foundation's partnership with the village is continuing to help provide much-needed improvements to enhance local parks and recreation facilities and programs.

In spite of Herron's objections, village Manager Peter Cristiano called the new spending plan "a tight budget. A very tight budget." He added that one of the key reasons finances are tight is reductions in state funding.

"I've talked about it on and off over the last year — the University of Michigan and the Michigan Municipal League have all written about the cuts to state funding," said Cristiano. "Over the last 10 years, the state has reduced state funding overall by \$10 million to villages and townships. "Our village has lost between \$500,000 to \$600,000."

Cristiano described the village officials as being conservative and realistic in its estimates.

Besides the general fund, the proposed budget outlines revenue and expenses for the other funds that include a major street fund, local street fund, the Cass City Economic Development Corporation (EDC), the downtown development authority (DDA), a water fund, a wastewater fund, motor vehicle and equipment fund. The document also outlines a proposed five-year capital improvement plan, a village fee schedule, and wage chart.

The 2017 major street budget projects revenue of \$389,172 and estimates expenses at \$388,272; the local street fund projects revenue at \$461,241, with expenses set at \$457,899; the EDC budget projects revenue of \$550 and expenses at \$500; and the DDA budget projects revenues will be \$93,014, with expenses estimated at \$92,934.

The 2017 budget projects wastewater treatment revenue at \$851,766, with expenses estimated at \$851,266. The fund reflects increase compared to 2016, when revenues totaled \$752,254, with expenses coming in at \$751,368.

Likewise, the water fund budget is up, with revenues projected at \$803,363 and expenses set at \$803,117, compared to revenue of \$576,503 and expenses of \$466,006 in 2016.

The motor vehicle and equipment fund, meanwhile, estimates revenue of \$320,500 and expenses of \$418,662.

"Even though the budget is tight, we are able to make everything work... like we always do," Cristiano commented. "There were no cuts to services or village employees."

Staffing changes have been made gradually over the past few years, according to the village manager, who said it's a matter of doing more with less.

"We have 15 employees, five part-time (police) officers, and we hire some summer help," he added. "With that, everything balances out."

Herron, however, contends village officials could do a better job in the area of financial stewardship, starting by making some adjustments in the budget to save money.

"One way we could have saved money was to cut the \$7,200 given to operate the Caro airport," said Herron. "Besides Caro, we are the only village still spending on the airport. We don't have any businesses in Cass City that use the airport anymore."

School board reviews winners, losers

Continued from page one.

*Legislation that tones down the zero-tolerance requirement of an automatic expulsion or suspension for students who violate assault and weapons rules.

"Administration and school boards would take into account factors like age of the student, any disabilities, discipline history of the student and seriousness of the infraction," Hartel said. "Removing a student from the school environment should be a last resort. Schools should try corrective practices...such as a meeting between the victim and offender where the offender is given an opportunity to accept responsibility and repair the harm that was caused."

Under the revised rules, Hartel said, a student who accidentally brings a knife to school or inadvertently leaves a hunting firearm in their vehicle would no longer face an automatic suspension or expulsion.

*A nine-bill package aimed at implementing new seclusion and restraint measures used on students in emergency situations. Basically, the legislation requires that school staff must receive special training and utilize seclusion and/or restraint measures only under very specific circumstances, Hartel said.

*Energy contracts between schools and energy providers will remain intact, saving districts about \$30 per pupil.

In addition, Hartel reported the Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld a ban on bringing firearms into a school, regardless of whether or not the bearer is licensed to carry one or not. The courts have ruled that school districts have broad powers of self-governance in this area and may set their own policies to prohibit firearms on school property.

In other business during the rescheduled meeting, the board:

*Recognized and thanked board members Craig Bellew and Dan Manwell for their service to the district — Bellew has been a board member for 10 years, and Manwell for four years. Both opted not to seek reelection earlier this year. They will be replaced by new trustees Janet Richards and George Batty.

*Acknowledged and expressed appreciation for Tuscola County Community Foundation grants recently awarded to the district for a 3D printer and computer (\$2,500), a

water filling station/drinking fountain (\$1,000), and camera lenses for the yearbook staff (\$250).

*Noted nine Cass City sophomores, juniors and seniors are taking advantage of the dual enrollment program that allows them to earn college credit through Delta College while completing their high school educations. Those students are taking a combined 16 classes, with local school officials covering their tuition fees, according to Hartel.

*Accepted "with regret" the resignation of Kathy Milligan, who has served the district as an office and media center staff member for more than 21 years.



TUSCOLA COUNTY Sheriff-Elect Glen Skrent graduated from the Sheriff Leadership Institute in Lansing Thursday. Skrent, who was elected to the post and will fill a vacancy left by the retirement of veteran Sheriff Lee Teschendorf, sought the training as he prepares for his transition from undersheriff to sheriff Jan. 1. Skrent (pictured above, far left in the second row), was among 33 law enforcement officials who graduated last week — the largest class in the history of the institute.

Thousands enjoy Nicols' extravaganza

NEW TO this year's Christmas light display at the Nicols' are a 50-foot mega tree, an elf in an excavator, and a nativity set. Photos, videos and more can be seen on the family's Facebook page at Nicol's Christmas Light Extravaganza.



THE NICOLS — Joel and Jaime along with Joel's parents, John and Gayle, who started the Christmas light display tradition more than 35 years ago, began work on this year's display in late October.





After Hours Clinic

We have NEW SUNDAY HOURS in our After Hours Clinic!
New Hours: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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Clinic Phone: 989-912-6114
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Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.