



Inside This Week

- Cinderella season comes to an end for Hawks Sports, pages 9, 10
- Community foundation announces new grant Page 4

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 113, NUMBER 38

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2019 .75 CENTS - 16 PAGES - 2 SUPPLEMENTS

Evaluation ends in “highly effective” rating for Hartel

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

For the second consecutive year, the Cass City Board of Education offered local school Supt. Jeff Hartel an especially strong vote of confidence during a regular monthly meeting Monday night.

Following an annual job performance evaluation, the board rated Hartel as being “highly effective” – the highest grade possible — in the job he’s held for nearly 10 years now. It was another step up for the veteran administrator, who received ratings of “effective” prior to last year.

As a result, the board in December is expected to again approve a resolution extending Hartel’s three-year revolving contract by one year. He will also be awarded a raise of 1.5 percent.

Michigan law requires local and intermediate school district boards of education to evaluate school superintendents each year. Boards must then assign the administrator a rating of highly effective, effective, minimally effective or ineffective, taking into account a variety of measures, including student growth and assessment data.

“I’m very happy (with the evaluation),” Hartel commented Monday, noting his efforts in the area of continuing to implement the district’s new strategic plan – which covers every aspect from academics, resources and curriculum, to safe school practices and finances – was among the areas cited by the board in determining his latest performance rating.

“The board seems to be behind me 100 percent,” he said. “I think we’re moving our district forward.”

Hartel’s career in education spans nearly 32 years, including 28 years in the local district, where he started out as a teacher and was later promoted to then-middle school assistant principal/athletic director and, later, middle school principal.

Promise update

Turning to the Cass City PROMISE campaign, teacher Bill Hartzell provided an update on an all-class reunion fundraiser that is being or –
Please turn to page 12.

No tax, service fee hikes in new budget

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The Cass City Village Council Monday completed a preliminary review of its proposed 2020 budget, which is slightly less than the 2019 budget but still includes several proposed capital improvements.

The 2020 budget totals a projected \$4.9 million, down from this year’s budget of \$5.3 million, because of a decrease in the pool renovation fund, explained village Manager Debbie Powell.

“General fund revenues are proposed to increase \$52,912 overall more in 2020 as opposed to the 2019 budget. The increase is due to a \$5,475 increase in state shared revenue based on projections from the state treasury website,” said Powell, and because of a 1.6-percent multiplier for increased taxes, as well as an additional \$43,366 in administrative charges.

The 2020 budget allots about \$118,468 less for capital improvements compared to the \$1,150,503 that was spent this year.

The plan is to spend \$1,032,035 for capital improvements such as plant

Please turn to page 12.

Agent Orange Quilt of Tears coming to area

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Not all servicemen who lost their lives in Vietnam died in battle; many have also died or are still suffering from the effects of chemical exposure during their tours of duty.

In fact, exposure to Agent Orange – a defoliating agent used during the war — claimed the lives of thousands of soldiers who served in Vietnam.

In addition to the traveling Vietnam War Memorial, there is a memorial display, called

Please turn to page 8.



THE AGENT Orange Quilt of Tears will be displayed like this in Sanilac and Huron counties in April 2020.



RIGHT PLACE, right time – Cass City Photographer Cheryl Viney Osentoski has a knack for finding herself in the right place when it comes to capturing great wildlife images, and a trip to Fish Point last month was no exception as she spotted this Great Blue Heron. The herons who call Michigan home are largely migratory, with most leaving the state during winter months for a warmer climate and returning in early to mid-March.

Disaster declaration good news for Thumb farmers facing losses

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 43 Michigan counties, including Huron and Sanilac, as primary natural disaster areas, making assistance available to agriculture producers in those counties stemming from adverse weather conditions this year.

Tuscola County is among several other counties that could be added to the list after federal ag officials complete damage assessments.

“I am pleased the USDA responded to our request and I’m looking forward to the further assessment of those counties not included in this designation. This relief can’t come soon enough for our struggling farmers who endured tremendous hardship throughout this growing season,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

“I am grateful to USDA and our Michigan delegation, especially our senators, for the leadership they’ve taken as well to ensure our hardworking farmers receive the assistance and supports they

need.”

“Michigan’s farmers were affected by everything from severe cold to historic rainfall events and early snowfall in 2019, which im-

pacted both planting and harvest this year,” said Gary McDowell, director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Please turn to page 11.

‘19 Christmas for Kids campaign is underway

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Christmas is still a month away, but it isn’t too soon to start thinking about ways to help ensure a memorable Christmas morning for Cass City area youngsters whose families are struggling financially.

Towards that end, members of the Cass City Rotary Club are gearing up for their 21st annual Christmas for Kids campaign, a project focused on collecting toys, clothing and books that will be distributed next month to families living in the Cass City area.

The annual effort targets families residing in the Cass City School District. Most of the referrals are provided by local school officials.

“We just want to make sure that every child has a nice Christmas, that they have a present to open Christmas morning,” said Emily Lasceski, Cass City Rotary Club president and coordinator of the holiday gift drive.

Club members launched their campaign this week, placing drop boxes for donations at select locations in the community, including Dollar

Please turn to page 6.

Medical marijuana plant operation in town delayed

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

It will now be sometime next summer before a Cass City factory’s partial conversion into a medical marijuana growing operation will be ready for business.

In February, the Cass City Village Council approved Millennium Industries’ request to create a medical marijuana growing operation inside the factory at 6285 Garfield Ave., which is in the village’s industrial park.

During an interview in August, Millennium Industries CEO Gus Ploss indicated he believed the company’s new venture into growing medical marijuana would be operational by the end of November, but those plans didn’t work out.

Extensive demolition had to be done first to the inside of the factory

Please turn to page 11.

Kingston officials announce honor roll

Officials at Kingston High School recently announced the first marking period honor roll students.

7th Grade Honor Roll

- Mikayla Adamczyk *
- Isaac Anger
- Faith Boyl *
- Victor Colman
- April Diehl *
- Meeghan Flikkie *
- Hailey Groosbeck
- Shelby Hoseclaw
- Andie Hurd
- Michael Jenkins
- Marissa Klupp *
- Noah Kostrzewski
- Lauren Krug *
- Isabel Muxlow *
- Miley Radecki
- Maria Reno
- Savannah Robinson
- Isabelle Sanchez
- Mackenzie Scott *
- Layla Shinabarger
- Kailee Simmons *
- Bronson Skinner *
- Lauren Smith *
- Marcus Sommerfield
- Nowell VanRijn *
- Chesaney Wenzlaff *
- Madison Wylie *
- Carson Zyrowski *

8th Grade Honor Roll

- Daisy Barnes *
- Bailey Berridge
- Gavin Hunter
- Preston Lupa
- Kevin Marcum
- Heidi Matheny *
- Keira McGarvie
- Jordis Mosher
- Destiny Noakes *
- Malawi Roberson
- Sophia Schipinski
- Hayden Schuler *
- Jaylin Skinner *
- Myles Spencer
- Delaney St. George *
- Zoe VanRijn *
- Hunter Vennevy
- Abby Walker *
- Ashlyn Walker *
- Gracy Walker
- Heidi Williams *
- Lucas Zajac
- Madelyn Zauner *

9th Grade Honor Roll

- Courtney Acker *
- Jasmine Bular
- Logan Cloyd *
- Emily Coffey
- Adrianna
- Essenmacher
- Ethan Green *
- Ethan Harrington *
- Lawson Lyons
- Emily McGee
- Robert McMaster
- Aryanna Miller *
- Ashley Miller *
- Brooke Retan
- Autumn Russell
- Conner Seaman *
- Wesley Sholes
- Riley Smith
- Rachel St. George *
- McKenzie Taylor *
- Destiny Traster
- Hunter Trovillion
- Leah Westover
- James Wilson
- Coryn Zyrowski

10th Grade Honor Roll

- Madison Coyer
- Joseph Cryderman
- Collen Dibble *
- Gaven Dibble *
- Joshua DuRussell
- Katelyn Ensign
- Kristen Ensign
- Pablo Fernandez
- Larrea Carter Geister *

- Mariea Haag
- Isabel Hurd
- Summer Jenkins
- Alex Kotsch
- Declan McGarvie *
- Kali Norris
- Jacob Rayl *
- Zachary Smart
- Nicholas St. George *
- Ethan Ulewicz *
- Brooklyn Walker *
- Libbie Whitmore

11th Grade Honor Roll

- Albert Bailey
- Hailey Bitterle *
- Hunter Brown
- Mark Crousore *
- Jason Dibble *
- Katelyn DuRussell
- Lucas Fetting
- Elanor Gaiser
- Colten Gildner *
- Morgan Green *
- Rayann Harp
- Kayla Hobson
- Hannah James *
- Paige Klupp *
- Lillian LaFave *
- Ronnie Lemke
- Joslyn Lupa *
- Dustin Peter *
- Ella Retan *
- Chloe Russell
- Marco Saenz De
- LaCuesta Fernandez
- Alexandra Sherman *
- Emma Schuler

- Jessica Stoll *
- Olivia Ulewicz *
- Trayton Wenzlaff *
- Madison Wieland *
- Samantha Wood *

12th Grade Honor Roll

- Anna Ahern
- Elissa Bicego
- Quinn Boucard
- Anna Crider
- Danielle Crisman
- Caleb Dodds
- Teagan Fisher
- Samuel Gaiser
- Collin Geister *
- Caleb Goss
- Johnathan Green *
- Katelyn Iseler *
- Desiree Jenkins
- Aaron Koehler
- Payton Kolacz
- Anastasia Krych *
- Tristen Lane
- Ryan McGarvie
- Mindy McMaster
- Braden Mosher *
- Wren Murdoch
- Isaac Muxlow *
- Evan Neff *
- Madison Nickens
- Jacob Savage
- Tristen Skinner
- Millan Smith
- Joseph Snover *
- Brent Warren

*Indicated all A's

Owen-Gage students of the month

The focus for Owen-Gage's students of the month for November is "Respectful of Others".

A student who is respectful of others cares about others and their property, demonstrates courtesy, cooperates with others, and accepts differences in others. They also interact appropriately with others.

The following students have been chosen: StarAnn Miller, third grade (elementary level), daughter of Daniel and EmilyAnn Miller; McKenzie Baker, sixth grade (junior high level), daughter of Aaron and Kristie Baker; Madelyn Haldane, tenth grade (high school level), daughter of Robert and Patty Haldane; and Carley

Haldane, twelfth grade (senior student), daughter of Robert and



Madelyn Haldane

Patty Haldane.

Special recognition goes to the "Senior Student of the Month", Carley Haldane. Haldane has been very active in sports at Owen-Gage. She participated/will participate in volleyball, cross-country, basketball, and softball all four years. She also was a member of the band as a freshman.

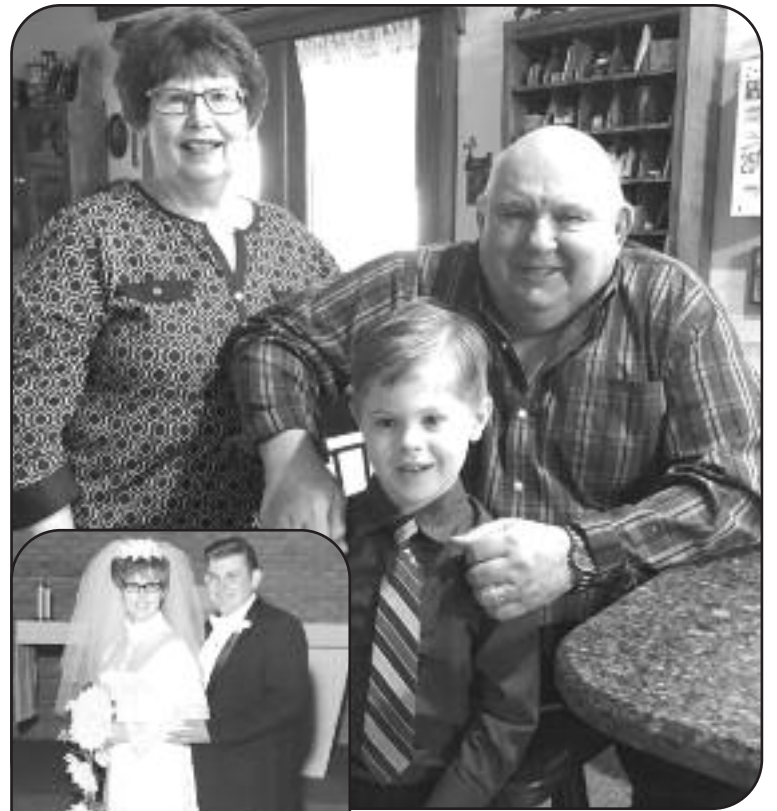
Haldane was inducted into the Owen-Gage Chapter of the National Honor Society her junior year and currently serves as the chapter's historian. She's been a member of the 3.0 Honors Club each year and has been on the honor roll all through high school. As a freshman, Haldane served as class secretary and as a junior served as her class representative to the student council. She has been a member of the yearbook staff the past three years. She served as the yearbook's co-editor last year and this year is the yearbook editor.

Haldane was a homecoming representative her freshman year, was a member of the PAC Squad (Post-secondary Action Council) her freshman and sophomore years, and a member of the prom committee her junior year. For the second year, she is enrolled in the Public Safety/Law Enforcement program at the Huron Area Technical Center. In her spare time, Haldane enjoys baking, fishing and hanging with friends and fam-



Carley Haldane

ily. Haldane plans to attend Delta College in the fall to pursue a career in business.



Ron & Vi Patera



Then November 29, 1969



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SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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!

This puzzle brought to you by:

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In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

There's no shortage of giving in village

You don't have to live in or around the Cass City community for long to figure out the people living here are all about giving — just ask any family in the area whose friends have organized a benefit for them in a time of crisis or illness.

That spirit of giving is evident throughout the year, but especially during the Christmas season, and we're confident the community will come through as it always has for those who are struggling financially and in need of a helping hand.

You don't have to be wealthy to make a difference.

Helping others could mean as little as donating a few dollars to Revive Ministries in town to help fund the organization's regular food pantries, or dropping off a new toy or article of warm clothing to benefit the Cass City Rotary Club's Christmas for Kids campaign (you can learn more by contacting Emily Lasceski at 989-551-2046 or Colleen Langenburg at 989-872-4205).

There are many other opportunities to make the season brighter for others. For example, If you have a little cash to spare, you could contribute to local resident Brenda Berry's Christmas for Seniors campaign. Berry uses \$20 sponsorships donated to her program to purchase gifts for local seniors. Last year, nearly 70 residents of Medilodge benefited, and this year she hopes to also adopt residents at Northwood Meadows. Checks can be mailed to Berry at P.O. Box 27, Cass City, MI 48726.

Of course, giving can also take the form of offering to lend a hand to someone in need.

Perhaps you have an elderly neighbor who could use a ride to a grocery store or medical appointment, or whose sidewalk needs to be shoveled and salted? Or maybe you have a couple of free hours in your weekly schedule and could volunteer for a food or toy drive in the area.

Speaking of giving, we'd like to tip our hats to the Cass City business community for its generosity in making the local chamber of commerce's Christmas in the Village celebration a hit every year.

This year's events are slated for Saturday, Dec. 7, and we hope everyone will turn out for a full day of activities ranging from a huge craft show and popular chili cook-off, to the lighted Christmas parade and community gathering featuring free goodies and visits with Santa Claus.

The celebration, which has enjoyed many years of success, is made possible by contributions from several area businesses and organizations, and don't forget all of the hard work that goes into the event, most of it courtesy of a small army of volunteers under the direction of the local chamber.

As we said, Cass City knows all about giving. It's a tradition built on caring, compassion and a willingness to share and go above and beyond whenever a need arises.

It's what makes this community a wonderful place to live, especially during the holidays.

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Stop -- smell the turkey



While entertaining, most people do not realize comics and cartoons can actually be no laughing matter.

On the surface, most comic or cartoon messages are humorous, but some also have a serious undertone that can address a number of issues.

I came across a comic of Santa in a vehicle, cutting in front of vehicles driven by a pumpkin and a turkey on a highway. The tag had the pumpkin and turkey telling Santa to stay in his own lane. I totally agree with that.

While it has always been a retail tradition for Christmas to override Halloween and Thanksgiving, this year has been especially bad for doing that.

By the end of the first part of October, I was already sick of Christmas. Some of the main television channels I normally watch started running Christmas movies 24/7 the first part of October, and will continue to do so on to Christmas.

I really hate how Thanksgiving gets bypassed. Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It is a simple day of family getting together and of giving thanks for what a person has.

The key commercial aspect of Thanksgiving is selling turkeys and the trimmings that go with the traditional meal. Because Thanksgiving is not a big money maker, it gets ignored.

It is a day for celebrating what a person has and being thankful for it no matter how little or how much. Thanksgiving should be a day of spending time with family and friends, but it sadly has turned into just a day to go shopping in pursuit of bargains to get more stuff that no one takes the time to be thankful for.

The timing of holidays is overlapping so much anymore, I predict before long there will just be one generic holiday that is celebrated for a couple of months. The all-inclusive holiday will be called "Happy-Hallow-Merry-Thanking-Freedom".

I can envision a skinny man wearing a wild designed red, white and blue costume riding on the

back of a turkey with bats harnessed to pull him around as he distributes flags, candy, sparklers, Valentines and toys to all of the good boys and girls.

Anyway, that is just my take on what the holiday will eventually become.

So, while you can, enjoy Thanksgiving, family and friends while taking time to smell the turkey.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Cass City students are no strangers to participating in a variety of service projects in the community, and Christmas for Kids is no exception.

This year the local junior-senior high school is partnering with Christmas for Kids to provide some extra gifts for area families, including hundreds of youngsters, in time for Christmas. Sponsored by the Cass City Rotary Club for the past several years, the campaign's volunteers annually make the holidays brighter for area residents who are struggling financially by collecting, purchasing, bagging and distributing gifts/clothing.

Cass City School officials have been encouraging students to bring in board games, kits, family craft items — anything that brings a family together for an activity — along with other items to make the Christmas a merry one.

Students receive an "elf ticket" for each donation. The elf tickets, which are placed inside a bucket located outside the guidance office, will go into a drawing to win a gift card. The contest ends Friday, Dec. 6.

Area fire chiefs, including Elkland Township Fire Chief Glenn Guilds, annually make a request of area residents this time of year that could save lives and reduce property damage.

The request is a simple one: If you're able, please keep snow and ice cleared away from fire hydrants near your home and in your neighborhood in the coming weeks and months.

Seconds count in an emergency, and fire fighters can lose precious time if they have to search for hydrants.

The Saginaw Valley State University women's cross-country team earned a 19th place finish at the NCAA DII Cross Country National Championships. Meanwhile, the Cardinal men had two athletes, CarLee Stimpfel and Dayton Brown, who also competed and garnered All-American honors for finishing in the top-40.

The championships were held Saturday in Sacramento, Calif.

The SVSU men were led by CarLee Stimpfel, who finished 22nd overall and was closely followed by Dayton Brown, who placed 32nd overall. These top-40 finishes earned the Cardinal athletes All-American honors — Stimpfel's second of his career and Brown's first.

Stimpfel, a sophomore, finished 22nd overall with a final time of 30:19.0 for the 10k race. Following Stimpfel was sophomore Dayton Brown coming in with a time of 30:34.8 which was good for a 32nd place finish.

In case you are wondering, in the final week of the Chronicle's "Fabulous Four Fearless Forecasters" contest, defending champion Ray Maurer rallied to catch me as this year's top prognosticator. You can check out the results below.

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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Website: www.ccchronicle.net

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6550 MAIN STREET, CASS CITY, MICHIGAN, by Clarke Haire, publisher.

Periodical postage paid at Cass City, Michigan 48726.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CASS CITY CHRONICLE, P.O. BOX 115, CASS CITY, MI 48726.

National Advertising Representative, Michigan Weekly Newspapers, Inc., 257 Michigan Avenue, East Lansing, Michigan.

For information regarding newspaper advertising and commercial and job printing, telephone: (989) 872-2010.



(USPS 092-00)

Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

2019
Football
Season



Clarke Haire



Ray Maurer



Geoff Morgan



Doug Hyatt

Haire fades in final week to allow Maurer

a share of the 2019 gridiron title

LAST WEEK SEASON RESULTS	2-3 107-25 (81%)	4-1 107-25 (81%)	4-1 99-33 (75%)	3-2 93-39 (70%)
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CALENDAR EVENTS

**Deadline for submitting items in the calendar is the Friday noon before publication. Please send calendar items to:
Cass City Chronicle P.O. Box 115, Cass City MI 48726
Phone: (989)872-2010 Fax: (989)872-3810 chronicle@ccchronicle.net**

Wednesday, November 27

- Spoonfuls of Plenty Free Community Meal, 3:30-6 p.m., Humand Development Commission at 429 Montague Ave., Caro. Open to anyone wanting a hot, home-style meal.
- Cass City Chamber meeting, 8 a.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.
- Owen-Gage School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- Huron County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, Huron Behavioral Health, Bad Axe. For more information, contact Rhonda Quinn at (989) 269-9293.
- Sanilac County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, Sanilac County Medical Care Facility, Noon to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121.

Thursday, November 28

- 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, November 30

- Al-Anon meeting, 11 a.m., Cakima Serenity Home, Mayville. Call 989-912-5478 for more information.
- Grief/loss meetings, 9:45 a.m., Novesta Church of Christ.

Sunday, December 1

- Thumb Area Companions, 3 p.m., hosted by Dawn Woidan at Hills and Dales Boardroom 4675 Hill Street. Social support group that strived to benefit from social contact with others experiencing grief/loss.
- Hillside Community Brunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., All you can eat. Free will offering.

Monday, December 2

- Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Ubyly. 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.
- Novesta Township Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Shabbona Outreach Baby Pantry, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shabbona Outreach 5448 Shabbona Rd. Decker, MI. Gently used clothing and equipment, diapers, bottles, toys, formula, baby food. For more information contact Judy Doerr (989) 658-8625.

Tuesday, December 3

- Crafty Ladies Group, 1-4 p.m., Common Grounds (next to Revive). Bring a crafting project to work on. Call 989-551-7803 for more information.
- 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.

STANDING COMMUNITY CALENDAR ITEMS

First Saturday:
•Suicide Survivor Grief Support Group, 1 p.m., Thumb Area Psychological Services 6627 Rose St., Cass City. For more information Lisa Schoettle, MA LPC NCC at 989-872-1800.

First Sunday:
•Hillside Community Brunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., All you can eat. Free will offering.

First Monday:
•Novesta Township Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.
•Shabbona Outreach Baby Pantry, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shabbona Outreach 5448 Shabbona Rd. Decker, MI. Gently used clothing and equipment, diapers, bottles, toys, formula, baby food. For more information contact Judy Doerr (989) 658-8625.

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.
•Al-Anon meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis Parrish, Pigeon.

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 Monday:
•Shabbona Outreach Baby Pantry, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shabbona Outreach 5448 Shabbona Rd. Decker, MI. Gently used clothing and equipment, diapers, bottles, toys, formula, baby food. For more information contact Judy Doerr (989) 658-8625.

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
•Ubyly Lions Club meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Ubyly Thumb Veterans Organization Hall, 2165 Bingham St., Ubyly 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 Friday:
•Senior Citizen Movies, Rawson Memorial Library, Cass City at 1:30 p.m.

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.
•Families Against Narcotics, 6 p.m., Hills and Dales Corporate Services and Regional Education Center, 6667 Main St. Cass City. For more information, call (989) 551-4326.

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.

Last Wednesday:
•Cass City Chamber meeting, 8 a.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

Every Sunday:
•Thumb Area Companions, 3 p.m., hosted by Dawn Woidan at Hills and Dales Boardroom 4675 Hill Street. Social support group that strived to benefit from social contact with others experiencing grief/loss.

Every Monday:
•Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Ubyly. 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:
•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.
•Crafty Ladies Group, 1-4 p.m., Common Grounds (next to Revive). Bring a crafting project to work on. Call 989-551-7803 for more information.

Every Wednesday:
•Spoonfuls of Plenty Free Community Meal, 3:30-6 p.m., Humand Development Commission at 429 Montague Ave., 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.

Every Saturday
•Al-Anon meeting, 11 a.m., Cakima Serenity Home, Mayville. Call 989-912-5478 for more information.
•Grief/loss meetings, 9:45 a.m., Novesta Church of Christ.

Community foundation announces Founders Fund grant opportunities

Tuscola County Community Foundation (TCCF) officials last week announced they are offering a new program involving the awarding of "impact grants" to fund a wide variety of projects within Tuscola County.

"The project grant is limited up to \$500 until the funds available for the year are used up," said foundation Executive Director John Hunter.

"The Founders Fund Impact Grant is intended for innovative and/or start-up lead projects often associated with a new idea sprung from grassroot or smaller non-profit organizations," Hunter explained. "Repeat applicants will

be considered, although new project applications may receive preferential consideration."

Hunter noted the TCCF Board of Trustees established the Founders Fund in 1998.

"The objective was to create funds that would support projects that would enhance the life of Tuscola County residents," he explained, noting any undesignated funds received by the community foundation are deposited in the Founders Fund account.

"In the fall of 2019, the TCCF Board of Trustees voted to modify the granting application procedure of the Founders Fund and create community 'impact grants' to

non-profit organizations," Hunter said. "(The) grants will be \$500 each, and the application cycle is open throughout the entire calendar year, dependent upon funds being available to grant."

Applications are available by logging on to the website www.tuscolaccf.org, under the grant application drop-down tab.

Hunter noted the community foundation's grant committee will strive to make decisions on grant awards within 90 days of application submissions.

More information is available by contacting Hunter at (989) 673-8223, or via email at jhunter@tuscolaccf.org.

Thumb Ag Day on tap Dec. 11 in Ubyly

It's time to mark your calendars for the 2019 Thumb Ag Day. This year's event is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the Ubyly Heights Country Club in Ubyly.

The program will once again feature educational programming as well as a chance to visit with agribusinesses exhibiting at this year's event.

and attend educational programs, which are slated to get underway at 9:15 a.m.

This year's program includes: "Farm Bill Commodity Title - helping you make decisions" with Dr. Corey Clark, MSU Extension Farm Management Educator and Dr. Jim Hilker, Professor, Department of Ag, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, followed by a commodity market update, also with Dr. Hilker, and an ag review by

Thumb Field Crops Extension educators Bob Battel and Phil Kaatz.

Lunch is optional at \$8 per person. Admission otherwise is free. For more information, please call your local MSU Extension office in Tuscola County at (989) 672-3870, Huron County at (989) 269-9949 or Sanilac County at (810) 648-2515.

Thumb Ag Day is sponsored by MSU Extension and supported by area agricultural businesses.

Circuit court proceedings

Several appear on felony charges

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

*Eric V. Navarro, 37, Sandusky, was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail following his plea of no contest to writing a no-account check for \$345.17 June 23, 2017, in Mayville. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to jail time, he was placed on probation for six months and ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$608 plus restitution of \$345.17 to Wingerts.

*Jeffrey S. Bullard, 50, Warren, was sentenced to three days in jail following his plea of no contest to domestic violence, second offense, Jan. 11 in Akron Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to jail time, he was placed on probation for six months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$535.

*Terail D. Jones, 24, Redford, was sentenced to 365 days in jail, with worksite privileges, following his pleas of guilty to manufacturing/delivering prescription forms and attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud June 3 in Millington. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to jail time, he was placed on probation for 36 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$326.

*James E. Bearer, 65, Caro, was sentenced to 365 days in jail following his plea of no contest to carrying a dangerous weapon

with unlawful intent June 27 in Juniata 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 pay costs and fines totaling \$858.

Date: November 30, 2019
Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Support the 8th Grade D.C. Trip 2020

Cass City Students' Washington, D.C. Fundraising - 8th Grade

Please help this year's 8th grade raise money for their D.C. trip in June of 2020. You may leave bottles in bags on your step if you are not going to be home that day. Bottles may also be dropped off at the Junior/Senior School.

When: November 30th
Time: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Place: All Season Sales & Rent-All 4519 Nestle St. Cass City

For advance pick up or questions please call: L. Bailey Cass City Elementary School 989-872-2158 ext. 2402

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Trip planned June 2020

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Fresh homegrown Thanksgiving Turkeys for sale.
Taking orders now!

Come try out our Bakery!
We have **freshly baked items Every Friday and Saturday**, located just 2 miles from from town, down scenic Schweigler Road.

We carry a full selection of **breads, pies, rolls, cakes, cookies, bars, Assortedcaramel popcorn, candies & so much more!**

Located at Red Maple Market

Reporter's notebook

Thanksgiving: a little reality check

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



Like most people, every now and then I feel a bit burned out with my job or let myself get bogged down in the drama we all face in life from time to time. Or I just find myself in a funk and have no reason why.

I guess that's bound to happen, but it's the sort of thing that gets me down, sometimes to the point where I'm ready to throw my hands up and hibernate.

Until I take a little trip back to reality.

And the reality is, I have nothing to complain about.

I have a soul mate who has put up with me through nearly 38 years of marriage, for better or worse, who is always there for me and rarely fails to lovingly kick my butt when I need it. Most folks who know my wife, Deb — and me — will tell you she's a saint, not to mention a wonderful mom and grandma, and an outstanding nurse.

But that's just the beginning of a lengthy list of items on my thanksgiving list.

My belly is full and I'm not worried about where my next meal will come from, I'm reasonably healthy for my age and attitude, I have a home and dependable transportation, and I don't have bill collectors pounding on the door.

Oh, yeah, and I have a job and co-workers that I'm thankful for. More importantly, I have the skills that will (hopefully) enable me to remain employed as long as I want to be, regardless of what the future holds.

I have loving and supportive family members and friends that have proven time and time again that they really do care about me, in spite of the fact that I apparently lack the filter that keeps most folks from always blurting out what they're thinking, no matter how brutally honest or (on occasion) sarcastic.

I live in a community that, while diverse, never disappoints in demonstrating unyielding unity when it comes to taking care of its own, whether that involves raking a neighbor's yard or offering the elderly transportation so they can run errands, raising cash to help someone cover medical expenses as they wage the fight of their life against cancer, or distributing food to those who are struggling to make ends meet.

I've been sober for nearly eight years now, when I probably should be dead. That little item alone generally keeps my gratitude gauge on full.

What it all comes down to, I guess, is that a little frustration on the job (or wherever) pales in comparison to all of the people and blessings that make a life worth living, especially if you take the time to really focus on the people and things that matter.

Many of us forget about that all too often, instead letting a bunch of crap that won't mean a thing when we're dead and gone bog us down.

I'm reminded that the best way to get over self-pity is to try and give of yourself and your time to others, a practice that has an amazing tendency to shift attention away from self and remind you of just how grateful you should be.

With another Thanksgiving holiday approaching, I know I am, and I hope you're in a position to say you are, too.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2014)

The winners of the Cass City Elementary School fifth/sixth grade spelling bee are first place, James Lefler, second place, Alexis Bogart, third place, Lauren Peters: fourth place, Madi Beckrow: and 5th place, Vaughn Severance.

Schneeberger's congratulates Sayge Cuthrell as their choice for "Athlete of the Week" honors.

Cuthrell made her varsity basketball debut one to remember Friday in Memphis, helping the Lady Red Hawks claim a 47-37 Greater Thumb Conference crossover win. She scored a team-high 16 points that told only half of the story, according to Coach Clarke Haire.

"Sayge is a gifted kid. She has strong, quick hands, which make her a good defender and a good rebounder. She's the whole package, smart on the court, and I look forward to her contributions over the next 4 years."

Cuthrell is the daughter of Scott and Amy Cuthrell.

10 YEARS AGO (2009)

Emma, Mary and Sally Borowski, the grandchildren of Doug and Ardis Monroe, Gagetown, were among the volunteers pitching in during Cass City's Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Linda Derfny of Cass City was the lucky winner of the door prize recently awarded by Plain and Fancy Decorating, Cass City, in conjunction with the Cass City Holiday Open House. The prize was valued at \$50.

25 YEARS AGO (1994)

Amy Caroline Klco and Virgil Ivan Peters will be joined in marriage May 20, 1995. The bride, of Cedar Springs, is the daughter of Alan Klco of Cass City and Elaine Klco of Cedar Springs. She graduated from Cedar Springs High School and attended Central Michigan University. She is currently employed by Residential Treatment of Grand Rapid. Her fiancé, of Battle Creek; is the son of Dwaine and Helen Peters of Cass City. He graduated from Cass City High School and Central Michigan University and is Quality Manager at Triple S Plastics in Battle Creek.

Honored at the Owen-Gage fall sports banquet recently were: Jason Anthes - MVP golf, Joe Tkacz - MIP football, Angie Wildman - MVP basketball, Eric Dietzel - MIP golf, Wade Tetil - MVP football.

35 YEARS AGO (1984)

Mrs. Steve Bock, the former Kathy Guild, was guest of honor at a shower Monday evening, attended by women of Evangelical Free Church and held at the home of Mrs. Dwight Loeding. Co-hostess was Mrs. Eldred Kelley. Guests presented her Christmas tree ornaments to decorate their first Christmas tree.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Buerkle, Mr. and Mrs. Don Smith and Donnie dined at the Franklin Inn Friday night. It was in honor of Don's birthday.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Miles A. Thorp, a 1980 graduate of Owendale Gagetown High School, Owendale, has reported for duty aboard the guided missile cruiser USS Richmond K. Turner, homeported in Charleston, S.C. Thorp joined the Navy in June 1980.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Janowiak, Danny O'Connor, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Robinson, Tracy and Chris, and Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Robinson spent Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Robinson and family in Cass City for a family get together for Eddie Robinson of Fort Benning, Ga., who left Saturday after spending a week with Mr. and Mrs. Philip Robinson and family.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. David Matthews, Jr., of Bad Axe, a

seven-pound, 14-ounce son David James, Monday, Nov. 26, at Huron Memorial Hospital in Bad Axe. Grandmother is Jean Matthews. Grandfather is Dave Matthews, Sr., great-grandmother, Mrs. Alex Cleland, and great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Annie Pelton.

40 YEARS AGO (1979)

Bruno Zawilinski was guest of honor at a retirement party Saturday evening, Dec. 1, at the Cass City Gun Club. The party was hosted by his children. Dinner was at 7 o'clock, followed with dancing. Mr. Zawilinski has retired after being employed with the Sargent Construction Co. for years. Some 100 guests attended including family and friends and employees of the company.

Baptized in Sunday morning services at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was Roger Rockwell, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rockwell of Snover. Mr. and Mrs. James Dohn of Deford are the baby's sponsors.

Born Nov. 21 to Mr. and Mrs. Greg Hanselman (LuAnn Kolb) their second child in Hills and Dales General Hospital. The baby, Adam Allan, was born on the fifth birthday of his sister, Misty. The Hanselmans live at Snover.

Owen-Gage's Brad Erickson and Pete Klemkowsky have garnered various allstate football team honors following their team's 9-1 season that took it to the first round of the state playoffs.

Lloyd Schinnerer Coach of the Year. In his third year at the helm of the Cass City Red Hawks, Schinnerer guided his charges to their first Thumb B Conference championship in history. It was a battle all the way and the championship was not decided until the final conference game.

50 YEARS AGO (1969)

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Perry had as Thanksgiving guests, Miss Janet Perry of Grand Rapids and Mr. and Mrs. Neil Holt and children of Toledo, Ohio. The Hols returned home Saturday. Sunday Mrs. Perry accompanied Janet home to Grand Rapids to spend a few days there.

Mrs. Howard Loomis accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Paul Murray to Williamston Wednesday where they were Thanksgiving guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Murray and family. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Murray returned home Friday. Other guests for Thanksgiving in the A. J. Murray home were the Irvin Kritzmans of Kawkawlin. Mrs. Howard Loomis accompanied them home to Kawkawlin Thursday night and spent until Saturday there when the Kritzmans brought her home. They stayed overnight and joined relatives for a Thanksgiving dinner Sunday, in the Keith

Murphy home.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Guinther returned home Sunday from a week's trip to Colorado Springs, Colo., to visit their daughter and son-in-law, Sgt. and Mrs. Ronald Weippert. Accompanying them on the trip were another daughter and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Nieboer and daughters of Kalama-

zoo. Mr. and Mrs. Don Bullock and daughters of Walled Lake spent the holiday and week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Gross. Other Thanksgiving guests in the Gross home were Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kube and two children of Bad Axe.

75 YEARS AGO (1944)

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Dillman and children, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Striffler and Mrs. Sophia Striffler spent Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. Amos Weaver in Flint. Mr. and Mrs. Otto Nique of Decker and Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Smiley of Drayton Plains were also guests at the dinner.

First Lieutenant Walter Kloc, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Kloc, of Deford, has recently been presented the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in combat missions in the Southwest; Pacific theatre. Lieut. Kloc, bombardier officer in a squadron of Billy Mitchell medium bombers, attended Cass City high school and Central State Teachers college at Mt. Pleasant. He entered the army as a cadet in December, of 1941 and was commissioned as second lieutenant in July of 1942. He has been overseas since February of 1944.

Alden B. Freiburger, boatswain's mate, second class, U. S. N. R., has returned to the Navy's Armed Guard Center at New Orleans, La., after 12 months at sea as a member of the Navy gun crew aboard a supply-laden merchant ship. Frieburger, who enlisted in the Navy in February, 1942, now has credit for 26 months of sea duty. He has visited England, Egypt, Italy, North Africa and Cuba. He is a former student at Cass City high school and before entering the service was employed by the Kenney \ Creamery here. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy McGarry, live at Argyle.

100 YEARS AGO (1919)

Lawrence Keegan has leased a part of the west wing of the foundry on West St. and will move his blacksmith tools to the new location next week. This site will afford more room for Mr. Keegan's work and he can accommodate his many patrons to much better advantage.

A baby son named Leland Clark arrived Monday, Nov. 17, to make his home with Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hartwick.

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Monday-Friday 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday By appointment
Rest of year by appointment only.

Rotary club gearing up for toys campaign

Continued from page one.

General, Hills and Dales General Hospital, Thumb Bank and Trust, Independent Bank and Chemical Bank.

As always, the club also welcomes cash donations, which are used to purchase enough age-appropriate gifts for all ages – for both girls and boys, according to Emily Lasceski. It can be a challenge, she said, especially when it comes to ensuring there are suitable presents for teenagers.

Lasceski said it appears the number of families referred to the program is down a bit this year. “But it is a little early (to say),” she added. “We could potentially add families.”

The Christmas for Kids headquarters will again be located in the Hills and Dales Regional Education Center (former Baker College campus building) on Main Street in Cass City.

Lasceski said club members hope to have all of the donated gift items in their hands by Dec. 12, so they know what to purchase the following Monday to fill the gaps. This year’s distribution date has been scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 19, when participating families will be invited to pick up their gift packages between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Christmas for Kids headquarters.

While the Rotary Club membership tackles whatever jobs are needed to ensure the campaign is a success, the effort would not be complete without the generosity demonstrated year after year by individuals, businesses and various organizations in the community. For example, Rawson Memorial District Library officials annually collect dozens of books to donate.

Area residents interested in contributing to that effort are asked to drop off unwrapped books at the Cass City library by Wednesday, Dec. 11.

Financial donations for the Christmas for Kids campaign should be sent to the Cass City Rotary Club, 6468 Main St., Cass City, MI 48726. Make checks out to the Cass City Rotary Foundation.

More information is available by contacting Lasceski at (989) 385-3039 or Colleen Langenburg at (989) 872-4205.



MEMBERS OF the Cass City Rotary Club are gearing up for their 21st annual Christmas for Kids campaign, a project focused on collecting toys, clothing and books that will be distributed next month to families living in the Cass City area. Donation boxes are being placed at local businesses in town this week.

Owen-Gage’s Minkler closing out career spanning many years

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

When classes resume for the 2020-21 school year next fall, a key employee in the Owendale-Gagetown School District will not be on hand to greet students.

The Owen-Gage Board of Education recently accepted the resignation of Administrative Assistant Mary Ann Minkler “with regret.”

“I’m retiring. It’s been a very hard decision to make,” Minkler commented. “I am not going to retire until the end of this school year. And then I am going to enjoy my family.”

“I will miss the staff and students.”



Mary Ann Minkler

Minkler has been more than just an administrative assistant working in the office. She has been an integral part of the school’s operation and students’ lives as well.

“The best part of my job is working with the students. I have been in the PTO (parent teacher organization) for over twenty years, and we have put on so many fun

events,” she noted.

Student involvement went above and beyond the scope of her office duties, but Minkler indicated she has enjoyed the interaction.

“Seeing the students enjoying themselves was worth all the extra time and energy,” she added.

“Owen-Gage is a great district and has a lot to offer students. All my boys graduated from here and went on to college. They had a great education, thanks to all the staff here.”

Minkler’s last day with the district will be June 30, 2020.

“Mary Ann will be missed, as she has worked by my side in the district for a very long time. She was once a paraprofessional and worked with me in the math department for approximately eight years,” said Owen-Gage School Supt. Terri Falkenberg. “As a teacher, I always appreciated her enthusiasm and willingness to learn and help students.”

“Mary Ann’s loyalty is seen through all of the office tasks that she completes and in her confidentiality with issues that arise.”

Falkenberg and Minkler have worked side by side for nearly two decades. Falkenberg has been with the district for 20 years and Minkler, 19 years, so Falkenberg has seen first-hand Minkler’s hard work and contributions at Owen-Gage.

“She has always been dedicated to the students and the staff of the district. That has been seen through the many activities and events that she has been involved with,” Falkenberg said. “Mary Ann has run class meetings, concessions, games, Santa’s Workshop, PTO, the kitchen, book fairs, Easter egg hunts, and grandparents’ day, just to name a few.”

After working together for so long, it is going to be difficult to say good-bye, Falkenberg acknowledged.

“I secretly tried to get Mary Ann to stay on longer, but I know that her time with family is important,” she said, noting she realizes it was a tough decision for her co-worker to make. “But, I support her and am behind her one hundred percent.”



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News briefs

Donate a book at the library

CASS CITY – There’s still time to get in on Rawson Memorial District Library’s annual Christmas for Kids Book Drive. Through a partnership with the Cass City Rotary Club-sponsored campaign, the library accepts donations of unwrapped new books for children of all ages, which may be dropped off at the library by Wednesday, Dec. 11.

Library officials hope to continue a tradition of collecting more than 200 books to help make the holidays special for local kids. More information is available by calling (989) 872-2856.

Gagetown eyes leaf vacuum

GAGETOWN – Officials in the village of Gagetown are eying the purchase of a piece of equipment to help with fall cleanup chores. The village council is considering buying a leaf vacuum and has launched a search for a model costing under \$3,000.

Mark’s Magic Show on tap

CARO — The Caro Chamber of Commerce will host Mark Rosenthal’s Animal Magic Show Friday, Dec. 6, at the American Legion, 110 W. Frank St, Caro.

There will be shows at 6:30 and at 8 p.m. The event is free, but registration is requested due to limited seating in the hall. Registration can be completed by logging on to the Caro Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Paging upgrade in Tuscola

CARO — Tuscola County Central Dispatch will be upgrading its communication system. Tuscola County Central Dispatch Director Sandra Nielsen and the dispatch authority board recently determined that the current alpha-numeric paging system should be replaced with the Michigan Public Safety Communication System (MPSCS) Unication Paging System.

“Our current alpha-numeric paging system is 20 years old and has experienced numerous failures in the last couple of years,” Nielsen said. “The authority board also reviewed requests for quotes from approved dealers and is recommending using Digicom Global for this project.”

Tuscola County Commissioners approved Nielsen’s request to purchase a new paging system from Digicom Global.

“Central Dispatch has this budgeted in their capital outlay and has the appropriate funding in place, which will not require use of general funds,” she noted.

4-H camp counselor training

The 2020 Thumb Area 4-H Camp is scheduled will be held in June at Camp Cavell in Lexington, and teen counselors are needed.

Teens ages 15 to 19 years (as of Jan. 1, 2020) who are interested in becoming 4-H camp teen counselors must complete a 4-H camp teen counselor application and return it to the MSU Extension Office no later than Friday, Dec. 27, 2019.

Training sessions have been scheduled and are required in order to become a teen camp counselor. They include:

- *Sunday, Jan. 5 — Informational meeting at the Expo Center (170 W. Soper Road) in Bad Axe from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- *Saturday-Sunday, April 18-19 — 4-H camp teen counselor retreat at Camp Cavell.
- *Monday, June 15 — Final 4-H counselor training before Thumb Area 4-H Camp at Camp Cavell.

More information is available by contacting Patti Errer, Huron County 4-H program coordinator, at (989) 269-9949 (ext. 609) or via email at errapat@anr.msu.edu, or Kari A. VerEllen, Huron County 4-H administrative assistant, at (989) 269-9949 (ext. 604) or via email at verelle7@anr.msu.edu.

EDC awards grants in Thumb

THUMB — The Huron County Economic Development Commission (EDC) received funding as a “regranting agency” for Huron, Sanilac, St. Clair and Tuscola counties from Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

As a regranting agency, the EDC awarded funding to applicants registered as non-profit organizations, schools and municipalities located in those 4 counties.

Grant recipients included the Thumb Arts Guild for Art in the Park 2020 in Huron County (\$4,000); the Sandusky Art’s Council’s Lawn Chair Music Series, Sanilac County (\$3,000); and a 2020 concert series sponsored by the Bullard Sanford Memorial Library in Tuscola County (\$1,125).

Applicants can apply for up to \$4,000 for locally developed, high quality arts and cultural projects, which are special opportunities to address local arts and cultural needs and increase public access to arts and culture.

A second round of funding is open and the deadline to apply is Jan. 15.

More information is available by calling the Huron County EDC at (989) 269-6431.

Food drive set in Kingston

KINGSTON — The annual Kingston School District holiday food drive starts Monday, Dec. 2, and runs through Friday, Dec. 13.

All of the food collected will go to Kingston families who are in need, according to Kingston Community Schools Supt. Matt Drake, who noted the collection is for non-perishable food items.

The rooms where donated food items are being collected include: seventh grade teacher Amy Kotsch, eighth grade teacher Lynn Hable, ninth-grade teacher Gerhardt Schuette, tenth grade teacher Dan Wenzlaff, eleventh grade teacher Rebecca Carr, and twelfth grade teacher Marcia Schwarck.

The class that brings in the most donated food will win a donut party.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

Mother-daughter duo behind Clothing Palette in Cass City

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Just as necessity is the mother of invention, it was a mother’s intervention that helped her daughter with a situation and created a business.

Because Sue Copeland’s daughter had a difficult time finding clothes that fit her, the mother-daughter duo decided to start their own clothing boutique, The Clothing Palette, at 4455 Doerr Rd. in Cass City.

“My youngest daughter, Riley, had trouble buying clothing because she is very small,” Copeland said of what inspired her to open her clothing business in December 2018.

The Clothing Palette carries clothes in sizes extra small to size three large.

“We carry professional clothes and clothes that are trendy,” she said. “I buy from a variety of vendors.”

The store carries outerwear for females.

As for her background and expertise in operating a clothing store, Copeland points to her “many years of shopping experi-

ence.”

Because the business is operated by family members who volunteer their time, the shop is mostly open in the evenings and on Saturdays,

as they all have other jobs as well.

Helping Copeland at the The Clothing Palette are her children, Riley Copeland, Whitney Laurie and Mason Copeland.



THE CLOTHING PALETTE is owned by Sue Copeland, far right. Her children, from left, Whitney Laurie, Riley Copeland and Mason Copeland also work at the shop.

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Village Ordinance 137 prohibits parking on any Village street from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. during the winter months, from November 18 to March 31, for snow removal and emergency access. Violators of this ordinance will be cited.

Nanette Walsh
Village Clerk

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Scouting for food...

MEMBERS OF Cass City Cub Scout Pack 3594, Cass City, recently completed their annual Scouting for Food campaign, collecting a pickup truck full of food from local residents and donating the items to the Revive Ministries Food Pantry in Cass City. Participating scouts included (pictured above, from left) Roman Woodruff, Noah Ames, Colton Claerhout, Gunner Nicholas, Brenton Horton, Wyatt Chippi and Kroy Wutzke.

Michigan Sugar upgrades plant

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Although this year's sugarbeet harvest has been challenging to say the least, the Thumb region's sugar production received a boost in the form of new equipment at Michigan Sugar Company's Sebewaing factory.

The company installed a new 50-ton, \$279,000 gearbox that will now turn one of the seven pulp presses at the facility, located at 947 Pine St.

Once operational, the new gearbox, which was manufactured by Norway-based Stord International, will boost processing.

The Sebewaing factory is capable of producing about 1,200 tons of pulp per day when slicing 5,500 tons of beets per day.

"It (the gearbox) will allow the press to once again process 90 tons of pulp per hour, taking 80 percent moisture to 70 percent moisture," explained Michigan Sugar Company's Director of Communications and Community Relations Rob Clark. "From there, the pulp is either sold as pressed pulp or sent to the pulp drier where it is dried almost completely and then turned into pellets."

All of Michigan Sugar's pulp — both wet and dry — is sold as livestock feed or for pet food, and even used as feed for race horses.

In fact, American Pharoah, the 2015 Triple Crown winner, was fed beet pulp, Clark pointed out.

However, getting the new piece of equipment in place was no easy task. A Dobson Industrial crew used an enormous crane to lift the gearbox through openings in the roof of the factory and a floor inside, and an electrical crew from Conti Corp handled the installation, said Clark.

The purchase and installation of the new gearbox represents an investment of roughly \$500,000.

The Sebewaing factory was built in 1902. The factory processes about 925,000 tons of sugarbeets annually, with an average daily slice of 5,400 tons. It produces about 260 million pounds of sugar annually.

Aside from the factory in Sebewaing, Michigan Sugar Company, headquartered in Bay City, also has factories in Caro, Crosswell and Bay City along with a warehouse in Carrollton.

Quilt of Tears coming to area

Continued from page one.

the Agent Orange Quilt of Tears, that honors those who died from Agent Orange exposure. And the display is scheduled to make stops in the Thumb next spring.

The memorial is slated to be set up at Brown City High School April 15 and April 16, according to Gail Moore Lesoski of Caro, who became a widow at an early age after her husband, Jim, passed away as a result of Agent Orange exposure.

According to Lesoski, the Quilt of Tears receives the same respect as the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall.

"There will be an honorary motorcycle and vehicle run from Sandusky to Brown City High School via M-46, to M-53, to M-90, where the Quilt of Tears will already be on display," Lesoski said. "Henry Snyder, who is the guardian of the Quilt of Tears, will participate in the run."

Lineup for the honorary motorcycle and vehicle escort will begin at 4 p.m. at the Firebird Theater in Sandusky.

Also, on April 16, there will be a Vietnam veteran's pinning ceremony at Brown City High School at 6:30 p.m., and on April 18 from 5 to 8 p.m., there will be a Vietnam veterans appreciation dinner at the school. After that, the Quilt of Tears display will be transported to Lapeer, where it will be on display at the Lapeer American Legion Hall for several days.

Lesoski said the Quilt of Tears team and the Lapeer County Vietnam Commemorative Team are working to secure a location in Tuscola County for the quilt to be displayed as well. Lesoski has been working with the Tuscola County Veteran Affairs Director Mark Zimerski, who has been unable to find a local veterans group able to sponsor the Quilt of Tears' visit to Tuscola County.

"I am very saddened by that," Lesoski added. "It was very significant to see the

Quilt of Tears by those who visited the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall when it was in Caro in August of 2004."

Aside from Lesoski, Deb Robinson of Cass City has contributed a quilt block to the Quilt of Tears in honor of her husband, who died of Agent Orange-related health problems.

Everyone is invited to attend and participate in all of their events. More information will be available as the date for the quilt's arrival nears.

Quilt of Tears Founder never gave up fight

The original Quilt of Tears was started by Jennie Lefevre, who was among the first Agent Orange widows who helped fight the battle related to Agent Orange and its effects on Vietnam veterans like her husband, Gerald Lefevre.

It was a long and hard-fought battle to get recognition for those whose health had been adversely impacted, and to secure compensation for those who died as well as those who still suffer with illnesses related to exposure to the defoliating agent more than 50 years later.

Lefevre dedicated her life to helping those veterans. She was often asked at what point she would stop her work. Her reply was always the same: "Never! I'll never quit as long as I can help people heal."

And, she was true to her word, working with veterans and their families, and the quilt program until just four short weeks before her death in September 2004.

Even at that point, Lefevre wasn't quitting, because she wanted the project to go on; she knew Agent Orange had devastated too many lives and there was more work to be done.



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- 9 - 3:00 p.m.**.....Craft Show, Cass City High School
Entrance fee: \$1 or non-perishable food item for Revive
- 10 - 1:00 p.m.**...Gas Discounts at the Village Service Center
Sponsored by: **Cass City Missionary Church**
- 10 - 11 a.m.**.....Kids Christmas Craft, Rawson Library
Registration is required
- 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**..... Town-wide Chili Cook Off & Chili for Charity
Purchase ballots at the former Antique Mall
Sponsored by: **Knights Insurance Agency**
- 1:30 p.m.**.....Free Matinee at Cass Theatre "Old Yeller"
Sponsored by: **Thumb Bank & Trust**
- 5:30 p.m.**.....Free Hot Chocolate
In front of the Municipal Building
Sponsored by: **Thumb Bank & Trust**
- 6:00 p.m.**.....Lighted Parade and arrival of Santa Claus
Main Street starting at Parkway and ending at VFW Hall
- 6:30 p.m.**.....Community Gathering, VFW Hall
Children visit with Santa and receive a present, free carriage rides, cookies
Popcorn sponsored by: **Independent Bank**
Bean Soup sponsored by: **Thumb Insurance & Howard's Heating**
Reindeer Antlers sponsored by: **Frankenmuth Credit Union**
- 7:00 p.m.**.....Tom Thumb Singers
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Magical season ends for Cass City

by Clarke Haire
 Publisher

It was a weekend of mixed emotions for Cass City Coach Scott Cuthrell.

On Friday he was announced as a Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year recipient. On Saturday, his gridiron team's banner season ended with a Michigan High School Athletic Association semifinal playoff loss.

In Division 7 action, three-time defending state champion Jackson Lumen Christi advanced to the championship game at Ford Field with a 27-0 win. Nonetheless, Cass City's record setting season – it included the school's first district and regional titles, in addition to the Greater Thumb West crown and the most Red Hawk victories in a season, winning 11 straight games – won't be forgotten any time soon.

"I really don't think you can put something down on paper about this team, what they accomplished is history making, they all played with great effort and a will to win. It is truly amazing how the community rallied around these players making this season something very special," Cuthrell said.

After a scoreless opening quarter at Novi High School, Jackson Lumen Christi used a one yard drive by Johnny Teachout to take a 7-0 lead following Kevin Salazar's kick for point after. The game's opening score was setup by quarterback Brendan Wilson's pass to wide out Jack Kelley. The play covered 80 yards.

Despite being undersized compared to the Titans, Cass City's heralded defense kept their opponent's prolific running game in check most of the afternoon. Even so, Lumen Christi running back Walker Plate, who entered the contest with over 2,000 yards rushing and 31 TDs, was able to find pay dirt twice before the half to give his team a 20-0 cushion at the break.

Plate, who gained 126 yards on 19 carries, struck first on a 15-yard run with 3:13 showing on the clock and then broke loose for a

40-yard touchdown run with just 1:30 remaining in the opening half.

Cass City controlled most of the action in the third quarter. The Red Hawks received the kick to open the final half and promptly marched 50 yards into the Titan Red Zone. But without running an offensive play in the quarter following the intermission, Jackson Lumen Christi padded their margin in the period when Plate scored on an 82-yard interception to help give his team a 27-0 edge entering the final quarter.

Both teams went to the air in the final 12 minutes to advance the ball. After a sack by Cass City's Noah Zaleski helped to return the ball on downs, the Red Hawks moved into the Red Zone again, but once again a Titan interception, this one by linebacker Teachout, foiled the scoring opportunity and with just 1:32 left to play.

"I felt we gave them everything they could handle. We gave up two big plays early, which we found ourselves down for the first time this season. We made great strides after the half and they countered with a great defense. That was a very good football team that we played on Saturday and our kids played their hearts out," said Cuthrell.

The game was more evenly matched than the final score suggested. Both teams collected 11 first downs, and Cass City actually had more rushing yards – 149 to 126 – than Jackson Lumen Christi, although the Titans recorded 275 total yards compared to 207 total yards for Cass City.

Individually, Cass City had Hadyn Horne with 59 rushing yards leading the way, while Sandyn Cuthrell finished with 53 rushing yards, including an early 29 yard scamper to set up the team's initial first down. Also for the Red Hawks, Alex Perry chipped in 34 rushing yards and Jordan Mester contributed three yards on the ground.

In the air, Cuthrell, who played running back and quarterback on the year, completed five passes for

58 yards. His favorite targets were Perry and Mester, who each hauled in a pair of receptions.

Turning to the defense, Cass City had Zaleski with seven tackles

leading the way, while Ryan De-long added five stops and Cuthrell, Jeremy Velasquez and Collen Wrubel had four stop apiece.

Ending their Red Hawk football careers Saturday were Tristan Swiderski, Hunter Caister, Logan Boynton, Thom Rijshouwer, Cuthrell, Horne and Wrubel.



CASS CITY seniors Logan Boynton, left, and Collen Wrubel lead the Red Hawks onto the field Saturday at Novi High School, site of a MHSAA Division 7 semifinal contest.



HUGGING it out after their season ending loss are Cass City junior Alex Perry, left, and senior Hadyn Horne. The Red Hawks posted a school record 11 wins on the season that tells just a small portion of their accomplishments.

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NCTL Blue announces all-league football selections

by Clarke Haire
Publisher

Seven players from Kingston were honored as North Central Thumb League Blue all-league choices in 2019. Highlighting the Cardinal selections were first team senior picks Caleb Goss, Tristen Skinner and Jack Green.

Running back Goss and center Skinner were all-league dream team offensive players. Joining them on the make believe listing are Deckerville senior quarterback Isaac Keinath, Atherton running back JD Legardye, Deckerville sophomore wide receiver Ethan Bowerman, Mayville senior tight end Jeffrey Frost, Peck senior offensive lineman Ethan Sharrard, Deckerville senior offensive line-

man Travis Trigger, Mayville senior offensive lineman Hunter Brown, Deckerville's Keinath was also honored as the first team kicker.

Goss ran for 1,594 yards and added 77 yards receiving in his final season, scoring 19 touchdowns with the help of Skinner on the line.

"Caleb was dominant running the ball for us this year. A lot of his yards were after contact. Caleb displayed great patience and followed his blocks very well. We will surely miss him next season," said Kingston Coach Brandon Jones, adding, "Tristen was a two-year starter for us and was a great communicator on our offensive line. He was able to make adjustments at the line based on defen-

sive alignments. Tristen led the team in pancake blocks and is the best center we've had at Kingston in the past decade."

Turning to the North Central Thumb League Blue defensive first team, Kingston's Green was voted as a top lineman as were senior Caleb Potter – Peck and senior Travis Trigger – Deckerville. Rounding out the first team defense are linebackers junior Brandon Winarski – Peck, senior Hunter Brown – Mayville and senior Carlos Ibarra – Deckerville, while Mayville junior Austin Middleton and Deckerville's Keinath were chosen as defensive backs. Keinath was also the first team punter.

Green's numbers for the season included 54.5 tackles, seven TFL

and two interceptions – one returned for a TD.

"Jack was extremely versatile for us this year on defense. He played a lot of different positions, but his main spot was at defensive end. Jack is a very physical player and extremely smart. We could have him rushing the passer or covering receivers against spread teams. He will be greatly missed next year," Jones said.

Receiving second team all-league honors on offense were Kingston's Green (TE) and Jake DeLong (OL), Peck's Caleb Potter (RB), Deckerville's Carlos Ibarra

(RB), Mayville's Austin Middleton (QB), Steven Gilbert (WR) and Zakk Romanowski (OL) and Deckerville's Carson Benjey (C).

The second team all-league defensive players are Jake DeLong (DL) – Kingston, Tristen Skinner (DL) – Kingston, Aaron Koehler (DB) – Kingston, Quinn Boucard (DB) – Kingston, Caleb Goss (LB) – Kingston, Jeffrey Frost (DL) – Mayville, Delvin Galleck (DL) – North Huron, Billy Pettit (LB) – Mayville, Connor LaMont (LB) – Deckerville, Traiton Colesa (DB) – Deckerville, Chris Augle (P) – North Huron.

James, Kolacz are dream team players among NCTL Stars all-league picks

by Clarke Haire
Publisher

The 2019 North Central Thumb League Stars all-league volleyball players included a trio if Deckerville Eagles and two selections from both Kingston and Dryden.

Landing on the fantasy dream team from Kingston were junior Hannah James and senior Payton Kolacz. James' stats on the season included 340 assists, 210 service points, 36 aces, 21 kills and 27 digs, while Kolacz posted 157 kills, 130 service points, 28 aces, 27 blocks and 40 digs.

After posting a 21-1 record with league, district and regional titles last year, the Lady Cardinals finished the 2019 season with a 15-13 overall record and 6-4 mark in the NCTL Stars.

"Obviously, our season didn't end the way we had hoped. As a team, we had goals we did not reach, but I think we learned a lot as a team and as individuals along the way. After an historic run last season, we had to find our footing and work to find some team chemistry. We got our opponent's best effort night in and night out and some nights we did not bring the focus we needed to," said Kingston Coach Beth Hunter.

"As the season went on, we slowly started building momentum and finding some rhythm and consistency. In our final match of the regular season, we were able to find some success against NCTL leading Dryden and were able to win a set that night. It seemed to spark some confidence in the team that carried over into our district match up with them a week later. Only four teams in the state end their season with a win, the next best thing you can hope for is to play your best game and give your best effort knowing you left it all on the floor. My girls did that on their last game. We played our best match when it mattered most and peaked at the right time. It was a few points short, but I am so proud of the passion and energy they played with. The results on the court may not have met our preseason goals, but I am hoping the lessons the team learned about themselves helps bring about more success in all aspects of their life. I am confident we will use this season to build on going forward."

Rounding out the all-league first team choices were Dryden's Erin Boettcher and Madison Stofcheck and Deckerville's Addison Williams, Claire Watson and Ella

Watson.

Named to the North Central Thumb League Stars all-league second team were Kingston's Brooke Mooney and Anna Ahern, Dryden's Ella Kage and Becca Weiss, Peck's Emma Engler and MiLayna Winiarski and Genesee's Preslie Riggs.

Senior Mooney had 108 kills, 20 digs and 15 aces for the Cardinals, while senior teammate Ahern chipped in 73 kills, 82 service points, 23 aces, 44 digs and 12 blocks during the 2019 campaign.

Voted as honorable mention all-league players in the North Central Thumb League Stars were Ella Retan – Kingston, Kaylyn Kappen and Karly Kappen – Deckerville, Erin Paton and Abby Hurd – Dryden, Kristen Croak – Genesee, Julia Smith – Mayville, Jordan Lodge and Sam Bissett – Peck.

Retan's junior season stats boasted 77 kills, 234/254 serving (92 percent), 156 service points, 31 aces and 19 digs.

OPENING NIGHT success. Christian Lee Ladnier, Cass City 12-year-old, took this 7-point buck in Sanilac County using a 20-gauge shotgun.



GENE Hurburt, 21, downed this nice 10-pointer while hunting in Sanilac County. The Cass City resident used a 20-gauge shotgun to harvest his trophy.

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USDA okays ag disaster declaration

Continued from page one.
ment (MDARD). “These extraordinary weather conditions had a devastating impact on our farming and agricultural community. I appreciate the continued support of USDA, our federal delegation and the governor for Michigan farm families.”

The 43 primary counties included in the Secretarial Disaster Designation have been designated as such due to losses caused by excessive rain, flooding, flash flooding, and abnormally cold temperatures that occurred from March 1, 2019 through fall harvest.

Counties receiving the designation last week were: Alger, Antrim, Benzie, Berrien, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clinton, Delta, Dickinson, Eaton, Emmet, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Iron, Kalkaska, Lapeer, Leelanau, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Manistee, Marquette, Mason, Menominee, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Oceana, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Sanilac, School-

craft, Shiawassee, Washtenaw and Wayne.

USDA officials said a decision to designate Arenac, Barry, Bay, Branch, Clare, Gladwin, Ionia, Lake, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Tuscola, Van Buren and Wexford counties as primary disaster areas has been deferred until the department can make a complete and accurate determination of production losses.

“This growing season has been historically difficult for Michigan’s agriculture industry. The governor understands this and has worked hard to coordinate efforts to support Michigan farmers,” said Jim Byrum, president of the Michigan Agri-Business Association. “Her leadership and close coordination with the USDA secured this important designation for the state. While it won’t fix all the damage done, it’s an important step in the recovery process for Michigan agriculture.”

“This year is a humble reminder that despite the best-made plans, the weather often dictates our realities, which is frustrating because it’s simply beyond our control,” said president of Michi-

gan Farm Bureau, Carl Bednarski. “We have been blessed, however, in a number of respects, with state and federal agencies as well as elected officials who have been exceptionally responsive to the needs of production agriculture due to weather-imposed emergencies,” Bednarski added. “The many relief efforts, including the disaster declarations pursued by Gov. Whitmer, demonstrate what can be accomplished when those elected or hired to serve constituents focus on meeting the needs of their constituents.”

The Secretarial Disaster Designation makes farm operators eligible to be considered for certain types of assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), including emergency loans and the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+). Producers should contact their local FSA office for additional information.

In June, Whitmer sent a letter to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue to request a statewide disaster designation. The request was followed by a bipartisan letter of support from Michigan’s Congressional delegation.

Medical marijuana operation delayed

Continued from page one.
to make way for the new venture. “That has been done, and now we will be applying to the building codes department for construction permits for the inside by the end of the week,” Ploss said.

Millennium officials are in the process of developing a Class C medical marijuana growing operation in a 25,000-square foot area in the back of the factory. As a Class C operation, the company can grow, cultivate and cure up to 1,500 medical marijuana plants.

Ploss and Millennium Industries owner Gary Vollmar had to do a lot of research and decision-making on what growing equipment would work the best, the best design for the grow operation, the specifications for it, and permitting.

“There was a lot that had to be done first before we could start,” Ploss explained. “With all of that, we’re hoping to be operational now by May 2020.”

Millennium officials pitched the same proposal to the village council and held informational meetings on the plan last year, but the request was voted down on a 4-3 vote of the council. However, since then, the dynamics on the village council changed. Two of the council members who voted against the proposal are no longer serving, so when the request to development a growing operation was proposed again, it was approved.

The village council’s approval allowing the company to diversify its operation by growing medical marijuana has helped the company’s main business, with electrical, heating and cooling

upgrades, a new roof and other improvements upgrading the manufacturing side of the business as well.

Millennium Industries designs, develops, manufactures, and distributes automotive fuel systems and engine components, but company officials have been looking for ways to diversify, and developing a medical marijuana facility will do that.

Getting ready for the new business has been a costly proposition.

According to Ploss, the investment, including renovations, is expected to exceed \$2 million.

Ploss and Vollmar vowed the marijuana growing operation will be housed in a secure state-of-the-art facility with H/Vac to control any odor, have 24/7 security with camera monitoring and utilize a hydroponic growing system, with the marijuana transported to an independent licensed provisioning center by an independent licensed transporter. They have repeatedly told village officials that they are not planning to engage in direct retail sales.

When Millennium Industries’ medical marijuana facility is operational, it is expected to generate roughly \$40,000 in property taxes and employ about 35 people.

The marijuana industry is the fastest growing industry in the U.S. The industry is projected to reach \$22 billion by 2022 with 340,000 full time jobs, and the state of Michigan projects \$700 million in medical cannabis revenue annually.

And, those numbers were estimated before Michigan voters approved legalization of recreational marijuana.

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12/15 - 11:00 am Week 3 (Joy)

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www.casscityumc.org office@casscityumc.org

Hartel rated "highly effective"

Continued from page one.

ganized in conjunction with the Cass City Freedom Festival next summer.

The event — still in the planning stages — is slated for Friday, July 3, and will focus on inviting Cass City Schools alumni as well as members of the community who are interested in supporting the local promise program, Hartzell said, adding VFW Post 3644 has already offered to donate use of the VFW hall. Preliminary plans call for a catered dinner, entertainment, door prizes, etc.

The newly-formed Cass City PROMISE Team unveiled its preliminary plan and a campaign last month to establish and build a college/trade school savings account for every Cass City student.

The team's mission is two-fold; first to promote a community-wide culture in which local students and their families focus on, prepare and save for post-secondary (high school) education — whether that involves a college degree, certificate or specialized career training — and secondly to provide some financial support for every student.

In the process, they said, the Cass City PROMISE program will improve more opportunities for students, increase local enrollment, and enhance economic growth and development in the community by attracting business and increasing the number of

well-training workers.

In a nutshell, the Cass City PROMISE program will incorporate two funding mechanisms, with the first being a savings account called the Red Hawk Nest Egg.

"We're aiming for a \$50 donation (for each student) initially. It's a little under \$4,000 per grade, or \$50,000," Cass City PROMISE Team members Geraldine Prieskorn explained last month. The planning team has already received some commitments in its effort to raise that \$50,000, including a \$10,000 contribution shortly after the program was announced. Team members will also be launching a campaign aimed at local service clubs and other organizations and businesses in hopes that groups will commit to sponsoring individual grades for one or more years.

The second component of the Cass City PROMISE is a scholarship fund to be shared by all Cass City graduates. Named the Red Hawk Flight program, details of the scholarship component will be ironed out in the future as the fund is established and grows to the point of awarding grants, but team members say they have high hopes the fund will eventually provide local graduates with sizeable scholarships.

In other business

In other business Monday, the

board:

*Approved spending \$40,000 from bond funds for construction of four new dugouts at the baseball and softball fields. Cass City's Jim Baker, who was on hand to explain the project, noted demolition work can begin this week, with the dugouts ready for use by spring.

*Heard from Chief Financial Officer Allison Zimba, who updated the board on this year's school funding status and how it will impact finances.

Zimba noted a clause in the teachers' latest contract offers a half-step pay increase if the district's enrollment loss is under 1.25 percent, and that's what happened this year. The combined cost will be roughly \$32,000, she said.

Cass City's updated blended enrollment is 981 students, and the district will be receiving a state funding increase of \$240 to a total of \$8,111 per student. At the same time, Zimba explained, the state is taking away \$63,000 in categorical funding, but that will still leave Cass City Schools with \$180,000 more than anticipated when the board adopted the current budget last June.

*Approved a first reading of a new academic eligibility policy submitted by new Athletic Director Lindsay Bitzer.

In a nutshell, Bitzer explained, the new policy would replace the current semester-to-date format with a marking period-to-date format in which students' grades will be checked each week.

"Cass City is the only school in the GTW (Conference) that uses a semester-to-date eligibility... (which) enables some students to 'coast' during a second marking period should they have performed well in the first, while it also discourages those that might have failed the first marking period from every becoming eligible in their current marking period," Bitzer explained. She said the new policy could serve as a motivating factor for students who struggle academically, without compromising the district's academic standards for all student athletes.

Under the new format, she said, "grades will be checked on Monday, as opposed to Friday at noon, in an effort for students to have the entire week to turn in work, and the weekend for teachers to get their gradebooks up to date."

*Heard a report from Guidance Director Christin Hempton, who provided the board with updates regarding online programs Cass City students are utilizing to better prepare for the future by exploring career options, investigating colleges/universities that fit into their goals, and by applying for scholarships.

Obituaries

Wilbur Palmer

Wilbur Glenn Palmer, 85, of Cass City, died following a brief illness Wednesday, November 20, 2019 in Medilodge of Cass City.

He was born October 30, 1934 in Ithaca, the first of five sons born to Glenn and Doris (Sailor) Palmer.

He married Betty Jean Auvil August 26, 1995 in the Methodist Church in Gagetown. They were married for 24 years.

Wilbur graduated from Ithaca High School. He served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army while stationed in Germany. Wilbur worked as a manager for Farmer's Petroleum in Sandusky. He later worked for Gemini Plastics, Inc. of Ubyly until retiring. Wilbur was skilled at woodworking and made many birdhouses and country style tables. He loved to spend time bird watching.

Wilbur is survived by his children: Michael (Melinda) Palmer of Thornville, OH, Michelle (Jeff) Hanby of Cass City, Rhonda (Scott) Gallier of Lake Zurich, IL and Betty Palmer of Caro; step-children: Bryan (Sue) Toner of Cass City, Brett Toner of Burlington, Ontario and Brandon (Angela) Toner of Ubyly; twelve grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; brothers: Lee (Beth) Palmer of Ithaca, Daniel (Eileen) Palmer of Ithaca and Sam (Joyce) Palmer of Ithaca.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Victor Palmer and grandson, Caleb Hanby.

Visitation will be held 10 to 11 a.m. with a memorial service to follow at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 13, in Cass City Missionary Church with Pastor Phil Burkett officiating.

Memorials may be made to Kranz Funeral Home for the benefit of the family.

Family and friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



No tax, service fees hikes

Continued from page one.

equipment, street work and motor vehicles, and will be reviewed by the council for final approval as the items come up.

"In order to fund the capital improvement plan, we are using fund balances, and 'transfers in' designated in the revenue line items," Powell noted.

She explained the village has eight operating funds that comprise the village's operating budget. Those funds are: general operating fund, major streets, local streets, economic development corporation, downtown development authority, water, wastewater, and motor vehicle and equipment.

The proposed fiscal plan outlines expenses for 2020 to 2025 in a capital improvement plan, which includes a fee schedule and wage charts.

During the meeting, the council discussed equipment for leaf collection because of the problems with current equipment.

"Some new leaf collection equipment is being looked at and is included in the budget, but (just) because we have things budgeted doesn't mean the money will be spent," she said. "If things change and the money is not spent, it goes back into the fund balance."

Among the highlights in next year's budget are: \$526,000 for chip and fog seal coating on Ale, Church, Doerr and Houghton streets; mill and overlay on Beachwood Street; and repairs to segments of Schell Drive in the industrial park.

Some sidewalk work is also included in the capital improvements.

"The village plans to install contiguous sidewalk on M-81 for pedestrian traffic before and past McDonalds restaurant towards the Family Dollar store," Powell said.

The budget for the water fund is \$618,000, which will cover expenses such as three fire hydrants, repairs to the number three well house, a standby generator and a water-rate study.

Next year's budget also includes a five-year capital improvement plan.

Over five years, the plan calls for spending \$190,000 for proposed upgrades at the park and Helen Stevens Memorial Pool. The plan is to spend \$20,000 on playground equipment as well as handicap chair/access to the pool, and the following year spending \$60,000 on campground facilities. The plan for the following years calls for spending \$35,000 for park-wide equipment upgrades and improvements to the day-camp building.

In addition, work to upgrade the municipal building will continue, with \$25,000 earmarked next year for improvements to the building's interior, renovations, carpeting and making the front door handicap accessible. Roughly \$52,000 is budgeted for exterior work, a generator, parking lot work, and updating the kitchen over the next couple of years.

The new budget proposes a wage increase of 1.5 percent for non-union full-time and part-time employees.

"As far as utilities go, there is no proposed increase in either the water or sewer rates," Powell said.

The new budget is expected to be adopted during the council's regular December meeting, Monday, Dec. 16, starting at 7 p.m. during the Dec. 16 meeting. The session, which has been rescheduled due to the Christmas holiday, will begin with a public hearing on the budget.

In a related matter, the council will set the millage rates to support the budget: general operating millage at 12.4625, street millage at 4.9162, land fill maintenance at 0.800, and promotion at 0.6800 mills for a total operating millage of 18.1387 mills. The millage rates are the same as last year.

"The major sources of revenue for all funds are property taxes, state-shared revenues, user fees, utilities, and state, federal and local grants," Powell noted.

Also, Powell recognized the time and effort of staff members who helped with the budget: Clerk - Treasurer Nanette Walsh, Public Works Supervisor Dennis McCabe, Police Chief Craig Haynes, office assistant Robin Wallace, and the budget committee.

State law requires the new budget to be in place before the end of the year.

In other business, officials noted the municipal building will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 for Christmas, and on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for New Year's.

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All of the letters will be published in December - most of them in our annual Christmas edition, Wednesday, Dec. 18.

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Worship Service 10:50 a.m.

Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m.

Pastor: Phil Burkett • www.casscitymc.org



Associate Pastor: Joel Schwendinger

Cass City United Methodist Church

872-3422 - 5100 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726

www.casscityumc.org

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: Bob Demyanovich

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.

• Afternoon Service 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Pray/Bible Study & Youth Group 6:00 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Nathan Whipple

Deford Community Church

1392 N. Kingston Rd. • 872-4055

(1/4 mile south of Deford on Kingston Rd.)

Sundays - 10 a.m. • Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

Pastor: David Cooper • Assoc. Pastor: Ross Foley

DefordCommunityChurch.org

Evangelical Free Church of Cass City

6430 Chestnut Blvd., Cass City, MI 48726

• 872-5060

• Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

• Worship at 10:30 a.m.

• Midweek Bible Studies

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6420 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 989-872-3155

Sunday School All Ages 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

AWANA Clubs 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday - Kids4Truth Clubs & Teen Club

6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Pastor: Christian Wright

Website: www.fbccc.us



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Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Steve Bagnall

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Sunday Service: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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

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Student Minister: Don Mecomber

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Saturday 5:00 p.m. Apr. 1 - Oct. 31

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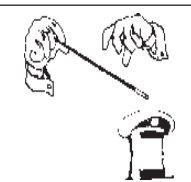
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Cass City robotics students shine at Ubyly competition



THE CASS City Robohawks teams recently enjoyed a very successful robotics tournament in Ubyly, where the Senior Robohawks Black Team of (above, from left) Andrew Venema, Evan Roggenbuck, Logan Severance and Imogen Sanders were named tournament champions, and the junior high team of Braden Murdoch and Justin MacAlpine won the Middle School Excellence Award. Both teams are now qualified for the state championships in February.



CASS CITY robotics students (from left) Justin McAlpine, Braden Murdoch, Billy Steely, Kian Hoppe and Carson Moody discuss strategy.

State remembers veteran statesman Bob Traxler

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Flags across Michigan were recently lowered in honor of a veteran statesman who passed away.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered U.S. and Michigan flags at the capitol and on all public buildings and grounds to be lowered in memory of the life and service of former Congressman Bob Traxler.

Traxler died Oct. 30 at age 88. Funeral services with military honors took place last Wednesday at Trinity Episcopal Church, Bay City. His ashes will be buried in the Mackinac Island Public Cemetery.

Traxler began his career in public service as a member of the U.S. Army. Later, he served as an assistant prosecutor in Bay County before being elected to the Michigan House of Representatives.

Although he accomplished much during his illustrious career, most remember him for key accomplishments, including securing help for flooded farms and for pollution-plagued cities.

One key accomplishment earned him the nickname "Bingo Bob." The name was a carry-over from his days as a state legislator when he her-

Traxler, a Democrat, served in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1962 through 1974 and was a majority leader in the House in 1965-66. He was elected to Congress in April 1974 and served until his retirement Jan. 3, 1993.

alded church-bingo legalization bills, which helped to boost church coffers.

Traxler was a caring, down-home person who tried his best to represent his constituents, according to veteran politician Jim Barcia of Bay City, who was a friend of the veteran lawmaker.

Those traits carried Traxler far in his political career. During the last five elections, he received about 72 percent of the votes that were cast.

Traxler, a Democrat, served in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1962 through 1974 and was a majority leader in the House in 1965-66. He was elected to Congress in April 1974 and served until his retirement Jan. 3, 1993.

"Congressman Traxler embodied everything that it means to be a Michigander. He loved his family, his constituents, and the state that he served," Whitmer said. "Bob was an effective leader because he worked tirelessly to deliver results even when nobody was paying attention. Our state is stronger due to his service, and he will be dearly missed."



CASS CITY'S Evan Roggenbuck (from left) Logan Severance and Andrew Venema keep a close eye on the action during the Ubyly robotics tournament.

Caro's Gingerbread fest kicks off Dec. 4

This year's Gingerbread Village celebration in Caro will take place Wednesday, Dec. 4, through Saturday, Dec. 7.

Among the events planned for the annual celebration are a Taste of Caro, a tree lighting, Santa's arrival on a fire truck, carolers, free giveaways from local businesses, gingerbread house competition, free carriage rides, a visit with Santa, a free breakfast with Santa, stories and children's crafts.

The celebration offers fun for the whole family.

The Taste of Caro will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4.

On Friday, Dec. 6, Santa arrives on a fire truck along with carolers and a marching band at 6 p.m., and from 6 to 7:30 p.m. some local businesses will be hosting giveaways.

And, Mark's Animal Magic Show will be Friday, Dec. 6, at the American Legion, 110 W. Frank St, Caro. There will be shows at 6:30 and at 8 p.m. The event is free, but registration is requested (on the Caro Chamber of Commerce Facebook page) due to

limited seating.

There will also be free carriage rides from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to noon, there will be a free breakfast with Santa sponsored by McDonald's.

At noon the gingerbread and business decorating contest winners will be announced, and at 1 p.m. the Strand Theatre will be offering a free matinee. In addition, "candy cane" bowling is slated for 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Brentwood for a fee.

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