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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 113, NUMBER 42 CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019 .75 CENTS - 16 PAGES+



CASS CITY ROTARY Club members gathered at the Hills and Dales Regional Education Center (former Baker College campus building) last week in preparation for the finale – distribution – of this year's Christmas for Kids campaign, which collected and distributed gifts to 75 area families (190 children in all). Pictured above are (from left) Carolyn Sorenson, Ruth Steele, Alice Zaleski, Amy Peters, Rachel Estelle, Rotary exchange student Wanasaphan "Aum" Sanworanart, Aleksandra Karr, Kevven Dorland, Brenda Berry, Craig Bellew, Colleen Langenburg, Debbie Powell and Allison Zimba. Missing is Emily Lasceski, who along with Langenburg coordinated the holiday gift drive. (Photo courtesy of the Cass City Rotary Club)

Suspect in homicide denied bond; probe into attack continues

by Tom Montgomery Editor

An Ellington Township man charged with fatally stabbing the mother of his 11-month-old daughter earlier this month has a history of domestic violence, according to court records.

The suspect, 37-year-old Larry E. Lyons, was formally arraigned in Tuscola County District Court last Wednesday morning on several felony charges, including open murder in the death of Brandy Marie Dickson, 36.

Prosecutors, who say the victim was clutching the couple's daughter as Lyons allegedly attacked her with a knife inside his residence, is also charged with assault with intent to murder the baby, who suffered cuts to the top of her head, a stab wound to the side of her head, a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain during the Dec. 15 assault.

Lyons also faces charges of child abuse, second degree; domestic violence, third offense; carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent; and child abuse, third degree.

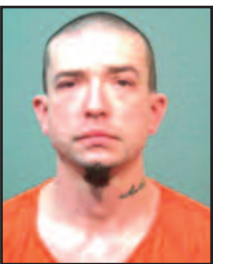
The most serious of the charges is open murder, which is punishable by life in prison. Assault with intent to murder carries a maximum penalty of life in prison or any term of years.

Lyons was denied bond during

his arraignment. He remains lodged in the Tuscola County Jail pending his next court appearance.

The horrific attack was reported at Lyons' residence at 2900 Gerou Rd. at about 7:15 p.m., according to Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent, who noted Lyons was taken into custody the same day.

Skrent said Dickson had suffered life-threatening injuries and was transported by MMR ambulance for emergency treatment to a local medical facility, where she died. "(The) 11-month-old child was also treated for injuries and was transported for emergency treatment to a local hospital."



Larry E. Lyons

An autopsy was performed Dec. 16 and confirmed Dickson's cause of death to be multiple stab wounds. Investigators indicated they believe they have the murder weapon — a knife seized at the crime scene near the victim, who was found outside the residence.

Few details were being released, but Skrent said the victim and suspect were in a domestic relationship. Please turn to page 6.

Year in review

2019: the best of times, the worst of times

by Tom Montgomery Editor

Selecting a handful of significant news stories out of an entire year is never easy, largely because it's a subjective task. Still, certain news events — whether they involved a single story or a series of articles — are noteworthy in terms of how they helped to shape our community.

Of course, as is true every year, the only constant in 2019 was change.

For some, the year will be remembered with sadness by those who have lost loved ones, while 2019 may have marked a new and wonderful beginning for others.

However, we all share in a general sense of community, weathering various events together as friends and neighbors, celebrating and mourning, debating, lending a hand to those in need, and working together to maintain a way of life we've come to know and appreciate.

As a community newspaper, the Chronicle strives to report on news and features — both locally and regionally — that impact area residents. It's a job we take seriously, just as previous owners and staffers have over the past 113-plus years.

It's a mission we hope to continue well into the future.

Before turning to the first chapter of 2020, however, we invite you to join us in taking a brief look back at a few of the events and issues that touched our community — for better and worse — over the past 12 months.

HORRIFIC HOLIDAY

The year ended on an horrific note, with law enforcement agencies called to respond to a vicious domestic assault/homicide in

which an Ellington Township man stands accused of stabbing the mother of his child multiple times. The victim, Brandy Marie Dickson, 36, died from her wounds.

The suspect, 37-year-old Larry E. Lyons, was charged with open murder in the case as well as a number of other felony counts, including assault with intent to murder his 11-month-old daughter.

Prosecutors said the victim was clutching the couple's daughter as Lyons allegedly attacked her with a knife inside his residence. The baby suffered cuts to the top of her head, a stab wound to the side of her head, a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain during the

Dec. 15 assault.

The assault was reported during the evening hours of Dec. 15 at Lyons' residence at 2900 Gerou Road. The couple had previously lived together, but not at the time of the attack, according to reports, which noted the defendant's criminal record includes previous convictions on domestic violence charges.

The case remained under investigation as 2019 was coming to a close, but it's certain it will remain in the headlines well into 2020 as a stunned community tries to come to grips with this violent death.

Please turn to page 7.

Bingham Ambulance future not so bleak?

by Mary Drier For the Chronicle

Although there are several details yet to be worked out, a possible lifeline has been offered to the Bingham Ambulance Service.

The Bingham Township Board met with Central Huron Ambulance officials last week to review a preliminary proposal designed

to keep the local ambulance service up and running in the community.

"We are negotiating with them right now, trying to possibly do a merger where Central Huron Ambulance (CHA) could basically take...over, but everything still has to go through our board," said CHA Executive Director Linda Shisler.

"There are a lot of technicalities involved, so the meeting was basically just a conversation about the process."

CHA was established in 1983

Please turn to page 16.

Gifts await first 2020 newborn

The arrival of 2020 will have special meaning to couples that are also expecting their own little arrivals, but just when the first baby of the new year will be born is anyone's guess.

Will the first birth take place just minutes or hours after the bells start ringing after midnight, Jan. 1, or will several days or even weeks pass before the blessed event?

Regardless, the first baby of the new year born and reported to the Chronicle by a Cass City area family will be showered with gifts and well wishes from local merchants, a tradition that has continued for many years in the community.

The only question mark each year is timing.

In 2016 Clinton and Taryn Ellis of Cass City welcomed their newborn daughter, Cambrey Jane Ellis, Monday, Jan. 6.

In 2018 Kati and Doug Ball welcomed their newborn daughter Blair Laura, on Thursday, Jan. 4.

Last year Reagan Thick and Kyle Becker of Kingston welcomed Brooklyn Storm Becker on

Thursday, Jan. 10.

As was true last year, the coming year's proud parents will receive a floral bouquet from Flowers by Grace, \$60 gift certificate from Captured by Christine for the newborn's first photo.

Local restaurants are offering an assortment of meals for mom and dad too! Including Cass City McDonald's who will treat the new parents to dinner, and a \$15 gift certificate from Nick's Country Oven

In addition, Thumb Bank and Trust offer their best wishes by opening a \$10 savings account for the new arrival.

Coachlight Pharmacy will be showering the little one with a gift basket.

But that's not all; Curtis Garber and Cass City Oil & Gas have both chipped in a free oil change.

Finally, the family can read about their new arrival and other local news all year long with a free, one-year subscription to the Cass City Chronicle.

We eagerly wait to hear about our newest community member.



Cass City Schools name "students of the month"



Kindergarten Student of the Month is Emma Kappen

Nominated by: Mrs. Gruber

Characteristics she displays: Emma is such a positive student! She is very respectful and is always helpful. Emma cooperates well with others and is a good friend. She always strives to do her best.

Some of her favorite things: Playing peek-a-boo with her brother, Wesley; reading with her friend, Kinslee and going to the water park with her family.



1st Grade Student of the Month is Brayden Konczal

Nominated by: Mrs. Schefka

Characteristics he displays: Brayden is an amazing student! He is consistently attentive to class work and is interested in learning. He is trustworthy and kind to others.

Some of his favorite things: Eating pizza & Hersey bars, riding the four-wheeler and playing nerf wars with his Dad.



2nd Grade Student of the Month is Gina Garwold

Nominated by: Mrs. Baur

Characteristics she displays: Gina is an outstanding student! She is very respectful and responsible. She puts forth great effort to be the best student she can be!

Some of her favorite things: Playing with her dog, Onyx, spending time with family and playing games with family.



3rd Grade Student of the Month is Tinley Mahoney

Nominated by: Mrs. Stec

Characteristics she displays: Tinley is a great student who displays all of the SOAR characteristics. She follows the classroom rules, is responsible about getting her work finished, and is respectful to teachers, staff and classmates. I enjoy having her in our class this year!!

Some of her favorite things: Sloppy Joes and gymnastics.



4th Grade Student of the Month is Chevy Brinkman

Nominated by: 4th Grade Teachers

Characteristics he displays: Chevy is one smart cookie! Chevy is a hard worker and he loves to read. He has great conversations during class discussion, is polite, kind and on task. We love how responsible he is and we are very proud of Chevy!

Some of his favorite things: Cars, watching YouTube, and riding his bike.



5th Grade Student of the Month is Alyssa Eremia

Nominated by: Fifth Grade Teachers

Characteristics she displays: Alyssa regularly displays the characteristics of SOAR. In addition, she is conscientious, cooperative and pleasant. She always wears a smile and brings a positive attitude to our school. Alyssa is always willing to help others!

Some of her favorite things: The color orange, Hungry Howies pizza, football and science.



6th Grade Student of the Month is Sawyer Ross

Nominated by: 6th Grade Team

Characteristics he displays: Sawyer is quiet, but has a smile for everyone. He shows a great deal of respect and responsibility. He works well independently or in groups.

Some of his favorite things: His mom's tacos, soccer, swimming and card tricks.



8th Grade Student of the Month is Josh Bergman

Joshua Bergman is a wonderful, responsible young man whom I have had the privilege of knowing for about a year and a half. He is very courteous and respectful in his actions. In addition, I never have to worry about him missing any work because he is always right on this, making sure that he has this done and turned in to his teachers. He also is always trying to correct any mistakes that he has made in his school work. Josh is a pure joy to know and to work with as a teacher. If I could have 30 Joshs in a class, that would be amazing! I am proud of him and am happy to hear that he is receiving this award.

~Mrs. Kathy Wright

Every morning I come in to work and Josh Bergman is standing at the door of room 101 greeting the students with a smile and fist pump or handshake, with his cheery words "good morning". He also recognizes me and gives me a smiley "good morning"! I appreciate his kindness as this is a nice way to start my day.

~Mrs. Ruth Fluegge

Some of his favorite things:
Hobbies: Back Ball
Favorite Movie: Spiderman
Favorite Snack: Popcorn
Weekend Fun: Fishing
Favorite Subject: Phys Ed

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

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

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In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

To nap or not to nap



Why not resolve to be a bit healthier?

How are those plans coming to make a New Year's resolution for 2020?

Reflecting on necessary and/or desired lifestyle changes is a rite of late December/early January for many folks. It's a fitting time, considering the start of a new year follows a season of indulgence, financial and calorie-wise.

But it's probably safe to say it can also be a very frustrating challenge, because while the desire to improve oneself may be strong, the flesh is often weak.

The result? Broken promises to lose weight, stop smoking, give up that three-martini lunch, get out of debt, become more organized, etc.

In fact, research indicates only about eight percent of people actually achieve their New Year's resolutions.

This year, why not resolve to embrace a healthier lifestyle and take a few simple, manageable steps to enjoy some success?

According to "A Mindful Guide to New Year's Resolutions", published on the website leftbrainbuddha, one of the keys to success is to focus on the process of your goal – not the final results you hope to achieve.

"If we focus on going for walks or eating healthy salads for lunch, we will probably lose some weight in the process. And we'll probably enjoy the journey a lot more," the guide states. "The purpose of a resolution should be the process – the infinite present moments in which transformation occurs – rather than waiting for the single instance of attainment."

The guide also encourages people to closely examine their habits and try to determine what specific actions sustain those habits – then work on varying routines in order to avoid triggering the same old response(s).

Keep in mind that it's okay to start over – anytime – because no matter our intentions, there will be days when you simply won't live up to your expectations.

For many of us, health is a priority, and while diets of all sorts abound, experts say there are some simple things all of us can do to improve our chances of feeling better in the coming year. They include:

**Go for a walk — often. You'll reduce stress, strengthen your immune system and increase your overall energy.*

**Add a serving of vegetables to your lunch and dinner every day.*

"Add whole grains to your menus — maybe try a new one, like barley or quinoa, or try a new recipe with familiar whole grains.

**Add a couple of glasses of water to your daily fluid intake.*

Sounds like good advice.

And who knows? Achieving a series of small personal victories just might give you the courage to take on that cigarette habit, lose a few pounds or bury that annoying tendency to show up everywhere 10 or 15 minutes late.

Good luck, and may you enjoy some success in keeping your New Year's resolution in 2020.

Taking a nap was mandatory when I was growing up. I hated them, especially in the summer time when the sun was shining, the days were warm and playtime was the order of the day.

I viewed being made to lay down when I wasn't even sleepy as punishment. My bed was the enemy when the sun was still up and when I didn't want the day to end.

As the years passed, so did my view of the dreaded nap time. Between taking classes, working, going to meetings and spending time with my family, being able to squeeze in a few minutes of shut-eye was a rare treat.

Today, sleep clinics and studies abound. A recent study mapped out how the body responds to different lengths of naps.

According to the study: a 10- to 20-minute nap is a "power nap" — ideal for a boost in alertness and energy, experts report. A shorter nap limits the napper to lighter stages of NREM (non-rapid eye movement). Only entering into a lighter sleep allows the person to easier hit the ground running after waking up.

However, a 30-minute nap might have the opposite result. The study says sleeping that long could cause sleep inertia, like a hangover with a groggy feeling that can last the same amount of time of the nap did before any restorative benefits are felt.

The study showed a 60-minute nap was the best length to improve remembering facts. That length of slow-wave sleep is the deepest sleep. However, it can come with some grogginess upon waking.

The nap to top all naps is the one that lasts 90 minutes. That length allows for the full sleep cycle and the deeper rapid eye movement (REM), which is the dream stage.

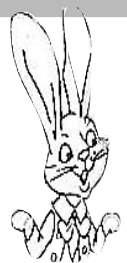
The nap length is supposed to improve emotional, creative and procedural memory, which for old timers is important. And, napping that long makes it easier to wake up.

So, when I happen to dose off, I can claim I'm

boosting my alertness and energy, working on restorative benefits, or being creative.

Although I've come to enjoy and even embrace my sleeping in my recliner. I still do not like the term nap.

I prefer to call them horizontal pauses. It sounds so much better than nap.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

At this month's regular village council meeting trustee Don Ball reached out and asked if I'd mention in the paper the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting in Cass City slated for Wednesday, Jan. 8, starting at 7:00 p.m.

On the agenda is strategic planning for 2020 that the council seeks public input going forward. That wasn't the case concerning the 2020 Village of Cass City budget which passed recently without any citizens' comments.

We figured better a day early than a day late when delivery of the Cass City Chronicle is at hand.

That's why local readers received our Christmas edition on Christmas Eve instead of the day after the birth of our savior. To make that happen our staff was up before 4:00 a.m. Tuesday to meet up with the delivery truck from Big Rapids with our papers, return to the office to apply address labels and then take this week's paper to the post office before the 6:45 a.m. deadline for delivery. We also had the newsstands copies delivered in town before the crack of day.

Merry Christmas to our faithful Chronicle readers.

When it comes to Christmas wishes there are many here at the corner of Oak and Main for Cass City businesses. One for sure goes out to Jim Zyrowski who has plans to open a grocery store locally.

Zyrowski has many years of business experience under his belt as owner of Ben's Supercenter, which is family owned and operated. Founded in 1965, the company currently has three locations; Ben's Supercenter in Brown City, Ben's Supercenter in Marlette and Ben's Contractor Center/Ben's Great Outdoors, also in Marlette.

Zyrowski originally planned to build his new store just north of M-81 at the west end of Cass City on the site of the former Croft Clara lumber yard, but later opted to use the Erla's building, saying it would be far less expensive to renovate than to build from scratch.

Cass City has been without a grocery store since September 2014, when former Erla's Food Center owner Venu Ganga closed the business after owning and operating the store for about 2 1/2 years. Ganga originally purchased the business in February 2011, marking the end of a 57-year business tradition established by the Erla family.

One Christmas wish came early for Cass City resident Matt Lynch who bagged a rabbit on state land just last week. It's a 3-pound bunny, according to the outdoor enthusiast, who supplied me with a Christmas wish by acknowledging his enjoyment of the Chronicle and by helping to fill this space.

Well done Matt. See you in 2020.




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

The Cass City Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor.

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

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

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CALENDAR EVENTS

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

Wednesday, December 25

- 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.
- 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, December 26

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

Saturday, December 28

- 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 29

- 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.

Monday, December 30

- 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.

Tuesday, December 31

- 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.

- Second Wednesday:**
•Al-Anon meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis Parrish, Pigeon.

- 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 Wednesday:**
•Spaghetti Dinner at Cass City VFW Hall from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Take out available. For more information call (989) 872-4933.

- 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.

- Third Friday:**
•Caregiver Support Group, 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Bullard-Sanford Memorial Library, 520 W. Huron Ave., Vassar. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121.

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

- Fourth Monday:**
•Cass City School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
•Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary meeting, 11:30 a.m., Gilligans (no meetings July, August, December).

- Fourth Tuesday:**
•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.

- Fourth Thursday:**
•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 Friday:**
•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.

- 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.

- Every Sunday:**
•Grief/loss meetings, 9:45 a.m., Novesta Church of Christ.

Area township officials gearing up for millage votes in the spring

Christmas is barely passed, but officials in a number of townships are preparing for millage elections in the spring.

Tuscola County Clerk Jodi Fetting recently reported the proposals filed with her office for the March 10, 2020, election ballot. They include:

*Elmwood Township – voters will be asked to approve a 1.5-mill renewal to preserve, improve, repair and maintain township roads. The request is composed of a

1.485-mill tax, plus an additional .0015 of a mill to restore the rate to the original 1.5-mill tax rate previously authorized for 10 years.

If approved, the millage would remain in effect through 2029 and generate roughly \$63,000 the first year. For the owner of a home with a market value of \$80,000, the tax adds up to about \$60 annually.

*Kingston Township — voters will be asked to approve a two-mill renewal for road maintenance

for the years 2021 through 2024.

If approved, the tax would generate about \$71,900 the first year and cost the owner of an \$80,000 home about \$80 per year.

*Novesta Township – voters will be asked to approve a two-mill increase for four years for construction, reconstruction, repair and maintenance of roads in the township.

If approved, the millage would generate about \$73,615 the first year and cost the owner of an \$80,000 home about \$80 annually.

Circuit court proceedings

Several appear on felony charges

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

*Michael E. Sampson, 38, Millington, was sentenced to two years in prison following his pleas of no contest to carrying a concealed weapon, two counts of fleeing a police officer, possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer April 6 in Vassar Township.

He was also placed on probation for 60 months and ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$530.

*James F. Cox, Jr., 58, Caro, was sentenced to 365 days in the county jail following his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle with a high BAC (blood alcohol content), third offense, Aug. 3 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to jail time, he was placed on probation for 60 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,258.

*David C. Knight, 53, Millington, pleaded no contest to two counts of attempted assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder between May 14 and May 22 in Millington Township.

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

*Steven T. Reaver, 26, Deford, pleaded guilty to altering or forging a license plate Feb. 15 in Wells Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (two prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$4,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Scot M. Jacobs, 46, Unionville, pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine, heroin or another narcotic (less than 25 grams) Sept. 17 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions).

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

*Larry D. Pardue, 35, Vassar, pleaded no contest to tampering with an electronic monitoring device Sept. 3 in Vassar. He was also convicted of being habitual offender (two prior felony convictions).

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

*Brian K. Tropp II, 23, Gage-

town, pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and domestic violence, second offense, Sept. 25 in Gagetown.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$2,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Dana M. Colwell, 49, Millington, pleaded no contest to three counts of illegal use of a financial transaction device between July 6 and Sept. 13, 2018, in Vassar.

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

*Mason Daniel-J Sayles, 23, Saginaw, pleaded guilty to charges of first degree home invasion, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, second offense, and domestic violence July 4 in Indianfields Township.

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

*Daniel R. Lohr, Jr., 20, Caro, was sentenced to three to 10 years in prison following his pleas of no contest to four counts each of child abuse, second degree, and domestic violence – aggravated assault between January and April in Juniata Township.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$594.

*Jason Samuel-Harley Mayberry, 35, Caro, pleaded no contest to assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder July 11-13 in Indianfields Township, and to witness bribing or intimidation July 30 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions).

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Reporter's notebook

Keeping an eye on the prize...

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



I would love to tell folks that after eight years of sobriety, every alcohol-free day is a walk in the park.

But that would be a lie, and successful sobriety is all about being truthful with yourself, as well as with others. So, while I have no problem breezing through most days without giving much thought to booze, I still struggle with it every now and then.

That's not to say sobriety still isn't worth every ounce of determination, effort and resolve I have to stay that way, especially when I consider how amazing life is these days. But there are moments, however brief, that remind me just how vital it is for me to keep my eye on the prize, you know?

Fortunately, I depend on a God who not only gave me the gift of desperation that finally led me out of that mess, but who also gives me what I need every day to hang tough.

I touch on this subject about this time every year because the holidays are an especially lousy time to be an alcoholic or drug addict, and because December marks a turning point in my life. I'm also aware that there are others in our community fighting the same fight. And who couldn't use a little encouragement, you know?

I took my last drink Dec. 29, 2011, after years of living on an exhausting treadmill of addiction. It was, in short, a dark, depressing, fearful, hopeless existence.

Honestly, there was a time I figured alcoholics were all a bunch of weak, poor excuses for normal folks like - well, like me.

And then I took a look, an honest look, at myself and realized I was one. It was a gradual process, taking years to reach that point, then a few more years to accept just how deep I was in this mess, and a few more years to really get serious about getting better.

And then the real work began.

I've come to realize a number of things along the way.

Recovering addicts and alcoholics, for example, are some of the most human people you'll ever meet, maybe because they've been forced to take a really hard look at how low they've sunk. This is a fight that requires brutal honesty, and frankly, the truth isn't very pretty sometimes.

I'll clue you in on something else; you can't possibly make an addict or alcoholic feel worse than they already feel about themselves. Can't be done.

If you've never been an addict or alcoholic, consider yourself fortunate. But don't ever presume to understand this struggle. If you've never been there, you can't know. Period.

On the other hand, you could reach out to someone battling an addiction and let them know you're there for them. Sure, they'll likely recoil at first, but who knows what a word of encouragement (without a side of judgment) might do in the long run for someone you care about. It's just possible they've been aching for someone to reach out to them.

Remind them that there's always hope as long as they don't give up on themselves. If they reach out for help, take their hand and help them to find some, even if you don't feel qualified.

In time, they may experience a reality you couldn't convince them of now if your life depended on it: that sobriety will deliver everything their drug of choice promised.

Perhaps most importantly, I've learned to never underestimate the power of being grateful, not just for everyone and everything in my life, but for each and every day. It's a good feeling, one I hope our readers will be enjoying as they welcome the opportunities and challenges 2020 will bring.

Happy New Year!

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2014)

Dear Santa, How are you doing? How is your wife? I've been getting good grades in school. I would like you to bring me an Asus MeMO pad 7 in 16 gb tablet. I would like it to be able to get music and games. If you can't find that, an iPad mini or a desktop computer would be good. As you can tell I like technology. We will leave you cookies and milk. Have a safe trip. Love, Justin Daniels, 7 years old.

10 YEARS AGO (2009)

The recipients of the December Red Hawk Award of Excellence are Jalene Krol, third grade; Rebecca Graff, seventh grade; and high school sophomore Nicole Kelley.

Longtime Cass City fire fighter Ron Pawloski closed the books on a 36-year tenure with the Elkland Township Fire Department in 2009. Pawloski, who served as fire chief for the past 12 years, is handing the reins over to fellow veteran fireman and new Fire Chief Glenn Guilds.

25 YEARS AGO (1994)

Christmas time is time for sharing. It's time for friends and families to get together and the children to go out sledding. It means the time to give thanks to God, and everything we have. It means that it's time to listen to those good old Christmas carols and to see all those pretty lights and decorations. It all makes you think "What a beautiful world." ~By: Laura Truemner, 9th grade.

Christmas is the time of year where little kids wait at night for Santa to come. Where the tree is getting trimmed and parents are Christmas shopping and listening to Christmas songs on the radio. But now that my friends and I are growing up and we're realizing that Christmas is just not about getting presents. It's about spending time with family and being joyous and merry and remembering the real reason of Christmas. And it's Jesus' birthday. That's my paragraph on Christmas. ~By: Missy Butler 9th grade

35 YEARS AGO (1984)

Mrs. Philip Doerr will have her family with her this coming weekend for an early Christmas celebration including Mr. and Mrs. Bob Doerr and daughter Lee of Kalamazoo, Mr. and Mrs. Cas Stuba and daughters, Shelly and Chrissie, of St. Clair Shores, Mr. and Mrs. David Doerr of Caro and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Barnes.

Christmas holiday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Nemeth were the Robert Fischer family, Mrs. Karin Dibble and family of Kingston, John Brewton and Maria Fernandez of Taylor and Mr. and Mrs. Keith Baudoin and family of Naperville, Ill.

Marine Pfc. Gregory A. Musial, son of Walter and Lorraine Musial of Moriarty Road, Decker, has been promoted to his present rank while serving with 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, CA. He joined the Marine Corps in April 1984.

Keith R. Baudoin was recently promoted to the position of Group Supervisor with the Chicago Field Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), US. Department of Justice. Baudoin, a 1966 graduate of Cass City High School, received his B.S. in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University in 1970.

40 YEARS AGO (1979)

Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Stoutenburg and family, including Elaine home from CMU, Mt. Pleasant, had as Christmas guests, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Salgat and daughters of Caro, Max Stoutenburg and friend Judy and his daughter Cindy of Davison and Mrs. Hazel Stoutenburg.

Jim and Judy Tyrrell arrived home Thursday evening after spending 10 days with Rita

Tyrrell, assistant national 4-H director at Belize, Central America. While there, Belize had the worst rains and floods in that country since 1904.

50 YEARS AGO (1969)

Sgt. and Mrs. Ronald Weippert of Colorado Springs, Colo., are the parents of a daughter, born Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Army base hospital. The baby weighed five pounds and 13 ounces. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harold Guinther and Mr. and Mrs. Karl Weippert, all of Cass City.

Mr. and Mrs. James Ware will be hosts to the Leo Ware family at a Christmas party Thursday night. Present will be Mr. and Mrs. Leo Ware, Mr. and Mrs. Ferris Ware

and children, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Nye and children, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Ware and children and Mr. and Mrs. David Ware and children.

100 YEARS AGO (1919)

Miss Clara Hiser, who has been working in the telephone office at Caro for some time, has resigned her position and returned home.

C. J. Striffler sold a fine "beef" to the Ricker & Krahling market Friday for their Christmas trade. He weighed 1136 pounds and brought \$170.00. The steer was less than two years old and gained 86 pounds in the last 35 days. Louis Krahling says there wasn't another beef like him in the country.



Pat Stecker

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NOTICE FOR GILFORD TOWNSHIP

December 12, 2019- MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: D. Strasz, Treasurer; R. Haines, Clerk; J. Stockmeyer, Supervisor; A. Goss, Trustee; K. Houghtaling, Trustee. Order of agenda approved, Public Comment: None.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by D. Strasz, second by A. Goss to approve minutes. Motion approved.
Treasurers Report: Motion by R. Haines, second by J. Stockmeyer to approve Treasurers Report. Motion approved.

REPORTS:

Supervisor: No Reese fire runs this month. Brickel Brothers contract for snow removal, motion by K. Houghtaling, second by D. Strasz to accept contract as presented. Motion approved. Building codes letter regarding usage of and issuing of building permits for storage buildings, informational only. Announcement for MTA training/conference. Report on budget workshop, much progress made. Kincaid Electric will service generator. Motion by D. Strasz, second by J. Stockmeyer to approve payment to M. Goss and M. Goss Jr. for monitoring spring cleanup day. Motion approved.

Treasurer: Tax season has started. Report on Uniform Chart of Accounts phone conference, many questions unanswered.

Clerk: Motion by R. Haines, second by A. Goss to add Deputy Clerk Diane Spencer and Deputy Treasurer Robert Strasz as authorized check co-signers on Chemical Bank, Frankenmuth Credit Union, and North Star Bank accounts. Motion approved. Permissible to use clear bags for recycling as long as they are in the blue bin. R. Haines request to attend MTA conference in April, Board in agreement. New phone system is in and working. Motion by J. Stockmeyer, second by D. Strasz to pay bills. Motion approved.

Trustees: Parks and Recreation meeting; seeking grants, DNR meeting in January regarding grants, set up pond for ice skating, looking for ways to increase publicity for Parks. Planning Commission; minor changes to zoning draft, public hearing coming soon. K. Houghtaling spoke at the Commissioners meeting (Airport ZBA) during public comment, lengthy meeting, Kent publicly invited commissioner T. Young to Gilford TWP meetings.

Ambulance Representative: Testing electric stretchers, purchasing "stop the bleed kits" to be distributed to Townships, 6 medical responses to Gilford TWP.

Fire Department Representative: Reese Fire; all repairs complete on trucks, epi pen injection training, pager training coming, new hoses on trucks, pancake supper January 8, want to purchase helmet lights, need help waxing trucks. Fairgrove: pager insurance, currently have 20 trained fire fighters, 43 calls for the year. Formed a nonprofit, new tanks and griddles for pancake suppers, new shed, new fire truck, thank you to Nextera for \$75,000 donation towards fire truck. More fund raisers coming. Fire association donating \$500.00 toward new sign in Fairgrove. Village working on budget and needs input from Fire Department.

Zoning Administrator: No report.

Public Comment: Anything in budget for painting fog lines on roads? Motion by D. Strasz, second by K. Houghtaling to adjourn at 8:42 P.M. Motion approved.

Robert L. Haines
Gilford Township Clerk

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News briefs

Deputies investigate mail theft

SANILAC COUNTY — The Sanilac County Sheriff's Department has been investigating several reports of stolen mail in Custer and Wheatland townships.

It is believed the thieves are targeting mailboxes looking for Christmas cards with money or gift cards inside. Residents are reminded to use caution in sending these types of items by mail.

Sheriff Garry Biniecki reminds residents this is the time of year when people also fall prey to thefts of packages being left on door steps. He suggests contacting UPS, Fed Ex or any other delivery service that delivers packages to schedule deliveries for times that someone is available to receive the package without it being left out in the open.

Residents can report any suspicious activity by calling Sanilac County Central Dispatch at (810) 648-2000.

Winter storm shelter in Cass City

CASS CITY — As December edges toward January, winter storms can bring power outages. However, there is a shelter where Cass City area residents can go in the event of an extended power outage.

Last year Hills and Dales General Hospital and village officials reached an agreement to provide emergency shelter at the hospital's corporate services building (formerly the Baker College campus on Main Street).

The facility has a generator that can operate the heating and cooling system. The 13,816-square-foot building also has restrooms, and the facility can be used to shelter at least 100 people.

The Cass City Police Department will open the shelter if needed, and notices of the center being open will be posted on the hospital and village Facebook pages. Residents can also inquire by calling (989) 872-2121 or 872-2911.

O-G raising funds for vibraphone

OWENDALE — In order to be able to buy a new piece of band equipment, Owendale-Gagetown School District officials are seeking donations from individuals and groups whose names will be remembered for their generosity.

The district has launched a "Buy a Key" donation campaign, according to school Supt. Terri Falkenberg. "We are in the process of purchasing a vibraphone for the band," she explained. "We will take names of donors and they will be wood-burned onto keys of a wooden display vibraphone that will hang in the band room after the vibes are purchased."

Donors can remain anonymous if they wish, Falkenberg noted.

A vibraphone is a melodic keyboard instrument that consists of tuned metal bars, usually played by holding two or four soft mallets and striking the bars.

"The vibes will make a great addition to the group, as well as giving our students a new opportunity to play a different instrument," she said. "Vibes are useful from marching band to concert band, as well as in the new Jazz combo, and even in our rock ensemble."

NRC retains final say on baiting

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recently vetoed House Bill 4687, which would have removed the state Natural Resources Commission's (NRC) authority to regulate deer baiting and feeding, and instead would have allowed any person to engage in baiting and feeding during the open season for deer or elk.

Under a current NRC order, baiting and feeding are banned in the Lower Peninsula and in the Upper Peninsula core Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance areas.

"This legislation would've increased the chance of spreading wildlife disease within wildlife populations and the beef and dairy industries, which are vital to Michigan's economy. That's not a risk we can afford to take," Whitmer said. "By vetoing this legislation, the authority to ban baiting and feeding will remain with the experts at the Natural Resources Commission, in accordance with the will of the overwhelming number of Michiganders who supported proposal G (giving the NRC authority to make such decisions)."

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery



Cass City's top spellers...

KNIGHTS OF Columbus Council 8892 recently hosted its annual fifth-sixth grade spelling bee in Cass City. Emerging as the top five spellers were (left to right) first place, Daniella Hill, sixth grade; second place, Evelyn Gniewek, fifth grade; third place, Ashley Jones, sixth grade; fourth place, Jeevesh Prabhakaran, sixth grade; and fifth place, Lillianne Little, fifth grade. The winners received McDonald's gift certificates and passes to the Cass Theatre, and the top four finishers qualified to participate in the Knights of Columbus Saginaw Diocese Spelling Bee to be held in February (Little will serve as an alternate and would compete if one of the top four is not able to participate in February).

Suspect in homicide formally arraigned

Continued from page one.

ship.

In fact, the couple previously lived together, but not at the time of the assault, according to Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark E. Reene, who said Dickson had her own residence nearby.

While the investigation is continuing, Reene acknowledged the assault was particularly vicious, judging by the wounds suffered by both the victim and the child. "All the evidence points to...she (Dickson) was trying to protect the child," he said.

"It's so sad, so incomprehensible."

According to court records, Lyons' criminal record includes at least two convictions of domestic violence involving "assaulting or assaulting and battering his spouse, former spouse, an individual with whom he had a child in common, or a resident or former resident of his household, or of knowingly assaulting a pregnant individual." Those convictions took place May 24, 2007, and Sept. 30, 2019.

Both Skrent and Reene lauded the combined responses of several departments.

"Numerous deputies from the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office were involved in the investigation as well as members of the Michigan State Police Crime Lab who

worked into the early morning hours," said Skrent, adding deputies were assisted at the scene by the Michigan State Police, Caro Police Department, Caro Fire Department, MMR Ambulance and a FlightCare medical helicopter crew.

Reene went out of his way to recognize what he called "the extraordinary efforts of first responders in this case that in-

cluded members of the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police Department, Caro Fire Department, Caro Police Department, MMR and FlightCare.

"They did a tremendous job that night. Their coordinated, dedicated and relentless efforts were crucial to saving the life of an 11-month-old child and getting her FlightCared from the crime scene."

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Year in review: 2019 brought best and worst of times

Continued from page one.

CARO CENTER

It was a tumultuous year for the future of Tuscola County's economy as state and local leaders clashed over what county residents figured was a "done deal" for construction of a new, \$115-million, 200-bed state psychiatric hospital to replace the aging Caro Center.

The Michigan Legislature approved funding for the project, and officials broke ground in the fall of 2018. But a new governor and her Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) director started the new year by putting the brakes on construction, saying they wanted to take another look at what facility should be built and — more importantly — where it should be built, in spite of the fact that state officials had already sunk \$3 to \$4 million into demolition and site preparation in Caro.

New MDHHS Director Robert Gordon said the decision to conduct a new feasibility study was based on concerns related to staffing shortages, lack of new staff recruitment, the center not having an active permanent psychiatrist on staff, and the need to have municipal water extended to the center. However, emails released via a Freedom of Information Act request later revealed Gordon had all but decided the project wasn't going to happen in Tuscola County just weeks after the 2018 groundbreaking.

The news stunned local officials and Thumb lawmakers alike as they considered the possible loss of Tuscola County's second-largest employer and its economic impact on the region — a projected \$57 million loss in revenue and roughly 600 direct and indirect jobs.

What followed was a well-organized lobbying campaign in which county government, economic development, school officials and others joined Thumb lawmakers in urging Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to reinstate construction of a new hospital in Tuscola County.

In the end, although county officials had hoped state officials would follow through on their promise to build a 200-bed facility that would bring in an additional 150 jobs, most agreed the compromise they received — plans for construction of a new 100-bed hospital — was far better than losing the Caro Center altogether.

GOING TO POT

The year brought some new faces to the Cass City Village Council — and a change of heart regarding allowing a medical marijuana growing facility to open within the village limits.

While Cass City officials early this year unanimously voted against allowing recreational marijuana retail businesses to set up shop in town, the council reversed an earlier position to allow Millennium Industries to operate a medical marijuana growing operation inside an unused portion of its factory at 6285 Garfield Ave.

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 November, but those plans didn't work out.

Extensive demolition had to be done first to the inside of the factory to make way for the new venture.

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.

"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 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.

The new venture is expected to generate roughly \$40,000 in property taxes and employ about 35 people.

CASS CITY PROMISE

The newly-formed Cass City PROMISE Team this fall unveiled its preliminary plan and a campaign 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, backers say, the Cass City PROMISE program will provide 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.

Organizers plan to have the program in place starting with the 2020-21 school year.

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. The local team is working to secure a \$50 donation for each student — a little under \$4,000 per grade, or \$50,000. Efforts are already underway to encourage local service clubs and other organizations and businesses to sponsor individual grades for one or more years. Also planned are fundraisers, including an all-school reunion during next summer's Freedom Festival in Cass City.

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.

APRs FAIL AGAIN

Yet another effort to enact mandatory antler point restrictions (APRs) in the Thumb failed in 2019.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials announced last spring that a random survey of whitetailed deer hunters in the region, conducted during the fall and winter months, resulted in a 55-percent rate of support for the plan, 11 percent shy of the 66-percent approval mark required by the DNR to recommend establishing mandatory APR regulations.

The proposal, encompassing Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties along with Lapeer County and St. Clair County, would have redefined the definition of a legal buck for hunters in the Thumb.

The proposal was originally submitted in the fall of 2017 by two deer groups — the Thumb Area Branch of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) and the Blue Water Branch of QDMA, which consolidated under the name Thumb Hunters for APRs to promote the mandatory APR regulations.

The proposal sought to require that all antlered deer harvested in the five affected counties have at least four antler points on one side, with the restrictions considered for implementation during the 2019 deer seasons.

A key factor in the decision was a survey mailed in December a year ago to a random sample of hunters who indicated on their 2017 DNR deer harvest survey that they hunted deer in one of the five counties.

Under guidelines adopted by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission — which has the final

say on such management policies — mandatory regulations proposed by sponsoring organizations are implemented only if a clear majority of 66 percent of survey respondents support the proposal in question.

Supporters of the proposal say mandatory APRs promote improved deer herd health and increase the number of mature bucks, while opponents described the mandatory proposal as an effort to force all hunters to participate in management practices designed to increase the number of trophy bucks.

FARMERS STRUGGLE

It was the sort of year in agriculture that left many Thumb farmers shaking their heads, although they're used to taking their chances with Mother Nature year in and year out.

An unusually wet spring — in fact, the number of days with measurable precipitation in both May and June was described as unprecedented — put farmers far behind schedule in planting, leaving many producers praying for an extended fall.

That didn't happen, with poor weather conditions significantly slowing harvest efforts.

And conditions didn't improve, with an early winter storm dumping several inches of snow on the Thumb Nov. 11. The snowstorm caught many farmers with crops still in the field. In an effort to beat the storm, producers worked around the clock, and neighbors jumped in to help neighboring farmers harvest sugarbeets still in the field.

As of mid-November, roughly 97 percent of the 154,000 acres of beets had been harvested, and the crop was expected to average about 28.7 tons per acre with a sugar content average of about 18.1 percent, which is in the typical range.

Farmers have since been able to harvest some of the harder crops still in the fields, including soybeans and corn, but the verdict was still out on the overall picture.

In late November, the U.S. Department of Agriculture designated 43 Michigan counties, including Sanilac and Huron, as primary natural disaster areas, making assistance available to agriculture producers in those counties stemming from the adverse weather conditions. Tuscola County was among several other counties expected to be added to that list after federal ag officials completed damage assessments.

MAYBE IN 2020?

Yes, Virginia, there will be a grocery store, but we don't know when.

After roughly 4 ½ years without a grocery store, hopes in town were again lifted up last spring when the Cass City Planning Commission approved the site plan for Ben's Neighborhood Market, to be housed inside the former Erla's Food Center building, 6233 Church St., which has been undergoing extensive renovations on and off for months.

However, predictions that the grocery would open in 2019 never came to pass.

The new business is part of developer Jim Zyrowski's Thumb-based Ben's Supercenter store chain.

Zyrowski has sunk an estimated \$2 million into the property, and he's repeatedly indicated he's enthusiastic about opening the doors. But he's faced some setbacks on the project, including a drawn-out issue with Detroit Edison (which has since been resolved).

Zyrowski purchased the former Erla's building in the fall of 2015 and has been in the process of renovating and upgrading the 20,581-square-foot structure, with crews gutting the building's interior, replacing everything from the floors to the plumbing throughout the structure. Workers have also been busy on exterior projects.

In recent weeks, area residents have noticed some façade improvements, including a new face featuring the Ben's name, but there's still no word on when the business will be up and running.

Zyrowski has promised a first-rate grocery operation plus a full-service deli and bakery.

It's been a long wait for local residents, who saw their only grocery store close in September 2014, when former Erla's Food Center

owner Venu Ganga closed the business after owning and operating the store for about 2 ½ years. Ganga originally purchased the business in February 2011, marking the end of a 57-year business tradition established by the Erla family.

100 NEW JOBS

While the news wasn't encouraging on the grocery store front, DTE officials in September made a welcome announcement.

Officials with Michigan's largest energy company unveiled plans to open a customer call center at its North Area Energy Center in Cass City. The company plans to add more than 100 full-time positions in customer service with the opening of the new office in early spring.

The new call center will be in addition to DTE's existing Michigan-based call centers in the Detroit and Grand Rapids areas. Officials said it also reflects DTE's commitment to providing jobs to Michigan residents and locally-based support to its customers.

"I am delighted that DTE is expanding its presence in Cass City," said village Manager Debbi Powell. "These jobs will offer great opportunities for our local workforce to build a long-term career with DTE and spur economic growth in and around Cass City and the Thumb region."

"The new call center in Cass City, with 100 new service representatives, will enable us to improve our response time, answer calls quicker and solve problems sooner," said Hank Campbell, director, DTE Call Center Operations. "Additionally, we are pleased to offer new career opportunities in the Cass City area."

BITZER TAKES BENCH

The year 2019 also brought a

changing of the guard of sorts at the Tuscola County Courthouse, where one longtime judge and Cass City resident stepped down as district court judge, and was replaced via state appointment by another Cass City resident and veteran attorney.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in July announced the appointment of Cass City attorney Jason E. Bitzer to the 71B District Court bench in Tuscola County. He fills a vacancy left by the retirement earlier this year of veteran Judge Kim David Glaspie, also of Cass City.

"Throughout Jason's career, he has worked hard to uphold and defend our justice system," Whitmer said. "His previous experience arguing in criminal, civil and probate matters allows him to seamlessly transition into this new role."

Bitzer, 38, was previously a partner and litigator with the law firm of Biddinger, Bitzer and Estelle, PLLC, Cass City.

A graduate of Caro High School, Bitzer earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in communications and public law and government from Eastern Michigan University, and his Juris Doctor Degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He has been in private practice with Biddinger and Bitzer since 2008.

Bitzer is a member of the Hills and Dales General Hospital Board of Directors, the Rotary Club of Cass City, and the United Way of Tuscola County Board of Directors. Bitzer is also a 2015 LEAD Tuscola graduate.

He resides in Cass City with his wife, Lindsay Maharg Bitzer, and their daughter, Blair.

Glaspie, 63, a Cass City native and 1973 Cass City High School graduate, earned the distinction of being Tuscola County's longest-serving district court judge. He stepped down in the spring after serving nearly 30 years on the bench.

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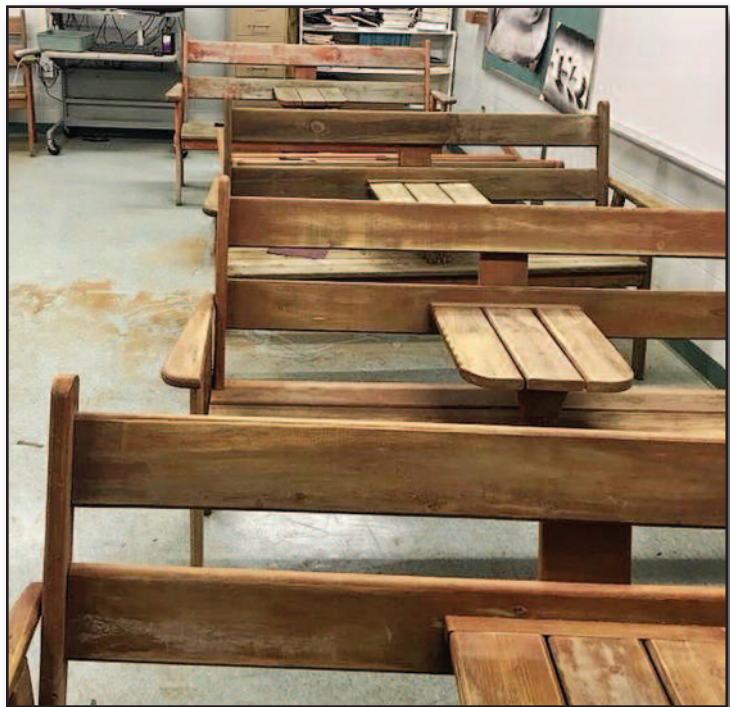
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Community service in Kingston...

A GROUP of Kingston Community School students took on a project to help improve the community. "The village had these benches around town for weary shoppers and travelers to take a rest and enjoy the M-46 scenery," explained Superintendent Matt Drake. "The finish was wearing off the benches and some were getting moldy. Our high school art students were asked if they could spruce them up." The students sanded and prepped the benches at the school, then the art classes painted and decorated them. Students taking part in the project included Marco Saenz De Lacuesta Fernandez (left), a junior foreign exchange student from Spain, and junior Paige Klupp.



Wind energy saga continues to play in Tuscola Co. townships

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The controversy over NextEra Energy Resources LLC's wind farm in Juniata Township continues with a lawsuit being privately funded after Tuscola County Commissioners decided not to bankroll further legal action.

NextEra's Pegasus Wind Project has been controversial since it started two years ago.

Over the last few weeks, Tuscola County commissioners and members of the Tuscola County Airport Zoning Board of Appeals (AZBA) have had several meetings in closed session to confer with their legal counsel.

In November, county commissioners turned down a \$10 million offer by NextEra Energy Resources LLC to settle a lawsuit out of court regarding their wind farm. The board rejected the offer because Tuscola County Circuit Court Judge Amy Grace Gierhart had not yet ruled on NextEra's Pegasus Wind project lawsuit that named the county and the AZBA as defendants.

Even though the terms of the company's offer were confidential, it came to light that the county was offered \$10 million to settle the matter out of court. County board Chairman Thom Bardwell took issue with the information being leaked, and the board is looking into the possible purchase of a sound masking machine.

On Nov. 27, Gierhart issued a ruling in favor of NextEra citing that the AZBA erred not granting variances in July for the company's 33 turbines.

Gierhart's last decision on the issues stated the "Court concludes that Pegasus Wind did establish that there is a practical difficulty in the literal enforcement of the ordinance and that there is not competent, material, or substantial evidence to support the AZBA's denial of the variances for this reason."

Gierhart also ruled that Pegasus Wind "did establish that the granting of the variances would not be against the public interest and that there is not competent, material, or substantial evidence to support the AZBA's denial of the variances."

The decision also ruled there would be "no adverse impact to the airport, and there will be a substantial benefit to (the county)."

NextEra started development of the Pegasus wind farm in 2017. Since then, the township, the zoning board of appeals and NextEra have been at odds, and in and out of court over the last few years over various issues related to the wind farm.

After several meetings in 2018, with testimony presented for and against the wind farm, the Juniata Township Board approved special land use permits (SLUP) for the project. That decision prompted a successful recall of all but one township board member. In addition, the structure of the zoning board of appeals changed, with more members added and some voted off.

Initially, the Pegasus project started with 60 turbines in Juniata Township, but as issues developed the number was reduced to 19 in Juniata, and some turbine construction shifted to neighboring townships.

The key issues of contention are wind turbine placement near the Tuscola Area Airport outside of Caro, alleged violations of construction procedures by NextEra, and some township residents' opposition to wind development.

Earlier this month, the AZBA voted to appeal Gierhart's decision to overturn the AZBA's July decision to deny variance applications for 33 wind turbines.

In response, county commissioners recently held a special meeting last Wednesday that lasted nearly six hours — including roughly two hours behind closed doors — as they grappled with whether or not to fund an appeal of Gierhart's decision to overturn the AZBA's July decision to deny variance applications for wind turbines.

Commissioner Dan Grimshaw offered the motion not to fund the appeal.

Bardwell, who cast the lone vote to continue funding legal action, pointed out that he was the only commissioner who was on the board back when the airport zoning regulations were written, which were long before wind development was considered in the county.

"I'm the only one who was a commissioner back in January 2011 when the airport zoning ordinance was created, and when the appeals board was created. I have the history background on all of this," Bardwell pointed out. "I feel the ordinances and appeals board should be supported. I think the court may not have had background on all of the issues. I feel the issue should be given a second (legal) look by someone outside of the county."

"I guess the commissioners lost the desire to fight NextEra."

At the same time, Bardwell indi-

cated he can understand the position of his fellow commissioners.

"It is estimated that it would cost at least \$15,000 to continue the issue in U.S. District Court," he said, adding even if the AZBA did win at that level, it might not be the end. "I can see NextEra taking it to the Supreme Court. They have deep, financial pockets and a lot of lawyers. At each meeting, they bring three to four lawyers with them."

During the recent meeting, a letter noted that a private funding source would be willing to provide financial assistance to continue the legal fight.

"I don't see any other action coming from the commissioners at this point. The zoning board can do an appeal on their own," Bardwell said.

And, they are. Although commissioners voted not to fund legal action to fight wind farm development, the AZBA voted during a special meeting to appeal Gierhart's decision, even though they do not have a budget. The Concerned Friends of the Tuscola Area Airport agreed to cover legal costs to appeal the issue to the U.S. District Court.

This next legal step is an effort to appeal Gierhart's November ruling that the AZBA erred in denying the variances for 33 turbines, and she ordered that decision be reversed.

As the controversy continues, Bardwell said he is concerned about liability, the airport and future development in the county.

"Back when the state was going to build a new and bigger Caro Center hospital, a hotel chain and conference center was looking at coming to the area, but as soon as the governor put a pause on development of the new hospital, the hotel and conference center interest disappeared," Bardwell said, referring to how the wind turbine issue has divided Juniata Township.

Uby PD accepting old meds

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The Uby Police Department is joining the effort to provide a way to safely dispose of unused and/or expired medications.

There is a locked container located in the Uby Police Department, located at 2272 Bingham St., where residents can deposit the unwanted drugs, according to police Officer Jeff Rubin, who said citizens can call the department at (989) 658-2433 to schedule a time to drop off their old medications.

The option is part of a widespread campaign to address the misuse and overdoses of prescription drugs, to help ensure such drugs don't end up in landfills and water ecosystems, and to protect against theft or abuse by providing a safe and secure disposal method.

Law enforcement agencies turn over the collected medications to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for proper disposal.

Court records are rife with charges of illegal possession of controlled substances. A recent study by the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Task Force of more than 54 million people ages 12 and older revealed survey participants abused prescription drugs at some point in their lives.

The survey also determined more than 70 percent of people who abused prescription painkillers obtained them from friends or relatives, while only about five percent got them from a drug dealer or via purchases on the Internet.



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Lakers take GTW opener at expense of host Cass City

by Clarke Haire
 Publisher

The Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker boys' basketball team played like a veteran squad to capture Friday's Greater Thumb West contest at Cass City.

Despite a roster with just one senior – not to mention two freshmen and two sophomores – the Lakers improved to 3-0 entering the holiday break with a hard fought 62-52 decision, while Cass City slips to 0-2.

Both teams felt each other out in the early stages when 5 lead changes in a back-and-forth initial quarter ended with the hosts clinging to a slim 7-6 edge following a Kenton Wiseman runner for the Red Hawks.

It was more of the same in the quarter before the break, as the Lakers and Hawks battled to a 12-12 tie and then wouldn't be separated by more than two points for the rest of the half, until a trey from Laker sophomore Dylan Wehner and two charity tosses by freshman Ethan Wissner gave the visitors a 22-19 edge entering the third quarter.

Anthony Sheridan heated up for the Lakers in the final half and back-to-back baskets following a Cass City time out on an offensive rebound provided the guests with a 33-25 advantage.

Cass City battled back behind offensive rebound baskets of their own – one by Landon Schenk and one by Thom Rijshouwer – to trail just 25-32. However, the Lakers used a 6-2 run to end the period and led by 7 entering the final 8 minutes.

The Lakers continued to feed Sheridan the ball in the paint in the final quarter and he responded with 7 of his game-high 15 tallies to help close out the game.

Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port also used a 4-for-4 effort from Sawyer Kozkay and 2-for-2 efforts from Collin Schuette and Wehner to hold off Cass City late.

Cass City actually used a tip by Schenk and a steal and lay in from Sandyn Cuthrell to pull within 54-47 with just under 3 minutes remaining, but would never seriously challenge afterward.

"We made some improvement from our first game, but are still having trouble finishing plays around the rim. We are getting pretty good looks but just not making enough. We will continue to work on that over Christmas break," said Cass City Coach Aaron Fernald.

Schenk paced Cass City with 11 points, while Rijshouwer added 10 and Cuthrell, 9.

For Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port, Wehner joined Sheridan in double figures with 13, while Logan-Collison-Russell finished with 8.



ELKTON-PIGEON-BAY PORT'S Anthony Sheridan looks to score despite defensive pressure from Cass City's Thom Rijshouwer in Greater Thumb West play.

Cards remain perfect

by Clarke Haire
 Publisher

Kingston will take a 3-0 record into the holiday break following Friday's North Central Thumb League Stars win over the visiting Mayville Wildcats.

With an easy 65-20 victory, Kingston Coach Dave Lester's team captured their third straight home victory to kick off the Cardinals' 2019-20 campaign while improving to 2-0 in conference affairs.

Defense has ruled Kingston's 2019 triumphs.

A 27-2 run to open the game against the Wildcats set the tone early, while Kingston outscored their guest 34-10 in the middle two quarters that removed all doubt from the game's outcome.

Leading 61-12 entering the final eight minutes, Lester emptied his bench, allowing Mayville to chip away some of the margin.

"We got off to a great start. Our defense has really been getting better each game. We are causing turnovers and turning them into points. Our entire team is working well together. We are happy with our start, but have a lot of work to do," Lester said.

Evan Neff led Kingston with 17 points, 5 rebounds and 4 steals. Marco Saenz de Lacuesta added

14 points and 5 rebounds, while Trayton Wenzlaff added 11 points. The winners also had Quinn Boucard chip in 9 points and 6 rebounds.

Austin Middleton led Mayville (0-2, 2-2) with 6 points.

On Tuesday, Neff and Saenz de Lacuesta each tossed in 17 points and grabbed 7 rebounds as host Kingston defeated Deckerville 77-34 in North Central Thumb League Stars action.

"We had a great defensive effort and everyone followed our game plan. We were able to force turnovers and get out in transition," said Lester.

Deckerville actually hung close in the opening frame, but trailing 21-12, the Eagles were limited to just 7 points in both the second and third frames.

Completing the list of double digit scorers for Kingston was Aaron Koehler with 10 points and 4 assists, but it was Kohler's play without the ball that captured the eye of Kingston's veteran coach.

"Koehler was fantastic defensively, holding Deckerville's leading scorer Issac Keinath to 3 points," Lester said.

Jack Green and Trayton Wenzlaff chipped in 8 points apiece for the Cardinals, while Ethan Bowerman led Deckerville (0-1, 2-2) with 10 points.

Red Hawk gals open league play with win

by Clarke Haire
 Publisher

Strong starts to each half Thursday helped the Cass City Lady Red Hawks get past visiting Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port in the Greater Thumb West opener for both schools.

Neither team was on the mark early, as they combined for just three points in the game's opening five minutes. However, following a pair of free throws by Saylor Cuthrell Cass City merged ahead 2-1, before a pair of treys by Cuthrell and Morgan Russell

helped supply the hosts with a 10-4 edge entering the second quarter.

The Lakers, who were limited to a solo field goal and a pair of free throws by Emma Irion in the first quarter, used a trey from Lauren Henry and a hoop from Hanna Penford to keep pace with Cass City before the break, as Red Hawks Cuthrell and Russell connected again from beyond the 3-point arc in quarter two.

Leading 19-12, Cass City went on an 8-2 run to start the final half fueled by the play of senior Tiara Please turn to page 10.

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Hawk grapplers unblemished in GTC matches

by Clarke Haire
Publisher

Coach Don Markel's Cass City High School grapplers wrapped up the Red Hawks' pre-holiday schedule over the weekend with a 7th place finish at the 17-team Ryan Mercer Memorial Invitational in Mayville that followed a pair of Greater Thumb Conference wins earlier in the week.

"We had a very good outing on Wednesday in defeating two league squads. Our showing on Saturday was pretty good in spite of several wrestlers being ineligible, injured, or on vacation. We have a lot of work to do over vacation to improve and continue as we strive toward a league championship," Markel said.

Led by five medal winners Saturday, Cass City scored 110 points at the Ryan Mercer Memorial Invitational. Hunter Caister was the lone champion for Cass City at the mega invite, pinning each of his three opponents in the 189 weight class, while Drew Markel (130), Tristan Swiderski (140), Ryan Pisarek (160) and Dylan Halpin (171) completed the list of Cass City medal winners with 4th place showings.

Results for Cass City at the Ryan Mercer Memorial Individual Tournament were:

103: Hunter Turnbull (Cass City HS) - DNP Champ. Round 1 - Hunter Turnbull (Cass City HS) over Nolan Parker (North Branch HS) (Fall 1:20) Quarterfinals - Loreto Frangedakis (Capac HS) over Hunter Turnbull (Cass City HS) (Fall 1:53) Cons. Round 2 - Hunter Turnbull (Cass City HS) over Joshua Juillett (Frankenmuth HS) (Fall 0:17) Cons. Semis - Jeff Helzer (Capac HS) over Hunter Turnbull (Cass City HS) (Fall 0:44).

125: Cameron Gottschalk (Cass City HS) - DNP Champ. Round 1 - Cameron Gottschalk (Cass City HS) over Jolie Brown (Bad Axe HS) (Fall 0:26) Quarterfinals - Chase Leenknecht (Memphis HS) over Cameron Gottschalk (Cass City HS) (Fall 0:56) Cons. Round 2 - Cameron Gottschalk (Cass City HS) over Nate Morris (Frankenmuth HS) (Fall 3:48) Cons. Semis - Gavin Cotterman (North Branch HS) over Cameron Gottschalk (Cass City HS) (MD 11-3).

130: Drew Markel (Cass City HS) - 4th Quarterfinals - Drew Markel (Cass City HS) over Carson Parlbery (Birch Run HS) (Fall 1:09) Semifinals - Anthony D'Ambrosio (Imlay City HS) over Drew Markel (Cass City HS) (Fall 3:56) 3rd Place Match - Austin Torres (Imlay City HS) over Drew Markel (Cass City HS) (Dec 11-6).

140: Tristan Swiderski (Cass City HS) - 4th Quarterfinals - Tristan Swiderski (Cass City HS) over Cody Yonkman (North Branch HS) (Fall 3:32) Semifinals - Trevor Swiss (Petoskey HS)

over Tristan Swiderski (Cass City HS) (TF 16-1 4:35) 3rd Place Match - Sam Hass (Bad Axe HS) over Tristan Swiderski (Cass City HS) (M. For.).

152: Logan Kaake (Cass City HS) - DNP Champ. Round 1 - Logan Kaake (Cass City HS) over Nathan Coulter (North Branch HS) (Fall 1:23) Quarterfinals - Josh Erdman (Memphis HS) over Logan Kaake (Cass City HS) (Fall 0:53) Cons. Round 2 - Logan Kaake (Cass City HS) over Owen Natzel (Birch Run HS) (For.) Cons. Semis - Konner Roche (Frankenmuth HS) over Logan Kaake (Cass City HS) (MD 13-4).

160: Evan Beaudin (Cass City HS) - DNP Champ. Round 1 - David Eagle (Brown City HS) over Evan Beaudin (Cass City HS) (Fall 3:46) Cons. Round 2 - Phoenix Pulh (Perry HS) over Evan Beaudin (Cass City HS) (Fall 1:58).

160: Ryan Pisarek (Cass City HS) - 4th Champ. Round 1 - Ryan Pisarek (Cass City HS) over Amando Dominguez (Birch Run HS) (Fall 1:27) Quarterfinals - Ryan Pisarek (Cass City HS) over Carson Affer (Bad Axe HS) (Fall 1:39) Semifinals - Eero Gross (Petoskey HS) over Ryan Pisarek (Cass City HS) (TF 17-2 3:28) 3rd Place Match - Lane Jackson (Almont HS) over Ryan Pisarek (Cass City HS) (Fall 0:54).

171: Dylan Halpin (Cass City HS) - 4th Quarterfinals - Dylan Halpin (Cass City HS) over Andrew Filkins (Sandusky HS) (Fall 0:51) Semifinals - Josh Pasco (Brown City HS) over Dylan Halpin (Cass City HS) (For.) 3rd Place Match - Noah Gosciak (Petoskey HS) over Dylan Halpin (Cass City HS) (Inj. [time]).

171: Donovan Loomis (Cass City HS) - DNP Champ. Round 1 - Ben Mudge (Birch Run HS) over Donovan Loomis (Cass City HS) (Fall 0:10) Cons. Round 2 - Andrew Filkins (Sandusky HS) over Donovan Loomis (Cass City HS) (Fall 0:37).

189: Hunter Caister (Cass City HS) - 1st Quarterfinals - Hunter Caister (Cass City HS) over Wesley Walsh (Memphis HS) (Fall 1:47) Semifinals - Hunter Caister (Cass City HS) over Andrew McConnell (Perry HS) (Fall 5:36) 1st Place Match - Hunter Caister (Cass City HS) over Trent Birmingham (Mayville HS) (Fall 1:07).

285: Caden Caister (Cass City HS) - DNP Champ. Round 1 - Caden Caister (Cass City HS) over Jacob Nellenbach (North Branch HS) (Fall 2:56) Quarterfinals - Terrance Watson (Birch Run HS) over Caden Caister (Cass City HS) (Fall 0:53) Cons. Round 2 - Caden Caister (Cass City HS) over Gavin Graham (Almont HS) (Fall 0:13) Cons. Semis - Ben Shuart (Bad Axe HS) over Caden Caister (Cass City HS) (Fall 1:39).

GTC MATCHES

In Greater Thumb Conference action at Mayville, Cass City defeated a depleted Marlette squad,

54-4, before going on to beat Mayville, 51-12.

Double winners for Cass City were: Cameron Gottschalk, Drew Markel, Tristan Swiderski, Lucas Swiderski, Hunter Caister and Caden Caister.

Cass City's results against Marlette were: Caden Caister (Cass City) over (Marlette) (For.) 103: Manus Bennett (Marlette) over Hunter Turnbull (Cass City) (MD 15-1) 112: Double Forfeit 119: Double Forfeit 125: Cameron Gottschalk (Cass City) over (Marlette) (For.) 130: Drew Markel (Cass City) over (Marlette) (For.) 135: Double Forfeit 140: Tristan Swiderski (Cass City) over (Marlette) (For.) 145: Lucas Swiderski

(Cass City) over (Marlette) (For.) 152: Double Forfeit 160: Dylan Halpin (Cass City) over (Marlette) (For.) 171: Evan Beaudin (Cass City) over (Marlette) (For.) 189: Matthew Mihalic (Cass City) over (Marlette) (For.) 215: Hunter Caister (Cass City) over (Marlette) (For.)

Cass City results against Mayville were: 285: Caden Caister (Cass City) over Bailey Glover (Mayville) (Fall 1:22) 103: Hunter Turnbull (Cass City) over (Mayville) (For.) 112: Madyson McDonald (Mayville) over (Cass City) (For.) 119: Double Forfeit 125: Cameron Gottschalk (Cass City) over (Mayville) (For.) 130: Double Forfeit 135: Drew Markel

(Cass City) over Abigale Gonzales (Mayville) (Fall 0:27) 140: Tristan Swiderski (Cass City) over Cameron Rowbotham (Mayville) (Fall 3:33) 145: Lucas Swiderski (Cass City) over (Mayville) (For.) 152: Double Forfeit 160: Logan Kaake (Cass City) over (Mayville) (For.) 171: Ryan Pisarek (Cass City) over Lance Cooper (Mayville) (Fall 1:27) 189: Trent Birmingham (Mayville) over Donovan Loomis (Cass City) (Fall 2:26) 215: Hunter Caister (Cass City) over Jacob Miller (Mayville) (Dec 7-2).

With the wins, Cass City improved to 3-0 in the GTC. #####



Hunter Caister, pictured on top at the left, has been dominating on the mats for Cass City.

Mooney shines for Lady Cardinals

Brooke Mooney turned in a career night Thursday as Kingston knocked off host Mayville, 52-29. Mooney, a quick and athletic senior with the ability to score inside and outside, tossed in a game-high 22 points to lead Kingston, although she received plenty of help in the North Central Thumb League Stars win. Kingston recorded double digit points in each frame, while holding the Wildcats to just 14 points entering the final frame that resulted in a 27 point cushion and allowed the Cardinals to coast to their fourth win.

Ella Retan added 8 points for Kingston.

For Mayville, Kealsie Dinsmore had 9 points and Julia Smith, 8.

Earlier in the week, in an early season showdown between teams expected to be in the hunt for North Central Thumb League Stars honors, host Kingston downed Deckerville Monday night in their home opener.

Leading 10-7 after one quarter, Kingston scored 14 unanswered points before the intermission to take control of the contest.

Deckerville, to their credit, was able to slice into the margin during the third, but was outscored 13-4 down the stretch to produce the 41-28 decision.

"This was a hard fought game with both teams struggling to find a rhythm," said Kingston Coach Jay Green, adding, "Our half-court defense was good, a key stretch was a 14-0 run we had in the second quarter where we hit a couple of outside shots and got some easy buckets."

Hannah James with 10 points and Payton Kolacz with 10 points and 10 rebounds led Kingston.

Ella Watson had 10 points to pace Deckerville.

Up next for the Cardinals (4-0, 2-0 NCTL Stars) is a home tilt, Jan. 3, against Brown City.

Miller girls lead Birch Run to victory

Continued from page 9.

Anthony with two baskets and two free throws in the third stanza, allowing the hosts to build a double digit advantage and then hang on for a 34-21 victory.

Half-time adjustments by Cass City Coach Justin Ketterer limited the visitors to a solo basket again in the third quarter - this one by Penford.

Ketterer said after the game that his team's defense was the difference in the outcome.

In the final 8 minutes, the Laker comeback bid was foiled by Anthony's clutch showing at the

strip, where she made 3-of-4 tries down the wire. For the night, the senior forward made 6-of-8 attempts from the line en route to a game-high 14 points. Also in double figures for Cass City was Cuthrell with 10 markers.

Irion finished with 7 points to top Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port.

BIRCH RUN

Twins Sarah and Emmaly Miller lived up to the hype Tuesday and led visiting Birch Run past Cass City in non-conference action.

Sara Miller entered the contest with over 1,400 career points and didn't disappoint as she tallied 19

of her team's 21 first half points - Emmaly Miller recorded the other two points.

Leading by 5 at the halfway point, Birch Run outscored the hosts 26-16 the rest of the way to prevail, 47-32.

For Cass City, Anthony tossed in 13 points, while Cuthrell and Haven Bouverette each scored 6.

Emmaly Miller finished with 10 points as Birch Run's only other player to reach double figures.

Cass City's next outing is slated for 11:30 a.m. Friday, when they take on Capac at the Holiday Showcase Tournament in Port Huron at the St. Clair County Community College field house



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Cass City Jr./Sr. High School

2019-20 Winter Sports Schedule



BOYS' BASKETBALL (JV/VARSITY)

DATE	OPPONENT
12/13	Ubly 42, CC 39
12/20	EPB 62, CC 52
1/08	Marlette
1/10	Bad Axe
1/15	USA
1/17	Vassar
1/22	Caro
1/24	S.A.A.S.TBA
1/29	EPB Lakers
1/31	Reese - Snowcoming
2/05	Capac
2/07	Bad Axe
2/12	USA
2/14	Vassar - 40 yr. Anniv. Team
2/19	Caro
2/21	Harbor Beach
2/26	Montrose
2/28	Reese
3/05	Nouvel
3/9-13	Districts @ USA.....TBA

GIRLS' BASKETBALL (JV/VARSITY)

DATE	OPPONENT
12/03	Harbor Beach 43, CC 32
12/06	Nouvel 58, CC 14
12/10	CC 33, Sandusky 30
12/12	Ubly 32, CC 13
12/17	Birch Run 47, CC 32
12/19	CC 34, EPB Lakers 34
12/27	Capac @ SC4 (Varsity)..12:30
1/07	Marlette
1/09	Bad Axe
1/14	USA
1/16	Vassar
1/21	Caro
1/24	S.A.A.S.6:30
1/28	EPB Lakers
1/30	Reese
2/06	Bad Axe
2/11	USA
2/13	Vassar
2/18	Caro
2/25	Reese

WRESTLING

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
12/11	Lakers	6:00 p.m.
12/14	Birch Run Team Tourney	9:00 a.m.
12/18	Mayville/Marlette	6:00 p.m.
12/21	Ryan Mercer Memorial Tourney	9:00 a.m.
1/04	Ogemaw Hgts. Team Tourney	9:00 a.m.
1/08	Vassar/Ubly	6:00 p.m.
1/11	Flushing Team Tourney	8:00 a.m.
1/15	Caro/Capac	6:00 p.m.
1/18	Mayville Team Tourney	9:00 a.m.
1/22	Bad Axe/Brown City	6:00 a.m.
1/25	Yale Team Tourney	9:00 a.m.
1/29	Sandusky/Memphis	6:00 p.m.
2/01	Clio Team Tourney	9:00 a.m.
2/08	GTC League Meet-Memphis	9:00 a.m.
2/13	Team Districts - Cass City	6:00 p.m.
2/15	Ind. Districts - New Lothrop	9:00 a.m.
2/19	Team Regionals @ TBA	TBA
2/22	Ind. Regionals @ TBA	TBA
2/28-29	Team State Finals @ Kalamazoo	TBA
3/6-7	Ind. State Finals @ Ford Field	TBA

GYMNASTICS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
12/7	Holt Invitational	9:00 a.m.
1/7	Vassar	6:30 p.m.
1/11	Fraser Invitational	9:00 a.m.
1/20	Bounce Meet - Hartland	TBA
1/25	Huron Valley @ Lakeland	8:00 a.m.
2/1	Haslett Invite	10:00 a.m.
2/8	Vassar Invite	10:00 a.m.
2/19	Port Huron	TBA
2/20	Vassar	6:30 p.m.

BOWLING

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
1/7	Harbor Beach	4:00 p.m.
1/9	North Huron @ Bad Axe	4:00 p.m.
1/14	USA	4:00 p.m.
1/16	Caro	4:00 p.m.
1/21	CPS	4:00 p.m.
1/23	Reese	4:00 p.m.
1/28	Brown City	4:00 p.m.
1/30	Bad Axe	4:00 p.m.
2/04	Sandusky	4:00 p.m.
2/06	Boys @ Cass City	TBA
2/08	Singles @ Sandusky	TBA
2/11	Girls @ Capac	TBA
2/15	Team @ Caro	TBA

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Cass City Missionary Church

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

Worship Service 8:30 a.m. • Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service 10:50 a.m.

Sunday Evening Service 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

Pastor: Jim Allred - Like us on Facebook!



First Baptist Church

(Independent, Fundamental) Barrier Free

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

Sunday School All Ages 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 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



First Presbyterian Church

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6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5400

Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

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Fraser Presbyterian Church

3006 Huron Line Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5400

• Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

• Coffee hour following worship



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-2770

Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

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

Pastor: Rev. Steve Bagnall

www.goodshepherdlutherancasscity.webs.com



Living Word Worship Center

Pentecostal - Church of God

6536 Houghton Street, Cass City, MI 48726

989-872-4637

Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

Family Training Hour: Wednesday 7 p.m.

Pastor: Jephtha Bryant

Mizpah Missionary Church

4631 N. Van Dyke, Cass City, MI 48726

Sunday School: 10 a.m.

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

Wednesday Prayer Group 6:30-8 p.m.

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

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Sunday 8:00 a.m.

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Legal Notices

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to MCL 600.3212, that the following will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public auction at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on January 9, 2020:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Billy J Turner, a single man

Original Mortgagee: Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust

Date of Mortgage: October 30, 2008

Date of Mortgage Recording: November 25, 2008

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$133,662.85

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Dayton, Tuscola County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 320, Shay Lake Subdivision No. 2, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 111, now being Liber 2 of Plats, Page 1A.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 4, 2019

Trott Law, P.C.
1403005

12-4-4

TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foregoing Mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. **NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE** MORTGAGE SALE-A mortgage was granted by JORDAN TURNER, a single woman, Mortgagor(s) to F R A N K E N M U T H CREDIT UNION, 580 NORTH MAIN STREET, FRANKENMUTH, MI 48734, Mortgagee dated FEBRUARY 11, 2019,

and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Tuscola County, and State of Michigan on FEBRUARY 14, 2019, in LIBER 1416 on PAGE 335 on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal and interest, the sum of SEVENTY SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY THREE AND 55/100THS (\$76,283.55) at 5% percent per annum and attorney fees as provided for in said Mortgage, and no suit or proceedings at law or in equity have been instituted to recover the moneys secured by said Mortgage, or any part thereof; **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, and pursuant to the statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that on JANUARY 9, 2020, AT 10:00 A.M. local time, said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction, to the highest bidder in the main lobby of the Court-house in the Village of Caro,

Tuscola County, Michigan (that being the building where the Circuit Court for the County of Tuscola is held), of the premises described in said mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due, aforesaid, on said mortgage with interest thereon and all legal costs, charges and expenses, including the attorney fees allowed by law, and also any sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned, necessary to protect its interest in the premises.

Which said premises are described as follows: VIL-LAGE OF FAIRGROVE, COUNTY OF TUSCOLA AND STATE OF MICHIGAN, to wit: LOT 27 OF HILLCREST SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGES 27-28, TUSCOLA COUNTY RECORDS. During the SIX (6) MONTHS immediately following the sale, the property may be redeemed, except that in the event that the property is determined to be abandoned pursuant to MCLA 600.3241 a, the property may be redeemed during the thirty (30) days immediately following the sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

JOHN W. BUTLER (P 33908) ATTORNEY FOR MORTGAGEE 24525 Harper Avenue St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 (586) 777-0770 Dated: 12-11-19

12-11-5

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to MCL 600.3212, that the following will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public auction at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on January 16, 2020:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Edwin Blackmer and Diane Blackmer, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Wilmington Trust, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as trustee of MFRA Trust 2014-2

Date of Mortgage: September 30, 2005

Date of Mortgage Recording: December 9, 2005

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$73,786.91

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Watertown, Tuscola County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a point 670.00 feet South of the Northwest corner of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 26, Town 10 North, Range 9 East, thence running East 168 feet, thence South 130 feet, thence West 168 feet, thence North 130 feet to the place of beginning

The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the

mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 18, 2019

Trott Law, P.C.
1404279

12-18-4

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Boyd Vollweiler, an unmarried man of 7083 North Lake Rd., Millington, MI 48746, the Mortgagor, to Flagstar Bank, FSB, whose address is 5151 Corporate Drive, Troy, MI 48098-2639, the Mortgagee, which Mortgage is dated July 29, 2005, and was recorded on August 9, 2005, Liber 1048, Page 1423, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and which Mortgage was assigned by said Mortgagee Flagstar Bank, FSB, to ARCPE 1, LLC, 1900 Sunset Harbour Dr., The Annex, 2nd Floor, Miami Beach, FL 33139, by an assignment dated January 16, 2017, and recorded on January 20, 217 in Liber 1366, Page 1472, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Four Dollars and 42/100's (\$83,674.42), including interest at 5% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front entrance of the Tuscola County Courthouse Building at 440 N. State Street, in the City of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan, at 10:00 a.m. on January 16, 2020. Said premises are situated in Millington, Tuscola County, Michigan and are described as: SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION commonly known as 7083 North Lake Rd., Millington, MI 48746 Tax ID No. 021-004-000-0130-00 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated December 12, 2019 ARCPE 1, LLC 1900 Sunset Harbour Dr. The Annex, 2nd Floor Miami Beach, FL 33139 /s/ S. Thomas Padgett S. Thomas Padgett (P31748) DeBrincat, Padgett, Koblicka & Zick 34705 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Suite 311 Farmington Hills, MI 48331 (248) 553-4333

THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 4, TOWN 10 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST, EXCEPT COMMENCING AT A POINT THAT IS S 89 DEGREES 56' E, 165 FEET FROM THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION; THENCE S 89 DEGREES 56' E 201 FEET; THENCE S 0 DEGREES 08' W, 325 FEET; THENCE N 89 DEGREES 56' W, 305.34 FEET; THENCE N 19 DEGREES 47' 24; E, 310.20 FEET; THENCE N 0 DEGREES 08' E, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. ALSO EXCEPT COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 4, THEN SOUTH 400 FEET; THENCE NORTHEAST ERLY TO A POINT ON THE NORTH SECTION LINE 165 FEET EAST OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 4; THENCE WEST TO A POINT OF BEGINNING. ALSO EXCEPT COMMENCING AT A POINT WHICH IS S 00 DEGREES

08' W, 325 FEET FROM THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 4, THENCE S 00 DEGREES 08' 00" W, 360 FEET; THENCE S 89 DEGREES 56' 00" E, 366 FEET; THENCE N 00 DEGREES 08' 00" E, 360 FEET; THENCE N 89 DEGREES 56' 00" W, 366 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. ALSO EXCEPT COMMENCING AT THE NORTH 1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 4; THENCE SOUTH 1523.12 FEET; THENCE WEST 660.91 FEET; THENCE NORTH 1511.8 FEET; THENCE EAST 661.87 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TAX ID NO: 021-004-000-0130-00

12-18-4

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to MCL 600.3212, that the following will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public auction at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on January 16, 2020:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Morgan Watkins and Ruth Watkins, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a Subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, F.S.B.

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust

Date of Mortgage: June 14, 2006

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 5, 2006

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$70,649.71

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Dayton, Tuscola County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 231, Shay Lake Heights Subdivision No. 2, Being a part of the East half of Section 14, Town 11 North, Range 10 East and Lot 232, Shay Lake Heights Subdivision No. 2, being a part of the East half of Section 14, Town 11 North, Range 10 East

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 18, 2019

Trott Law, P.C.
1404539

12-18-4

MORTGAGE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Notice is hereby given that Default has occurred in a Mortgage given by D & G Hall, L.L.C., a Michigan limited liability company, and Dwayne L. Hall and

Gloria J. Hall, husband and wife, mortgagors, to Mayville State Bank, mortgagee. The Mortgage is dated March 24, 2011, and was recorded on April 4, 2011, in Liber 2495, on page 443 of the Lapeer County records, and also recorded on September 14, 2011, at Liber 1230, page 248 of the Tuscola County records. The balance owing on the Mortgage as of the date of this Notice is \$167,997.29, including interest at 6% per year. The Mortgage contains a power of sale clause and no proceedings have been instituted to recover any part of the debt owing.

The Mortgage will be foreclosed by selling the property described below at a public auction to the highest bidder.

The sale on the Lapeer County property will be held on January 15, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. local time at the main entrance to the Lapeer County Court Facility, 255 Clay St., Lapeer, Michigan,

that being the place of holding Circuit Court for Lapeer County, Michigan. The sale on the Tuscola County property will be held on January 16, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. local time at the main entrance to the Tuscola County Court Facility at 440 N. State Street, Caro, Michigan, that being the place of holding Circuit Court for Tuscola County, Michigan.

The property will be sold to pay the amount then due on the Mortgage, including interest, legal costs, attorney fees and any taxes or insurance which may be paid by the mortgagee before the sale.

The Lapeer County property to be sold is located in the Township of Rich, County of Lapeer, Michigan and is described as:

Parcel 1: Commencing at the W 1/4 corner of Section 9, T10N, R10E, Rich Twp., Lapeer Co., Michigan and is described as:

Commencing at the W 1/4 corner of Section 9, T10N, R10E, Rich Twp., Lapeer Co., Michigan; running thence N 02°15'32" E 225.0 ft along the West line of said Section 9 to the point of beginning; running thence N 87°44'28" E 350.0 ft; thence N 02°15'32" W 207.0 ft; thence N 87°44'28" E 35.19 ft to the approximate centerline of a ditch; thence S 17°46'22" E 286.15 ft along the approximate centerline of a ditch; thence S 04°46'36" E 803.21 ft along the approximate centerline of a ditch; thence S 87°22'41" W 497.02 ft; thence N 02°15'32" W 874.30 ft along the W line of said Section 9 to the point of beginning. Being a part of the SW 1/4 of Section 9, T10N, R10E, Rich Twp., Lapeer Co., Michigan.

commonly known as 9350 N. Lapeer Road, Mayville, Michigan 48744

tax i.d. 018-009-008-00 and The Tuscola County property to be sold is located in the Township of Wells, Tuscola County, Michigan, being more particularly described as follows:

NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 15, T12N, R10E, Wells Twp., Tuscola Co., Michigan, except a strip of land on South side described as:

Commencing at the SE corner of said NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4; thence N 89°12' W 1328.5 ft; thence N 55.9 ft; thence S 89°25' E 1328.5 ft; thence S 61 ft to beginning.

commonly known as vacant land on James Road, Caro, MI 48723

tax i.d. 022-015-000-1900-00

If the property described in this notice is sold at a foreclosure sale, then under MCL 600.3278, the Mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the buyer of the property at the foreclosure sale, or to the Mortgage holder, for damage done to the property during the redemption period.

The redemption period will expire six (6) months after the date of the foreclosure sale.

SMITH, MARTIN, POWERS & KNIER, P.C.
Dated: December 16, 2019

By: Henry L. Knier, Jr. (P46393)
Attorney for Mayville State Bank, Mortgagee
900 Washington Ave., P.O. Box 219
Bay City, MI 48707 - (989) 892-4574

12-18-4

375.98 ft; thence N 02°13'26" W 231.72 ft; thence N 87°46'34" E 375.98 ft; thence S 02°13'26" W 231.72 ft along the N-S 1/4 line to the point of beginning.

Except: Part of the SW 1/4 of Section 9, T10N, R10E, Rich Twp., Lapeer Co., Michigan being further described as commencing at the S 1/4 corner of said Section; thence N 02°13'26" W 958.18 ft along the N and S 1/4 line to the point of beginning; thence S 87°46'34" W 375.98 ft; thence N 02°13'26" W 231.72 ft; thence N 87°46'34" E 375.98 ft; thence S 02°13'26" W 231.72 ft along the N-S 1/4 line to the point of beginning.

Except: Part of the SW 1/4 of Section 9, T10N, R10E, Rich Twp., Lapeer Co., Michigan, being further described as commencing at the S 1/4 corner of said Section; thence N 02°13'26" W 705.54 ft along the N-S 1/4 line to the point of beginning; thence S 87°46'34" W 306.94 ft; thence N 18°58'07" W 239.63 ft; thence N 02°13'26" W 23.17 ft; thence N 87°46'34" E 375.98 ft; thence S 02°13'26" E 252.64 ft along the N-S 1/4 line to the point of beginning.

Except: Commencing at the W 1/4 corner of Section 9, T10N, R10E, Rich Twp., Lapeer Co., Michigan; thence S 02°15'32" E 225.0 ft along the West line of said Section 9 to the point of beginning; running thence N 87°44'28" E 350.0 ft; thence N 02°15'32" W 207.0 ft; thence N 87°44'28" E 35.19 ft to the approximate centerline of a ditch; thence S 17°46'22" E 286.15 ft along the approximate centerline of a ditch; thence S 04°46'36" E 803.21 ft along the approximate centerline of a ditch; thence S 87°22'41" W 497.02 ft; thence N 02°15'32" W 874.30 ft along the W line of said Section 9 to the point of beginning. Being a part of the SW 1/4 of Section 9, T10N, R10E, Rich Twp., Lapeer Co., Michigan.

commonly known as 9350 N. Lapeer Road, Mayville, Michigan 48744

tax i.d. 018-009-008-00 and The Tuscola County property to be sold is located in the Township of Wells, Tuscola County, Michigan, being more particularly described as follows:

NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 15, T12N, R10E, Wells Twp., Tuscola Co., Michigan, except a strip of land on South side described as:

Commencing at the SE corner of said NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4; thence N 89°12' W 1328.5 ft; thence N 55.9 ft; thence S 89°25' E 1328.5 ft; thence S 61 ft to beginning.

commonly known as vacant land on James Road, Caro, MI 48723

tax i.d. 022-015-000-1900-00

If the property described in this notice is sold at a foreclosure sale, then under MCL 600.3278, the Mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the buyer of the property at the foreclosure sale, or to the Mortgage holder, for damage done to the property during the redemption period.

The redemption period will expire six (6) months after the date of the foreclosure sale.

SMITH, MARTIN, POWERS & KNIER, P.C.
Dated: December 16, 2019

By: Henry L. Knier, Jr. (P46393)
Attorney for Mayville State Bank, Mortgagee
900 Washington Ave., P.O. Box 219
Bay City, MI 48707 - (989) 892-4574

12-18-4

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FOR RENT - Cass City Apartments, an elderly community (elderly being defined as 62 years of age or disabled of any age) located in Cass City, MI is currently accepting applications for 1 bedroom Apartments. Units of barrier free design may also be available. Rent based on income, starting at \$499. For affordable housing call (989) 872-2009. Free Heat & Water! Pet Friendly! \$0 Security Deposit (limited time only) "This institution is an equal opportunity provider" TDD/TTY #711" 4-2-21-1f

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VFW HALL - weddings, parties, funeral, dinners. Please call 989-872-4933. 4-2-22-1f

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MOBILE HOME FOR SALE - In Huntsville Park. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath for \$3,500. Call 989-872-3177 or 989-872-4670. 14-12-18-3

PAUL'S PUMP REPAIR - Water pump and water tank sales. In-home service. Credit cards accepted. Call 673-4850 or 800-745-4851 anytime. 8-9-25-1f

ELECTRIC MOTOR and power tool repair, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. John Blair, 1/8 mile west of M-53 on Sebawaing Road. Phone 269-7909 or 989-553-7960. 8-12-13-1f



Services

SALT FREE iron conditioners and water softeners, 24,000 grain, \$750. In-home service on all brands. Credit cards accepted. Call Paul's Pump Repair, 673-4850 or 800-745-4851 for free analysis. 8-9-25-1f

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Lovely brick ranch located in a great location. Close to school and park. Very well maintained home, offers three bedrooms, 1 bath on main floor, updated windows, Hardwood floors. Basement has large gathering room and second kitchen, and second bath, great for entertaining. Nice spacious back yard, mature trees, nice shade. 123-19-0053

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LIGHT PRODUCTION WORKER - We have a position available at competitive wages with excellent benefits. Qualifications: High school diploma, excellent work attendance record, good math, reading and writing skills, excellent manual dexterity. For consideration please send resume with references to Anrod Screen Cylinder Co., Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 117, Cass City, MI 48726. 11-12-25-3

VACANCY POSTING - POSITION: Administrative Assistant/Food Service Director QUALIFICATIONS: Associates degree preferred in Business Administration/Accounting, technologically savvy (experience in typing, office machines, Computer Excel, Word, Power Point, Student and Business Skyward, and Mealtime) JOB DESCRIPTION: See front page www.owengage.org PERSONAL TRAITS: Must be able to deal with the public in a professional manner and maintain confidentiality. Must have adaptability to perform a variety of duties, often changing direction from one task to another of a different nature without loss of efficiency or composure. Must have excellent work attendance record. SALARY: Negotiable based upon experience and education DEADLINE: January 17, 2020 or until filled SEND RESUME AND CREDENTIALS TO: Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools Attention: Terri Falkenberg, Principal 7166 Main Street, Owendale, MI 48754, falkenbergt@owengage.org, Telephone: (989) 678-4261 or Fax: (989) 678-4284. 11-12-11-4

**Send Letters to the Editor to
Cass City Chronicle
P.O. Box 115, Cass City**

DTE filling new call center positions

Continued from page one.

\$16.32 per hour after 12 months.

Representatives will work in a call center, and there are also frontline employees who work with more than 3.2 million gas and electric customers.

Area residents planning to apply should have oral and written communication skills and must pass a pre-hire assessment and department of transportation (DOT) drug test.

Other qualifications for the job include a high school diploma and two-years of experience in cus-

tomers contact in a professional environment or one year with an associate's degree.

The new call center will be an addition to DTE's existing Michigan-based call centers in the Detroit and Grand Rapids areas. It also reflects DTE's commitment to providing jobs to Michigan residents and locally-based support to its customers, according to Hank Campbell, DTE director of call center operations.

"The new call center in Cass City, with 100 new service representatives, will enable us to improve our response time, answer

calls quicker and solve problems sooner," Campbell said. "Additionally, we are pleased to offer new career opportunities in the Cass City area."

DTE's operating units include an electric company serving 2.2 million customers in Southeast Michigan and a natural gas company serving 1.3 million customers in Michigan.

Tuscola driver injured in crash

Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies say a Tuscola County motorist lost control of her vehicle after falling asleep at the wheel last Wednesday.

The crash was reported at about 10:15 p.m., according to Lt. Nate Smith.

"It was determined that 36-year-old Jennifer Daney from Fairgrove was travelling east on West Sanilac Road near Arnold Road when she fell asleep at the wheel and ran off the road on the north side. The vehicle traveled a couple hundred feet when it struck a ground wire that was attached to a utility pole," Smith said. "The utility pole then broke in half and struck the vehicle and caused it to come to rest."

The driver was treated for her injuries at the scene and then transported by Sanilac EMS to McKenzie Hospital for additional treatment.

Air bags were deployed and the driver was wearing a seatbelt, according to Smith.



THE OWEN-Gage PTO recently held its annual Santa Workshop. "Every Elementary Student had an opportunity to shop for their family," explained Mary Ann Minkler, Owen-Gage administrative assistant. "It's always a joyful time to watch the students get excited over picking the perfect gift for their family members. Our parents sometimes get surprised when they open their gift and they got a match box car or bubbles, but the joy on their child's face is worth it. Every item is donated by our community and the funds we collect pay for the students' field trips. We couldn't do this without our support from our community." Pictured above, Alivia Roerig helps Olivia Sheufelt shop and wrap, while adult volunteer Shelley Jones assists Sierra Miller (below).



Redhawk Review

by
Taryn Pisarek

**New year brings
much excitement**

The holiday season is coming to an end, but with it comes a new year and a fresh start for most.

Resolutions are in full swing, which means people are busy. It's not just the gym full of motivated people, or the bank with those who vowed to save up more in the coming year, but also the school. From students to faculty, everyone has been engaged in activities.

When school resumes Jan. 6, the student council will meticulously plan for the week of Snowcoming. They must finalize plans for the entertainment, which consists of the annual aftershave matches, Friday night's basketball game and Saturday's dance.

The student council isn't the only group that will be busy though; everyone is going to be getting ready for the end of the first semester, which is just as exciting as Snowcoming. For most of the freshmen, this will be the first time they truly get to experience the joys of exam week, while the seniors cheer because it's the last exam week for most of them.

For the class of 2020, this is an especially exciting new year.

Now that we have reached graduation year, it is really starting to sink in that we won't be in high school much longer. We are both hopeful and anxious about our futures.

While we know that Cass City and our parents have prepared us for the journey we are about to travel, there are still so many variables. It is time for us to solidify some of our plans to go to college, serve in the military, or attend trade/tech schools.

While 2019 has been an unforgettable year for the senior class, we hope that 2020 brings us even closer together before we must part.

Everyone at Cass City schools wishes the community a happy and prosperous new year!

Ambulance service future unclear

Continued from page one.

and serves 13 townships, from Port Austin to Bad Axe, as well as a portion of Sheridan Township.

"They (CHA) said that if Bingham Ambulance gave them the current equipment they own, that they would leave the ambulance at the Bingham Township Hall. They will not go out and buy another truck to cover this area if Bingham township decides to sell it on their own," said Uby Village President Jason Nicol, who attended the meeting. "Central will try to staff people in the area also, but those details have to be worked out."

CHA's board will have to develop a plan and approve it.

"They were also clear that there may be times when the ambulance is not available and another has to respond from Bad Axe," Nicol said, noting CHA may also extend into the next county. "Central may be able to help out some of the townships in Sanilac County served by the current ambulance — if they would like — but it will require some time to iron out those details."

During discussions, it was noted it could cost \$4 per resident for the coverage.

The township board approved handing the ambulance equipment over based on the condition of keeping it in Bingham Township, with Nicol emphasizing again that there are a number of details yet to be worked out.

CHA is supported by subsidies from the townships it serves along with operational revenue.

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