



THE NICOL’S CHRISTMAS Light Extravaganza is unequaled in the Thumb, drawing thousands of visitors each December to northern Sanilac County. John and Gayle Nicol founded the display more than 30 years ago, and for the past nine-plus years, their son, Joel, and his wife, Jaime, have been “running the show” at their Germania Road residence. (Photo courtesy of Jaime Nicol)

# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 111, NUMBER 41 CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017 75 CENTS ~ 20 PAGES - 1 SUPPLEMENT



CASS CITY photographer Cheryl Viney Osentoski has captured her share of impressive wildlife photos in and around the Thumb area, and this recent shot is no exception. “This was taken at Fish Point. I’ve seen three snowy owls the last two times that I have been there,” Osentoski commented. “Looking at Birds of the Eastern United States, The Naturalist, and other photography groups on Facebook, there seems to be quite a few of them around this year.”

## House fire claims 3-year-old

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

A house fire claimed the life of a three-year-old Sanilac County boy early Monday morning, Sanilac County Sheriff’s deputies said.

Undersheriff Brad Roff said Sanilac Central Dispatch received a 911 call at about 1:10 a.m. reporting there was a residence on fire in the 300 block of West Snover Road in Custer Township. “Sheriff’s deputies were dis-

patched to the scene along with Sandusky Fire. Upon arrival it was determined that the house on fire was occupied at the time and that the 29-year-old father, 25-year-old mother and one-year-old Please turn to page 4.

## Cass City School officials eye early school start in 2018-19

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

The Cass City Board of Education Monday gave its nod of approval for an early start to the 2018-19 school year next fall, joining a growing number of Thumb schools planning to get a head start on classes before the Labor Day holiday.

“We’re looking at just a pre-Labor Day start of four days,” said Hartel, who explained students would start classes on the last week of August, attending Monday through Thursday before getting a head start on the holiday weekend. While some officials say an earlier start addresses the impact of a long summer vacation – specifi-

cally, students having to re-learn information they’ve forgotten from the previous school year – Hartel suggested that kicking off the school year in August simply makes sense. “The feeling is, three months is too long to be off,” he said, adding athletic teams already have a couple weeks of practice in by then. Please turn to page 4.

## Village council approves budget

by Clarke Haire  
Publisher

Following a short public hearing Monday night, the Cass City Village Council approved its \$4.289 million spending plan for 2018. Although the property tax millage rate to support the new budget remains unchanged at 18.1387 mills, not everyone in attendance at the regular monthly meeting was pleased. One such person was Seeger Street resident Dick Wallace, who pointed out that Cass City remains in the Tuscola County Airport Au-

thority, against the wishes of several residents who have aired their concerns over the past few months. “Why do you continue to carry on with the airport authority?” asked the retired local banker, adding, “It’s ridiculous – why are you ignoring your community?” Cass City Village Manager Debbie Powell was quick to answer and explained the line item — in the amount of \$9,688 — was included in the 2018 budget on the advice of village attorney Jason Bitzer.

“Were doing due diligence,” said Powell, adding Bitzer has sug- Please turn to page 4.

## Local woman seriously hurt in 2-car crash

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Tuscola County Sheriff’s deputies say slick road conditions contributed to a two-vehicle collision that left a former longtime Cass City educator hospitalized with serious injuries Thursday afternoon. Please turn to page 2.

## Urologist facing two dozen charges, another trial

by Mary Drier  
Special for the Chronicle

A jury exonerated Dr. Joseph E. Oesterling last fall following his trial on seven criminal charges, but the physician’s legal troubles aren’t all behind him. The Tuscola County Prosecutor’s Office has filed new criminal

charges – roughly two dozen in all – against the Ann Arbor urologist, alleging he operated a criminal enterprise and was involved in Medicaid fraud and placing false information on charts. Unlike the previous case, the new charges are not related to patient care, according to Oesterling’s attorney, Robert Andretz of Troy. The latest charges stem from acts that allegedly took place between February 2016 and November 2016, which is the same time frame the previous charges covered. “He is charged with 25 felony counts. The most serious is the criminal enterprise,” explained Andretz. “If found guilty, that has a 20-year maximum sentence.” An additional 14 charges allege Medicaid fraud, eight charges allege insurance fraud, and the remaining two charges involving false entries in medical records. “Each of those are four-year felonies if found guilty,” said An-

dretz. Oesterling’s next court date is scheduled for Monday, when he will face a probable cause hearing in Tuscola County District Court. “That court date may get changed,” noted Andretz, who said he feels justice will prevail and again clear his client of all charges. In the meantime, Oesterling, 61, is free on a \$100,000 personal recognizance bond, but he cannot practice medicine because his license was suspended by the state back from when the first charges were filed against him. And, the Tuscola County Prosecutor’s office is pursuing civil forfeiture proceedings targeting the physician’s assets. “Even though he was found not guilty on the other charges in October, his livelihood remains taken away. He cannot sell any property, or use any (bank) accounts,” said Andretz. “It is tough on him and his wife.” Please turn to page 2.

### Decker woman arrested in embezzlement investigation

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Sanilac County Sheriff’s Department detectives arrested a Decker woman last week following a three-month investigation into accusations of alleged embezzlement from a previous employer in Sanilac County. Undersheriff Brad Roff reported officers arrested Deborah K. Seifferlein, 58, of Decker, Thursday. “Detectives first became aware of the complaint after being contacted by the attorney for Marlette Roofing and Sheet Metal. The initial investigation revealed that over \$50,000 had been embezzled since 2010,” Roff said. Seifferlein was arraigned and later released on a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond. Roff noted officers with the Sanilac County Drug Task Force assisted detectives.



### Inside This Week

- Spirit of giving alive and well in Huron County. Page 2
- Santa letters and student artwork galore! Pages 13-20
- Nicol’s “extravaganza” as popular as ever. Page 12





**HURON COUNTY** Sheriff’s Deputy Janice Pulaskey fills out Christmas cards used to deliver \$100 gifts to families in need. “She had just handed Deputy Brad Strozeski 11 cards prior to this picture to begin delivering, (and) we’ll have another 40 to follow next week,” Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson said Friday.

## Tuscola man facing child abuse charge

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

A Tuscola County man is facing charges in connection with an abuse case involving a youngster who suffered a broken leg. According to Tuscola County Undersheriff Bob Baxter, deputies investigated the child abuse complaint Dec. 8. “The alleged incident occurred in Millington — Vassar Township — (and) involved a seven-month-old child with a broken leg. At the conclusion of the investigation, detectives arrested Johnathan Show,” said Baxter, who noted the 29-year-old Millington man is the boyfriend of the child’s mother. “Show allegedly stepped on the child’s leg and caused a fracture at their residence in Vassar Township. He told detectives that it was an accidental injury,” Baxter reported. “Show is...accused of failing to seek medical attention for the child for four days after the injury was sustained.



**Johnathan Show**

“Show’s charges include child abuse, second degree; child abuse, third degree; child abuse, fourth degree; and possession of marijuana,” Baxter said, adding the suspect has been released on an \$80,000 bond.

## Spirit of giving

### Anonymous donors give Huron deputies \$5,100 for those in need

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Don’t try to convince Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson that the spirit of giving – especially during the Christmas season — is a thing of the past. In a news release issued early last week, Hanson reported a holiday tradition of generous donors asking the sheriff’s department to distribute financial gifts to those in need has continued this year. Those gifts come in the form of \$100 bills or \$100 gift certificates for food. “When I originally wrote (that) release, our total was \$1,700,” Hanson said Friday. “Since then, more outstanding individuals wanting to remain anonymous have come in with more money to put toward the cause, making our total now \$5,100. “This program began four years ago when caring Huron County citizens wanting to remain anonymous, came to me and asked that we use our discretion to distribute \$100 bills, or \$100 food certificates to those who may have had a bad year, or are in a bad way,” he explained. “Each year I ask for recommendations of recipients from other local police agencies, clergy, municipal and school leaders and other agencies that deal with the well-being of people.” Since the tradition began, Hanson noted, the sheriff’s department has been asked to distribute an average of \$4,000 annually, although the total donations topped a whopping \$7,000 one year. “We as a county have got to be proud to have so many people wanting to help out — some right from the first year — in making Christmas a little brighter for those who in many cases are trying to adjust to losing a loved one this past year,” Hanson said. “I honestly do want to say thanks to the donors who are doing just that.”

## News briefs

### Village audio upgrades on tap

CASS CITY – When the Cass City Village Council adopted the 2018 budget, the spending plan included some upgrades for the council room. Village Manager Deboria Powell recommended an audio system because of complaints that meeting attendees could not hear proceedings. “The 2018 capital budget will include audio upgrades for the council meeting room,” she said. The council’s monthly meetings are normally well attended by village residents, and at times several people have to stand in the lobby because the council room is full.

### Shingles shots are available

BAD AXE — Shingles is a burning itching rash that can develop in older people who previously had chickenpox. The Huron County Health Department is offering Zostavax, which is a shingles vaccine, to county residents who are 60 years of age or older with a previous history of shingles. More information is available by calling the health department at (989) 269-9723.

### Committee meetings slated

CASS CITY — The Cass City Village Council recently started implementing committee meetings, but on a varied schedule. Starting in 2018, “committee of the whole” meetings will be on the second Wednesday of the month. The only change will be one session slated for Tuesday, Feb. 13, due to Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day. Also, a spring clean-up event announced by Emterra for the village is tentatively scheduled for May 3.

### Local woman seriously hurt

Continued from page one.

An official accident report was not available at press time, but Deputy Steve Roland reported he was dispatched to M-81 just west of Cass City, near Koepfgen Road, at about 2:30 p.m. “A black colored Chevrolet Impala was traveling eastbound on M-81 and crossed the centerline, striking a blue Chevrolet Uplander,” Roland said. “The driver of the Chevrolet Impala, an 87-year-old female, was transported by MMR for extensive ankle and leg injuries. “The driver of the Chevrolet Uplander, a 32-year-old female, was transported by MMR to Hills and Dales (General) Hospital for treatment of minor injuries,” he added, noting both drivers were wearing seatbelts. “The drivers were the only occupants,” Roland said, adding icy/slushy road conditions were a contributing factor in the accident.

Cass City police and the Elkland Township Fire Department assisted deputies at the scene. Roland’s report did not identify the drivers, but friends say Katie Jackson, 87, a former veteran Cass City teacher who has remained an active volunteer in the community, was one of the drivers. Jackson, who reportedly was scheduled to undergo surgery at St. Mary’s Hospital in Saginaw, suffered broken or fractured ankles as well as several broken ribs and a broken knee.

### Physician faces new charges

Continued from page one.

When he was practicing, Oesterling saw patients in Caro, Saginaw, and Mount Pleasant. His Tuscola County practice included working out of the Caro Medical Group, 206 Montague Ave., in Caro, formerly known as Caro Family Physicians P.C. When he joined Caro Family Physicians P.C. in the fall of 2014, he was introduced as “a world-renown urologist with more than 30 years of clinical and research experience.” Oesterling’s resume includes training at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., before joining the staff at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. After serving as the chairman of urology at the University of Michigan for five years, he joined a practice with Dr. Joseph Aquilina in in Saginaw in 1998. Oesterling is credited with being the urologist who discovered the prostate cancer tumor marker, prostate-specific antigen (PSA), and has conducted extensive research in defining the role of PSA in the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer. Editor Tom Montgomery contributed to this story.





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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 St.

\*\*\*\*\*

*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 super-nal 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’m being stalked



I’m probably the only person in the world who doesn’t care much for Santa because of a childhood incident in which he caught me red-handed being bad.

This time of year there seems to be a Santa around every corner. And if that isn’t enough, he has a stalker helper. Over the last few years, this creepy little elf that is supposed to stay on a shelf has come on the scene and is popping up all over houses and on Face-book.

Those two specters of Christmas make me feel like I’m being stalked.

Finally, I found someone who agrees with me on the creepy factor that the holiday can bring. On TV-5, there is section where family expert Doctor Thomas Haller talks about issues. He recently did a section about the Elf on the Shelf craze.

He brought up the integrity issue of acting good for personal gain. A person should be good year around, he said, not just briefly for gifts and to make watching elves happy.

To make my case, I bring up the lyrics from the song, “Santa Claus is coming to Town”:

“He sees you when you’re sleeping.  
“He knows when you’re awake.  
“He knows if you’ve been bad or good...”

If that isn’t stalking behavior, I don’t know what is! Anyway, my Santa paranoia dates back to when I was a young, innocent child. I was riding my red tricycle around the table that had been pulled out away from the window because we were having company over. As the table had been moved away from the window, I was able to ride my tricycle close to the display in the window of a plastic Santa with a reindeer and a sled filled with miniature wrapped gifts.

My mom told me not to touch that display, but I was sure those little gifts in the sled were for me. After all, I was the only small child in the household.

To this day, I swear the plastic Santa called to me to open those gifts. I debated who had the most authority — mom or Saint Nick. I reasoned that Santa was the higher authority because he was a saint.

I reached out to touch one of the little packages. As soon as I touched it, Santa was in the window watching me being bad. I was so scared. I screamed and fell backwards off my bike crying.

I just knew I would get nothing for Christmas because Santa saw me being bad. I was inconsolable. Eventually, Christmas morning arrived, and to my great relief there were gifts for me. After that, I was never really sure there would be gifts for me under the tree.

Eventually, I learned my father and his friend would take turns dressing up as Santa to leave footprints in the snow and to peek in on us.

Have a concern? A complaint?


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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.



I’m an adult now, but I still don’t care much for Santa. I’ve learned to keep my curtains closed so Santa won’t know if I’m awake or sleeping.  
Merry Christmas.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

I’m happy to report that several Haire family and friends were part of the record crowd that attended Saturday’s Hitachi College Basketball Showcase at the Little Caesars Arena featuring the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Oakland University and the Detroit Mercy.

The matchup between Detroit Mercy and Michigan marked the first college basketball game at the area now called The District Detroit. When completed, The District Detroit will be 50 blocks of thriving businesses, parks, restaurants, bars and event destinations.

My visit to The District Detroit left good impressions. First off there was plenty of parking and it was needed as neighboring Ford Field hosted a Lion’s game on the same day.

Next, we had lunch at Sports & Social Detroit, a restaurant that can be entered from Henry Street or from inside the Little Caesars Arena. The menu was somewhat limited and that was a good thing. Everything we had was tasty and the drinks were reasonably priced.

Finally, the Little Caesars Arena had comfortable seats (with drink holders), excellent acoustics, and the biggest video screen that I’ve ever come across at a basketball game.

Don’t believe me? Well, you have a chance to see for yourself.

The 2018 NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship First and Second Round games are set for Friday, March 16 and Sunday, March 18, 2018 and tickets can be purchased by calling 800-745-3000.

\*\*\*\*\*

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson announced that Secretary of State Offices collected more than 10,000 pounds of food and nearly \$2,000 during the 2017 Harvest Gathering food drive.

The Sparta office ranked first in food collection, bringing in nearly 5,000 pounds of food. The Detroit Livernois office collected 710 pounds of food and the Secretary of State building at the state Secondary Complex brought in about 650 pounds of food and raised \$651. Closer to home, the Midland office collected \$184. Many offices also received health care items for donation. Collected items were distributed to local food banks.

Harvest Gathering collection boxes were placed in Secretary of State offices and state office buildings during the fall food drive. The department has been participating in the Harvest Gathering campaign since 1999. The campaign is coordinated by the Food Bank Council of Michigan, which supplies the state’s regional food banks through donations of food and money. The regional food banks serve food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in every Michigan county.

The statewide Michigan Harvest Gathering 2017 campaign has so far collected more than \$317,000, and more contributions are coming in. For more information about Harvest Gathering, visit the Food Bank Council of Michigan website at [www.fbcmich.org](http://www.fbcmich.org).

\*\*\*\*\*


With Christmas falling on Monday this year, this means the staff of the Chronicle will enjoy an extra day this weekend to spend with their families.

Accordingly, our office will be closed on December 25, and that means subscribers will receive next week’s issue a day later than usual. It also extends our classified ad deadline to Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. for our final printing of 2017.

Merry Christmas everyone and warm wishes.

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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Social News

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



# 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, December 20**  
•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 21**  
•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, December 23**  
•Al-anon meeting, 11 a.m., Cakima Serenity Home, Mayville. Call 989-912-5478 for more information.

**Monday, December 25**  
•Alcoholics Anonymous, “Monday at a Time,” 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Ubly. For more information, call Angela R. at (989) 658-2319.  
•AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 553-5932.

**Tuesday, December 26**  
•Al-anon meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis Parrish, Pigeon.  
•AA Meeting, 7-8 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 4960 N. Argyle Rd. (Meeting will be held in the hall next to the little stone church.  
•Al-anon meeting, 7 p.m., Cakima Serenity Home, Mayville. Call 989-912-5478 for more information.

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# Sanilac Co. house fire claims boy, 3

**Continued from page one.**

child were able to get out of the house. However, there was a three-year-old boy who was still in the house,” Roff said.

According to Sgt. Mike Moore, deputies arrived to find both the house and car in the driveway fully engulfed.

“In speaking with the family, it was determined that the three-year-old was the only person still in the house and it was relayed to fire personnel upon their arrival as to where child was last known to be in house,” Moore reported. “Upon fire personnel being able to enter home, they located the three-year-old boy on the floor in the southwest bedroom of the home, deceased.”

The Sanilac County Sheriff’s Department Arson Investigation Team and Detective Bureau along with a state fire marshal all responded to the scene.

“The decedent was removed from the scene, pending an autopsy scheduled for later in the week,” Moore said. “The 29-year-old male and one-year-old son were transported to Flint Hurley (Hospital) for treatment of their injuries. The 25-year-old woman was transported to McKenzie Hospital by Sanilac EMS for treatment.”

Investigators have not released information regarding the suspected cause of the blaze or where it is believed to have originated. Roff noted the names of the family members are also not being released due to the ongoing investigation and pending notifications.

The Moore Township Fire Department, Carsonville Fire Department, Sanilac County Sheriff’s Victim Services Unit and Sanilac County Animal Control all assisted deputies at the scene.

# Officials eye early school start

**Continued from page one.**

“Why are we not getting kids back in class when they’re probably ready to come back?”

Legislation enacted during Gov. Jennifer Granholm’s administration prohibited a pre-Labor Day school start in order to boost tourism in the state. However, more recently, Michigan Department of Education (MDE) officials have been authorized to issue waivers to districts that wish to start in August.

“They’re (MDE) basically giving it (a waiver) to anyone that wants it,” Hartel said.

Most, if not all, Huron County schools have already indicated they’re planning to start the 2018-19 school year in August, and Hartel said he believes most Tuscola County schools are headed in that direction as well.

**BOND EXTENSION**

Turning to other matters during the hour-long rescheduled monthly meeting, Allison Zimba, the district’s chief financial officer, briefly presented revenue estimates related to a proposed bond extension school officials are expected to ask voters to approve next spring.

The board anticipates voting on a formal resolution placing the proposal on the May 2018 ballot during its January monthly meeting.

School board members conducted a walk-through of district buildings this fall, then met to begin the process of prioritizing needed repairs and upgrades that school officials hope to pay for with the bond extension.

Hartel and Chief Financial Officer Allison Zimba last spring approached the board with a proposal to fund the work by extending an existing debt service tax, eliminating the need to ask for a millage increase.

The Cass City Public Schools currently levies a three-mill debt service tax that was originally approved by voters to fund construction of the middle school. Later, in 2008, residents supported an extension to pay for several capital improvement projects, technology upgrades and bus purchases.

That tax is scheduled to expire, and Hartel suggested that the board could ask voters for another extension in May 2018 in order to raise nearly \$8.5 million and pay off the debt over a period of years. If approved, the proposal would not increase the tax residents now pay.

According to the estimates provided by Zimba Monday, if voters approve the extension, school officials would have \$2.4 million to spend on improvements/repairs in 2018, \$2.357 million in 2020, and another \$3.485 in 2022.

The district’s specific needs include repair/replacement of radiant heat panels along with other major climate control upgrades at the high school, where aging fixtures have resulted in flooding damage; replacement of boilers that have reached their life expectancies in both buildings; and the purchase of school buses.

In other business Monday, the board:

- \*Learned the percentage of Cass City students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals has dropped to the lowest levels in about a decade, from a range of 60 to 70 percent overall, to roughly 54 percent (55 percent of elementary students and 53 percent of student at the junior-senior high building).
- \*Accepted the resignation of longtime food service employee Andrea Shagene.
- \*Approved a routine Schools of Choice resolution announcing enrollment openings for students in grades K-10.
- \*Approved requests to allow Cass City band students to participate in the Tri-County Honors Band Sunday, Feb. 4, and for the Cass City All-School Play to present a Sunday performance March 18.

# Council approves new spending plan

**Continued from page one.**

debt?” Ball asked.

Trustee Tom Herron also echoed concerned about the new budget, which is expected to depend on revenues of \$4.310 million.

“I’ve been on this council for a year now, and we can’t keep spending money like this,” he said.

Highlights of the 2018 operating budget include no increases in residents’ water and sewer rates. Also, Cass City’s refuse contract was renewed recently for a five-year period. A rate of \$12.32 per month is for the term of the contract, which has in place a formula controlling fuel surcharges.

Turning to other matters during the 45-minute gathering, a special meeting of the Cass City Planning Commission has been scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 27, at 7 p.m.

Powell says architects will be attendance to review the site plan for Frankenmuth Credit Union renovations within the proposed local Ben’s grocery story in the former Erla’s Food Center building. The public is invited to attend the meeting at the municipal building, 6506 Main St.

**POLICE VEHICLE**

The Council also accepted the bid of \$30,905 from Signature Ford for a 2018 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD vehicle.

The lease-purchase plan is for three years, and at the end of the plan, the village will take ownership of the vehicle for one dollar.

# Circuit court proceedings

## Several appear on felony charges

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


- \*Thomas J. Harper, 48, Cass City, was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail, with work release and worksite privileges, following his pleas of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, and possession of marijuana or a synthetic equivalent April 23 in Caro.
- He was also placed on 60 months probation and ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$1,408 plus attorneys fees of \$500.
- \*Julia F. Tribble, 23, Reese, was sentenced to 120 days in jail and 18 months probation following her plea of guilty to conspiracy to deliver/manufacture a controlled substance Aug. 15, 2016, in Caro. She was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,008 plus attorneys fees of \$500.
- \*Christopher R. Peters, 20, Cass City, was sentenced to 365 days in jail, with worksite privileges, following his plea of guilty to interfering with electronic communications Dec. 5, 2016, in Ellington Township.
- He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,258 plus attorneys fees of \$500.
- \*Angela M. Distelrath, 38, Bay City, was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,008 plus attorneys fees of \$500 following her plea of guilty to possession of marijuana, second offense, July 16, 2015, in Caro.
- \*James K. Lovell, 24, Silverwood, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 60 months probation following his pleas of no contest to three counts of assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than murder July 10 in Dayton Township.
- He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,644 plus attorneys fees of \$500.
- \*Daniel A. Nichol, 46, Whittemore, was sentenced to 210 days in jail and 60 months probation following his pleas of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, and possession of cocaine, heroin or another narcotic (less than 25 grams) June 27 in Reese. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (two prior felony convictions).
- In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,576 plus attorneys fees of \$500.
- \*Monica J. McGuire, 29, Silverwood, received a one-year delayed sentence following her plea of no contest to one count of child abuse, fourth degree, between Jan. 1 and May 1 in Dayton Township.
- She was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$685 plus attorneys fees of \$500.
- \*Gary E. Kloc Jr., 28, Silverwood, received a one-year delay sentence following his plea of no contest to one count of child abuse, fourth degree, between Jan. 1 and May 1 in Dayton Township.
- He was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$685 plus attorneys fees of \$500.



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 — 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 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 season. Enjoy every moment with your loved ones and the spirit of giving this time of year brings.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2012)

Lions Club President Dennis Meck reports that Kristina Russell is the winner of the local civic club’s 50-50 drawing held earlier this month in conjunction with the Christmas in the Village celebration. She pocketed \$477, according to Meck.

Dear Santa, My name is Saylar and my birthday is Jan. 13. I live in Cass City in the red and white house. I wish I could ride your sleigh sometime and maybe I could sometime. Christmas is my favorite holiday, because you are watching me and because it’s Jesus’ birthday, too. For Christmas I want an Ipod Touch so I can text you and say “hi, how are you doing?” I want a charger with my Ipod Touch. I wish for everybody to get better like my friends and cousins. I wish for my baby teeth to be gone and for my cousin, Maize, to walk and say people’s names like mine. P.S. Give Rudolph some lipstick for a red nose and I will leave cookies for you. I have been a good girl. Saylar Cuthrell Cass City.

Dear Santa, I think I am on the good list, and want a Monster truck that flips and lands on its wheels and I want a snow maker and a guitar that doesn’t take batteries. Sawyer P.S. I love you. I’ll leave cookies and a healthy snack for you and two juice boxes to wash it down.

Dear Santa, I have been trying to be good. I am working on it. I’d like the Christmas Barbie that is just to look at. Also, I would like a big castle with lots of Barbies. I would like Barbie movies. If possible I would like a trip to Disney World to meet the princesses and a new car for my mom to drive there. We will leave milk and cookies for you. Love, Addison Frederick, four, Cass City

10 YEARS AGO (2007)

Navy Reserve Commander Daniel R. Pionk, a 1979 graduate of Ubly Community Schools, was recently awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal while serving as deputy deployment distributions operations center chief, Operations Directorate, U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Pionk coordinated the movement of deploying and redeploying forces and equipment supporting the global war on terrorism. He managed and tracked visibility of strategic air, sea and land assets that included more than 1.3 million passengers, more than 2 million tons of cargo, 1.9 billion pounds of fuel by air, and 2.1 million gallons of fuel by sea. In addition, Pionk oversaw a 50-member deployment team and provided management of service components and national partners assigned to Pacific Deployment and Distributions Operations Center, Korea. Pionk joined the Navy Reserve in August 1987.

Mallory Powell of Cass City, a current second trimester student in the Doctor of Chiropractic Program at Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa, has been named to the dean’s list for the first trimester. To be eligible for the dean’s list, a student must achieve a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 in all studies for the respective term.

25 YEARS AGO (1992)

The 1992 Owen-Gage Snowball king and queen will be selected from among this group of seniors during the CPS game Dec. 18. Vying for the title are: Lori Ondrajka, Alissa Draschil, Loretta Rolston, Tanya Muntz, Shane Martindale, Jill Susalla, Matt Mandich, Carli Salcido, Bryan Metzger, Matt Roemer, Jason Karr and Joe Garza.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Meredith of Snover and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fisher of Cass City announce the engagement of their children, Tracy Lynn and David Myron. Tracy will be attending St. Clair County Community College in January. David is presently employed by the Huron and Eastern Railway. An Aug. 7 wedding is being planned.

Private Charles L. Maynard has completed the jungle operations

35 YEARS AGO (1982)

Kendall Jacobs and Elaine Jezewski will be singing Christmas music, though not together, at Salem United Methodist Church Sunday as part of the Christmas tour of churches. Bob Parrott will also sing and Carol Parrott, Betty Kirn and Don Greenleaf will play piano.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Newbill of Flint announce the engagement of their daughter, Lynn Frances, to Michael John Lorencz, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Lorencz of Owendale. A wedding is being planned in Flint March 26.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Messer of Gagetown announce the engagement of their daughter, Rochelle, to Louis Sabo 111, son of Mrs. Mildred Sabo of Deford and the late Louis Sabo Jr. Rochelle is a recent graduate of the Saginaw Business Institute and is employed at Caro Senior Commons. Louis is a farmer in the Kingston area. A June 1983 wedding is planned.

Jeffrey Van Allen was the only student named to the Deford Elementary School honor roll for the second marking period. He is a fifth grader.

Dear Santa, My name is Brad Deering. I am two years old. Mommy and Daddy told me I’ve been a very good boy all year long. For Christmas, I would like some Hot Wheels, and a big new toy box. Also, please don’t forget my cousin, Derek Hill. He’s been a real good boy, too.

Dear Santa, I am seven months old and have been a good girl sometimes, so please bring me lots of toys. And bring mommy and daddy something nice, too. Also take Uncle Ken a present in Germany. I’ll leave you some cookies. Sheila Guilds

40 YEARS AGO (1977)

Miles and Jeffrey Profit and friend, Bonnie Fromenthal, flew in from Louisiana Monday to spend a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Profit. Ms. Fromenthal had never seen snow before.

Ferris State College cheerleader Kim Hendrian was among the cheerleaders, football players, and cross country runners honored at the Dec. 7 fall sports banquet at the Big Rapids school. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Hendrian of Cass City.

Lori Hampshire has completed her technical training as a personnel specialist at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Now home on leave, she will be reporting to Norton Air Force Base in southern California Dec. 23. A January, 1977, graduate of Cass City High School, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hampshire of Third Street.

Navy Seaman Recruit Ronald J. Curtis Jr., whose guardians are Mr. and Mrs. Calvin C. Caverly of Deford, has completed recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, 111. During the eight-week training cycle, he studied general military subjects designed to prepare him for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy’s 85 basic occupational fields. Included in his studies were seamanship, close-order drill, Naval history and first aid. He joined the Navy in July.

50 YEARS AGO (1967)

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Martus announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Jean Martus, to

75 YEARS AGO (1942)

Albert Gallagher has received the announcement of the marriage of his brother, Robert Frederick Gallagher, and Mrs. Edith Hamilton. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. A. M. Sanford at Vancouver, B. C., on Saturday, Dec. 5. They will reside in Vancouver.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Gruber and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Freeman spent Friday in Port Huron. Pfc. Mark Gruber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Gruber, who had spent the week in Cass City, accompanied them to Port Huron and was the guest of his sister there. He left Port Huron Saturday to return to Culver City, Calif., where he is a member of the U.S. Army Air Force. Another son of Mr. and Mrs. Gruber, Private Joseph Gruber, of Fort Custer, also spent a few days last week with his parents. A third son, Raymond, is with the U.S. Army.

Victor Barnes and Andrew Barnes, Jr., sons of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Barnes, Sr., have enlisted in Army ordnance and both have passed examinations and expect to be called in the near future. Mrs. Victor Barnes, who is a registered nurse, is also planning to offer her services to Uncle Sam soon.

100 YEARS AGO (1917)

Mrs. Gee. Roberts and granddaughter, Fern Roberts, Mrs. Roderick Kennedy and son, Roderick, Mrs. Lou O’Rourke and Mrs. Wm. Gage, all of Deford, were callers in town Saturday.

Storms are no obstacle to Wilber Beach, circuit court reporter. Judge Beach remained here over Sunday. Monday morning his stalwart son reached Cass City by Grand Trunk from Bad Axe, only to find the train for Wilmot was stalled in a snowdrift near Caseville. So he started out on foot to cover the 16 miles to Caro, arriving shortly after 12 o’clock and bringing with him a good appetite for dinner. He “got a lift” part way, but walked 11 miles through unpacked snow, and it was no tropical breeze that he faced either. The distance in itself was no great obstacle, as he had walked 25 or 30 miles in a day while hunting birds.

Dear Santa Claus, I wish you would bring me a pair of skates and a snare drum, a jackknife, a banjo, a shot gun and a box of shells. and an air rifle. A hunting dog, a ferret, a hunting license and 25 traps and a good ball and a bat will be all for this Christmas. I get my mail at Deford. I live a mile and a quarter east and two miles South R 1 from Leslie Alward. Deford Mich.

Dear Santa Claus, I am going to write a letter to you I want a book and a doll. Will you be around so you can bring them to me? I will hang my stocking up on a chair. We’ll have a light. Will you bring a ball to my little brother. We are going to have a Christmas program and I am to be a fairy. We live a half-mile from are school we live two and a half miles from Deford. I want a ring, too. I forgot to put it with the other things, from Marion Retherford.

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RED HAWK Nick Perry heads down the lane despite the defense of Marlette’s Alex Heussner.

## Harbor Beach hands Cass City first setback in convincing style

by Clarke Haire  
Publisher

Cass City will look to rebound tonight against host Mayville after suffering their first loss of the season Friday at Harbor Beach. With the 54-34 whipping, the Pirates improved to 1-3 on the year, while Cass City slips to 3-1. “Got beat in all facets of the game. Out coached, out hustled and played very poorly on offense and defense. We did not perform with any energy or urgency. Lost by 20 points and Harbor Beach didn’t make a free throw (0-2). Not sure I’ve seen that before,” said Cass City Coach Jeff Hartel. Harbor Beach took a 9-6 first quarter lead and expanded the difference to 17-13 at the intermission, before removing most doubt from the game’s outcome early in the final half. Ryan Sieman caught fire over the final two frames and hit six triples on his way to game scoring honors and 23 points. In addition to Sieman’s shooting display, the Pirates benefited from 17 Cass City turnovers. (We) defended the 3-point shot very poorly. Lunging at shooters instead of closing out properly on them. Made it way too easy for them and never could get them out of their comfort zone. We did a

nice job stopping dribble penetration from (James) Schelke but didn’t find Sieman nearly quick enough in transition. Five three’s by Sieman in 3rd quarter is evidence of that,” Hartel said. On the flip side, Cass City shot just nine percent (1-11) from 3-point land. The Red Hawks didn’t fare much better from the field as they connected on 14-of-41 tries. Joining Sieman in double figures for Harbor Beach was Mason Jahn with 13 tallies. Cass City’s leading scorer was Mike Ziegler with nine points. “Overall a night to forget. Need to move on and get ready for Mayville on Wednesday and the Brown City Holiday tournament. Fix our mistakes, get better and go try to win the two day tournament,” lamented Hartel.

### MARLETTE

Earlier in the week, Cass City entertained Marlette Tuesday and registered a 71-66 decision to remain unbeaten. Trailing 57-50 after three quarters, Cass City outscored their guests 21-9 over the final eight minutes to earn the Greater Thumb Conference crossover come-from-behind win. Sandyn Cuthrell scored a career high 22 points and Zielger chipped in 11 for the winners.

Sean Quade scored 18 points – all in the first half – to lead Marlette, while Bryce George hit for 16 markers.

## Owen-Gage suffers pair of setbacks

Owen-Gage gave host North Huron all they could handle Thursday for a half before bowing 56-31 in a North Central Thumb League crossover tilt. The Bulldogs trailed just 24-20 after two quarters, but allowed the Warriors to take charge with a 22-6 run to open the third. “We had a great first half and let it slip away in the third quarter. We need to commit less turnovers and make the easy shots,” said Owen-Gage Coach Brian Wright. Matt Fritz tossed in a dozen points to lead Owen-Gage, who had Luke Retford with seven points and seven rebounds. Bulldog Brandon Binder chipped in six points. For North Huron, Brandon Berry recorded game scoring honors with 18 points.

### LANDMARK ACADEMY

Three double digit scorers led host Landmark Academy over Owen-Gage in non-conference action last Monday, 59-39. Landmark has a nice team with 13 players. They handle the ball well and had a good press,” said Wright, adding, “We improved from last game and are making steps in the right direction.” Fritz was the lone Bulldog to reach double figures and finished with 14 points.

## Kingston keeps BCAS winless

Kingston kept the visiting Bay City All Saints winless Monday with a 49-30 North Central Thumb League crossover win. “We struggled all night to find any flow. We had a nice run in the fourth quarter to finally put them away. Credit goes to All Saints and their coaching staff. They played hard tonight, said Kingston Coach Dave Lester. Nathan Cloyd led Kingston with 17 points and 7 rebounds, while Evan Neff added 14 points and Austin Ahern chipped in nine points and eight rebounds. Grant Gehringer’s 10 points were tops for Bay City All Saints.

### Boys’ Basketball Standings

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

Greater Thumb East				
	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>
Sandusky	0	0	1	0
Ubyly	0	0	2	1
Brown City	0	0	1	2
Harbor Beach	0	0	1	3
Memphis	0	0	0	4
Marlette	0	0	0	4

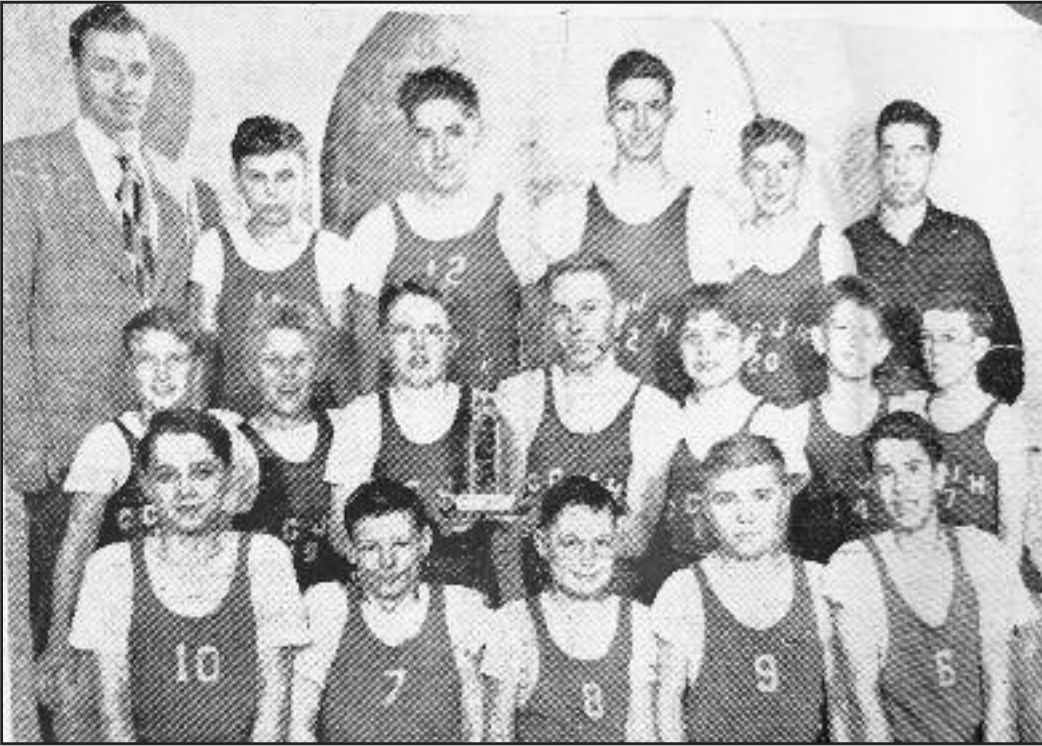
NCTL Stripes				
	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>
Peck	0	0	3	1
Caseville	0	0	1	2
CPS	0	0	0	2
BCAS	0	0	0	5
Akron-Fair.	0	0	0	2
Owen-Gage	0	0	0	3

NCTL Stars				
	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>
Mayville	0	0	3	0
Kingston	0	0	3	0
Flint Int.	0	0	1	0
Dryden	0	0	2	1
Deckerville	0	0	1	2
North Huron	0	0	1	2



THE 2017-18 CASS CITY junior varsity boys’ basketball team members are: (front row, l-r) Tyler Czekai, Kenton Wiseman, Bryce Fernald, Hadyn Horne, Alex Perry (back row) Collen Wrubel, Dale Kaake, Landon Schenk, Kendall Anthes and Coach Aaron Fernald.

Schneeberger’s ATHLETES of the WEEK




A blast from the past is Schneeberger’s choice for their “Athletes of the Week” award winners. Pictured is the Red Hawks Junior High basketball squad, champions of the Upper Thumb with a perfect 13-0 record. The team members, from the 1940s, are: (front row, l-r) Bob Warner, Stanley Guinther, Lyle Ludlow, Maynard Helwig, Clarence Schneeberger (middle row) Milton Houghtaling, Theron Hopper, Dick Wallace, Tom Schwaderer. Don Tuckey, John Ellis, Frank Creason (back row) Coach Clasen, Bob Wallace, Alvin Hutchibnson. Dale Groth, Claud Roach and Ernest Pena. Two of the Red Hawks – Schwaderer and Tuckey – went on to become doctors.

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CASS CITY’S Lauren Fernald is pressured by EPBP’s Carley Cunningham during the GTW opener for both schools.

Cardinal girls setup early cage season showdown

A solid defensive effort against host Saginaw Nouvel upped the Kingston Lady Cardinals to 4-0 on the season.

Coach Jay Green’s squad outscored their hosts in each quarter Friday to post a 53-29 non-conference victory, setting the stage for an early season showdown against undefeated Sandusky tonight in the process.

The visitors led 15-6 and 30-17 after each quarter in the initial half and then turned to their defense to complete the whipping.

“Our defense improved in the second half, and good ball movement led to a number of girls contributing,” said Green.

A balanced scoring attack for Kingston saw Carley Smith with 12 points, and Lily Lyons with 10, while Camryn MacGuire added nine. Payton Kolacz and Jillyan Dinsmore each chipped in eight points for the winners.

The tip-off Wednesday in Kingston between undefeated powers is slated for 6:00 p.m.

Lady Bulldogs remain winless in early play

Friday’s North Central Thumb League crossover contest in Kinde featured teams headed in opposite directions.

With a 45-18 victory, host North Huron improved to 4-0, while Owen-Gage fell to 0-3.

The Warriors cruised to a 23-5 halftime lead that had many spectators headed for the exits as the game’s outcome was all but decided.

Paige Woodke led all scorers with 19 points, while Ellie Preston added a dozen for the winners.

Alyson Witzke had seven points in vain.

**LANDMARK ACADEMY**

Owen-Gage gave host Landmark Academy all they could handle last Monday, before bowing 21-18 in a defensive struggle.

Both teams registered six points in the opening quarter, but the hosts outscored their guests 11-8 in the middle quarters and held on for the win.

Witzke was the game’s only double digit performer on the night and finished with 10 points to lead the Bulldogs.

Claire Spencer’s eight points paced Landmark Academy.

Girls’ Basketball Standings				
Greater Thumb West				
	W	L	W	L
Reese	1	0	5	1
Cass City	1	0	3	2
Vassar	0	0	1	3
Bad Axe	0	0	0	3
USA	0	1	2	3
EPBP	0	1	1	3
Greater Thumb East				
	W	L	W	L
Sandusky	1	0	6	0
Brown City	1	0	5	0
Marlette	0	0	4	0
Ubly	0	0	2	2
Harbor Beach	0	1	5	1
Memphis	0	1	0	3
NCTL Stripes				
	W	L	W	L
Caseville	0	0	2	2
Akron-Fair.	0	0	2	3
CPS	0	0	0	0
Owen-Gage	0	0	0	3
Peck	0	0	0	3
BCAS	0	0	0	2
NCTL Stars				
	W	L	W	L
Kingston	0	0	4	0
North Huron	0	0	4	0
Mayville	0	0	2	2
Deckerville	0	0	2	3
Dryden	0	0	0	2
Flint Int.	0	0	0	0

Cass City grapplers earn second place honors over the weekend despite short-handed roster

Despite being hindered with illness and ineligibilities, the Cass City wrestling team finished as the runner-up Saturday at the Cros-Lex Team Tournament to the delight of Coach Don Markel.

“Considering the fact that several of our wrestlers wrestle up a weight class and that (we) were short-handed, to go 3-1 for the day was a nice accomplishment, he said.

Lead by four Red Hawks with perfect showings on the day, Cass City posted a 3-1 record over the weekend to place 2nd in the five-team field. The Red Hawks defeated Corunna 42-30, “All-Star” team (composed of several wrestlers from other teams in attendance) 42-12, and Memphis 46-24 while losing to Croswell-Lexington 56-21.

Final team standings saw Cros-Lex on top with a 4-0 record, while Cass City was 3-1, Corunna 2-2, Memphis 1-3 and the All Star Team 0-4.

Lucas Swiderski, Hayden Larkin, Eric Peters, and Wyatt Dickson paced Cass City with 4-0 showings, while Drew Markel, Matt Mihalic, and Hunter Caister all turned in 3-1 efforts.

Cass City’s dual meet record now stands at 6-3 for the season.

Hawks take GTW opener

by Clarke Haire  
Publisher

A strong bench effort helped the Cass City Red Hawks to victory Thursday over visiting Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port in the Greater Thumb West opener for both schools.

Coach Aaron Fernald’s girls grabbed an early 11-6 edge and never looked back, cruising to a 59-44 league victory.

Sayge Cuthrell tossed in nine of her game high 23 points in the opening quarter to get Cass City off to a strong start before turning over the scoring chores to reserves Kelly Ziegler, Kelsey Bouverette and Rylie Weiler.

Ziegler and Bouverette combined for nine points in the opening half as the hosts built a 28-17 cushion at the break.

“Always good to get your first league win of the year. I thought our bench really played well. Kelly Ziegler, Kelsey Bouverette and Rylie Weiler combined for 19

points which was a big lift off the bench,” Fernald said.

Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port was able to slice into the Cass City advantage in the third quarter as five different Laker players entered the scorebook that reduced the margin to 35-29 entering the final eight minutes.

There, Cuthrell took control and tallied 13 markers to squash the Lakers’ comeback hopes which was hampered with an 11-of-23 showing from the foul line.

“Sayge played well with 23 points and 11 rebounds,” said Fernald.

For the Lakers, Madison Krohn and Karly Cunningham finished as the game’s only other double digit scorers with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

HARBOR BEACH

In a preview of what many believe will be the match-up for district honors at the Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port District games in March, it was host Harbor Beach that prevailed over

Cass City.

In a fast-paced opening quarter, Cuthrell, Brittany Hamilton and Kacey Haire each recorded a pair of field goals to help the visitors stay with the undefeated Pirates.

But trailing 15-14, Cass City was limited to solo baskets by Cuthrell and Ziegler in the period before the break as Harbor Beach built a double digit spread.

“I thought we played reasonably well against Harbor Beach but we just had a bad 2nd quarter and we could not recover from it. Somewhat of a missed opportunity for us,” said Fernald.

Cass City went inside to Cuthrell in the final half and the senior responded with 20 points, including 14 down the stretch. But her antics wouldn’t be enough as Harbor Beach registered a 55-48 win.

Lexi Rutkowski poured in 17 points and Hallie Essenmacher chipped in 11 to pace the winners.

Cuthrell’s season-high 26 points topped Cass City scorers, while Hamilton and Haire split 16 markers.



THE CASS CITY 2017-18 junior varsity girls basketball team members are: (front row, l-r) Abbey Salcido, Morgan Russell, Olivia Peters, Tiana Tageson (back row) Elizabeth Morrish, Tiara Anthony, Anna-Lena Domer, and Hailey Beckrow. The Red Hawks are coached by Dave Weiler.



Photo by Julie Warack, Photographer, Owen-Gage Yearbook Advisor

THE 2017-18 Owen-Gage Lady Bulldog basketball team members are: (front row, l-r) Kaitlyn LaCroix, Libby Ondrajka, Megan Fritz, Candace Barnes (back row) Morgan Ondrajka, Carlee Rievert, Alyson Witzke, Coach Mike Sutherland, Natasha Dubs, Carley Haldane and Sierra Mascorro.

# Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

Please turn to page 11 to see this week's picks

Saylar Cuthrell

Clarke Haire

Geoff Morgan

Doug Hyatt





# Cass City Jr./Sr. High School

## 2017-18 Winter Sports Schedule



BOYS' BASKETBALL (FRESHMEN/JV/VARSITY)	
DATE	OPPONENT
12/6	CC 60, BCAS 21
12/8	CC 61, Memphis 39
12/13	CC 71, Marlette 66
12/15	Harbor Beach 54, CC 34
12/20	Mayville
12/28	Brown City Invite (V)
12/29	Brown City Invite (V)
1/3	Caro (F, JV, & V)
1/5	Reese (F, JV, & V)
1/12	USA (F, JV, & V)
1/16	North Branch (JV)
1/19	Vassar
1/23	Cros-Lex (F)
1/24	Ubly
1/26	Bad Axe
1/30	Mayville (F)
1/31	Lakers (F, JV, V)
2/2	Reese (Snowcoming) (F, JV, V)
2/9	USA (F, JV, V)
2/14	Sandusky (F, JV, V)
2/16	Vassar
2/16	Caro (F @ 4:30)
2/21	Kingston (JV)
2/23	Bad Axe
3/1	Lakers (F, JV, & V)
3/5-9	Districts @ Bad Axe.....TBD

All games begin at 6 p.m.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL (FRESHMEN/JV/VARSITY)	
DATE	OPPONENT
11/28	CC 59, Mayville 15
12/1	Sandusky 51, CC 27
12/8	CC 72, Memphis 6
12/12	Harbor Beach 55, CC 48
12/14	CC 59, Lakers 44
12/19	Caro (F, JV, & V)
12/21	Imlay City (F, JV, & V)
12/28	Brown City
12/29	Brown City
1/4	Reese (F, JV, & V)
1/11	USA
1/16	North Branch (JV)
1/18	Vassar
1/18	Deckerville (F)
1/22	Caro (F) @ 4:30
1/23	Ubly
1/23	Cros-Lex (F) @ 5:30
1/25	Bad Axe
1/30	Lakers (F, JV, & V)
2/1	Reese (F, JV, & V)
2/8	USA
2/13	Marlette
2/15	Vassar
2/15	Deckerville (F)
2/21	Kingston (JV)
2/22	Bad Axe
2/26-3/2	Districts @ EPB Lakers.....TBD

All games begin at 6 p.m.


WRESTLING		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
12/9	Marlette Team Tourney	8:00 a.m.
12/13	Cros-Lex	TBA
12/16	Cros-Lex Team Tourney	9:00 a.m.
12/22	Millington/Caro/Clio	12:30 p.m.
12/29	Mayville Ind. Tourney	TBA
1/3	Brown City/Vassar	6:00 p.m.
1/6	North Branch Team Tourney	9:00 a.m.
1/10	Mayville/Memphis	6:00 p.m.
1/13	Flushing Team Tourney	8:00 a.m.
1/17	Bad Axe/Marlette	6:00 p.m.
1/20	Mayville Team Tourney	9:00 a.m.
1/24	Ubly/Sandusky @ Home	6:00 p.m.
1/27	Midland Bullock Creek Team Tourney	8:30 a.m.
2/3	GTC League Meet @ Marlette	TBA
2/8	Team Districts @ Bad Axe	TBA
2/10	Individual Districts @ Sandusky	TBA
2/14	Team Regionals	TBA
2/17	Individual Regionals	TBA
2/23-24	Team State Finals @ Kalamazoo	TBA
3/2-3	Individual State Finals @ Ford Field	TBA

GYMNASTICS		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
1/9	Vassar	6:30 p.m.
1/13	Fraser Invitational	9:00 a.m.
1/16	Fenton Tri Meet	6:30 p.m.
1/20	Haslett	TBA
1/27	Huron Valley @ Lakeland HS	8:00 a.m.
2/3	St. Johns Invite	10:00 a.m.
2/10	Vassar Invite	10:00 a.m.
2/17	Vassar	10:00 a.m.
2/22	Vassar	6:30 p.m.

Admissions:  
High School - \$5.00  
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Home games  
in bold.

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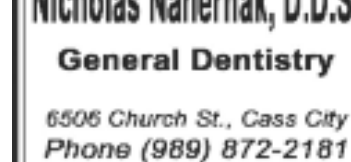
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# Canfield bill would honor vets with a name change

The Michigan House last week approved legislation introduced by state Rep. Dr. Edward J. Canfield, D.O., to rename a portion of Highway M-15 in the city of Vassar as the Spc. Five Michael May and Cpl. Chris Eskelson Memorial Highway.

“Marine Corporal Chris Eskelson and Army Specialist Five Michael May paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep our country safe and free,” said Rep. Canfield (R-Sebewaing) who represents the 84th District, comprised of Tuscola and Huron counties. “As a veteran, I appreciate the service of these two men. Renaming this portion of highway for these heroes will mean a great deal to the community.”

In Vietnam on May 2, 1969, a recon team from Detachment B-50 (Project Omega) was ambushed. During the engagement, May was killed and his body was never recovered. He entered the United States Army in 1967 after attending Western Michigan University for two years. He was described as an excellent athlete at Vassar High School, where he played basketball, football and track.

Eskelson gave his life for his country at the age of 22 while defending his fellow Marines Dec. 28, 2006, in Fallujah, Iraq. He was serving with the 1st Battalion, 24th Marine regiment. He joined the Marine Corps in October 2002 after graduating from Vassar High School. He was also a three-sport athlete.

# Legal Notices

IF YOU ARE NOW ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY OR HAVE BEEN IN THE PRIOR ONE YEAR, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 248-502-1400.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jewell Harper, an unmarried woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lenders successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated September 9, 2003 and recorded September 18, 2003 in Liber 955, Page 409. Said mortgage is now held by Ditech Financial LLC fka Green Tree Servicing LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Eight and 63/100 Dollars (\$15,208.63), including interest at 7.375% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on JANUARY 11, 2018.

Said premises are located in the City of Vassar, Tuscola County Michigan, and are described as: Lot 2, Block 10, North's Addition to the Village of Vassar, (Now City), according to the Plat thereof recorded in Liber 1, Page 21 A of Plats, Tuscola County Records.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: December 13, 2017  
Orlans PC  
Attorneys for Servicer  
P.O. Box 5041  
Troy, MI 48007  
File No. 17-001212

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HELP WANTED - Greenleaf Township is accepting applications for a Freedom of Information Act Coordinator. Please send letter of interest and resume to: Greenleaf Township P.O. Box 135, Cass City, MI 48726. Deadline is December 31, 2017. 11-12-20-2

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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.

Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

	 Saylor Cuthrell	 Clarke Haire	 Geoff Morgan	 Doug Hyatt
BOYS' BASKETBALL				
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20 Cass City @ Mayville Sandusky @ Kingston	Cass City Sandusky	Cass City Sandusky	Cass City Kingston	Cass City Kingston
THURSDAY, DEC. 21 North Huron @ EPBP	EPBP	EPBP	North Huron	EPBP
GIRLS' BASKETBALL				
TUESDAY, DEC. 19 Bad Axe @ SASA Caro @ Cass City Sandusky @ Saginaw Nouvel BCAS @ Kingston Deckerville @ Owen-Gage	Bad Axe Cass City Sandusky Kingston Deckerville	Bad Axe Cass City Sandusky Kingston Deckerville	Bad Axe Cass City Sandusky Kingston Deckerville	SASA Cass City Sandusky Kingston Deckerville
THURSDAY, DEC. 20 Sandusky @ Kingston	Sandusky	Sandusky	Sandusky	Sandusky
FRIDAY, DEC. 21 Imlay City @ Cass City	Cass City	Cass City	Cass City	Cass City
LAST WEEKS' RESULTS	10-3	8-5	9-4	12-1
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Well established Restaurant. Sets on class A road. This restaurant has been in business for several years and has earned a great reputation for it's food. It is quaint and is a popular gathering place for many of the locals. Because of it's location it also has a great opportunity to catch the travelers heading to the lake shore. Call listing agent for in depth details.  
123-16-0019

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES!**  
Are you looking to expand your business or start up a new one? This is a great location to do so! Offices space, warehouse space, manufacturing space. With over 15,000 sq ft you can do pretty much anything you want to do! Buildings sit on 3.46 acres, plenty of room! Call me today and I will walk you through it!  
123-17-0052

**MOVE IN CLOSING DAY!**  
Cute and comfortable three bedroom home located on a double lot in Village of Cass City. Country kitchen,built in bookshelves and window seat in your dining room are some of the character this home has. New carpeting in the living room and freshly painted. Move in at closing, Call for your appointment to view this home.  
123-17-0053

**REDUCED!**  
Move in ready! Come take a look at this very clean and immaculant 3 bedroom 2 bath home. Open concept with a beautiful fireplace in the living room. It has custom stained glass windows that set this home apart from others. New Windows in 2015 that come with a transferable 30 year warranty to new owner. Deck off the back with handicap entrance and a large 3 car garage. Beautiful lawn, mature trees on a corner lot! Call Lola today for your private showing.  
123-17-0061

**Call us for all your Real Estate needs!**



Great opportunity! This 2 bedroom, 1 bath home has been updated within the last few years. Also featured are 2 detached garages for all of your storage needs. This home is well maintained and move-in ready.  
TCC1772



Price Reduced - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, home in Huntsville Park, clean and ready for a new family, light colored cabinets and sky light above sink. Center is open kitchen and living room, master bedroom and bath at back.  
MH



2 bedroom, 1,400 sq. ft. waterfront home with loft. It has a huge open concept kitchen, dining, and living room that makes it great for entertaining. Plus it is being sold with the lot across the road which is waterfront on the canal! Not enough space? The waterfront home next door is for sale as well!  
CY2758



Can't find a home you like in Cass City? Build your own on this available corner lot (66' x 132') in desirable neighborhood. Only \$6,900. TL365



Great starter home - HUD owned home featuring 2 bedrooms, cathedral ceiling in the living room, loft for extra living space, unfinished basement and a large deck for entertaining on 1.4 acres with an out-building.  
CY2757



Ranch home set just outside the city limits of Bad Axe. Large nice yard, home has 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, full basement, large enclosed porch on back of the house leading to the 2-1/2 car garage. Home is neat and clean.  
TO807



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“THIS YEAR WE have over 170,000 lights, up 20,000 from last year,” Jaime Nicol said of the 2017 Nicol’s Christmas Light Extravaganza. “We have added a RGB ball on top of the 50-foot tree, a moving train, Santa in an airplane on the roof, Santa in a Model T, and Peace on Earth with Doves.

## Local robotics teams turning heads

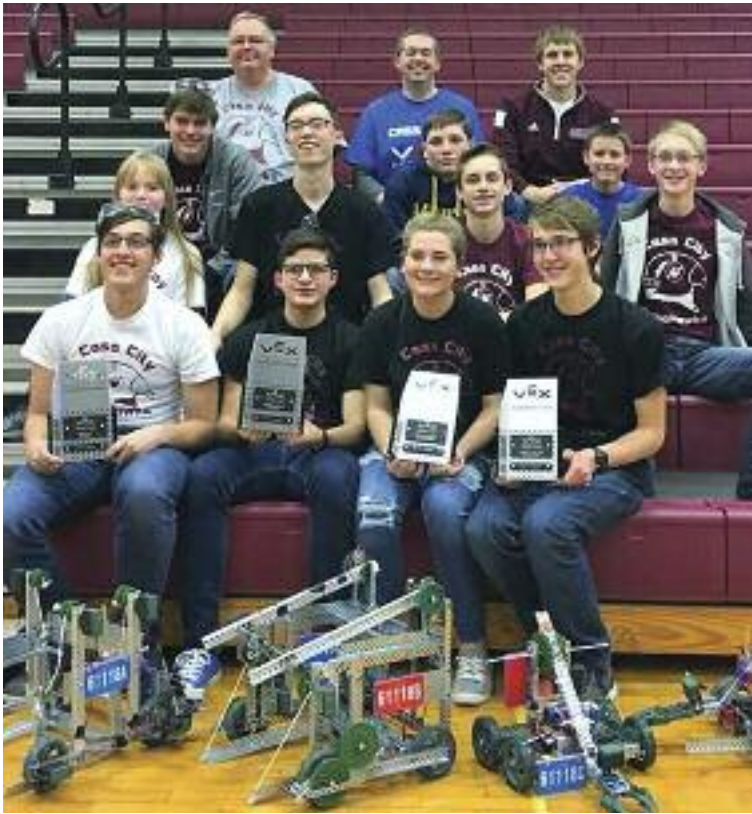
Cass City students involved in the district’s robotics programs recently flexed some technical muscle during their inaugural RoboHawks VEX Tournament. “The weekend of Dec 1st and 2nd, all our teams performed very well,” Lyle Severance, technical director for the Cass City Schools, said following the competition.

“In the IQ elementary competition on Friday, all four of teams made it to the finals, and two (teams), the Havoc Hawks and the Killer Hawks, won the tournament and are going to the state competition this March in Charlotte,” Severance added. “In the VRC middle and high school competition on Saturday,

all four of our teams made it to at least the quarterfinals. Both the RoboHawks Black and White teams made it to the finals, with the black team winning the tournament,” he continued. “The black team also won the robot skills competition and received the excellence award, and the white team won the design award. As a result, the black team will go to the regional level this February in Monroe,” Severance said.

The local robotics teams have enjoyed the support of a host of area sponsors, including All Season Rental, Cass City Athletic Boosters, Copeland Insurance, the Cass City Gavel Club, Independent Bank, the Keyser Family, the Mack Family, Millennium Steering, the Pinney Foundation, Thumb National Bank, Thumb Office Supply and Walther Farms.

- Cass City students competing this year are:
- \*Havoc Hawks — Lance Britt, Ethan Westendorf, Ethan Hall and Isaak Keyser.
  - \*Killer Hawks — Braden Murdoch, Justin MacAlpine, Drake Smith and Abe Mack.
  - \*Robo Wild Wings — Cameron Owen, Sage Sanders, Trysten Gruber, Ethan Schrader and Braden Bailey.
  - \*Flying Dead — Wyatt Sutton, Sean Dyer, Tristin Smith and Josh Bergman.
  - \*RoboHawks Black — Kevin Estrella, Darren Hutchinson, Imogen Sanders and Logan Severance.
  - \*RoboHawks White — Kalean Boynton, Mariah Mellendorf and Joe Skiles.
  - \*RoboHawks Maroon — Tyler Czekai, Nick McArdle and Anthony Pawloski.
  - \*RoboHawks Junior High — Thomas Muter, Gabe Schwendinger, Vaughn Severance and Hunter Turnbull.



**MEMBERS OF THE Cass City Junior-Senior High School robotics teams, coached by (back row, from left) Reed Keyser, Lyle Severance and T.C. Gruber, include Anthony Pawloski, Tyler Czekai, Gabe Schwendinger, Mariah Mellendorf, Darren Hutchinson, Nick McArdle, Vaughn Severance, Kalean Boynton, Kevin Estrella, Imogen Sanders and Logan Severance. Missing are Joe Skiles, Hunter Turnbull and Thomas Muter.**

# Nicol extravaganza still a favorite stop for holiday travelers

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

When it comes to exterior lighting displays during the Christmas season, few folks can even hope to come close to the Nicol family, whose high-tech LED computer-controlled display continues to draw hundreds of people from the Thumb and beyond to their Germania Road home, smack dab in the middle of farm country in northern Sanilac County. The display, open through Dec. 31 from 5:15 to 10:30 p.m. each day, is located at the Joel and Jaime Nicol residence, 6250 Germania Road. From Cass City, take M-81 east eight miles (four miles past M-53), then turn right (south) onto Germania Road. More information can be found on the couple’s Facebook page at Nicol’s Christmas Light Extravaganza. Both the young and young at heart are treated to an electric amusement park of sorts featuring more than a dozen large structures, some of them animated. The Christmas-themed spectacle includes a synchronized music program available by tuning in to 92.9 FM. As has been true in past years, the Nicol family isn’t content to rest on its holiday lighting laurels, instead revising and adding to the 2017 display.

“This year we have 170,000 lights,” said Jaime Nicol,” whose enthusiasm for the family tradition frequently has her spending a portion of her evenings outdoors at night, visiting with guests and passing out candy canes. “We (also) have a new RGB (red, green, blue) ball on top of the 50-foot tree which displays images and words,” she added.

RGB Lighting is considered state-of-the-art in holiday lighting industry. The product allows lighting “artists” to create any color, change color, and add motion/effects, all with one set of LEDs. Each colored bulb (node/pixel) has 3 channels in it — one red, one green and one blue — and each color (channel) features 256 levels of intensity, making it possible to create any color in the rainbow by blending the colors at different levels of intensities.

Jaime noted this year’s display includes a new train and offers visitors some new songs on the synchronized music playlist.

The combination of sights and sounds remains as popular as ever, drawing more visitors from outlying communities. “I’m seeing a lot more people traveling from farther distances – Birch Run, Clio, Saginaw, Frankenmuth,” Jaime said.

It’s a family tradition that dates back more than three decades, one that Joel and Jaime Nicol took over from Joel’s parents, John and Gayle Nicol, back in 2008.

These days, the entire system is controlled by computer, according to Joel, who says a network of communication cables connect the various light displays to a computer inside the home, where he spends considerable time programming the show. “All the computer work has to be done prior to (setting up the displays),” he said. “The amount of work that goes into the computer work is about as much work as putting up the lights out there.”

Jaime, a Caro area native, says the family, including John and Gayle, spend about six weeks erecting the display.

But it’s a labor of love, a passion Joel inherited from his parents, who spent decades creating and putting together the original display. “It was just something we did. We spent our Thanksgiving weekends putting lights up,” he added.

John and Gayle, who live just a mile away on Robinson Road, decided to end the tradition about nine years ago, after Joel and his siblings had all gone off to college.

Jaime said moving the display to their home on Germania Road wasn’t as much a deliberate decision as a gradual process that took place over time, piece by piece as she and Joel watched their own Christmas light extravaganza unfold throughout their property.

They’ve had plenty of help along the way. “We would like to thank John and Gayle for their continuous love, support and donations, helping to make our visions come to life,” said Jaime, who indicated the family is dedicated to hanging on to tradition while at the same time adding something new here and there. “Even though we have incorporated some advanced technology, we take pride in keeping the true, traditional feel of Christmas lights,” she said.

## Ubly exploring preschool

by Mary Drier  
Special for the Chronicle

Ubly School District officials may have found a way to offer a

preschool program. During a recent regular meeting the Ubly Board of Education went into closed session to discuss the proposed lease/purchase of property. After returning to open session, the board of education approved giving school Supt. Joe Candela the authority to look at purchasing the Re-Store Shabby Chic store at 4454 N. Washington St. to see if the structure could be used to host a preschool program.

District officials had hoped to be able to do that with funds from a bond proposal, but voters rejected the ballot issue during the August election.

Had the ballot issue passed, school officials planned to build 12 new elementary classrooms — so the 1936 section of the school could be closed off — with plans to use one of the new classrooms for pre-kindergarten classes.

In other business, the board accepted the resignation of Vice-President Gregg Kranz, and went into closed session to discuss the superintendent’s annual evaluation.

Under Michigan Department of Education regulations, all boards of education, including intermediate school district’s boards, must conduct a performance evaluation of administrators. The process takes a number of factors into consideration.

No action was taken when the board returned to regular session. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m.

Happy Holidays



The Staff at Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems Wishes Everyone Peace and Joy this Holiday Season and a New Year of Hope, Health and Happiness.

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