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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 112, NUMBER 45

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

.75 CENTS ~ 16 PAGES - 1 SUPPLEMENT

Jury convicts Cass City man on 9 counts of CSC

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A Tuscola County jury deliberated for about 2 ½ hours late Fri-

day afternoon before returning verdicts of guilty on all counts against a Cass City man charged with nine counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct.

The verdicts against Brad Joseph Gniewek, 37, a former area pastor, came following a four-day trial in Tuscola County Circuit Court. Sentencing is to be scheduled in

the case, with the defendant potentially facing up to life or any term of years in prison on each count.

Gniewek, who was extradited to Michigan from Minnesota to face trial, had been free on bond since his arrest, but Tuscola County Circuit Court Judge Amy Grace Gierhart revoked his bond following Friday's convictions and remanded him to the custody of the sheriff's department pending sen-

tencing.

First degree criminal sexual conduct involves penetration. In this case, the crimes also involved personal injury in the form of physical harm and mental anguish, according to Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark E. Reese, who indicated Gniewek repeatedly assaulted the victim – now his ex-wife – over a period of years during the couple's marriage.

Please turn to page 8.



CASS CITY residents who are curious about the impressions the village makes on first-time visitors are invited to attend a First Impressions Tourism (FIT) Assessment community forum planned for Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Hills and Dales Corporate Services Building (formerly the Baker College campus building). Registration will begin at 5 p.m., followed by a program from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Photo courtesy of Tyler Perry)

Residents invited to tourism assessment community meet

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Cass City residents who are curious about the impressions the village makes on first-time visitors might be interested in attending an upcoming community forum.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Hills and Dales Corporate Services Building (formerly the Baker College campus building), located at 6667 Main Street. Registration will begin at 5 p.m., followed by a program from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The event – open to anyone interested in the future of Cass City

and surrounding region, including citizens, business owners, elected officials, educators and representatives of various organizations — is free, but those planning to attend are asked to register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/FIT-CRFCassCity/>.

Organization of the upcoming community forum stems from Cass City officials' on-going effort to boost the village's business community.

In 2018, local officials successfully applied for participation in a First Impressions Tourism (FIT) Assessment in cooperation with the MSU Extension Tourism Team, according to village Man-

ager Debbie Powell, who said the village has also been awarded some grant funding related to the effort.

She noted that formation of a local community leadership team (CLT) was an integral part of the process, with Cass City's CLT composed of herself, Mike Rule (representing technology businesses), Judy Keller (Cass City Chamber of Commerce administrator), Helen Larson (representing retail), Janie Meeker (representing the Cass City Board of Education), David Weiler (local financial advisor/business owner) and Peggy Davidson (healthcare

Please turn to page 2.

No one hurt as Friday fire rips through home

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Fire ripped through an upstairs apartment inside a home at the corner of West and Pine streets in Cass City early Friday morning, but no one was home at the time and Elkland Township fire fighters were able to save the lower level of the structure.

Firemen were called to the residence at 4455 West Street shortly after 5 a.m., according to Fire Chief Glenn Guilds, who said the department arrived to find five- to six-foot flames shooting out of an upstairs win-

Please turn to page 2.



ELKLAND Township fire fighters were dispatched to a house fire at the intersection of West and Pine streets early Friday morning. (Photo courtesy of Jim Freeman)

Woman gets jail time in stabbing case

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The girlfriend of a man charged with assaulting another man with a knife in Cass City last summer was sentenced to 365 days in the county jail last week in Tuscola County Circuit Court.

Ashley Elizabeth-Michelle Smith, 31, of Cass City, who previously pleaded no contest to two counts of lying to a peace officer conducting a violent crime investigation, was also placed on probation for 24 months and ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$1,026.

The case stems from a late-night confrontation between two acquaintances that turned violent July 19 in Cass City, with Smith's boyfriend, Cal Bradley Richards, 31, of Cass City, allegedly stabbing the other man multiple times. The victim, identified only as a

Please turn to page 8.



CASS CITY native Jim Baker, whose coaching resume includes youth and junior high football as well as helping out with the Red Hawk varsity football program, is battling a progressive liver disease that will require him to undergo both a liver and kidney transplant. Family and friends have organized a benefit dinner to help with expenses.

Reaching out

Benefit dinner set for veteran scouting leader, coach facing liver and kidney transplants

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Jim Baker is fighting for his life, but you wouldn't know it if you talked to him.

The personable Cass City native is just as quick with a smile as he's always been, and he'll tell you that every day is a great day – it's just that some days are better than others.

However, the veteran scouting leader and coach has seen better days when it comes to his health, which is deteriorating due to a progressive liver disease that has placed him on the organ donor registry in hopes that he'll receive a call soon telling him transplant surgeons at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak have a new liver and kidney for him.

"It could be any time now, and I've got four hours to get there and have the surgery," Baker, 54, said during an interview Friday.

In the meantime, Baker — a self-employed au-

Please turn to page 7.

Tourism assessment forum set in village

Continued from page one.
 representative).
 In a nutshell, Powell explained, FIT helps communities learn about their strengths and weaknesses through the eyes of first-time visitors. The FIT program arranged to have five unannounced visitors, all unfamiliar with Cass City, spend some time in the community last fall, and their observations will be incorpo-

rated into next week's public forum.
 Powell said the FIT program is designed to spawn local leadership, strengthen community vitality and form the basis for future development by enabling participants to:
 *Learn about their assets and opportunities from new visitors to their towns.
 *Strengthen existing cooperation among leaders and residents so

they can better organize based on valuable feedback.
 *Develop a list of action items for community improvement.
 *Integrate action items into their community plans.
 *Take action on community improvements and strengthen their image.
 *Improve community well-being and quality of life for residents.

Fryers joins McLaren Caro

McLaren Caro Region officials recently announced the addition of Heather Fryers, FNP-BC, to their team of providers. Fryers began seeing patients earlier this month as a family nurse practitioner at the Caro Medical Clinic, 220 E. Frank Street.



Heather Fryers

Fryers is no stranger to McLaren Caro Region (MCR). She has been a registered nurse at the hospital for nearly four years and she served on the hospital's Nurse Improvement Team for two years. Before coming to MCR, she had 11 years of nursing experience at Fischer Senior Care and Rehab Center. Fryers earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree in 2013 and graduated from Purdue University with a Master of Science Degree in Nursing as a family nurse practitioner in April, 2018.

Fryers says she is thrilled to begin her new practice.
 "I really enjoyed working in the hospital and will miss the team, but I'm excited for this new adventure, and I'll still be able to work with them, just in a different aspect," she said. "I really enjoy helping people be more proactive about their health. Taking care of patients is like solving a puzzle; listening to them and looking for the right clues to diagnose the problem. Once you have figured out what is going on, the next step is coming up with the best treatment options, taking into consideration the whole person."

Fryers resides in Mayville with her husband, Joel, and their two children, Emma and Gage. She will be seeing patients on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Fridays from 8 a.m. until noon.

"We are continuously working to enhance the patient experience at our practice," said Marc Augsburg, MCR President and CEO. "We are very excited to have Heather join our team of providers. Her vast experience caring for our patients at the hospital and the fact that she has already been working closely with our entire staff, makes her a wonderful addition to the clinic."

MCR officials will be hosting a "meet and greet" for Fryers Friday, Jan. 25, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Caro Medical Clinic.



TUSCOLA COUNTY Sheriff's deputies are investigating the larceny of a camper from Bay Street in Unionville. The camper, taken sometime after Dec. 24, is a 1966 Aristocrat camper (Michigan registration B44494). Anyone with information related to the theft is asked to contact Deputy Chris Whetstone via email at cwhetstone@tuscolacounty.org or by calling Tuscola County Central Dispatch at (989) 673-8738.

Cass City United Methodist Church

Begins a Meal with Jesus every Saturday dates and times as follows:

- January 19th, 2019 (dinner) 5:00 pm
- January 26th, 2019 (breakfast) 10:00 am
- February 2nd, 2019 (lunch) noon

You must call (989) 872-3422 each Friday by noon to reserve your spot and let us know how many will be attending, so we know how much food to have on hand.
This is a FREE weekly meal.

Simple Meals each Saturday. Good Fellowship and Conversation – Bring your family, children and friends.

Why? Because it is important for you to get to know us (*we are the church that provides the monthly Dorcas Meals.*) as we get to know you. Some weeks we will have a guest speaker or entertainment, other weeks we will just talk about issues that affect you and your family and our community. All are welcome here! You can also volunteer to help. ~Pastor Bob Demyanovich

Cass City United Methodist Church
 5100 Cemetery Road, Cass City, MI 48726-0125
www.casscityumc.org or find us on Facebook

House fire

Continued from page one.

dow.
 Guilds reported the upstairs tenant, Aaron Keiser, was not home when the fire broke out. "He left to go into town to get a cup of coffee, and he left a candle burning," he said of the suspect cause of the blaze.

The fire chief noted there are two apartments in the lower level of the structure – one is being remodeled and the tenants of the other apartment were not home.

The home is owned by local businessman Tracey Moore.

Guilds said the upper level was gutted, while the lower level sustained some water damage. He estimated the loss at \$25,000 and said Moore is insured.

Cass City firemen remained at the scene for about three hours. They were assisted by both the Elmwood Township-Gagetown and Caro fire departments.

Senior Movies set

Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City will host its next Senior Citizen Movies Friday, Jan. 18, at 1:30 p.m.

Films slated to be shown are:
 *"Death Valley" — Death Valley National Park is a land of extremes; it's the driest place in the United States, the lowest place in the Western Hemisphere and, at one time, the hottest single location recorded on earth. Yet life thrives. Journey with National Geographic to see this amazing park and meet the scientists who work to protect it (50 minutes).
 *"Mendoza" — Wine tasting, hiking, river rafting and so much more make up a trip to the modern mellow city of Mendoza, Argentina (30 minutes).

Refreshments will be served. This older adult program is offered free of charge.

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2			7			8		

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

Apparently size does matter



Are you ready to do more than criticize?

Talk is cheap. If you don't believe that, spend a little time on Facebook pages tied to various communities, including Cass City, and you'll find a whole slew of current and former residents who are more than willing to trash talk the place they call or once called home.

"The community is dying", "The town has become a dump", "The local government doesn't care", "No businesses want to locate there". And the list goes on.

We couldn't say if these critics simply have nothing better to do, or if maybe they feel they were wronged by an individual, a local business, village officials, etc., and just haven't been able to get over it.

In any event, Cass City is fortunate to have many residents who remain loyal to their community, and while they are also concerned with blight, empty storefronts, cracking pavement and chipped paint, they care about their hometown and aren't willing to throw up their arms and give up.

And, a number of them are willing to roll up their sleeves and lend a hand, if only in the form of constructive suggestions, to help guide local leaders in their quest to make the community a better place for all to live, raise families and enjoy.

Those are the sort of residents Cass City officials hope will attend an upcoming public forum that will focus on the results of the village's participation in a First Impressions Tourism (FIT) Assessment in cooperation with the MSU Extension Tourism Team.

According to village Manager Debbie Powell, FIT is a program that assists communities in learning about their strengths and weaknesses through the eyes of first-time visitors. The FIT program arranged to have five unannounced visitors, all unfamiliar with Cass City, spend some time in the community last fall, and their observations will be incorporated into the public forum planned for next week.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Hills and Dales Corporate Services Building (formerly the Baker College campus building), located at 6667 Main Street. Registration will begin at 5 p.m., followed by a program from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The event – open to anyone interested in the future of Cass City and surrounding region, including citizens, business owners, elected officials, educators and representatives of various organizations – is free, but those planning to attend are asked to register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/FITCRFCassCity/>.

Powell, who noted the FIT assessments are designed to spawn local leadership, strengthen community vitality and form the basis for future development, says Cass City has been awarded a \$2,000 grant to begin the process of making improvements.

Village officials have formed a local community leadership team (CLT) that will be discussing the results of the FIT assessment and drafting recommendations based on the input heard during the community forum.

But committee members welcome input from all residents interested in being part of an effort to revitalize the town for the betterment of generations to come.

So, why not invest a couple hours of your time to attend next week's gathering to become better informed about the challenges your community is facing, as well as ways to tackle those challenges?

All of the advertisement of the movie, "On the Basis of Sex," which is supposed to be based on the early life and a case of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, has me thinking about discrimination.

Discrimination comes in many forms; age, gender, religion, race, etc. I was on the fringe of the era when women were still considered as chattel of their husband, and around during the era of Civil Rights.

So, I was surprised to read about a study that talked about discrimination because of "shoes".

The study explained that the style of shoe a woman wears has a direct bearing on how a man treats her, as well as how willing a man is to help a damsel in distress. This information totally floored me, especially in this day and age. I know that most men love to see a woman in high heels, but to totally discriminate based on a style of shoe makes no sense to me.

According to the study, conducted by Nicholas Gueguen at the University de Bretagne-Sud in France, "A women's shoe heel height exerts a powerful effect on men's behavior."

During the study, the behavior of 90 random males between the ages of 25 and 50 participated in a series of experiments, and the results indicated the men were more willing to help ladies wearing heels than those in sensible shoes.

During the study, Gueguen documented the results of when a 19-year-old female walked past a man while wearing three different types of shoes. The lady wore a pair of black flat shoes, black two-inch heel shoes, and then a pair of 3.5-inch, black high-heeled shoes.

The results showed more men were willing to stop and answer questions when the 19-year-old was wearing the highest-heeled shoes. I'm like...really?

In another analysis, the woman acted like a damsel in distress, dropping a glove. More men helped her when she was wearing higher-heeled shoes. Also, in the third experiment, a tally was done on how many men approached a group of ladies who wore heels of various sizes – more men initiated conversation with those in stilettos than with those wearing flatter shoes.


The outcome of the studies show the number of men who responded to women wearing the highest-heel shoes was doubled compared to the response to women who wore flats or lower-heeled shoes.

I guess the bottom line is that heels are associated with sexiness, overall physical attractiveness, beauty, and willingness to date, based on the study's conclusion.

Gueguen speculates it is the media's exploitation of women in stilettos as a key reason for men's reactions and for such discrimination.

Whatever the reason, the study greatly upset me. There is discrimination based on a woman's foot apparel? I'm like r-e-a-l-l-y? Good grief! To me, that is the ultimate of shallow.

It's not just the fact that I'm a multi-seasoned (a.k.a. mature) woman who only owns sensible shoes that has me bothered. I'm disgusted because the study has me wondering if there is such thing as sexy, orthopedic high-heel shoes.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Area residents interested in getting a close look at the newly-expanded and renovated Hills and Dales General Hospital in Cass City will have a golden opportunity next month.

Hospital officials announced Friday plans to host an open house Friday, Feb. 8.

"We will have a program at 12:30 p.m. Then we will offer tours, (with) refreshments following," said Danielle Blaine, the hospital's community relations director.

Groundbreaking for the \$6 million expansion and renovation project took place in April 2017.

Hospital officials have already unveiled much of the completed work, which has involved both the first and second floors, ranging from major upgrades to a dozen patient rooms to the creation of space to host both the hospital's specialty and after-hours clinics. A change in the layout of the inpatient floor, meanwhile, includes updates to the physical therapy area, as well as the nurse's station, activities room, offices and storage for the second floor.

A 25-foot expansion to the front of the hospital has been transformed to provide clinic space for two of Hills and Dales' physicians, as well as the hospital's specialty physician clinic and after-hours clinic, and the renovated registration has centralized the hospital's emergency room and outpatient registration areas. The work has also included a new gift shop and expansion of the cafeteria on the lower level.

Local residents can ring in the New Year with 10 free flowering trees by joining the Arbor Day Foundation any time during January 2019.

By becoming a part of the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation, new members will receive 10 free flowering trees or five crabapples. The flowering trees include: two Sargent crabapples, three American redbuds, two Washington hawthorns and three white flowering dogwoods.

"These stunning trees will beautify your home with lovely flowers of pink, yellow and white colors," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These trees are perfect for large and small spaces."

The free trees are part of the Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between February 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch tall trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members will also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution by January 31, 2019 to: Ten Flowering Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410

You can also join online at arborday.org/January.

Letters to the Editor

Why can't our leaders solve simple problem?

What President Trump should do is have the news media come into the Oval Office with their cameras and have every congressman and senator that opposed the money to fund the border wall, and ask them why, so these rats can be exposed to the voters why they are that stupid.

And, if they say the wall doesn't work, then tell them to go to Israel and see how they do it, because from 2010 to 2013, they had over 56,000 illegals enter into Israel – when they built the wall in 2017, they had no one come in. So, the wall does work.

The Congress and the senate create all these stupid problems, but they never get punished for their stupidity. They should get their wages taken away until they can solve the simple problem – and no back pay.

If I was President Trump, I would tell Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer I don't need the \$5 billion for the wall. What I want now is E-Verify and it won't cost anything. E-Verify will stop all illegals and All Visa overstays. They will all go back wherever they came from on their own, and if any employer hires any illegal, (they) should get one year in prison and a \$50,000 fine. I'll guarantee you this will solve the illegal problem by 100 percent.

What I don't understand, if they can't solve a simple problem like this, then how can we depend on these idiots to solve anything?


We have Democrats and Republicans that want to raise the minimum wage to \$15, and these same idiots want to let these immigrants in that Trump wants to keep out that will practically work for nothing. They don't have brains to solve anything.

I truly believe they're so confused, they need a GPS to find their way home. Any politician that is in favor of a policy that is not good for America just to get elected – I consider him/her a traitor.

Robert Peruski
Ubly

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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Letters to the Editor

The 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.

Social News

The Cass City Chronicle will gladly publish social news free of charge. Social news includes: engagements, weddings, anniversaries, college graduations, birth announcements and similar items. There is a \$4 fee to include a photo.

Reporter's notebook

We're a squirrely bunch, to be sure

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2014)

Highly motivated and a hard, hard worker. Those are the first words that came to Cass City High School wrestling Coach Don Markel's mind when asked about former Cass City student and wrestling standout Jeremy Klinkman. Markel figures the toughness Klinkman learned during his years as a wrestler in Cass City have served him well in adulthood. It's likely the U.S. Naval officials would agree. Klinkman, now 30, is both motivated and hard working, following his promotion from an electrician's mate first class to the rank of ensign. A 2001 Cass City High School graduate, Klinkman, the son of Fred and Cheyenne Klinkman, of Cass City, was the focus of attention during his commissioning ceremony, held recently at Rickover Memorial Auditorium, Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, Charleston, S.C.

Schneeberger's congratulates Sawyer Cuthrell as their "Athlete of the Week" award winner. The Cass City sophomore point guard has shown steady improvement on the year and has been clutch for the Red Hawks in crunch time. "Sawyer has hit some big shots for us lately," says Coach Aaron Fernald, who adds that Cuthrell is one of the team's hardest workers. Cuthrell's late game heroics were pivotal in handing Marlette their first loss on the season last week, including his 5 free throws in the extra session that proved to be the difference in the GTC crossover battle. Sawyer is the son of Amy and Scott Cuthrell.

10 YEARS AGO (2009)

Elise Pasant, daughter of Carol and Ed Pasant of Cass City, and Michael McNeil, son of Yvonne and Dennis McNeil of Unionville, announce their engagement. Elise is a 2002 graduate of Cass City High School, and a 2006 graduate of Saginaw Valley State University with a Bachelor of Science in nursing. She is currently employed at Covenant Hospital in Saginaw as a nurse in the neonatal critical care unit. Michael is a 1999 graduate of Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools, and a 2007 graduate of Northwood University with a Bachelor of Business Administration with dual majors in business management, and banking and finance. He is currently employed at Signature Bank in Harbor Beach as a commercial lender. A Feb. 21, 2009 wedding is being planned in Bay City.

Cass City Chronicle Editor Tom Montgomery has been named the Central Michigan University Department of Journalism's "Alumnus of the Year" for 2009, university officials announced last week. He will be honored during a luncheon planned for April 15 on the campus of CMU.

Courtney Hacker, a sophomore at Hope College, Holland, Mich., has been named to the school's dean's list for the first semester of the 2008-09 school year. She is the daughter of Brian and Melissa Hacker of Ubyly. To be named to the dean's list, a student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

25 YEARS AGO (1994)

Tom and Brenda Fulcher, probably more than most area residents, have a keen sense of appreciation for what they have and where they live. That appreciation came across Monday night as the Cass City couple shared their experiences on a trip to Saint Petersburg, Russia, last year with about 2 dozen area residents gathered at Rawson Memorial Library. The Fulchers painted an interesting picture of contrasts during their hour-long program, alternately describing

historic sites and artistic treasures, and their impressions of a people whose standard of living pales in comparison to that enjoyed in this country. Unemployment in Saint Petersburg is high, and the average income is about \$20 a month. Brenda pointed out teachers aren't very well paid, earning \$15 a month. Doctors earn \$25 a month, Tom said.

Andrea Goslin daughter of Francis and Evelyn Goslin of Gagetown, recently graduated from Eastern Michigan University. A 1989 graduate of Owen-Gage High School, Goslin majored in occupational therapy. Upon completion of a 6-month internship at the Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona, Penn., and at Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital, Baltimore, Md., she will receive a Bachelor of Science degree.

Students who earned listing on the dean's list (3.4 grade point average) at Saginaw Valley State University include these from the area: Cass City - Sandra S. Bulla, Mark A. Hawley, Wendy J. Hercliff, Laura J. Kosal, Susan R. Papp, May L. Ponder, Andrea M. Ross, Heather M. Shaft, Stephanie L. Spencer and Heather L. Wright.

35 YEARS AGO (1984)

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Lounsbury entertained his brothers and sisters at a family dinner Sunday. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Loren Brinkman of Southfield, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Strecker of Saginaw, Mr. and Mrs. Harland Lounsbury, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Lounsbury and Mrs. Jessie Goodall. The Brinkmans were Saturday overnight guests.

The doctor of philosophy degree was received from the College of Education. Dr. Lorencz fulfilled part of her degree requirements by writing a dissertation entitled, "An analysis of job tasks for the correspondence secretary in a word processing center, with recommendation for curriculum revision at Oakland Community College. Dr. Lorencz received her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. She has been employed in business education at Oakland Community College since 1969. Prior to that, she taught in the Riverview School District.

Pvt. Denise K. Moriarty, daughter of Darwin J. Moriarty of 3588 Deckerville Road, Snover, and June Whelehan of Bowie, Md., has completed basic training S.C. at Fort Jackson, During the training, students received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions. She is a 1982 graduate of Sandusky High School.

40 YEARS AGO (1979)

Les Severance of Severance Road, Decker, was elected vice chairman Monday of District 9 of the Michigan Milk Producers Association. The district consists of Huron and Tuscola counties. Elected chairman was Robert Thuemmel Jr. of Port Austin. The terms are for one year. The delegates met at the Ubyly Heights Country Club.

Joan Rayl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Linel Rayl of Dickerson Road, Unionville, graduated Dec. 24 from Charles Stewart Mott Community College in Flint. She received her associates degree in applied science with her major in general business. She is now employed with Farrview Limited, Inc. of Flint as a bookkeeper for 10 McDonald Dairy stores in Pontiac and Detroit. Joan is a 1976 graduate of Unionville-Sebewaing High School.

Student of the month for December at Owendale-Gagetown High School was Karla Kretzschmer, a freshman. Karla was also selected by the teaching staff. She is a cheerleader and president of her

freshman class and has always been on the honor roll.

50 YEARS AGO (1969)

Technical Sergeant James E. Tutwiler, son of Mrs. Mallie V. Anderson of Biloxi, Miss., has received the U. S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Sergeant Tutwiler was decorated for meritorious service as a radar repairman at Clark AB, Philippines. He was cited for his outstanding professional skill, knowledge and devotion to duty. He is now at Keesler in a unit of the Air Training Command. The sergeant is a 1954 graduate of Dover, Del., Public High School. His wife, Teresa, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Konrad Konwalski of Cass City.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Crawford of Deford celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary recently at a supper held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Jenkins and family of Millington. All of their children were present except Mrs. Virginia Mead, who lives in Sail Luis Rey, Calif. Nine of the couple's ten grandchildren were also present. Among those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Betz of Millington, Mr. and Mrs. John Crawford of Deford, Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Ferris of Millersburg and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Crawford of Vassar. It was also the third wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. John Crawford, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. David Loomis had as Sunday dinner guests, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Kritzman and family of Kawkawlin, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Partlo of Akron and Mrs. Howard Loomis. Other afternoon guests were Mrs. Don DeLong and daughters Connie and Donna. Mrs. David Loomis's parents, the Partlos, have just returned from a trip to Florida and Texas.

75 YEARS AGO (1944)

After spending a 15-day rest in New Zealand, Raymond L. Parker, son of Mrs. John Parker, of Gagetown, writes:

2nd Lt. John Arnold Reagh, was among the 10 Michigan men who were on Jan. 7 commissioned, and given the wings of the military pilot is 2nd Lt. John Arnold Reagh, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Reagh, Twin Lakes Club, Branch, Mich. The Reaghs were formerly residents of Cass City and John Arnold was graduated from the high school here in 1937. He qualified as an aviation cadet April 10, 1943 that he has been promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant.

Caswell McIntyre Hunter, son of Mrs. E. Hunter of Cass City, has recently been promoted from second to first lieutenant. He is stationed at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas.

100 YEARS AGO (1919)

L. I. Wood of the Wood Rexall Drug Store, who was special Enrolling Agent for the United States Merchant Marine during the war, has just been appointed permanent Enrolling Agent for the United States Shipping Board Recruiting Service, by Henry Howard, its director. Official notice of Mr. Wood's appointment was received here recently from Recruiting Service headquarters, Custom House, Boston.

The Cass City Grain Co. has work in their bean picking rooms for several women at good wages. The company has a large quantity of beans on hand and could add 15 women to the bean picking force at once. Last year work was provided all the year in this department. "If we were assured of being able to secure help in this department we would enlarge the headquarters to provide work for 50 to 60 women." Said Joseph Frutcher, secretary of the company.

NOTICE FOR GILFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING - DECEMBER 24, 2018

Meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M. Members present: R. Haines, Clerk; J. Stockmeyer, Supervisor; D. Strasz, Treasurer; A. Goss, Trustee; K. Houghtaling, Trustee. Order of agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: 1 citizen rigorous complaint about taxes.

Because of mid fiscal year implementation of BS&A software and the State mandated Uniform Chart of Accounts into existing 2018-19 budget format, periodic adjustments to budget accounts are necessary. Motion by D. Strasz, second by A. Goss to Amend the budget by moving \$2,000.00 from Misc. Trustees, \$800.00 from Election Supplies, \$700.00 from Elections, \$1,000.00 from Ditch Maintenance, \$500.00 from Cemetery Supplies, and \$664.00 from Zoning/Planning Supplies into the Hall budget to pay for Camera System. Motion approved. Spicer invoice. Motion by D. Strasz, second by A. Goss to accept Spicer contract for \$1500.00. Motion approved. Fairgrove Fire. Motion by D. Strasz, second by A. Goss to provide loan of \$12,000.00 to Village of Fairgrove for fire truck to help cover costs of Juniata Township non payment. Motion approved with a vote of 4 yea, 1 nay.

Motion by J. Stockmeyer, second by R. Haines to adjourn at 9:25 A.M. Meeting adjourned.

Robert L. Haines,
Gilford Township Clerk
6230 Gilford Road
Fairgrove, MI 48733

Obituaries

Nina Davis

Nina Dorothy Davis, 88, of Cass City, died following a short illness Sunday, January 6, 2019 in Covenant Medical Center Cooper Campus, Saginaw.

She was born July 14, 1930 in Canandaigua, NY to Antonio and Mary (Catalfamo) Maio. Following her graduation from High School, Nina worked for Commercial Cord Company in Clifton Springs, New York. She was offered a job with General Cable in Cass City. Nina took the job and moved to Cass City making this her home. She worked for General Cable for nearly 49 years, retiring as a Senior Accountant when they closed the plant. Nina was a member of Our Lady Consolata Parish St. Pancratius Catholic Church since her move to Cass City. She was very active in the church with Faith Formation youth classes. She was Sacristan for masses for many years. Nina sang in the church choir, served on worship committee, was responsible for training altar servers and was always very supportive and encouraging of the youth at St. Pancratius. Nina also organized a monthly card club for women at the church.

As a very active community member, Nina enjoyed her trips to the casino so much she organized many trips to Soaring Eagle Casino in Mount Pleasant. She was active with United Way for many years. Nina is a longtime member of Hills & Dales Hospital Auxiliary, serving many hours in the hospital gift shop. Nina was a sweet, giving, caring woman who always smiled when you saw her. She loved people and loved her coffee group at Gilligans. Nina was honored as Cass City Citizen of the Year in 1992. Nina was a long-time member of Cass City Women's club the former Cass City Business and Professional Women's Club.

Nina is survived by her son, Tony Davis and fiancé, Theresa Turri of Cass City; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her grandson, Aaron Lajoie; siblings: Frances Hall, Sally Evangelista, Rocco Maio, Dominica Brink, Mary Maio, Frank Maio, Joseph Maio and Teresa Walker. A funeral service was held Thursday, January 10, in Our Lady Consolata Parish, St. Pancratius Catholic Church, Cass City with the Rev. Adam Maher officiating. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Canandaigua, NY. Memorials may be made to the Our Lady Consolata Parish, St. Pancratius Catholic Church. Family and friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com. Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



Janice McKellar

Janice Lynn McKellar, 72, of Gageton, died following a long illness, Sunday, January 13, 2019 in United Hospice of Marlette Residence Center, Marlette.

She was born April 30, 1946, at home in Owendale, the second of six children born to Lester and Donna Luella (Hahn) Fritz.

She married Garry Frederick McKellar September 2, 1978 in Gageton United Methodist Church.

Janice graduated from Laker High School. She worked for TI Automotive in Caro from 1985 until her stroke in 2001. Janice enjoyed cooking for her family. She loved family gatherings and making everything perfect for her guests. Janice loved to clean and kept an immaculate house. She was an active member of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Linkville for many years. At one time Janice volunteered as a Brownie Scout leader. She enjoyed Christmas decorating and was a perfectionist with that also. Recently, Janice was a loyal fan of Days of Our Lives.

Janice is survived by her husband, Garry; children: Tonya Parrish of Bad Axe, Robert J. (Patty) Haldane of Gageton and Tara (David Galipeau) McKellar of Seattle, WA; grandchildren: Tyler, Shelby (fiancée, Jamie Carlisle), Carley, Madelyne, Amber and Allison; siblings: Sharon (John D.) Rockefeller of Gageton, Lester (Mary) Fritz, Jr. of Cass City, Marcia Kunding of Pigeon, Van (Suzanne) Fritz of Bay Port and Lonnie Fritz of Pigeon; brother-in-law, Kerry (Gloria) McKellar of Sebawaing; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lester and Donna Fritz and Garry's parents, Fred and Mary McKellar.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, January 15, in Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City; and a 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. visitation on Wednesday, January 16, in St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church - Linkville. The funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 16, in St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Linkville with the Rev. Christopher Suggitt officiating. Interment will be in Grant Township Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Family Discretionary Fund, or St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. Family and friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com. Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



Ethel M. Whittaker

Ethel M. Whittaker, 91, of Cass City, died following a long illness Thursday, January 10, 2019 in Satchell's Christian Retirement Home, Caro.

She was born February 6, 1927 in Flint, the sixth of eight children born to Albert E. and Mary Elizabeth (Coombe) Polmounter.

She married Harold Dennis Whittaker June 9, 1951 in Clio. He died May 9, 2005.

Ethel graduated from Flint Northern High School and went on to Owosso Bible College for two years of study. Ethel worked as office manager for Dr. Kenneth Ivan MacRae for several years. She was an active member of the Cass City Missionary Church. She served as deaconess, treasurer and was church secretary for many years. Ethel also taught Sunday School and was a Junior Church teacher. Before Cass City Missionary Church, Ethel attended Mizpah Missionary Church, Riverside and New Greenleaf Missionary Churches. Ethel served with the Woman's Missionary Society as the District Leader for the Brown City District. In years past, she was a member of the Ladies Trio, a women's singing group that traveled the area singing at small churches and revivals. Ethel loved music. She taught piano and organ out of her home for more than 50 years. Ethel enjoyed needlework, especially cross stitch and crocheting, making hundreds of doilies and many afghans for family and friends.

Ethel is survived by her children: Sherry (Daniel) Broeker of Peoria, AZ and Larry (Michelle) Whittaker of Cass City; grandchildren: Tara (Ryan) Glenn, Leah (Kyle) Fraser, Kristy King, Mardi (Daniel) Davenport, Robin Burleigh, Ryan (Andrea) King, Troy (Megan Kimzey) King, Justin (Austa) Broeker and Tracy (Levi) Peck; great-grandchildren: Maximus, Gavin, Grace, Gwendolyn, Lauren, Lily, James, Brianna, TaNeicea, Bruce, Simmone, Leo and Trixy; and many nieces and nephews.

Ethel will also be missed by Harold's family: Gerald (Ruth) Whittaker of Cass City and Wayne (Evelyn) Whittaker of Cass City. She was preceded in death by her siblings: Ernest Polmounter, Stanley Polmounter, Olive Burpee-Anslow, Violet Brown, Joseph Polmounter, Albert Polmounter and an infant baby brother Elmer. A funeral service was held Sunday, January 13, in Cass City Missionary Church with Pastor Phil Burkett officiating. Interment will be in Moshier Cemetery, Hemans. Pallbearers for Ms. Whittaker: Kyle Fraser, Ryan Glenn, Ryan King, Gavin King, Nathan Fritz and Terry Tuckey. Memorials may be made to the Family Discretionary Fund. Family and friends may share memories, prayers and stories with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com. Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



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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 • Associate Pastor: Joel Schwendinger • www.casscitymc.org



Cass City United Methodist Church

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

Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Summer 9:30 a.m.) • Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m.

Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon)

Pastor: Bob Demyanovich • www.casscityumc.org



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.

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

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

Pastor: David Cooper | 872-4055

DefordCommunityChurch.org



Evangelical Free Church of Cass City

6430 Chestnut Blvd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5060

• Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Worship at 11:00 a.m.

Midweek Bible Studies

Biblical Counseling

Pastor: Rev. Todd R. Gould • 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 - Teen Club 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Pastor: Christian Wright • Website: www.fbccc.us



First Presbyterian Church

Barrier Free • State & National Historical Registry

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

Exercise Program: Mon., Wed. & Fri. at 9:00 a.m. Pastor: Rev. Linda Graham

After School Adventure (K-6) - Call for winter schedule.



Fraser Presbyterian Church

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

• Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour following worship • Pastor: Rev. Linda Graham



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

Worship Service 9:30 a.m. • Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Steve Bagnall

www.goodshepherdlutherancasscity.webs.com



Living Word Worship Center Church of God

Pentecostal

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 6:30 p.m.

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

Pastor Dale Bullock 989-872-2828

Novesta Church of Christ

"the friendly church that cares"

2896 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-3658

• Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

• 1st Worship Service 9:00 a.m. • 2nd Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Senior Minister: Brad Speirs

Associate Minister: Austin Keller at Uby & Student Minister: Don Mecomber

Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org

Our Lady Consolata Catholic Church

4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 665-1027

Website: www.olconsolata.org

Mass Times: Saturday 4:00 p.m. November 1 thru March 31

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

Cass City - Sunday: 8:00 a.m. • Sebawaing Holy Family Site - Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Priest: Fr. Adam Maher



Potter's House Christian Fellowship

Pentecostal • 6455 Sixth St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5186

• We enjoy singing from the Hymnals and

Spiritual Preaching From The Word of God

• Find us on Facebook:

Potter's House Church of Cass City

• Sunday: 11:00 a.m.



Benefit set for veteran scout leader, coach

Continued from page one.

tomation consultant for the past 18 years who tackles design, building and troubleshooting projects related to electrical controls as well as hydraulics and pneumatics in fields ranging from food processing and farming to the automotive and chemical industries — rises every morning and goes to work, just as he always has.

The bad news is that the 1982 Cass City High School graduate has a rare blood type (AB), but doctors say the good news is that when suitable organs become available, he'll likely be the recipient.

Family members and friends are reaching out to Baker and his family by organizing a fundraiser on their behalf. The benefit dinner, which will include a silent auction, 50/50 drawing and entertainment, will be Saturday, March 9, from 2 to 7 p.m. at the VFW hall in Cass City.

The menu includes mostaccioli, garlic bread, salad, vegetable, beverage and dessert, and the cost is \$10 per person for ages 12 and up, \$5 for ages five to 12, and free for kids under five.

Ruth McLachlan, Baker's sister — and neighbor — is spearheading the event and says friends and family members have joined in to lend a hand. "So far, everything's moving right along great and everybody's been wonderful," she said.

McLachlan decided to organize the fundraiser in an effort to support her brother, who will be unable to work for an extended period of time once he undergoes surgery.

"He's been an amazing brother to have, and I'd like to hang on to him for a while," McLachlan commented.

"It's going to be tough" for the family financially, said McLachlan, who added the prospects of being the center of attention of a benefit isn't easy for her brother — a familiar face who has manned the grill at a host of past fundraisers for other area residents facing serious health challenges.

"Jim's always been more of a giver than a receiver. It's a tough pill to swallow, but he's also realistic — family comes first for him, always, and he wants to make sure

everybody's taken care of," she added.

Health scores

Baker has been diagnosed with non-alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver, also known as fatty liver disease, in which a build-up of fat results in scarring/damage to the organ.

"What it comes down to is, your liver does not come with what's necessary to keep the fat deposits from going through the liver," explained Baker, who says test results dating back to his teens have indicated elevated enzyme levels in his liver. It's a hereditary disease, one that Baker says claimed his mother's life.

Baker, a veteran Little League, JV and assistant varsity boys' baseball coach, recalled friends Amy and Scott Cuthrell approached him during a boys' varsity tournament three years ago with concerns that he (Baker) didn't seem to be eating very much but was gaining a lot of weight.

"I credit (them) with probably saving my life," added Baker, who had been seeing his family doctor and was on medication to manage his weight.

Last spring, Baker developed a case of MRSA — a form of contagious bacterial infection that is resistant to numerous antibiotics — and he had a serious allergic reaction to the medication he was given to treat the infection. In fact, a trip to an emergency room quickly turned into a transfer to a Saginaw area hospital after his vital signs dipped dangerously and his kidneys shut down. "I was close to not being here," he recalled of the episode.

Later the same month, Baker underwent surgery to repair an umbilical hernia caused by a build-up of fluid in his mid-section. However, the surgery failed due to complications related to his liver disease.

Optimism

These days, Baker is considerably lighter than he used to be — he's lost 170 pounds and must keep very close tabs on his diet, especially staying away from salt and making sure he's consuming enough calories to remain as

healthy as possible while he awaits his transplant.

And he's confident in the medical team at William Beaumont, which he says has a transplant success rate of 97 percent. "I'm very positive about what the outcome will be," he said, noting the specialists treating him have been outstanding not only in terms of knowledge and skill, but also in their personal approach to patient care.

Baker still pushes himself on the job most days, but acknowledges his condition leaves him exhausted by late afternoon.

Still, Baker has managed to remain active in scouting, a passion that he developed as a Cub Scout and, later, as a Boy Scout who would eventually earn the coveted Eagle insignia — the highest rank in Boy Scouting, just as his father did before him.

Baker was an active scout for about 10 years, then devoted another 35 years in the program as a scoutmaster, assistant scoutmaster, pack committee chairman, troop committee at-large member, district training chairman and council training committee member. He's also been active in the National Youth Leadership Training program, and currently serves as scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 594, a title he's held on and off in Cass City for 11 years.

Baker and his wife, Stephanie, have four sons — twins Brad and Brent, Lucas and Austin — all Eagle Scouts.

It's been their support, along with the encouragement of other family members and friends, that Baker says has made it possible to remain optimistic.

"I have great faith, I have a great family, and I have just the best, best friends ever, and that makes a huge difference," Baker said. "I love this town. I always have."

McLachlan indicated she also appreciates Cass City and is grateful to live in a community where residents don't hesitate to rally around one of their own.

"It is really amazing, the support you get here in town," she added.

Editor's note: Area residents who are unable to attend but would like to make a donation are welcome to contact McLachlan at (989) 315-1440.

News briefs

Airport meet set for Feb. 13

CARO — The Tuscola County Airport Zoning Board of Appeals will host its annual meeting Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 4:30 p.m. in the board room at the H.H. Purdy Building, 125 W. Lincoln St., Caro.

Daley's Lansing office open

LANSING — State Sen. Kevin Daley recently announced his Lansing office is open and that he is ready to meet the needs of constituents in the 31st Senate District.

Daley's Lansing office is located in Room 5200 of the Connie B. Binsfeld Office Building at 201 Townsend St., across from the Michigan Capitol Building.

Daley (R-Lum) and his staff can be contacted at (517) 373-1777, and via e-mail at SenKDaley@senate.michigan.gov. The mailing address is Sen. Kevin Daley, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909.

"I am happy to announce that my office is open and my staff and I are eager to serve residents of the 31st Senate District," said Daley, who represents constituents in Tuscola, Bay and Lapeer counties. "I look forward to hearing from residents about issues affecting the district or the state as a whole. We are ready to get to work and keep Michigan moving forward."

Join the library Lego Club

CASS CITY — Rawson Memorial District Library invites patrons to pack up their creativity and head for the library to join its Lego Club.

Residents can leave their own Lego bricks at home, as the library will provide all LEGOs for use during the program, which will feature monthly themes.

The club meets from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on the second Tuesday and third Thursday of each month. Upcoming meeting dates include Thursday, Jan. 17; Tuesday, Feb. 12; and Thursday, Feb. 21.

Kids under the age of seven must be accompanied by an adult. More information is available by calling (989) 872-2856.

SOS offices closed Jan. 21

LANSING — Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson reminds residents that all offices and the Office of the Great Seal will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 21.

Customers can visit ExpressSOS.com to renew their license plate tabs and driver's licenses, change their address or get a replacement registration or title. And with its Print 'N Go feature, customers can renew their driver's licenses and tabs for their vehicles, motorcycles or boats, print their receipt and drive legally until they get their card or sticker in the mail. On their eighth year, customers do need to visit an office to get a new driver's license so they can pass a vision test and get an updated photo.

The Secretary of State's Office mails notices to motorists 45 days before their driver's license or license plates expire to give them ample time to renew. Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed, such as a holiday or weekend, can be renewed the following day without penalty.

License plate tabs also can be renewed at Self-Service Stations, many of which are available around the clock. Visit the Branch Office Locator at www.michigan.gov/SOS to find a Self-Service Station near you.

With the exception of holidays, offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Smaller offices may close for the lunch hour. On Wednesdays most offices are open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Minimum wage going up

MICHIGAN — Although minimum wage will go up this year, it's not going to increase as much as was originally planned.

Workers who make minimum wage will see an increase of 20 cents, from \$9.25 to \$9.45, starting in March.

Minimum wage was supposed to go to \$10 an hour this year, but the hike was curtailed by the outgoing governor in mid-December.

A petition drive gathered enough signatures to put an initiative on the statewide ballot to raise the minimum wage to \$10 in 2019 and \$12 in 2022. That hike would have included tipped workers, who currently have a lower minimum wage, but to keep that initiative off the ballot, the legislature passed it as law in September 2018. Doing that meant lawmakers could return to the measure and amend it with a simple majority, instead of the two-thirds vote required to make changes passed at the ballot box.

And, that is what happened during the last days of the lame duck legislative session.

Lawmakers passed a bill that amended the original legislation, changing the \$10 minimum in 2019 to \$9.45, and delaying the increase to \$12 until 2030. It also excluded tipped workers for the new minimums.

Although Michigan has moved forward in adjusting the minimum wage, the federal minimum wage will remain at \$7.25 an hour.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

Depression is not a sign of weakness - it is a sign that you were trying to be strong too long.

Sigmund Freud.

DEPRESSION IS REAL
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16 million Americans adults are affected in a given year, and 3 million teens experience at least one major depressive episode in a year.
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"WRECK-IT RALPH 2" (PG)

STARTS FRIDAY (5 DAYS)

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 - SHOWTIME 7:30

2 SHOWINGS ON SUNDAY - 4:00 & 7:30

NO CREDIT CARDS - CHILDREN \$4.00 - TEEN/ADULTS \$6.00

NO MONDAY OR TUESDAY

BASED ON A TRUE STORY
CLINT EASTWOOD in

"THE MULE" (R)

Jury convicts area man

Continued from page one.

Court records state the offenses took place between July 2005 and May 2010 in Elkland Township.

"This was a case where...just a classic example of where you're trapped in a circumstance as she was, concerned about the well-being of her children," Reene said, noting the defendant victimized his wife while threatening to take the couple's five children and leave.

And, Reene added, the wife's pain didn't end with the abuse.

"The victim demonstrated extraordinary courage to come forward and withstand the rigors of a criminal sexual conduct case, including having to testify at length on three separate occasions."

In fact, she spent eight hours on the witness stand – twice – including time testifying last week, which marked the second trial for Gniewek. Judge Gierhart declared a mistrial three days into his first trial in December after a witness inadvertently made a statement ruled not admissible during the proceedings, Reene noted.

"What she had to go through to get to this point – the courage that was demonstrated to get to this point..." Reene commented Friday night. He added criminal sexual conduct is among the least reported crimes, and the Gniewek case is a good example of why – because what the victims go through in pursuit of justice is incomprehensible.

According to testimony in the case, Gniewek's attorney alleged the victim fabricated her claims of sexual assault in order to secure custody of the couple's children. The defense cited the timeline of her criminal complaint to police, which came in August 2015, just days before she filed divorce papers. Charges in the case were filed in December 2017.

The good news in this trial, Reene indicated, is that the facts could not be overshadowed by preconceived notions or the lack of honesty on the part of the defendant, who in the past served in a ministerial capacity at the Novesta Church of Christ.

"That's the beauty of the truth; it always stays the same. The jury did an outstanding job, listening to all the evidence, determining the facts and applying them to law," said Reene, who also lauded Erica Walle, the assistant prosecutor who represented his office in the case.

"My assistant that worked on this did an absolutely tremendous job," he said. "It was great, great work."



THE CASS City Gavel Club claimed the Cass City 2018 Chili for Charity crown during the 2018 Christmas in the Village Chili Cook-off in December, and club members recently donated their winnings — \$921 – to the Cass City Public Schools Backpack Program. Pictured above are (from left) club member Dick Wallace, school Food Service Director Shari Bock and Amy Peters of Knights Insurance Agency, which sponsors the annual contest. The backpack program was established to provide nutritious food for weekends to students whose families are struggling financially. (Photo courtesy of Knights Insurance)

Woman gets jail time in stabbing case

Continued from page one.

37-year-old Cass City resident, was transported to a hospital where he underwent surgery and was recovering.

Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark E. Reene subsequently charged Richards with assault with intent to murder and assault with intent to do great bodily harm, both felonies punishable by up to life in prison or any term of years, and up to 10 years in prison, respectively.

Richards also faces charges of tampering with evidence and lying to a peace officer involved in a violent crime investigation.

Richards' bond was set at \$500,000 cash. His final opportunity to accept any plea agreement offered by the prosecutor's office is Monday, Feb. 4. If he doesn't, a jury trial is scheduled to get underway Tuesday, Feb. 26, at 8:30 a.m. in Tuscola County Circuit Court.

The confrontation took place just after 11 p.m. in the area of Pine and Brooker streets. "It actually occurred out in the street," said Cass City Police Chief Craig Haynes, who noted the assault was not a random act of violence. "They knew each other. They live a block apart."

Richards felt the victim had allegedly taken something that belong to him months prior to the assault, according to Haynes, who reported alcohol was involved in the confrontation, which escalated

to the point in which Richards pulled out a small folding knife with a three- to four-inch blade and stabbed the victim multiple times in the upper torso – in front and behind.

According to court records, the charges levied against Smith stemmed from "her knowledge of

a knife in her residence that had the presence of human blood (on it) after being used in an assault and/or her knowledge of moving the same knife into or within the residence to hinder the investigation being conducted by the Cass City Police Department and Michigan State Police."



AN ANONYMOUS gift of flowers was delivered to the Cass City Municipal Building and presented to the Cass City Police Department, represented above by Chief Craig Haynes (left) and Deputy Chief Jim Freeman, in honor of National Law Enforcement Day. (Photo courtesy of the village of Cass City).

Cass City Village Council PUBLIC NOTICE

The Cass City Village Council will be holding a Public Hearing at the Municipal Building, 6506 Main Street, Cass City, Michigan,

Monday, January 28, 2019, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

To receive comments on Proposed Ordinance # 181, Opt-Out of Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act, Section 6.1, Recreational Marijuana Establishments

and at 7:05 P.M.

To receive comments on Proposed Ordinance # 182, Prohibition of Recreational Marijuana Establishments in all Zoning Districts

The proposed ordinance can be found on the Village Website at www.casscity.org Drop down to Government, Ordinances, Recreational Marijuana

The Public is invited to attend. Nanette S. Walsh Clerk/Treasurer



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CASS CITY'S Hayden Horne blocks Vassar's Luke Albrecht's path to the basket in Greater Thumb West action.

Hawks split Greater Thumb West games

by Clarke Haire
 Publisher

Kendall Anthes' career-night lifted Cass City to their first Greater Thumb West victory on the season Wednesday, but the Red Hawk momentum ended Friday at USA.

With a 51-39 decision, the host Patriots improved to 7-0 on the season, while Cass City falls to 4-6.

"I thought we did some good things, but need to score more than 39 points to beat a good team like that. We will continue to work on cleaning up some offensive things," said Cass City Coach Aaron Fernald.

After falling behind 12-7 early, the Red Hawks actually outscored USA to the break and trailed just 24-21 entering the third quarter.

However, a hot-shooting USA tossed in five treys to open the final half and never looked back. They entered the final eight minutes leading 41-32 and held the Red Hawks to seven points in the frame to seal the win.

Micah Cramer tossed in 19 points, while Tyler Heckroth added 13 and Landin Zimmer, 12, to pace USA. They combined for seven triples in the victory.

Sandyn Cuthrell was the lone Red Hawk to record double figures and finished with 14 points, while Hayden Horne chipped in seven tallies.

Earlier in the week, Anthes went off for 19 points as Cass City defeated visiting Vassar 57-49. The junior sharp shooter hit shots from behind the 3-point arc in each quarter, and then made four free throws, in as many attempts, down the stretch to hold off the Vulcans.

Anthes connected on three treys in the opening half, as did Vassar's Ricardo Macon as the two teams entered the intermission dead-locked at 21-21.

A huge third quarter run by Cass City would prove to be the difference. Zac Beecher and Cuthrell fueled the 17-9 spurt, each chipping in six points in the frame.

The hosts then used nine free throws in the final minutes to prevail. On the night, Cass City was 16-of-21 from the stripe, while Vassar went 8-for-14.

Cuthrell scored 10 of his game-high 20 points in the closing quarter to pace Cass City, while Landon Schenk chipped in 12 rebounds and Bryce Fernald had six assists.

For Vassar, Macon had 12 points and Dylan Hubbard added 10.

"The guys are starting to play harder and figuring out their roles on the team. I think this was a big factor in us beating Vassar," Fernald said.

Up next for the Hawks is Friday's home M-81 Clash contest with Caro.

Kingston girls defeat Eagles

Kingston took over sole possession of the North Central Thumb League Stars title chase Friday with a 48-19 victory over visiting Deckerville.

Coach Jay Green's Lady Cardinals outscored their guests in each quarter, using crisp passes that resulted in several good looks on offense, while limiting those same types of looks for the Eagles.

After building a 15-6 lead after one quarter, Kingston increased their cushion to 33-13 by the intermission. Kingston then turned up their defense in the second half and held the visitors scoreless in the third frame to secure victory.

"Offensively we moved the ball well and hit the open shots," said Green, adding, "Defensively we didn't give up too many open looks. Deckerville is a good team that will win a lot of games. We need to be ready for them at their place."

Hannah James scored 14 points to pace the winners, while Carley Smith chipped in a dozen markers and Jillyan Dinsmore added eight.

For Deckerville, Ella Watson led the way with eight points.

Boys' Basketball Standings

Greater Thumb West			
	W	L	W L
USA	3	0	7 0
Bad Axe	3	0	6 2
Caro	2	2	3 6
Reese	1	2	7 4
EPBP	1	2	6 3
Cass City	1	3	4 6
Vassar	0	2	3 5

NCTL - Stars

Flint Int.	5	0	5 4
Kingston	3	1	7 2
Dryden	3	1	6 2
Mayville	3	2	4 4
North Huron	2	2	5 3
Genesee	0	3	1 7
Deckerville	0	5	2 8

Girls' Basketball Standings

Greater Thumb West			
	W	L	W L
Reese	4	0	8 1
EPBP	2	1	4 4
USA	2	1	4 3
Cass City	2	2	5 5
Caro	1	2	3 4
Vassar	0	2	2 3
Bad Axe	0	3	2 6

NCTL - Stars

Kingston	3	0	7 1
Deckerville	4	1	7 2
Dryden	1	1	6 1
Genesee	1	1	3 3
Mayville	0	2	1 6
North Huron	0	3	2 5

USA uses big final quarter to nip Hawks

Cass City had its way against USA for three quarters, but it wasn't enough to knock off the host Patriots.

Defense ruled Thursday's Greater Thumb West contest for most of the night, before a 20 point outburst in the final eight minutes by USA propelled the Lady Patriots to a 35-29 triumph.

Both teams had trouble finding the baskets in the opening half. Grace Williamson, Danielle Vogel and Rylee Zimmer recorded solo hoops in the opening quarter for USA, while for Cass City solo baskets by Brittany Hamilton, Kelly Ziegler and Layna Mathewson would produce a 6-6 tie entering the period before the break.

Cass City's defensive pressure bothered USA throughout the initial half, and combined with five second quarter points by Mathewson, the visitors enjoyed a 16-12 cushion at the halfway point.

Cass City added to the margin in the third quarter, holding the Patriots to just three points while extending their advantage to 22-15 entering the closing frame.

There, however, Zimmer scored 12 of her game-high 19 points to spearhead the come-from-behind victory.

Mathewson and Hamilton split 22 points to lead Cass City, while Abbey Salcido came off the bench to provide a spark with five points.

Also last week, Cass City whipped guest Vassar 46-20 in conference play.

The Hawks used a 15-2 run to end the initial half and then used a 15-5 spurt to open the third quarter in route to the easy win.

Tiara Anthony's nine points were tops for Cass City, while Kacey Haire and Hamilton scored eight point apiece.

Vassar's Sarah Colosky had seven markers for Vassar.

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THE OWEN-GAGE 2019 Snowball Royalty are Queen Jade Androl, daughter of Samantha and Eric Hunt, and King Cordell Clarkson, son of Brad and Amy Clarkson.

Hawk wrestlers knock Bad Axe from unbeaten ranks in Greater Thumb Conference

by Clarke Haire
Publisher

Not so fast Bad Axe. Despite an unblemished record in Greater Thumb Conference dual matches entering play last week, the Bad Axe wrestling team hit a road block on their path to league honors Wednesday when visiting Cass City handed the Hatchets a surprising 48-31 setback.

"The victory over Bad Axe was a big win as they had been 8-0 in the GTC until losing to the Hawks," said Cass City Coach Don Markel.

Before delivering the hosts their first conference defeat, Cass City knocked off Brown City, 60-24, to improve to 6-2 in the GTC.

Double winners for the Red Hawks included Alie Kalokon, Drew Markel, Hayden Larkin, Ryan Pisarek, Race Woloshen and Hunter Caister.

Kalokon's wins included pins in the 119-weight class over Brown City's Andrew McKelurey in just 18 seconds and Bad Axe's Gavin Tetreau in 1:38. Pisarek, 152-weight class, also tallied two pins on the night, defeating Brown City's Hunter Aldridge in 2:39 and Bad Axe's Juan Castrillon in 42 seconds.

In the 145-weight class, Woloshen pinned Louis Treash, Brown City, in 3:35 and Benjamin Thompson, Bad Axe, in 25 seconds, while Caister, working in

both the 189 and 171-weight classes, pinned Brown City's Clayton Little and Bad Axe's Cody Bailey in 1:56 and 2:27, respectively.

FLUSHING TOURNEY

On Saturday, Cass City compiled a 3-2 record to place third at the Flushing Tournament. The Red Hawks defeated Flint's southwestern Classical Academy 72-12, Grand Blanc "B" team 51-24, and Laingsburg 66-12, while bowing to Midland Dow 48-28 and host Flushing 54-27.

The final team standings saw Flushing finishing on top, followed by Midland Dow, Cass City, Grand Blanc "B", Flint and Laingsburg.

Tristan Swiderski led the way for Cass City over the weekend with a perfect 5-0 showing. He pinned Flint's Henry James in 3:28, Midland's Phenix Ball in 2:49, Garrett Rodriguez, Laingsburg, in 1:18, Tyler Glass, Flushing, in 2:54, and Arthur Herrera, Grand Blanc "B" in 1:49.

Posting 4-1 records for Cass City were Kalokoh, Markel, Lucas Swiderski, Pisarek, Woloshen and Caister.

"Saturday was a good test against many division 1 and 2 schools. One area that we will need to improve upon is putting people away when we have them on their backs," Markel said.

Cass City's dual meet record now stands at 16-7.

Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

2018-19 Basketball Picks



Ray Maurer



Clarke Haire



Geoff Morgan



Doug Hyatt

BOYS BASKETBALL
WEDNESDAY, Jan. 16
Bad Axe at Vassar
Caro at Reese
USA at EPBP
Brown City at Ubyly

Bad Axe
Reese
USA
Brown City

Bad Axe
Reese
USA
Brown City

Bad Axe
Caro
USA
Brown City

Bad Axe
Reese
USA
Brown City

THURSDAY, Jan. 17
Kingston at Dryden
North Huron at Mayville

Kingston
Mayville

Kingston
North Huron

Kingston
North Huron

Kingston
North Huron

FRIDAY, Jan. 18
EPBP at Bad Axe
Caro at Cass City
Vassar at USA
Ubyly at Sandusky
Owen-Gage at BCAS

Bad Axe
Cass City
USA
Sandusky
BCAS

Bad Axe
Caro
USA
Sandusky
BCAS

EPBP
Caro
USA
Sandusky
BCAS

EPBP
Caro
USA
Sandusky
BCAS

GIRLS BASKETBALL
TUESDAY, Jan. 15
Bad Axe at Vassar
USA at EPBP
Caseville at Akron- Fairgrove
Caro at Reese
Brown City at Ubyly
Sandusky at Marlette
Genesee at Kingston

Vassar
EPBP
Caseville
Reese
Brown City
Sandusky
Kingston

Bad Axe
USA
Caseville
Reese
Brown City
Sandusky
Kingston

Bad Axe
EPBP
A. Fairgrove
Reese
Brown City
Sandusky
Kingston

Bad Axe
USA
Caseville
Reese
Brown City
Sandusky
Kingston

THURSDAY, Jan. 17
EPBP at Bad Axe
Caro at Cass City

EPBP
Cass City

EPBP
Cass City

EPBP
Caro

EPBP
Caro

FRIDAY, Jan. 18
Ubyly at Sandusky
Dryden at Kingston
North Huron at Mayville
Owen-Gage at BCAS

Sandusky
Kingston
Mayville
BCAS

Sandusky
Kingston
North Huron
BCAS

Sandusky
Kingston
Mayville
BCAS

Sandusky
Kingston
North Huron
BCAS

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SEASON RESULTS

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22-4
55-21/72%

21-5
53-23/70%

23-3
55-21/72%

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2018-19 Winter Sports Schedule



BOYS' BASKETBALL (FRESHMEN/JV/VARSITY)

DATE	OPPONENT
11/30	CC 79, Owen-Gage 25
12/5	Sandusky 50, CC 39
12/7	Ubyly 47, CC 44
12/11	CC 53, Deckerville 51
12/14	Lakers 62, CC 37
12/19	CC 57, Marlette 55
12/28	Imlay City 55, CC 38
1/4	Bad Axe 65, CC 42
1/9	CC 57, Vassar 49
1/11	USA 51, CC 39
1/18	Caro (F, JV, & V)
1/21	Mayville
1/23	Reese (F, JV, & V)
1/25	Lakers (F, JV, & V)
2/1	Bad Axe
2/6	Vassar
2/8	USA (F, JV, V)
2/15	Harbor Beach
2/20	Caro (F, JV, & V)
2/22	Reese (F, JV, & V)
2/25-3/1	DistrictsTBA

All games begin at 6 p.m.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL (FRESHMEN/JV/VARSITY)

DATE	OPPONENT
12/4	Sandusky 26, CC 18
12/6	Ubyly 49, CC 29
12/10	CC 58, Mayville 9
12/13	Lakers 31, CC 24
12/18	Marlette 41, CC 40
12/21	CC 50, Deckerville 38
12/27	CC 55, Capac 31
1/3	CC 58, Bad Axe 46
1/8	CC 46, Vassar 20
1/10	USA 35, CC 29
1/17	Caro (F, JV, & V)
1/22	Reese (F, JV, & V)
1/24	Lakers (F, JV, & V)
1/31	Bad Axe
2/5	Vassar
2/7	USA
2/12	Harbor Beach
2/19	Caro (F, JV, & V)
2/21	Reese (F, JV, & V)
2/28	Lakeville (JV, V).....5:30 p.m.
3/4-8	Districts.....TBA

All games begin at 6 p.m.

WRESTLING

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
12/5	Lakers/Mayville/Marlette	6:00 p.m.
12/8	Marlette Team Tourney	8:00 a.m.
12/12	Vassar/Ubyly	6:00 p.m.
12/15	Cros-Lex Team Tourney	9:00 a.m.
12/19	Capac/Caro	6:00 p.m.
12/21	Millington/Caro/Mayville	1:00 p.m.
12/28	Mayville Individual Tourney	TBD
1/9	Lakers/ Brown City/Bad Axe	6:00 p.m.
1/16	Sandusky/Memphis	6:00 p.m.
1/19	Mayville Team Tourney	9:00 a.m.
1/23	Lakers	6:00 p.m.
1/26	Caro Team Tourney	9:00 a.m.
2/2	GTC League Meet @ Mayville	TBA
2/7	Team Districts @ TBA	TBA
2/9	Individual Districts @ TBA	TBA
2/13	Team Regionals @ TBA	TBA
2/16	Individual Regionals @ TBA	TBA
2/22-23	Team State Finals @ TBA	TBA
3/1-2	Individual State Finals @ TBA	TBA

GYMNASTICS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
12/1	Holt Invitational	9:00 a.m.
1/8	Vassar	6:30 p.m.
1/12	Fraser Invitational	9:00 a.m.
1/15	Fenton Tri-Meet	6:30 p.m.
1/21	Bounce Meet - Hartland	6:30 p.m.
1/26	Huron Valley Inv. @ Lakeland	8:00 a.m.
2/2	Haskett Invite	10:00 a.m.
2/9	Vassar Invite	10:00 a.m.
2/16	Vassar	10:00 a.m.
2/21	Vassar	6:30 p.m.

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STATE SENATOR Kevin Daley was sworn in for his first term as a state senator representing the 31st District during a ceremony at the state Capitol last week. Daley (R-Lum), who represents citizens in Tuscola, Bay and Lapeer counties, was joined by his wife, Debbie, and members of his family. Supreme Court Chief Justice Stephen J. Markman administered the oath of office. Following the swearing-in ceremony, the 100th Legislature convened for its day of business.

County officials: national opioid lawsuit won't be settled for many months, years

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The impacts of a nationwide opioid epidemic are being seen in small towns and rural areas, including communities in the Thumb.

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the rates of drug overdose deaths are rising in rural areas and have surpassed the same rates in urban areas.

As a result, many municipalities, including Tuscola and Sanilac counties, have joined a nationwide lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors to address the growing cost of dealing with the opioid crisis.

During a recent Tuscola County Board of Commissioners meeting, county Chief Financial Officer Clayette Zechmeister updated commissioners on the legal action.

"The lawsuit was filed in the Northern District (federal court) in Ohio," said Zechmeister. "There was a lot of information that had to be gathered, and there still is. Just the fact sheet was 54 pages."

During discussion of the opioid issue, it was noted a number of drug companies alleged some opioids were not addictive, but in fact a person could get addicted in nine days.

"Lawsuits like this that are this big go very, very slow. Clayette has done a yeoman's job putting together the information. She has spent many hbut it is in the works and we are hopeful," Hoagland added, noting the county won't have any out-of-pocket costs except for prep time in collecting its information.

It is estimated the county will be about to recoup about 70 percent of the cost of dealing with the opi-

oid issue.

As part of gathering information for the lawsuit, Zechmeister enlisted the assistance of the county's medical examiner to compile information on opioid use and deaths.

"His results were jaw dropping," she said.

Opioid-linked deaths were reported in each of the Thumb's three counties in 2018, according to Ann Hepfer, health officer for both the Huron and Tuscola county health departments.

The numbers for 2018 are still being compiled.

"There were eight drug-related deaths in Tuscola County in 2017, and two in Huron County," said Hepfer.

Michigan ranks 10th nationally in per-capita prescribing rates of opioid pain relievers, and ranks 18th in the nation for overdoses. Statistics show 44 people die in the United States every day from an overdose of prescription painkillers, which is eight more than cocaine and heroin combined.

"The opioid epidemic is creating a real and unprecedented financial burden on counties across Michigan and our country," is how attorney Michael Behm described the lawsuit to county commissioners. "The costs incurred by municipalities due to people becoming addicted to opioid pain medication has pushed many counties' resources past their budgetary limits. The cost of first responders, addiction and rehabilitation services, incarceration, health care, and lost productivity is staggering."

Behm is among those spearheading the lawsuit. His legal team has been retained by several counties

and cities throughout Michigan, including the city of Detroit, Lansing, Grand Traverse County, Saginaw County, Genesee County and Macomb County.

The legal movement against opioids was initiated by Michael Moore, who also initiated a lawsuit against tobacco companies in 1994. He won the largest litigation settlement in U.S. history of more than \$240 billion.

According to the Council of Economic Advisors, costs associated with the opioid crisis totaled more than \$500 billion in 2017; and the CDC noted more than 60,000 deaths are attributed to opioid overdoses.

Some of the other costs associated with opioid addiction includes the cost of Narcan (an antidote medication used to treat an opioid overdose), incarceration, foster care for addicts' children, and the cost operating a specialized drug court.

The lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors started in 2016. To-date, about 15 states have joined in the suit along with hundreds of cities and counties.

Although several counties and states are involved, it is not a class-action lawsuit; it is a multi-district litigation involving several attorneys who are working together.

The Behm and Behm Law Firm of Flint is taking a multi-district litigation approach using a combination of local knowledge, regional organization and national expertise.

Mark Bernstein, of the Sam Bernstein Law Firm, will act as regional counsel in coordinating not only the efforts of Behm and Behm in mid-Michigan, but also other law firms strategically positioned throughout Michigan.

Plans for soybean plant in Tuscola progressing

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Efforts to build a proposed \$12 million soybean processing plant in Tuscola County are progressing.

The Gilford Township Planning Commission officials will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, Jan. 21, for a site plan review on the Wisconsin-based Quality Roasting LLC's request to build the processing facility in their township.

And, the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) will hold a public hearing Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 9 a.m. at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation in Lansing to address the possibility of issuing limited obligation industrial development revenue bonds of up to \$10,000 for Quality Roasting Inc., LLC.

The company would use the loan to buy land, build a 16,000-square-foot manufacturing facility, and purchase machinery and equipment.

The proposed location of the plant is 135 S. Bradleyville Rd., Reese, near the Star of the West facility.

Quality Roasting officials plan to process soybeans to produce crude soybean oil and Exceller Meal.

The meeting will also provide area residents with an opportunity to comment on the proposed project. Written comments can be mailed to MSF, 300 North Washington Square, Fourth Floor, Lansing, MI 48913. Any comment must be received before the meeting.

"If everything is approved, we would start construction in early spring with hopes to have the facility operational for next fall's soybean harvest," said Quality Roasting Inc. CEO Scott Rabe. "The processing area would be about 20,000-square feet with eight employees to start with."

The site would include a processing building with a small office, truck scale, soybean storage bins and finished product storage. The operation would be 24/5; Sunday evenings through Friday evenings. The soybean harvest typically takes place over a three-week period between September and November.

Rabe says his company's processing "is solvent-free with no use of any chemicals. The soybeans are processed naturally using only heat and pressure," he said. "Water usage would be minimal. Processing would use five-gallons of water per minute, which is equal to using a garden hose and there would be no discharge."

If approved, the facility would process about 2.2 million pounds of soybeans a year.

Tuscola County produces about 3.67 million bushels of soybeans annually, and the factory would need about two million, which would mean an estimated additional income of \$500,000 annually for area farmers.

Quality Roasting Inc. officials say they established the company in 1991 to meet the need and high demand for high quality soybean products in cattle diets. Their original roasting facility was built with 4,000 bushels of storage space, and the firm has since grown, now boasting more than two million bushels of storage space and a combined workforce of 20 people at its two Wisconsin facilities.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Cass City Public Schools will receive sealed proposals for construction trade work from qualified Bidders for 2018 Bond Projects at the Cass City Public Schools Administration Office – 4868 N. Seeger Street, Cass City, MI 48726.

Proposals may be mailed or delivered in person to Cass City Public Schools – Administration Building, 4868 N. Seeger Street, Cass City, MI 48726. Proposals are due prior to 3:00 pm (local time) on Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at 3:05 pm in the Administration Building (located at the High School) – 4868 N. Seeger Street, Cass City, MI 48726. All proposals received prior to the due date and time will be evaluated after the bid opening. All proposals received after 3:00 pm of the due date will neither be considered nor accepted and will be returned to the Bidder unopened.

All proposals shall be submitted on the proposal forms provided in the Construction Project Manual section 00305, completely filled in, and executed (copies of the bid forms are acceptable). Facsimile, electronic mail or telephone proposals will not be accepted.

Pre-Bid Site Visit will be held at 3:00 pm Thursday, January 10, 2019 starting at Cass City High School 4868 N. Seeger Street, Cass City, MI 48726 and ending at the Cass City Elementary School 4805 Ale Street, Cass City, MI 48726.

The Owner will award contract(s) on or about the 28th of January 2019.

Bidding Documents will be available to all bidders beginning Thursday, January 3, 2019 after 9:00 am. They will be available via:

CAM West Bloomfield: <https://buildwithcam.com>

Builders Exchange: <https://home.grbx.com>

Bid Net Direct: <https://www.bidnetdirect.com>

R & E Development Group: <https://www.redevgrp.com>

Drop Box: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ddhu7z9tyl2b5r6/AAB3RJGwW1AS4xM7kZWBema?dl=0>

All questions regarding the bidding procedures, design, and drawing/specification intent are to be directed in writing to the Construction Manager, R & E Development Group, LLC by email to attention Robert Proper,

E-mail: rproper@redevgrp.com

Proposals may not be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after the due date. Successful Bidders will be required to furnish both a Labor and Material Payment Bond, and a Performance Bond, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of its contract amount as stated in the Construction Project Manual section 00600.

Items to Accompany All Proposals:

*A Bid Security in the amount of five percent (5%) of Base Bid shall accompany ALL proposals or proposal combinations; refer to the Construction Project Manual section 00410 for more information.

*A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner(s) of, or any employee of, the Bidder and any member of the Board of Education or the Superintendent shall accompany ALL proposals. The owner will not accept a proposal that does not include a sworn and notarized familial relationship disclosure statement. Please see the Construction Project Manual section 00307 for the form to use with your proposal.

*A sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance for the Iran Economic Sanctions Act certifying the contractor does and will comply with Public Act 517 of 2012 shall accompany ALL proposals. The owner will not accept a proposal that does not include a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance for the Iran Economic Sanctions Act. Please see the Construction Project Manual section 00307 for the form to use with your proposal.

The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, to accept a proposal other than the lowest proposal, and to waive informalities, irregularities, and/or errors in any proposal, which it determines to be in its own best interest.

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1725 W. Caro Road, Caro, MI 48723

Municipalities invited to schedule free tire collections in their towns

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Although spring is still several months away, Tuscola County officials are already gearing up for an annual battle with the region's pesky mosquito population.

For the past several years, officials with Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement and Tuscola County Recycling have coordinated a program to collect unwanted used tires at satellite sites in communities throughout the county.

The two agencies are asking municipalities to contact them in order to apply to host a free collection trailer.

Free scrap tire drives are scheduled each season to help eliminate potential breeding sites for mosquitoes and to remove unwanted tires from communities.

Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement has operated its mosquito suppression program since 1997.

The collections are limited to Tuscola County residents only. They are not available for out-of-county residents or businesses.

Residents are limited to bringing only seven tires per person. Tires should be clean and not attached to an axle, and participants should bring their own help to unload the tires.

To participate, call Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement at (989) 672-3748 call or Tuscola County Recycling at (989) 672-1673 to schedule a collection or to learn more about the program.



TUSCOLA County Mosquito Abatement has conducted a suppression program since 1997, and for several years the department has joined with Tuscola County Recycling to collect used tires at satellite locations during the summer months.

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