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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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Koylton girl escapes would-be abductor; probe continuing

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Tuscola County Sheriff's Department is seeking the public's help as they continue to investigate the reported attempted abduction of a Koylton Township teen last week.

Sheriff Glen Skrent reported the incident last week, saying Tuscola County Central Dispatch received a 911 call Tuesday at 12:35 p.m. reporting the incident took place on Centerline Road near White Creek Road.

"A 17-year-old alleged victim reported that an unknown male/unknown description attacked her from behind. The victim was able to escape and was found walking down the road by a family member," Skrent said. "At the time of the attack the victim was doing chores in a barn.

"Tuscola County deputies were assisted by several agencies, including K-9, however, a suspect was not located. The matter continues to be investigated by detectives."

Anyone with information related to the crime is asked to call 911.

Cass City man faces prison for stabbing

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A Cass City man convicted in the stabbing of an acquaintance in Cass City last summer learned of his fate in Tuscola County Circuit Court last week.

Cal Bradley Richards, 32, was sentenced to 57 months to 10 years in prison following his pleas of no contest to felony charges of assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than murder, tampering with evidence and lying to a peace officer.

He was also ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$394. Richards has remained jailed since his arrest nearly a year ago.

The case stems from a late-night confrontation that turned violent July 19 between Richards and another man. Richards allegedly stabbed the victim multiple times.

The assault took place just after 11 p.m. in the area of Pine and Brooker streets. Police said the confrontation took place in the street, and that the two men knew each other.

Richards felt the victim had allegedly taken something that belonged to him months prior to the assault, according to reports. Police said alcohol was involved in the confrontation, which escalated until Richards allegedly 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.

The victim, identified only as a 37-year-old Cass City resident, was transported to a hospital where he underwent surgery and went on to recover from his wounds.

Richards' girlfriend, Ashley Elizabeth-Michelle Smith, 31, of Cass City, was also charged in the case in circuit court and has since been convicted and sentenced to 365 days the county jail.

Smith, who pleaded no contest to two counts of lying to a peace officer

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SANILAC COUNTY Sheriff's deputies and the Argyle Township Fire Department were dispatched to a home in the 2000 block of Argyle Road at about 5:10 a.m. to investigate a home explosion. According to deputies, an occupied apartment building sustained extensive damage, but the three apartments most affected by the explosion were not occupied at the time. The residents in an attached apartment were not injured. Deputies, who are continuing their investigation, said the explosion does not appear to be suspicious in nature. (Photo courtesy of the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department)

School renovations well underway

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Construction crews are off and running with the first in a series of capital improvement projects in the Cass City School District.

Work at the high school started just three days after the last day of classes in early June, and officials with the construction management firm overseeing the projects recently reported that all of the demolition work has already been completed.

Installation of a new heating, cooling and ventilation system is well underway at the high school, as is a new lighting, fire alarm and clock system and automated controls throughout the building. The interior of the school, including classrooms, will also receive a fresh coat of paint.

New entrance doors will be installed at the junior-senior high school to improve security by requiring visitors to access the building only through the front of-

fice. Additional security measures will also be in place at the elementary school in the fall, following construction that will also require visitors to enter the building via the main office.

School officials earlier this year awarded bids totaling \$1.95 million, representing the first of three

sets of capital improvement projects in the district, all being funded by a voter-approved millage extension over the next few years.

Cass City voters overwhelmingly supported a proposed \$8.68 million bond extension proposal in

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Text to 911 available now

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Area residents who find themselves in need of emergency help but unable to talk out loud during a 911 call now have another option: texting.

Tuscola County Central Dispatch officials announced Friday that Text to 911 is now available in the Thumb. Text to 911 is the ability to send a text message to reach 911 emergency dispatchers from a

mobile phone or device.

In making the announcement, Sandra Nielsen, Tuscola 911 director, strongly recommended that residents make a voice call to 911 if at all possible, because the location accuracy of a text may not have the accuracy of a traditional

Please turn to page 6.

M-81 paving set to begin on Monday

Motorists who routinely make the trip from Caro to Cass City – or Cass City to Caro – via M-81 will face some brief delays in the coming weeks.

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) crews are scheduled to start repaving several miles of the highway beginning Monday, July 8.

The \$2.7 million project will cover a distance of 12.3 miles of M-81, from Deckerville Road to Veterans Drive in the village of Cass City. The work will include concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk ramp improvements in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and pavement markings.

There will be daytime single-lane closures, with traffic maintained utilizing flaggers about two miles apart.

The project, designed to provide a smoother driver surface for motorists and improved pedestrian access, is expected to be completed in August.

Labor of love

Passion for teaching kept Milligan in the classroom 4 decades; now retirement

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Kris Milligan isn't the picture of what you might expect to see of an educator after closing the books on a busy school year with yet another classroom full of third graders.

She doesn't look worn out or in need of a vacation, although she's looking forward to the next one just the same.

In fact, during an interview last week at the farmhouse just north of Cass City that Milligan shares with husband and lifelong Cass City farmer Dave Milligan, she's vibrant, enthusiastic and anxious to talk about her love of reading to – and teaching – youngsters.

It's a bittersweet time, however, for Milligan, who has officially retired after spending her entire 40-year career in education working for the Cass City Public Schools.

Please turn to page 7.



KRIS MILLIGAN is pictured above at her home next to cabinets full of the children's picture books she's collected – and shared with her students – over the years. Milligan recently retired from the Cass City Public Schools, closing the books on a career in education spanning four decades.

Hospital prepares for the worst with recent “active shooter” drill

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Hills and Dales General Hospital officials acknowledge there’s no way to fully prepare for an “active shooter” situation – and they pray their staff and patients will never face such an emergency – but they continue to take a proactive approach to the possibility.

Preparation and reaction were the focus of a recent active shooter drill at the hospital’s MARC (Medical Arts Rehabilitation Center) Building, located across the street from Hills and Dales and where many of the medical clinics are located as well as the hospital’s rehab/fitness center and Hospital Drive Pharmacy.

The exercise was organized in a partnership with local, county and state law enforcement agencies along with MMR Ambulance and other local agencies.

“The purpose of the drill was to practice staff response in the event of an active shooter in the MARC Building. Hills and Dales conducted a similar drill on their medical/surgical unit last year,” explained Danielle Blaine, marketing director for Hills and Dales. “This set-up gave different staff members a chance to practice, and gave officers a different setting to use.



“The hospital continues to focus on patient safety, as well as the safety of employees and visitors, and this drill is just one more way to do this,” she said.

“In (this) scenario, a ‘patient’ presented to the MARC building for a doctor’s appointment and became agitated because he could not get more narcotics prescribed for his chronic pain. He encountered staff members, a practice manager, a physician, and other patients,

Blaine said of the drill. “In the scenario, there were four ‘fatalities’ and five ‘wounded victims.’”

As the exercise unfolded, the “shooter” was apprehended within 10 minutes, and the wounded “victims” were transported to the Hills and Dales General Hospital Emergency Room for treatment.

“Upon the completion of the drill, the police department and emergency manager provided valuable feedback to hospital staff to consider and implement into their procedures for such an occurrence,” Blaine noted.

“We cannot thank our partners enough for their work with us on this drill. Their expertise and advice is so meaningful and we take it very seriously,” Hills and Dales President and CEO Jean Anthony commented.

“Knowing the best ways to react and get out of a building safely are key elements for our staff,” she said. “The police department was excellent at answering questions and they also made the drill seem as real as possible.

“We pray that we will never have to go through this type of scenario, but it helps our staff members know what to do by practicing. A job well done to everyone involved in this drill.”



AN ADULT GREAT Blue Heron makes its way to the edge of a farm pond near Deford to do a little fishing.



TUSCOLA County Sheriff’s deputies Jon Ramirez (above right) and Ryan Pierce search for the suspect during an “active shooter” drill recently organized by Hills and Dales General Hospital in partnership with local, county and state law enforcement and other agencies. The drill was staged inside the hospital’s MARC Building, located just south of the hospital in Cass City. (Photos courtesy of Dave Wohl)

AMONG THOSE playing key roles in a recent “active shooter” drill staged at Hills and Dales General Hospital’s MARC Building were Tuscola County Sheriff’s Deputy/K9 Handler Ryan Robinson and K9 Blek, and senior hospital team members (back row, left) Craig Bellew, William Castle, (front row, left) Jean Anthony and Jennifer TerBush.



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In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

July 4 = birth of a nation



Play it safe this July 4 weekend

Fireworks are just about as American as apple pie, baseball and backyard barbecues.

While they're fun to ignite, however, fireworks also deserve plenty of respect — especially the higher-powered consumer grade fire crackers, rockets, mortars and other items now legal to purchase in Michigan.

According to the National Council on Fireworks Safety, consumer grade fireworks today are safer than ever before.

But all the safety features in the world will never replace common sense.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were an estimated 12,900 fireworks-related emergency department-treated injuries and eight fireworks-related deaths in 2017. About 67 percent of those incidents occurred between June 16 and July 16.

The fireworks council urges everyone to keep these safety tips in mind:

**Closely supervise teens using fireworks, and don't allow young children to handle or light them.*

**Only use fireworks outdoors, and be sure to leave plenty of space between your launching area and spectators.*

**Always have some water nearby, just in case.*

**Familiarize yourself with your fireworks — take a moment to read the caution label.*

**If you've been drinking, let someone else handle and set off fireworks.*

**Wear safety glasses.*

**Never attempt to re-light a "dud". Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.*

**Soak spent fireworks with water before placing them in an outdoor garbage receptacle.*

**Stay away from homemade and/or illegal fireworks.*

Fireworks enthusiasts are also encouraged to show their neighbors some courtesy, and to follow local ordinances.

Michigan's new fireworks law allows licensed vendors to sell high-powered, airborne fireworks previously illegal in the state but available for purchase in several border states.

While the law generates revenue for the state, it also generated numerous noise complaints, prompting Michigan officials to enact additional rules giving local governments the power to restrict/regulate fireworks use during the nighttime hours on holidays and the day before and after, with violations bringing a fine of up to \$500.

Bottom line? Enjoy yourselves, but play it safe and obey the law.

The Fourth of July should mean a lot more than just a day off of work to enjoy a cook-out and fireworks.

It is the birthday of our nation, with all of the freedoms we enjoy and mostly take for granted.

I would say that most people have no idea that the Declaration of Independence says that "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation."

About the only section that most know is: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Those were bold statements drafted by Thomas Jefferson and became the symbol of a movement towards Democracy from monarchy.

Sadly, when the Fourth of July is mentioned now, visions of a day off of work with hamburgers and hot dogs cooking on the grill, and watching firework displays are the first things that come to mind rather than the sacrifices our founding fathers made in securing our freedom and the nation we enjoy today.

Back when I was growing up, July 4 was called "Independence Day" rather than the Fourth of July. I've always felt the name "Independence Day" is more appropriate than Fourth of July because that is the true reason for the celebration of the day — independence.

As for childhood memories of the Fourth of July, there are not many. I was a change-of-life baby, which means my parents were older when I was born, so they were pretty much set in their ways.

We never did much to celebrate the holiday. We ate at a picnic table outside under one of our oak trees. My brother, who was about seven years older than I, would buy some cherry bombs and a few fire crackers. I was given some sparklers to play with. That was the extent of our celebration.

I had never really given the lack of celebration of the Fourth of July much thought until I started writing this column.

My father lived through World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He was excluded from serving during the wars because he was the sole supporter for his widowed mother and his younger sister, and he was a farmer.

My mother was the only girl out of seven brothers. All of her brothers served during World War II. They were fortunate enough to make it back safely.


My mother's mother knew Mrs. Sullivan, who lost five sons at once when they were killed during World War II while serving together on the U.S.S. Juneau when it was sunk Nov. 13, 1942.

My mother often talked about her mother's relationship with Mrs. Sullivan and the tragic blow she suffered.

From the Revolutionary War on, the price of freedom has come with numerous casualties.

As I write this and reflect on my parents' modest celebration of the holiday, I think the main reason for our low-key observance was because they truly understood the importance of the day in forming

this great country we live in, and the sacrifices made in the name of freedom and independence.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Okay, so we know you've probably heard it before, but it bears repeating (again and again): if you receive a phone call — regardless of who your phone says is calling — be on guard at all times for scam artists. That's especially true in this day and age of high-tech hackers.

The same goes for anyone who contacts you and asks for money, no matter how convincing their story.

Case in point: Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent again addressed another scam apparently circulating in the county last week.

"People are calling and coming in here to report that someone using the Tuscola County Sheriff's phone number is calling and telling them they have to come in and or pay by money order for something they failed to do," Skrent reported on the department's Facebook page. "We do not work that way," he said. "Obviously, someone has cloned our number and is using it for criminal activity."

If you're planning on flying the American Flag anytime soon — and if you don't have one — contact the folks at Thumb-based Ehrlich's Flags — make sure you're showing Old Glory the respect it deserves. Here are some tips courtesy of Rebecca Deczynski and Caroline Picard. They write: An American flag is a great way to show off your love for your country. However, your act of patriotism can quickly become (unintentionally) disrespectful if you're unaware of an important set of rules. The U.S. Flag Code established by Congress in 1942 offers guidelines for treating this national symbol with dignity.

You can fly the American flag on all days, but the Flag Code especially recommends displaying it on Independence Day, as well as other major holidays like Flag Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day. Brush up on your flag etiquette ahead of the 4th of July by learning how to fly the Stars and Stripes the right way.

Display the American flag the right way.

Don't hang your flag backwards, upside down, or in another inappropriate fashion. If you're hanging your flag vertically (like from a window or against a wall), the Union portion with the stars should go on the observer's left. Never dip the flag to any person or any thing.

Avoid letting the flag touch the ground.

Prevent your flag from touching the ground, floor, or water. It's not necessary to dispose of your flag if it accidentally hits the pavement, but you should make sure that it's in good condition before displaying it again.

Know the difference between half-staff and half-mast.

There is a difference between half-staff and half-mast, even though they're commonly used interchangeably. "Half-mast" technically refers to a flag flown on a ship's mast, while "half-staff" describes flags flown on land.

Fly your flag on half-staff at the right times.

The flag is flown at half-staff when the nation is in mourning, such as for the death of a government official or for remembrance. When flying the flag at half-staff, first hoist it to the peak for an instant and then lower to the half-staff position.

Now that you know, let's get those flags waving in the wind.

According to AAA, more Americans are traveling for Independence Day than ever before, while in Michigan there is a 4.4% bump in those who are traveling.

A record breaking 48.9 million travelers will be taking the road meaning the roads will be much more impacted than previous 4th of July's.

Wednesday, July 3rd is said to be the worst day for traveling by car because of the mix of commuters and holiday travelers. In some areas around the country, it is estimated to be four times the normal commute as delays could average around 9% across the country.

"Although travel times are expected to nominally increase throughout the week, hands down, Wednesday afternoon will be the worst time on the road," said INRIX transportation analyst, Trevor Reed. INRIX is the global leader in connected car services and transportation analytics.

A combination of a still-strong economy, low unemployment, high consumer spending, and gas prices that are 20 cents lower than this time last year have all inspired people to be more lenient with their summer spending and travel.

While gas prices may dwindle into the summer, car rentals and airfare prices are 5% and 10% higher respectively this year than last.

Whatever your holiday plans entail, please be safe.



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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(USPS 092-00)

State land bank okays bid from township for Caro Center land

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Some of the land that comprises the Caro Center complex may have a buyer.

In November 2018, the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority offered to sell three parcels of land. Area one is about 117 acres and is part of the Caro Center. It is bordered by M-81, Chambers Road to the West and the Cass River to the east and south. Area two has about 40 acres, and area three has about 73 acres. All of the property is in Indianfields Township.

"Only about 117 of the more than 300 acres that is available is Caro Center land. We received four proposals for various properties," said Jim Tischler, development director for the state land bank. "We accepted one proposal. We are ne-

gotiating another. The other two proposals we decided not to accept."

The proposal that was accepted will enhance a park, and the other that is still being negotiated is for proposed commercial development.

The Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority approved the proposal from Indianfields Township for what is called the flood plain area A, which is part of the former Caro Center property.

"They want that land to expand their park which is immediately adjacent. We have orally agreed and are preparing to execute a property transfer agreement for that property to them," Tischler said. "It has about 97 acres and is in the process of being surveyed."

The area the township wants to expand the park is the low land adjacent to the Cass River. "For the 17 approximate acres to

the north, we are in negotiations with a private party for a prospective transfer for commercial development. That has not been consummated yet," he said. "We are in negotiations. The deal may or may not consummate within the next 20 days or so."

Although the state offered land is a key area for development, it comes with some challenges; while there is a sewer line to the area, there is no municipal water line. The Caro Center has an on-site water tower and wells.

According to Tischler, areas two and three are still open.

A proposal was submitted for each of those sites, but they were both declined by an advisory committee composed of area representatives.

Tischler noted that, despite rumors, no land was given to the Tuscola Area Airport.

Circuit court proceedings

Several appear on felony charges

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

*Juan D. Ramirez, 55, Saginaw, was sentenced to 365 days in the county jail, with worksite privileges, following his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle with a high BAC (blood alcohol contest), third offense, Dec. 1 in Denmark Township.

He was also placed on probation for 60 months and ordered to complete 480 hours of community service and pay court costs and fines totaling \$1,258.

*Daniel J. Hill, 22, Caro, was sentenced to seven to 15 years in prison following his pleas of no contest to three counts of criminal sexual conduct, third degree, involving force or coercion between Aug. 8, 2013, and Aug. 8, 2014, in Kingstown Township.

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

*Ryan S. Thornton, 26, Fairgrove, was sentenced to 155 days in jail following his plea of guilty to possession of cocaine, heroin or another narcotic (less than 25 grams) Jan. 3 in Denmark Township.

He was also placed on probation for 36 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,008.

*Benjamin L. Wilson, 24, Saginaw, was sentenced to 191 days in jail following his plea of no contest to uttering and publishing involving a check for \$2,963 drawn on Frankenmuth Credit Union June 27 in Millington.

He was also placed on probation for 60 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$258 plus restitution of \$5,814, with \$250 going to the Millington Public Schools.

*Raymond L. Brigham, 24, Unionville, was sentenced to 210 days in jail following his pleas of no contest to three counts of uttering and publishing involving checks for \$88.09, \$87.38 and \$67.87, all drawn on Independent Bank; and one count each of identity theft and stealing/retaining a financial transaction device without consent of the device-holder between Sept. 5, 2017, and Oct. 24, 2017, in Unionville.

He was also placed on probation for 36 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$394. Restitution in the case is to be determined.

*Stefan T. List, 21, Saginaw, was sentenced to 270 days in jail following his plea of guilty to breaking and entering a building – without breaking – with intent to commit larceny Sept. 14-16 in Reese.

He was also placed on probation for 36 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,008. Restitution in the case is to be determined.

*Starr O. Ray, 40, Caro, was sentenced to 150 days in jail following her plea of guilty to failure to return rented property valued at \$1,000 to \$20,000 April 21, 2017, Caro. She was also convicted of being an habitual offender (two prior felony convictions).

In addition to jail time, she was placed on probation for 24 months and ordered to pay costs and fines

totaling \$258 plus restitution of \$3,895.

*James A. Leeseberg, 50, Mikado, was sentenced to 365 days in jail, with work release and worksite privileges, following his pleas of no contest two counts of fleeing and eluding a police officer and one count each of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor and assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer March 3 in Denmark Township.

He was also placed on probation for 36 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,676.

*Stacey L. Fields, 32, Akron, was sentenced to one day in jail following her pleas of no contest to two counts of writing a no-account check between Sept. 1, 2013, and Aug. 31, 2014, in Caro.

Fields was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$985 plus restitution of \$5,557 to the state of Michigan.

*Jerry J. Erla, 34, Caro, was sentenced to 90 days in jail following his plea of guilty to possession of a controlled substance, subsequent offense, July 2 in Caro.

He was also placed on probation for 12 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$858.

*Robert J. Palmer III, 24, Millington, pleaded no contest to charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and domestic violence March 10 in Millington.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case, bond was continued at \$15,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Randall S. Weiler, 51, Mayville, pleaded no contest to uttering and publishing involving a check for \$9,500, drawn on KeyBank National Association Nov. 14 in Caro.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued

at \$8,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Summer L. Willett, 33, Caro, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine/Ecstasy Dec. 20 in Fremont Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$3,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*William D. Street, 40, Caro, pleaded no contest to charges of attempted possession of a controlled substance, subsequent offense, and domestic violence Nov. 10 in Caro.

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

*Anthony P. Hawkins, 26, Vassar, pleaded no contest to attempted interference with electronic communications and domestic violence Jan. 20 in Vassar, and to assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and domestic violence Feb. 24 in Vassar.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at a combined \$30,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Jonathan V. Tidrick, 45, Cliford, was sentenced to 365 days in jail following his pleas of no contest to three counts of assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer, and one count of domestic violence, third offense, Oct. 22 in Koylton Township.

In addition to jail time, he was placed on probation for 60 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$662.

*Derek P. Diener, 33, Vassar, was sentenced to 90 days in jail following his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, March 7 in Tuscola Township.

He was also placed on probation for 60 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,258.

CALENDAR EVENTS

Deadline for submitting items in the calendar is the Friday noon before publication. Please send calendar items to:
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Phone: (989)872-2010 Fax: (989)872-3810 chronicle@ccchronicle.net

Wednesday, July 3
•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.

Thursday, July 4
•AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 553-5932.

Saturday, July 6
•Al-Anon meeting, 11 a.m., Cakima Serenity Home, Mayville. Call 989-912-5478 for more information.
•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.

Sunday, July 7
•Hillside Community Brunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., All you can eat. Free will offering.

Monday, July 8
•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.
•Elkland Township Board meeting, 7 p.m.
•VFW monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m., VFW Hall, Cass City.

Tuesday, July 9
•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.
•Thumb Octagon Barn meeting, 7 p.m., fire hall in Gagetown.
•Tuscola County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., HDC Intergenerational Building, 430 Montague Ave., Caro. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121.
•Kedron OES #33 of Caro meeting, 7 p.m.
•Huron County Family Caregiver Support Group, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Human Development Commission, 150 Nugent Rd., Bad Axe. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121.
•Al-Anon meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis Parrish, Pigeon.

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Mark your Event Calendars!

From the church that provides your Dorcas Meals. Dorcas Meal on Wednesday, July 10th at 12:00 noon. **Take-out orders call (989) 872-4604.**

July Events:
Sat. July 6th look for our float in the Freedom Festival Parade.
Sat. July 6th Annual Fireworks Tailgate in our Church Parking Lot 8:00-11:00pm
Sat. July 27th 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thumb Arts, Music, Food & Fun. Bouncy House 4 Kids, Food, Fun and Music and vendors selling lots of items.
August Events
Sat. August 3rd 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Kids Fly a Kite or Teens/Parents Fly a Drone. Picnic at the church grounds. Prizes.
Sat. August 17th 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Classic Car, Tractor & Motorcycle Show Salute to our Veterans Sponsored by the Cass City UMC - Progressive Group Music, Food & Fun. Bouncy House 4 Kids, Food, Fun and Music.

Upcoming events in October 2019
Godspell the Musical 4th & 5th 6pm
Annual Church Bazaar 25th & 26th
Trunk & Treat Sunday, 27th 2pm

Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Web site: www.casscityumc.org

Wednesday Dorcas Meals

Tailgate in our Church Parking Lot!

Sign Up and Reserve your Spot for our upcoming Thumb Arts, Music, Food & Fun.
Call (989) 872-3422 to reserve your space.

Summer Fun for the Kids & Teens. Church Picnic - in Case of Rain Sat. 8-17

Sign Up and Reserve your Spot for our Classic Car, Tractor & Motorcycle Show.
Call (989) 872-3422 to reserve your space.

Join us for Holy C.O.W Church on Wednesdays

Find us on Facebook

Reporter's notebook**We can agree on this, Dana**by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Have to admit, I didn't see much chance of my agreeing with new Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel on many issues since she defeated Bill Schuette at the polls in November.

After all, I can't even begin to see eye-to-eye with Nessel when it comes to abortion, and she seems to have spent an inordinate amount of her first term – well, so far – simply undoing anything and everything with her predecessor's name on it. Maybe that's simply a party thing, or maybe it's just her approach to marking her new territory.

Regardless, I had to applaud Nessel's announcement last week that Michigan is joining with 25 other states in a national crackdown on illegal robocalls.

It's about time, right?

"Nothing is more annoying, more intrusive, uninvited and unwelcome than robocalls – and yet, Michigan residents fall victim to an avalanche of illegal calls each day," Nessel stated in a news release issued Tuesday.

Nessel went on to say the effort, also involving the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), represents a sweeping crackdown on illegal robocalls, including 94 actions targeting operations around the United States that are responsible for more than a billion robocalls nationwide.

Industry experts estimate that 1.2 billion robocalls were made to Michigan residents in 2018. Experts are estimating residents have already received nearly 700 million robocalls in 2019.

I don't know about you, but there are days when it feels like I've received that many robocalls alone.

The joint crackdown, dubbed "Operation Call it Quits," is part of the FTC's ongoing effort to help stem the tide of universally loathed pre-recorded telemarketing calls that range from pitching products and services to credit card interest reduction services, money-making opportunities and medical alert systems. The initiative also includes new information to help educate residents about illegal robocalls.

As part of the operation, Michigan's actions include forcing a settlement with Ardent Natural Gas, LLC in March 2019, which resolved alleged violations of the Home Solicitation Sales Act for using robocalls to illegally solicit Michigan consumers. As part of the effort, the Michigan Attorney General's Office has already hosted 125 consumer education seminars focusing on robocalls and e-scams through May 30, 2019.

The operation also includes four new cases and three new settlements from the FTC alone. By the way, The FTC's one-stop shop for consumers looking for information on what to do about robocalls and other unwanted calls can be found at ftc.gov/calls. In addition to updated articles and infographics, consumers will find three new short videos about stopping unwanted calls.

"It's time to put a stop to this public nuisance," Nessel said. "This is only the beginning of several efforts by the Michigan Attorney General's Office to combat this epidemic perpetuated by negligent companies who see nothing more than dollar signs at the other end of the phone line.

"Our state's residents and the American people have had enough. I'm happy to join forces with the FTC and several other states to combat the exponential surge in robocalls around the country and bring broader awareness to the ways consumers can fight back."

Well, credit where credit is due; thank you, Dana.

Of course, although I don't know where all the robo callers come from, but I'm guessing we'll never run out of them. That's okay. I'm not worried.

If you call me, and the origin of your call is from a location I don't recognize – especially those creative calls from the "United States" – or there is no origin listed, don't hold your breath waiting for me to pick up. Leave me a message and I'll call you back as soon as I can.

Maybe.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas

**5 YEARS AGO (2014)**

Debbie Daley, one of the judges of the Tiny Sparklers Patriotic Pageant, awards Abigail VanderElzen with the title of Young Miss Firecracker.

The Owendale Lions Club recently honored Don Starks as its Citizen of the Year during the club's 55th anniversary party. Starks, band director and teacher at Owen-Gage Schools, brought state honors to the band students at both the junior high and senior high level. He has demonstrated great ability to guide young people.

10 YEARS AGO (2009)

Area resident Justin Glaza recently earned Academic All-Conference honors after achieving a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the 2008-09 school year at Indiana Tech, Fort Wayne, Ind. Glaza also earned a third-year award in basketball with the NAIA Wolverine-Hoosier Conference. Glaza is a senior majoring in business. A 2006 Cass City High School graduate, he is the son of Art and Suzette Glaza.

Erin N. Witkovsky recently graduated from Baker College, Cass City, earning an Associate of Applied Science Degree in early childhood education. Witkovsky is the daughter of Karl and Donna Witkovsky of Cass City, and the granddaughter of Pauline Berry, Cass City, and Donald and Doris Witkovsky of Caro.

Earl Volmering recently presented the 2009 Cass City Lions Club "Lion of the Year" award to Don Warner.

25 YEARS AGO (1994)

Steven D. Irvine a student at Cass City High School and the son of Cindy and Steven D. Irvine of Cass City, recently enlisted in the U.S. Army's De-

layed Entry Program for a 4-year tour of duty in the infantry. He is scheduled to report for active duty in June 1995.

Cass City Rotary president Jim Bolton presents the gavel to the Club's 1994-95 president, Craig Bellew, during the club's installation dinner held Wednesday at Rolling Hills Golf Course.

Brendon M. Hofmeister, a student at Caro High School, son of Richard Hofmeister of Gagetown, recently enlisted in the U.S. Army's Delayed Entry Program for a 4-year, 17-week tour of duty in the infantry. The Caro High School student is scheduled to report for active duty in June 1995.

35 YEARS AGO (1984)

Two Cass City Intermediate students have received music scholarships to study at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp near Muskegon. Paul Asher, son of David and Sharon Asher, and Jennifer Baker, daughter of Tom and Sue Baker, will attend the camp this summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Bartle and Mr. and Mrs. Gil Schwaderer arrived home early Monday from a two-week trip to Alaska. The tour group consisted of 39 Thumb area residents. The last three days of their stay was spent in Anchorage. Travel was by plane, bus, boat and railroad. The flight home began Sunday morning in Anchorage with stops at Seattle, Chicago and Detroit.

40 YEARS AGO (1979)

Ronald and Eloise Keegan won the July 4th king and queen contest and a free weekend in Midland. Village President Lambert Althaver put the banner on Keegan while 1978-79 Miss Michigan, Susan Schemm, presented the ceremonial bouquet to Mrs. Keegan.

Kay Loomis spent the past two weeks attending a youth music camp at Michigan State University. Monday, Kay went to the Bay Shore Church Camp at Sebawaing to work as an instructor in crafts this week.

Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Murray of Williamston, Mrs. Howard Loomis, Donald and David Loomis arrived in Lansing by plane early Saturday from a nine day trip to Montana. While there, they visited Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park and relatives in Great Falls, Belt, Big Sandy, Butte, Missoula and Ronan. On July 4, they attended the McConkey family reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben McConkey in Kalispell, Mont.

Navy Fireman Recruit Jeffrey W. Finkbeiner, son of Donald H. and Judith A. Finkbeiner of Maple Street, Cass City, has reported for duty aboard the fleet ballistic missile submarine USS Kamehameha, homeported in Groton, Conn. He joined the Navy in January, 1979.

50 YEARS AGO (1969)

Among the graduates from Central Michigan University this spring was Gene Babich of Deford who now teaches in Caro. Babich earned his MA degree from Central. He was awarded a BA in January 1964. Babich is a 1958 graduate of Cass City High School. He is married to the former Deanna Binder and they now live near Caro. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Babich of Deford.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woodward on July 1 at Hills and Dales Hospital, Cass City, a son, Jeffrey Keith. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Don Krause and Mr. and Mrs. Keith Woodward. The great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George Krause and Josh Golding.

A recent honor graduate of Wayne State University is Kathleen J. Lorencz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lorencz Sr., of Owendale. Miss Lorencz received a Master's Degree in Education in commencement exercises conducted at Cobo Hall on Sunday, June 15. Miss Lorencz received her Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University in June of 1966. She is currently teaching Business Education at Riverview, Michigan.

75 YEARS AGO (1944)

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Miller announce the engagement of their daughter, Doris Marian, to Mr. Robert Keating of Ypsilanti, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Keating, of Cass City. No date has been set for the wedding.

The Battalion Staff and enlisted personnel of the 827th Tank Destroyer Battalion salute Mr. Delvin Striffler, civilian technician from the Buick Motor Division, Flint, Mich., for the splendid job he has done as M-18 instructor. "Mr. Striffler came to us from the Buick Motor company and was recommended highly. We think we can safely say that during his stay here he more than lived up to his recommendation. Mr. Striffler has worked with the Buick Motor Division in Memphis, Tenn., and also with the same company at Melrose Park, Ill. He has taught M-18 instructions in the following battalions: 702nd at Camp Gruber, Okla., and the 633rd and 705th T. D. Bns. at Fort Lewis, Washington. One of his main jobs was to report suggestions from organizations using M-18, for improvements. "He joined our organization the last week of March. His services to the battalion on M-18 and motor maintenance instructions will long be remembered by this battalion."

Dr. and Mrs. M. M. Wickware and the Foster family are expected this week for an extended vacation at their cottage here. The doctor has been connected with the Medical department of the Gleaner Life Insurance Co. for many years. However, the Wickwares seem to enjoy their yearly vacations at the Bluff, and the doctor's daily game of rum with Al Knapp is really an exhibition of great skill and accuracy.

100 YEARS AGO (1919)

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Doerr received a telegram this week from their son, James, which stated he had landed safely in New York City and had been sent to Quantico, Va., he expected to be mustered out in the course of a few days. Mr. Doerr will probably arrive in Cass City with his wife, a Baltimore young lady, the last of the week and they will take up their residence here.

Capt. and Mrs. I. D. McCoy and son, Dean, are expected home from Emlenton, Pa., this (Friday) evening. Capt. McCoy returned to New York from overseas on July 2 after a year in the service and reached his parental home in Emlenton in time to attend the wedding of his brother on Tuesday. Dr. McCoy is still in the service but has been granted a furlough of 15 days.

The Tyo barber shop which has been located the past thirteen years in the small building on the corner of Main and Leach Sts. was removed last week to fine new quarters in the Corkins building, the basement of which has been remodeled for that particular purpose. The place is roomy and light and equipped with all the essentials for an up-to-date barber shop.

When The Last Lights Go Out At The Park...*A message worth repeating*

When the last hot dog is eaten, the last event is over and this year's festival is history, let's remember why we celebrate.

We need to be reminded that freedom still prevails and our individual freedom is the envy of people everywhere.

A free press zealously guards that freedom. We strive to uphold that tradition every week by publishing the most concise, accurate and unbiased news of Cass City and the area.

Clarke Haire - Publisher

Tom Montgomery - Editor

Krysta Boyce - Sales Executive

Deb Severance - Composition

Mary Drier - Columnist, Freelance Writer

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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Text to 911 available in Tuscola County

Continued from page one.

voice 911 call. "Tuscola 911 prefers to get a 911 voice call so (dispatchers) can get cues from the background noise and voice inflections, and the ability to get updated information quicker," she said. "However, if you are unable to safely make a 911 voice call and need to remain discreet, such as reporting domestic violence, home invasions or suicidal persons, then Text to 911

is an important alternative way to get help. "Text to 911 is an excellent option for the hearing impaired and special needs community, and we are pleased to have this enhanced way of providing 911 emergency services." Should a resident need to place a Text to 911, Nielsen offered some suggestions to make the process easier and efficient for both the texter and the 911 dispatcher handling the text.

They include:
 *Use simple words – don't use text slang, abbreviations or emojis.
 *Text your exact location to the best of your ability and describe the type of emergency.
 *Promptly answer questions from the 911 dispatcher and follow any instructions given by the dispatcher.
 "Currently, Text to 911 will not receive photographs," Nielsen noted. "Attempting to send a photo will stop the text from being received by 911 and delay emergency response."

She also reminds residents that if they accidentally send a Text to 911, they should send a follow-up text or call 911 to let officials know that there is no emergency. "Text to 911 is for reporting emergencies. Please use the non-emergency phone number for calls for service that are not emergencies," Nielsen said. "In Tuscola County, the non-emergency number of police, fire and EMS and central dispatch is (989) 673-8738." Nielsen said both Huron and Sanilac counties are also Text to 911 ready. "Tuscola County partners with Huron and Sanilac counties as well as Bay, Midland, Iosco counties and, very soon, Saginaw (and) Isabella counties, including Central Michigan University, in the Great Lakes Bay 911 Phone Consortium, which has the goal of improving public safety and accessibility to emergency phone service next-generation technology," she added.

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A Matter of Balance is an award winning proven program designed to help people set realistic goals to increase activity, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors, and learn simple exercises to increase strength and balance.

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 Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.
 www.anchorcoveoutreachchurch.com

Cass City Missionary Church
 4449 Koeptgen 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
 • Worship at 10:00 a.m. (through September 1)
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 Biblical Counseling
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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

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 6536 Houghton Street, Cass City, MI 48726 • 989-872-4637
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 Family Training Hour: Wednesday 7 p.m.
 Pastor: Jephtha Bryant

Mizpah Missionary Church
 4631 N. Van Dyke, Cass City, MI 48726
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 Wednesday Prayer Group 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. • Wednesday Kids' Club 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
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 • 1st Worship Service 9:00 a.m. • 2nd Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
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 Associate Minister: Austin Keller at Ubyly & Student Minister: Don Mecomber
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 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

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 • Find us on Facebook:
 Potter's House Church of Cass City
 • Sunday: 11:00 a.m.

Milligan retires after 40 years in classroom

Continued from page one.

"Forty years ago, Bob Stickle took a chance," Milligan recalled, referring to the then-principal's decision to hire her to teach sixth grade at the former Cass City Intermediate School. "I taught under Bob for four years, covering sixth, fifth, home economics, gym, English and library.

"Jobs were hard to come by then," said the Adrian native, who moved to Cass City in 1970, graduating from Cass City High School in 1975. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in early childhood education at Central Michigan University four years later.

Milligan was among a dozen teachers hired in 1979, just a couple years after a teachers' strike that resulted in a number of educators leaving the district.

Teaching was her first career choice.

"When I first went to college, I couldn't decide between nursing and teaching," she recalled. "Nursing could not guarantee that I would work with children, and I decided I really wanted to work with children."

Milligan, who went on to earn a master's degree at CMU in 1987 and accumulated more than 30 hours of high education beyond that, taught at the intermediate school for four years before school officials decided her training would be a perfect fit for a new program in the district.

"They were determined there was a need for a 'young fives' program, and I had an early childhood education degree," she explained. "I was assigned to Campbell Elementary under (then-principal) Jackie Freiberger to begin the developmental kindergarten program, now young fives, in the morning. I was assigned to teach Title I reading under (then-principal) Dorland Kuntz at Evergreen Elementary and (then-principal) Betty Murphy at Deford Elementary for the afternoon.

After one year, the district's developmental kindergarten teaching position expanded to full-time, noted Milligan, who was the only remaining Cass City teaching staff member to have taught at all three local elementary buildings, which have all since been closed.

In 1996, Milligan asked to make a switch to teaching third grade, where she has remained for the past 23 years, first under former

principals Dave Lovejoy and Jody Miklovic, and most recently under Cass City Elementary School Principal Aaron Fernald.

The one constant throughout Milligan's career has been her passion for teaching.

"I loved it. I did. I loved the young ones, but I loved the middle school when I was there, too," she said. "Watching kids become confident in themselves – 'I'm learning this, I can do it'.

"Always, the best part of my day was reading to the kids, to share my passion for reading."

Milligan focused on encouraging her students, reminding them that if they couldn't grasp a concept immediately, that was okay, because they would achieve success if they kept trying. "And finding the way kids learn," she said, "because they don't all learn the same way."

Developing trust during the first few weeks of each school year is among the keys to success in the classroom, according to Milligan. "And cueing in on students' needs. You have to be constantly moving around and seeing how they're doing.

"It's not (the same every year) because every group is different," she said, adding that while one class may be strong in math or reading skills, others might lean more towards a strong interest in history or science. "You have to find the things the kids are passionate about."

As for the job of being a teacher, Milligan acknowledged she's seen her share of changes in the profession, including an evolution in the process of defining curriculums that define necessary skills at each grade.

"When I started...you kind of picked a textbook and that was your curriculum," she explained. "But kudos to (those behind) creation of a more definitive curriculum."

At the same time, Milligan questions the validity of evaluating teachers based on student achievement as measured by a specific standardized test.

"Politicians try to put schools in a business model for evaluation purposes," she said, adding, however, in a situation where student performance is judged on one day with one test, there are too many factors that can affect scores. For example, are students' home lives conducive to learning? Are they well rested? Have they eaten breakfast? "You have to deal with

all of these social dynamics before you can begin teaching.

Students must also have a certain mastery of technology to tackle today's standardized tests, according to Milligan, who noted the stakes are high, as school districts that don't meet certain benchmarks can face the loss of funding.

"Yes, we need to hold teachers accountable, (but) I'm not sure we have the right tool in place," she added.

Milligan has spent more time in the classroom than she expected, having at one time decided she might like to retire after her kids had completed high school. "Then I thought, 'Oh, I don't want to be an empty nester'."

That was years ago. The Milligan's son, Mike, graduated from Cass City in 2011 and went on to pursue a degree in ag science at Purdue University. He now manages Milligan Farms, while his sister, Elisabeth, a 2014 Cass City grad, earned her undergraduate degree at Michigan State University and is now a medical student.

"We're proud of our kids. They've done well. They had good starts in the Cass City Schools," said Milligan, who says she knew it was time to close the books on her own career. "You can feel yourself separating from things; you're not as passionate," she added.

Now, she's looking forward to devoting more time to hobbies – and to travel, a bug she picked up as a teen when she spent a year in New Zealand as a Rotary Exchange student.

The Milligans have since traveled extensively, visiting Australia, Germany, Austria, Scotland, Switzerland, Spain and England. And they plan to pursue more adventures, both on their own and in conjunction with Dave's travels as an officer with the National Association of Wheat Growers.

Milligan will also be able to look back on a fulfilling career.

"It was," she said, adding working with other dedicated educators – each with his or her own view on teaching – made it possible to have a positive impact on each youngster in her classroom over the years.

"I can't say I ever had a student who didn't show growth – every kid bettered themselves," she said. "And to see that light come on... or to find their passion. It has been a wonderful way to touch people's lives."

News briefs

Aid for struggling farmers

LANSING – Michigan's farmers have been pummeled with severe cold and historic rainfall events so far in 2019. The extraordinary weather conditions are having devastating impacts on the state's farming and agricultural community.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) last week launched an online resource and information portal to make it a one-stop spot for farmers to find the help they need this year. The site will be constantly updated as new information and aid is identified. It includes resources from partners such as MSU Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Wet conditions are preventing farmers from getting into the fields and from planting this growing season. In parts of the state, farmers are now so many weeks behind schedule that they are nearly out of time and options for this year," said MDARD Director Gary McDowell. "I am encouraging our farmers to reach out to their area USDA and Michigan State University Extension experts for guidance during this difficult time."

For information, visit the farmer resource website at <https://www.michigan.gov/cropdisaster>.

Last chance: Project Fresh

CARO – The final distribution for Tuscola County Senior Project Fresh is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, at the Caro Senior Commons, 1601 W. Gilford Rd., Caro.

Those who have not received coupons this year are asked to arrive at 10 a.m. for the opportunity to receive two booklets (total value \$40), and those who have already received coupons should arrive at noon to get an additional booklet, which will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

To qualify, participants must be 60 years or older, a Tuscola County resident, and have a household income of less than \$22,459 (household of one), \$30,451 (household of two) or \$38,443 (household of three).

More information is available by contacting MSU Extension at (989) 672-3870.

The project is supported locally by MSU Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Tuscola County Council on Aging.

Fair building dedication set

CARO – There will be a dedication ceremony and ribbon-cutting at the new Tuscola County Fair Community Center, corner of Almer and Congress streets in Caro, Friday, July 19, at 5 p.m.

The festivities will include a pancake supper scheduled for 4 to 7 p.m. the same day. Cost of the fundraiser is \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids under the age of 12.

Thumb residents appointed

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer last week announced the appointment of three upper Thumb residents to the Farm Produce Insurance Authority Board of Directors.

They are:

*Stephen J. Ewald, Unionville, president and owner of Ewald Farms, Inc. Ewald was appointed to succeed Greg Ackerman, whose term expired June 20, to represent producers from the largest Michigan organization exclusively representing dry bean producers in Michigan for a term expiring June 20, 2022.

*Jason Haag, Unionville, owner and operator of a sugar beet, corn, bean, soybean and wheat farm in Unionville, and an agronomy consultant with Digital Agronomy, LLC. Haag was appointed to succeed Benjamin Chaffin, whose term expired June 20, to represent producers from the largest Michigan organization exclusively representing the interests of soybean producers in Michigan for a term expiring June 20, 2022.

*Rita Herford, Pigeon, a member and operator of Gentner-Bischer Farms. Herford was appointed to succeed Matthew Frostic, whose term expired June 20, to represent producers from the largest Michigan organization representing general farm interests in Michigan for a term expiring June 20, 2022.

4-Hers asked to lend a hand

HURON COUNTY — 4-H clubs, leaders, parents and teens will be needed to assist with 4-H building security during the Huron Community Fair, which will kick off Sunday, July 28. Volunteers will be needed each day of fair week, from Monday, July 29, through Saturday, Aug. 3, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Individuals and groups are asked to contact Kari VerEllen, 4-H administrative assistant, at (989) 269-9949 (ext. 604) to sign up for specific days and times to work.

Daley set to host office hours

CARO — State Senator Kevin Daley (R-Lum) will be holding office hours with constituents throughout the 31st Senate District Monday, July 29.

The scheduled sessions will include one from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Harvest Coffeehouse and Deli, 157 N. State St., Caro.

Daley, who represents citizens in Tuscola, Bay and Lapeer counties, will be available to answer questions and provide information and assistance, as well as take suggestions on issues affecting communities and businesses in the district. No appointment is necessary.

More information is available by visiting the website SenatorKevinDaley.com or by calling (517) 373-1777.

Thumb residents appointed

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer Friday announced a host of appointments to various boards and commissions, and some Thumb residents are among those chosen to serve.

They include:


*Deborah Beers, of Sebewaing, named to the Michigan Board of Behavior Analysts. Beers is a board-certified assistant behavior analyst and chief financial officer at Thumb Area Psychological Services in Cass City.

The Michigan Board of Behavior Analysts was created to assist the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs with the regulating and licensing of behavior analysts who utilize applied behavior analysis interventions that are based on scientific research and the direct observation and measurement of behavior and the environment.

*Guthrie Laurie of Caro was appointed to the Michigan Potato Industry Commission. Laurie is the farm manager for Walther Farms in Cass City.

The Michigan Potato Industry Commission was created to foster and promote an economically viable potato industry in Michigan by providing responsible leadership for the industry.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery



It's ok

To say you have been affected by mental illness.

- 43.8 million adults experience mental illness in a given year.
- One-half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14; three quarters by age 24.
- 1 in 5 adults in America experience a mental illness.
- Nearly 1 in 25 adults in America live with a serious mental illness. (source: Nami.org)

Mental Health Is Just As Important As Physical Health!

Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems

Mental Health Provider in Tuscola County
989.673.6191 or 1.800.462.6814
Emergency Services available 24/7.
Services are confidential. www.tbhsonline.com

Legal Notices

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 NICHOLE KELLY and RONALD KELLY, wife and husband, 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 AUGUST 19, 2016, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Tuscola County, and State of Michigan on AUGUST 26, 2016, in LIBER 1357 on PAGE 1365 on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal and interest, the sum of ONE HUNDRED NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY EIGHT AND 04/100THS (\$109,158.04) at 3.500% 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 JULY 11, 2019, 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 Courthouse 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:

CITY OF VASSAR, COUNTY OF TUSCOLA AND STATE OF MICHIGAN, to wit: LOT 22, BLOCK 2, OF THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY OF VASSAR, MI) ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, EXCEPT THE SOUTH 14.00 FEET THEREOF AND ALSO EXCEPT THE EAST 16.00 FEET OF THE SOUTH 50.00 FEET THEREOF. ALSO THE SOUTH 59.00 FEET OF LOT 23, BLOCK 2, OF THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF VASSAR, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

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: 6-12-19 6-12-5

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by John J. Frazee, and Sharon Frazee, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, Mortgagee, dated June 4, 2003 and recorded July 28, 2003 in Liber 945, Page 1390 Tuscola County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Nine and 23/100 Dollars (\$82,929.23), including interest at 7.25% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on JULY 18, 2019. Said premises are located in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County Michigan, and are described as: The West 10 feet of Lot 9 and the East 90 of Lot 8, of Block 3 of Fenster Subdivision according to the Plat recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 87, now being Page 37B.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: June 19, 2019 File No. 19-005229 Firm Name: Orlans PC 6-19-4

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Notice is hereby given that the below mortgage 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 of Tuscola County at 10:00 am on July 25, 2019.

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Annmarie L. Vermeesch, A Single Woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for New Executive Mortgage LLC, its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Flagstar Bank, FSB Date of Mortgage: June 20, 2017 Date of Mortgage Recording: June 30, 2017 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: \$48,269.70 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Township of Wisner, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as: Beginning at a point 148.50 feet South of the East one-quarter post of Section 29, Town 14 North, Range 7 East; thence West 257.70 feet, South 165.00 feet, East 257.70 feet, North 165.00 feet to Beginning.

Reserving the road way now established across the North side of the above described property for road purposes only. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under 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: 06/26/2019 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 111923 6-26-4

NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE

Estate of MARY LOU SPENCER, date of birth: 06-15-1937

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Mary Lou Spencer, died 05-30-2019. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jean Schulz, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 440 N. State Street, Caro MI 48723 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: 6-24-19 Attorney: Duane E. Burgess (P30248) 121 W. Grant Street, Suite 2 Caro, MI 48723 (989) 673-1990

Personal Representative: Jean Schulz 2120 Englehart Road Deford, MI 48729 (989) 872-2492

7-3-1

CLASSIFIEDS

Transit (nonbusiness) rates, 10 words or less, \$5.00 each insertion; additional words 15 cents each. Three weeks for the price of 2-cash rate. Save money by enclosing cash with mail orders. Rates for display want ads on application.

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MILITARY - POW
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2-1-24-ff

Household Sales

UNDER THE BIG TOP - Yard Sale - July 4-7, starting at 8 a.m. Corner of M-53 & deckerville Rd. Antiques - houseware, glassware - furniture, lawn & garden items, new & used appliances, old bottles, collectibles, lightning rods & balls. 14-6-26-2

MULTI-FAMILY SALE - Wednesday, July 3 & Thursday, July 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 8810 N. Van Dyke Rd. large wall hanging pictures, furniture, houseware, vases, seasonal decor, bedding, toys, ladies clothes (s-xl), purses, mens (xl) and more. 14-6-26-2

GARAGE SALE - 4344 Oak St., Cass City. Friday, July 5th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, July 6th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Day-care Center items - toys, puzzles, books, games, etc., brand name boys' clothes (sizes 4T to 14), brand name teen girls', women's and men's clothing, household miscellaneous, everything priced to sell. 14-7-1-1

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE - 6470 Garfield, Fri.-Sat. from 9-5. Lots of useful trash and some treasures. Home decor & kitchen items some vintage and collectables. Hostas & garden things, mens & ladies' clothing, size large. Small furniture pieces & so much more. Weather permitting. No early sales. 14-7-1-1

GARAGE SALE - July 4&5, Thurs. & Fri., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. corner of Akron & Hurds Corner Rd. Boys' & men's clothes \$1 bag, toys, movies, household & lots more rain or shine. 14-7-1-1

GARAGE SALE - July 5-7 & July 12-14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 6484 River Road, Cass City. **We moved and didn't downsize enough** Lots of items, stoneware dishes, womens clothes (16-4x), kids' clothes (all sizes), toys, books and so much more. 14-7-1-2

ESTATE SALE - 1751 Cemetery Rd. Wed. July 3 ONLY from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stanleycleaning products, houseware, glassware, something for everyone. Everything 1/2 off. 14-7-1-1

Notices

BAKE SALE AT WILD JOHN'S - Hosted by Greenleaf Historical Society - Friday, July 5 from 9:30 to 3 p.m. 5-7-1-1

**Cass City
Farmers
MARKET**
Join Us
EVERY THURSDAY
2:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.
Downtown Cass City
Locally Grown. Locally Made. Locally Crafted.
Contact Stacy or Hayley at 989-872-4311 to reserve your site! [MUST call by 9 a.m. Thursday to reserve your site | \$10 per site]

Real Estate For Rent

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-ff

Facilities For Rent

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

**Cass City
Mini Storage**
All Sizes
5' x 10'
to
12' x 40'
Need a seasonal place to store your recreational vehicle?
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Services

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Very Reasonable Rates!
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8-5-3-ff

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8-12-19-ff

Automotive

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CALL DON FOR DETAILS
"I can find you exactly what you're looking for!"
Call Don for lease specials on NEW vehicles & more details on USED vehicles at (989) 269-6401.

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-ff

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-ff

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-ff

DO YOU WANT YOUR CARPETS to be clean & free of dirt and dust? Try our new 100 year anniversary vacuum sweeper. Manufactured in Cleveland, Ohio. This carpet sweeper is made and built in the USA ensuring quality, reliability and performance. Used Vacuums - Kirby, Eureka, wet & dry, Sears, tank, Oreck etc. Warranty 90 days. KIRBY VACUUM OF BAD AXE (located across from the Franklin Inn on the East end of Bad Axe) or call 989-269-7562, 989-551-7562 for repairs, parts or service. 8-12-17-ff

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DDS, MS**
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Bad Axe, MI 48413
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www.badaxeorthodontics.com
8-6-11-52

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Due to the continued expansion, Valley Enterprises, a fast-paced and entrepreneurial plastics division of the Gemini Group, is looking for the right candidate to fill the position of production worker. This position reports to the Shift Manager and provides Valley with basic operational support in a plant setting. Training is provided for all tasks. Job Requirements: •Competency in reading and basic math skills • The ability to perform repetitive tasks. Compensation: Competitive hourly rate, Medical Insurance, Dental Insurance, Vision Insurance, Supplemental Insurance, 401k Plan with Employer Matching, Vacation and Holiday Pay, Referral Bonuses, Tuition Reimbursement, Excellent Work Culture and Advancement Opportunities. Interested candidates should apply on line at geminigroup.net/careers or in person at 2147 Leppok Rd., Ubly, MI 48475. Valley Enterprises is located 1 mile north of Atwater Rd. on M-19, ¼ mile east on Leppok Rd. 11-6-26-2

HELP WANTED - Tuscola County Veteran Affairs office has an opening for a full-time Veteran Affairs Assistant. If interested go to tchd.us and click on the Employment tab for full details of posting. 11-6-26-2

HELP WANTED - Class A CDL driver with a hazmat and tanker. Full time with insurance and benefits. 6392 Main St., Cass City, Mi 48726 or call 989-872-2065. 11-6-12-5

Real Estate for Sale

 <p>Beautiful condo in excellent condition located in Cass City. 2 bedrooms, 2 bath, central air, walkout lower level, 1st floor laundry, all appliances stay. Great Location! 032-19-0021</p>	<p>Searching for the right home? This 2 bedroom, 2 bath Ranch has the convenience of being in town and offers a family room with natural fireplace, central air, 1st floor laundry. Appliances stay. 032-19-0024</p>	 <p>PRICE REDUCED - 100' x 350' Lot in Caseville on Port Austin Road. Bay is across the road and right down from Sleeper State Park. Driveway on property. Nice trees, owner wants it sold. A-666</p>
 <p>640 SQUARE FOOT!!! Commercial building in Cass City. Excellent location. Many possibilities. Immediate possession. 032-15-0081</p>	 <p>KELLY & CO. REALTY Cass City ~ 989-872-2248 kellycorealty@gmail.com www.realestate-mis.com Caro ~ 989-673-2555 kellycorealtycaro@gmail.com www.kellyandcompanyrealestate.com Equal Housing Opportunity Find us on Facebook RMLS</p>	 <p>PRICE REDUCED - 100' x 350' Lot in Caseville on Port Austin Road. Bay is across the road and right down from Sleeper State Park. Driveway on property. Nice trees, owner wants it sold. A-666</p>
 <p>PRICE REDUCED - 7 unit apartment complex on 3.87 acres in desirable Van Dyke Road location. Needs a new owner! Land contract terms possible. 032-19-0001</p>	<p>6 UNIT MONEY MAKER! Be your own boss!!! All rented!!! \$65,000 for this Cass City location! Land contract terms available! 032-19-0004</p>	 <p>6 UNIT MONEY MAKER! Be your own boss!!! All rented!!! \$65,000 for this Cass City location! Land contract terms available! 032-19-0004</p>

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, Prior manufacturing experience helpful. For consideration please send resume with references to Anrod Screen Cylinder Co., Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 117, Cass City, MI 48726. 11-6-26-2

HELP WANTED - The Fowler Center for Outdoor Learning/ Year round camp for individuals with disabilities. Immediate Openings: **Maintenance assistant:** 32 hours per week includes some weekends/\$10 immediate opening through end of September. Can reduce hours to 20 for 2 positions if needed. **P.T. Cooks:** Year round hours vary \$10.54/hr; Prep meals, special diets, inventory, cleanliness. **P.T. Dietary Aids:** Year round hours vary \$10/hr. Counseling Staff immediate openings through Aug. 16 for summer/commit to 2 weeks or more. Continued employment for respites and seasonal camps. Call Kim 989-673-2050 ex. 110. Program Instructor day or overnight positions Call Kim 989-673-2050 ex. 110. Call Kyle 989-673-2050 ex. 111 all other positions. 11-7-1-1

FORWARD C-STORE/SUBWAY HIRING SMILING FACES! Cass City Shell Convenience Store / Subway is now accepting applications for Sales Associates. Responsible for providing our customers with efficient, friendly service. Must be dependable, self-motivated, and able to work in a fast-paced environment while maintaining total customer focus. Prior cashier experience preferred. Must be able to work weekends, holidays, and varying shifts. Apply online at www.work4forward.com. 11-7-1-2

Job Posting: Special Education Teacher
Qualifications: Candidate must be Highly Qualified in Michigan. Candidate must possess a valid Teaching Certificate with Special Education Endorsement. Candidate will have a passion and desire for working with K-8 students. Candidate will be flexible and have the ability to work with a diverse student population. The candidate must have a willingness to learn and collaborate with a team as well as have a willingness to serve on committees and be involved in school functions. Candidate must have superb work attendance for school as well as be involved in professional learning opportunities.
Location: Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools Salary: Per Contract
Apply to: Terri Falkenberg/Superintendent
Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools
7166 Main St.
Owendale, MI 48754
falkenbergt@owengage.org
Application Deadline: August 2, 2019 11-7-1-2

Real Estate for Sale



Are you looking to buy or sell?
Call Joey for all of your real estate questions.

Joey Koopfer
Office 989-872-2248
Cell 989-912-6059

Cass City 6451 Main St. 872-2248	Caro 253 S. State St. 673-2555
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UPCOMING - LIVE AUCTION LAND SALES

<p>JULY 13 AUCTION AT 10 A.M.!!! Directions are from Cass City, 8 miles East to Germania Rd, 1 mile North to Cumber Rd, 1 1/10 East to address 3950 Cumber Rd, Ubly, or from Ubly, 6 miles South on M19 to Cumber Rd, 2 9/10 miles West to address.</p>	<p>AUG. 22 AUCTION 40 ACRES OF FARMLAND! <i>Call Marty for more details!</i></p>	<p>SEPT. 19 AUCTION 38 ACRES OF FARMLAND! (Tillable) Elkland Township <i>Call Tavis for more details!</i></p>
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Happy 4th of July!

Visit www.osentoskiauction.com for full sale bills!

 Lola Flores 989-551-3577	 Marty Osentoski 989-550-3400	 Connie Osentoski 989-551-4695	 Tavis Osentoski 989-551-2010	 Beth Mellendorf 989-912-0055
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100% SUCCESS RATE - CALL OSENTOSKI'S TODAY!

<p>9:30A.M. 4-MAN SCRAMBLE TEAM DRAW</p>	<p>10A.M. TEE-OFF</p>	<p>CCHS Class of '89 30 YEAR REUNION</p>
<p>4P.M. DRINKS</p>	<p>6P.M. FOOD</p>	
<p>July 13th Rolling Hills Golf Course 6586 Milligan Road, Cass City</p>		

Thumb Quilt Trail calendars out; new quilts on the way

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The 2020 Thumb Quilt Barn Calendars are done and ready for sale. One of the photos on the 2020 Thumb Quilt Trail features the “Mariner’s Compass” quilt that was installed on the Charles W. Liken Carriage Barn, 644 E. Main St., Sebewaing. The Mariner’s Compass design was selected as the barn’s quilt because it depicts the journey on the seas from Germany to the United States by John C. Liken, who was an early pioneer and entrepreneur in Sebewaing.

Liken was one of Sebewaing’s prominent citizens and businessman. He opened sawmills in Sebewaing, Unionville, Akron and Fairgrove. He was also connected to the old stores in Bach and in Kilmanagh that are still standing.

Another well-known “smiling barn”, located in Unionville is in the 2020 calendar as well. Locals call it the smiling barn because the way it is designed it looks like the barn is smiling. The quilt is on the Fertile Valley Seed Farm barn, 6183 Sheridan Rd., and sports a quilt block called the “Sugar Bowl.” It can be seen from M-25.

The Thumb Quilt Trail 2020 Calendars are being sold at the Frame Shoppe on M-81 in Caro and at the Quilting B’s shop in Bad Axe. They cost \$20 plus tax. More retail locations are expected to be announced soon.

The Thumb Quilt Trail was established to promote tourism and appreciation of barns, to tell the story of a small agricultural community and to promote the art, craft and legacy of quilt making in the Thumb region, according to Thumb Quilt Trail President Pamela Stillwell-Binder.

The Thumb quilt trail offers another reason to take a scenic drive in the countryside in Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties to view a barn or business with a quilt pattern square, she said.

For more information about the Thumb Area Quilt Trail, or a map of where the quilt barns are located, visit the website www.thumbquilt-trail.com. The group also has a Facebook page.

Currently, 100 different quilts are featured on the Thumb trail. And, more are on the way, as a number of volunteers recently began working on the next quilts to be added to the trail.



THE 2020 Thumb Barn Quilt Calendar features well-known barns in Huron and Tuscola counties. In the upper left corner is the Charles W. Liken Carriage Barn, 644 E. Main St., Sebewaing, with its Mariner’s Compass quilt block. And the barn in the lower right-hand corner is Fertile Valley Seed Farm barn, 6183 Sheridan Rd., Unionville, with its “Sugar Bowl” quilt block.

Cass City man faces prison time in stabbing

Continued from page one.

conducting a violent crime investigation, was also placed on probation for 24 months and ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$1,026.

Court records state 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.”

Electricity sales expected to dip, gas consumption on rise

Sales of electricity in Michigan are expected to be down for 2019, according to the Michigan Public Service Commission’s Michigan Energy Appraisal Summer Outlook 2019 released last week.

In contrast, officials are projecting natural gas consumption will be higher from May through September compared to the same period in 2018.

Electricity sales are expected to decrease by .9 percent to 102.9 thousand gigawatt hours, according to the annual MPSC analysis of trends in the state’s fuel and power sectors. That’s down from 103.8 thousand gigawatt hours from the previous year.

Residential sales are expected to drop 2.2 percent and commercial, .6 percent. But industrial sales are expected to rise .3 percent. Consumption in the residential and commercial sectors is largely dependent on weather. If the summer is warmer than normal, then demand for electricity to power air conditioning could rise.

Natural gas demand is expected to rise 1.4 percent this year, due mainly to increased use for electricity production driven partially by January’s polar vortex, according to the report.

Higher than forecast temperatures this summer could also increase demand for cooling and electricity to run air conditioning. If prices remain at current levels, this year’s average residential bill is expected to be \$20 lower than last year due largely to falling U.S. prices.

Michigan drivers should plan to pay more for a gallon of gasoline this summer as demand for the fuel is expected to increase for the seventh year in a row. A gallon is expected to average \$2.83 during the April through September summer driving period.

The price of a gallon of diesel fuel is expected to be \$3.20, down a penny from last year.

Other highlights from the MPSC’s Summer 2019 Energy Appraisal:

Electricity

This year’s combined peak electrical demand plus planning reserve margin requirements are about four percent higher than was projected for 2018.

In 2018, electrical demand peaked for Consumers Energy at 7,568 megawatts July 5, and for DTE Energy at 11,418 megawatts Sept. 5.

The generation capacity required to serve the Lower Peninsula increased by 10.6 megawatts in 2019-20, compared to 2018-19. Generation capacity to serve the Upper Peninsula and eastern Wisconsin rose by 195 megawatts.

This summer’s peak demand plus reserve margin for the Lower Peninsula is expected to be 21,976 megawatts, up from 21,121 megawatts last summer.

Natural gas

The average monthly residential summer bill for the four largest gas utilities – DTE Gas, SEMCO Energy, Consumers Energy and Michigan Gas Utilities — is projected at roughly \$34 for April 2019 through October 2019.

A residential customer’s annual gas bill for April 2019 through March 2020 is forecast to be \$754, which is down from \$773 predicted for last year.

Production from natural gas wells in the state continues to decline and is expected to decrease by 5.9 percent to 84.9 billion cubic feet in 2019.

Petroleum

Crude oil production averaged 10.96 million barrels per day in 2018 and is expected to increase to 12.45 million barrels per day in 2019 and to 13.38 million barrels per day in 2020.

Absent unanticipated infrastructure or supply problems, it is expected that the price and supply of petroleum products will be stable for the remainder of 2019.

Gasoline

Gasoline demand will be 4.73 billion gallons, up 1.5 percent from a year ago.

With continued OPEC production curtailments and geopolitical risks in Iran and Venezuela, crude oil prices are likely to continue strengthening.

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Stories compiled by Mary Drier

41st annual Freedom Fest ready to roll

The 41st annual Freedom Festival in Cass City will kick off Wednesday, July 3, and continue through Sunday, July 7, with family-friendly events throughout.

The festival has a wide variety of activities for the entire family, with many old favorites returning as well as some new ones.

“A new event this year will be the kiddie pedal pull, and instead of a church service on Sunday, there will be a community concert on Saturday night,” said Cass City Chamber of Commerce Administrator Judy Keller. “And, this year there will be a food drive for Revive Ministries.”

The celebration, which annually draws thousands of area residents and visitors, boasts a long tradition of combining community pride with a traditional small-town Fourth of July celebration.

“I would say the parade, the fireworks, three-on-three basketball tournament, and the inflatables are the most popular (attractions),” Keller noted.

The first thing on the agenda is celebrating the re-opening of the Helen Stevens Memorial Pool at Cass City Recreational Park. The pool has undergone extensive renovations and will be open for free swimming, including a session planned for 1 to 9 p.m. today (Wednesday) in conjunction with an open house celebration from 5 to 7 p.m.

“There will be hot dogs and drinks at the open house, and all are invited,” said Keller.

Events scheduled for Thursday, July 4, include the Freedom Fest Golf Tourney at the Rolling Hills Golf Course at noon.

There will be bingo at 6 p.m. at the Lions’ Pavilion, and registration for the Pageant in Rotary Park opening at 5:15 p.m., with the pageant starting at 6 p.m.

On Friday, July 5, there will be a huge craft show in the park from noon to 7 p.m., food vendors in

the park from 4 to 9 p.m., a cornhole tournament at 5 p.m. at the Rolling Hills Golf Course, a home run derby at 5:30 p.m. on the main Little League field, and the classic car show will be back again at 6 p.m. behind Rotary Park. This year the car show is sponsored by McDonald’s and the Cass City Gavel Club.

A new event hosted by Revive Ministries is a kids’ block party from 3 to 6 p.m. on West Street, and the Lions Club will also host a free child’s eyesight screening at the same time and location.

Friday will also offer festival-goers plenty of live music, with the Mysterians performing from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Rotary Park, and the band Untamed Beauty hitting the stage at 7 p.m. at the Rolling

Hills Golf Course.

Activities on Saturday, July 6, start at 7:30 a.m. with a 8K and 5K run/walk and toddler trot sponsored by Hills and Dales General Hospital, Cass City (registration starts at 6:30 a.m.), and a slow-pitch softball tournament will get underway at 8 a.m. on the softball diamonds.

Entries for the annual grand parade will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Garfield Avenue, with the parade stepping off at 10:30 a.m. traveling through the downtown district on M-81.

After the parade, there will be a two-cylinder tractor display in the park, the Cass City Lions Club BBQ dinner at the Lions Pavilion, craft show until 7 p.m., food vendors until 9 p.m., the Fire in the

Sky Three-on-Three Basketball Tournament in the park, and until 6 p.m. children will have free access to inflatables, water slide, and obstacle course setup in the park.

Other activities on Saturday include the new pedal pullers kiddie tractor pull (registration at 1:30 p.m., with the pull starting at 2 p.m.) for kids ages five years and up, north of the basketball courts.

Although the schedule lists performances by the Thumb Area Tail Waggers, the 4-H group will not be performing this year.

And, instead of a Sunday worship service, there will be a con-

cert and devotion program from 7 to 8 p.m. at in Rotary Park.

Some of the favorite events that will return on Saturday are the strongman competition from 1 to 5 p.m. in the parking lot of the former Baker College and sponsored by Ligrow’s 24-hour fitness, the M-T Pocket Pullers Tractor Pull from 3 to 9 p.m. in the north part of the park, and DJ Mike Wilson will host a dance party at 7 p.m. in the elementary school parking lot.

The evening will conclude with the community’s annual grand fireworks display at dusk in the park.

Ignash sponsors free swim

It’s been a race against the clock to get the Helen Stevens Memorial Pool up and running for the free swimming offered annually during the Cass City Freedom Festival.

Over the last few months, there has been a flurry of activity in an effort to complete upgrades to the 43 year old pool, located in Cass City Recreational Park. Normally, the pool is open for Memorial Day fun, but rainy and cool weather delayed repairs this spring.

Among the upgrades are application of a new finish, a new filter, new floor tile, fencing, reconstruction of the concrete pad around the pool, replacement of the sand filter and other mechanical components, and new walkways.

As the 41st annual Freedom Festival kicks off, one of the first things on the agenda will be celebrating the opening of the newly-renovated pool today (Wednesday).

There will be a free open swim from 1 to 9 p.m., with an open house celebration at the facility from 5 to 7 p.m. The event, sponsored by the village, will be followed by a recognition ceremony.

As part of the celebration, there will be hot dogs and drinks at the open house, and everyone is invited, said Cass City Chamber of Commerce Administrator Judy Keller, who is coordinating the Freedom Festival, Wednesday, July 3, through Sunday, July 7.

The festival will include free swimming at the pool from 1 to 9 p.m. Thursday, July 4 (sponsored by Cass City Oil and Gas), and again Friday, July 5, Saturday, July 6, and Sunday July 7 (sponsored by Reggie Ignash - Farm Bureau).

Because the pool — built in 1976 — is among the crown jewels of the village’s park system, the community rallied in support of raising money for repairs. Village trustees Rob Piaskowski and Tom Herron made it their mission to get the word out on how badly the pool needed upgrades in order to preserve the facility.

In addition, the restoration project received a substantial boost when veteran local businessman Duane Chippi donated \$200,000 towards the effort in memory of his wife, Janice.



MEMBERS OF Farm Bureau Insurance (left to right) Joel Bolzman, Jessica Dressler, Reggie Ignash, Michaela Tuckey and Kaylene Stine stand in front of the freshly remodeled Helen Stevens Memorial Pool during a sunny afternoon. The insurance company will be sponsoring the open swim that will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the Freedom Festival.

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Gavel Club takes over '19 car show

A change of the guard of sorts in the Freedom Festival's popular Classic Car Show has resulted in some format changes as the new sponsoring organization gets its feet wet.

The Cass City Gavel Club took over coordinating the car show, which is scheduled for Friday, July 5, starting at 6 p.m. behind Rotary Park in the municipal parking lot. Registration will get underway at 4:30 p.m., and food will be available for purchase from 5 to 7 p.m.

Gavel Club member Ron Guinther says he sent out about 150 entries for the show using the list of those who attended the show in the past. "There were 140 cars that showed up last year. That filled the parking lots behind Rotary Park and some were on the streets," he said. "The entry fee is \$5, which goes to the Gavel Club."

The entries in this year's show, which is also being sponsored by McDonald's of Cass City, will not be judged.

"The event will just be to show off their cars. This is our first year of our doing this, so we are really green. We are learning as we go along," he said. "Every car that enters will receive a plaque, and we are trying to get together a 'goodie bag' for them. We are working on that."

There is no pre-registration required. Even if an invitation to participate wasn't received, classic car owners are welcome to simply show up with their pride and joy.

Although a coordinated cruise through the downtown area is not scheduled, Guinther said he expects drivers will participate in a cruise around town to show off their cars.

The Gavel Club is a men's speaking club that raises money in support of a variety of projects in the Cass City community.

"The \$5 fee for the car show will go back into Cass City. Over the last two years the Gavel Club has put over \$30,000 back into the village. We do a lot with the school, the park, with the local Boy Scout Troop, the backpack program, Christmas in the Village, and all kinds of things," said Guinther.



KURT PANKAU of Filion polishes up his 1970 Ford during the 2018 classic car show in the parking lot behind Rotary Park.

Parade entries shaping up

As the saying goes, everybody loves a parade, and there will be a lot to love about the 2019 Cass City Freedom Festival Parade, which will kick off at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 6.

"Lineup starts at 8 a.m. on Brooker Street. The parade goes down M-81 towards Parkway (the store) and turns on Ale Street then on to the park," explained Judy Keller, who coordinates the event along with her duties as administrator of the Cass City Chamber of Commerce.

"We usually have between 70 and 80 entries registered. I don't look for 80 this year because there are no politicians running for election, so about 70 entries will be more like it."

This year's grand marshal is Craig Bellew of Hills and Dales General Hospital. For 31 years, he has dedicated his time and talents to the hospital and to the Cass City community.

Bellew joined the hospital staff in September 1988 as the director of pharmacy. He worked in that role for 28 years. He then took on the role of vice president of ambulatory services.

"During his career, Craig was instrumental in developing patient safety protocols and also forming a safety committee for the hospital. Craig worked closely with the medical staff each day to ensure our inpatients and outpatients had

the medicine they needed," said Danielle Blaine, Hills and Dales General Hospital marketing and foundation director.

"Craig was also instrumental in the development of the Hospital Drive Pharmacy. His patient care has now continued, as he works with the medical staff and the staff in Hills and Dales clinics to ensure patients are taken care of."

Bellew is also active in the community as a member of the Cass City Rotary Club, and he's spent many years as a professor at Ferris State University. He is an avid golfer, Red Wings fan, camper and car enthusiast.

There is no cost to enter the parade. Awards will be presented in four different categories: most original entry, prettiest entry, most patriotic entry and the best local business entry.

Entry forms for the parade are available at the chamber office (inside the municipal building at the corner of Main and Seeger streets), as well as online at cass-citychamber.com.

Parade entries can show up on the day of the parade, but will be put at the back of the line.

"The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps will be back this year. They are a big hit at the parade," Keller noted.

"The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps is made up of 40 to 50 students ranging in age from 12 to 18. Its members are self-supporting and dedicated to preserving the ancient arts of color guard, fife and drumming through live performances in parades, historical and patriotic celebrations, concerts, cultural affairs and other civic events.

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Music will fill Rotary Park



RETURN PERFORMANCE - The Mysterians will be back again this year for the 41st Freedom Festival, performing from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, July 5, at Rotary Park.

Although one music group scheduled to perform during Cass City's Freedom Festival had a chart-topping hit that involved shedding tears, there will only be tears of joy from memories of bygone days when they take the stage.

The Mysterians will be back again this year for the 41st Freedom Festival, performing from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, July 5, at Rotary Park.

"I was 12 years old when we started the band in 1962," recalled Robert Balderrama. "Our biggest hit was '96 Tears'. It went world-wide. It was hard to match that."

Although the group continued to perform, they were never able to match the success of "96 Tears".

"Our second record hit the top 20, and that is hard to do. We had

others that hit the top 40, but none were as big a hit as '96 Tears,'" he said.

Although former lead singer Question Mark is not part of the group that performs these days, the Mysterians still feature Balderrama and the original keyboard player, Frank Rodriguez, whose talent on the keyboard was showcased in the group's top recording.

"I feel blessed God has given me the opportunity to keep playing music. I'm 69 now - started when I was 12, and I'm still going with the original keyboard player," said Balderrama. "It's been great. I want to keep on playing."

The original band, Question Mark and the Mysterians, was formed by a group of Mexican teenagers who were born in Texas

and raised in Saginaw. The original group was composed of lead singer Rudy Martinez, his brother, Robert, on drums, Frank Rodriguez on keyboards, Bobby Balderrama on guitar and Larry Borjas on bass.

A few of the other songs the group is known for are "Ain't that a Shame" and the "Midnight Hour", both of which heavily feature the keyboard.

Devotion

The Cass City Ministerial Association is organizing something a little different in the way of a worship program in conjunction with the 2019 Freedom Festival.

"We are not doing a community service this year like what was done in years past," said Brad Speirs, senior minister at the Novesta Church of Christ. "We will be doing a community concert and devotion rather than a worship service Sunday."

The event is scheduled for Saturday, July 6, starting at 7 p.m. at Rotary Park.

"It's a combination church service (and) a concert with gospel music," Speirs explained. "Well-known locals Tom (Guinther) and Jerry (Lamoureux) will be sharing with us through music, while Ross Foley from Deford Community Church will be leading us in a devotion time."

"We are also going to be participating in a special time of communion together as brothers and sisters in Christ."

According to Speirs, the theme for the program is "You First" based on Romans 12:10, which says, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

"We look forward to having (everyone) join us for a great evening together before the fireworks," Speirs added.



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Cass City Freedom Festival 2019

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3RD

TIMES	LOCATION
1:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Cass City Pool - Free Swim to Public Village Pool
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Pool Community Celebration Village Pool
6:00 PM	Recognition Ceremony Village Pool

THURSDAY, JULY 4TH

TIMES	LOCATION
12:00 PM	Freedom Fest Golf Tourney Rolling Hills Golf Course
1:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Cass City Pool - Free Swim to Public Sponsored by: Cass City Oil & Gas Village Pool
6:00 PM	BINGO Lion's Pavilion
6:30 PM	Pageant In Rotary Park Registration / Check-In at 5:15 PM Rotary Park

FRIDAY, JULY 5TH

TIMES	LOCATION
12:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Craft Show Park
1:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Cass City Pool - Free Swim to Public Sponsored by: Reggie Ignash / Farm Bureau Village Pool
NEW! 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	FREE!! Kid's Block Party Sponsored by: Revive Ministries West Street
NEW! 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	FREE!! Lions KidSight Eye Screening West Street
4:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Food Vendors Park
5:00 PM	Cornhole Tournament Rolling Hills Golf Course
5:30 PM	Home Run Derby Main Little League Field
6:00 PM	Classic Car Show (Registration 4:30 / Food Available 5PM-7PM) Sponsored by: McDonalds of Cass City & Cass City Gard Club Behind Rotary Park
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Music in Rotary Park - The Mysterians Rotary Park
7:00 PM	Live Music by Untamed Beauty Rolling Hills Golf Course

SATURDAY, JULY 6TH

7:30 AM	Hills & Dales General Hospital 8K Run, 5K Run/Walk & Toddler Trot - Registration starts at 6:30 AM Hills & Dales
8:00 AM	Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament Softball Diamonds

SATURDAY, JULY 6TH

TIMES	LOCATION
9:30 AM	Parade Entries Meet Garfield St.
10:30 AM	41st Annual Grand Parade Grand Marshals: Craig & Mary Bellw Downtown
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Cass City (CCRC) Airplane Display and Demo Field North of Elementary School
After Parade	2-Cylinder Tractor Display Park
After Parade	Cass City Lions Club BBQ Chicken Dinner Lion's Pavilion
After Parade	Fire in the Sky 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament Park
After Parade - 6:00 PM	FREE!! Kids Area - Inflatables, Water Slide, Obstacle Course Sponsored by: Thumb Bank & Trust / Cass City Chamber Park
After Parade - 7:00 PM	Craft Show Park
After Parade - 9:00 PM	Food Vendors Park
1:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Cass City Pool - Free Swim to Public Sponsored by: Reggie Ignash / Farm Bureau Village Pool
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	AAUW Kids Area Paint In Gazebo in the Park
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Strongman Competition presented by Ligrow's 24 Hr. Fitness Hills & Dales Corp. Parking Lot (Formerly Baker (C&G))
NEW! 2:00 PM	Pedal Pullers Kiddie Tractor Pull Registration at 1:30. Kids 5 years & up. North of Basketball Courts
4:00 PM & 5:30 PM	FREE!! Magic Show Sponsored by: Coactlight Pharmacy Lion's Pavilion
3:00 PM - 9:00 PM	MT Pocket Pullers Tractor Pull North of Park
NEW! 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Concert & Devotion in Rotary Park Sponsored by: Community Churches Rotary Park
7:00 PM	Dance Party by DJ Mike Wilson Elementary School Parking Lot
Dusk	Grand Fireworks! Park & School

SUNDAY, JULY 7TH

1:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Cass City Pool - Free Swim to Public Sponsored by: Reggie Ignash / Farm Bureau Village Pool
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Events and times are subject to change.



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Pageant in Rotary Park

Contestants sought for annual festival showcase

Organizers of the annual Freedom Festival's Pageant in Rotary Park are looking for children who have a sparkling personality, or who are at least not shy in front of crowds.

The pageant is slated to get underway at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 4, at Rotary Park.

"They are judged on personality and poise in getting up in front of an audience, and maybe answering a couple of questions," said Ashley Patrick, who is coordinating the free event. "Getting the kids up on stage in front of an audience helps build confidence."

The pageant has several categories, from newborns through age 21.

"Although we like to have registration done beforehand, registration can be done up to one hour before the event starts," she noted.

Registration/check-in starts at 5:15 p.m. on the day of the event.

The categories include: Beautiful Baby Boy and Beautiful Baby Girl (newborn to 12 months old); Terrific Toddler Boy and Terrific Toddler Girl (ages one to three years old); Tiny Miss Sparkler (girls ages four to five years old); Young Miss Firecracker (girls ages six to eight years old); and Junior Miss Dynamite (girls ages nine to 12 years old).

The suggested attire for participants in those categories is "Patriotic Sunday best".

In two other categories — Teen Miss Dynamite (ages 13 to 16) and Miss Dynamite (ages 17 to 21), the suggested attire is semi-formal or formal.

The youngest participants will go

first, and a parent or guardian must accompany their child at all times (on stage with infants and toddlers).

According to Patrick, participants will be judged on overall appearance, personality and poise, and they will be asked a sample question or two while they are on stage.

"We encourage everyone to come and watch," Patrick said. "It is a fun event. There will be music (and) Excel Dance Studio of Arts will perform, so people are encouraged to bring a lawn chair."

Trophies will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners in each category, and

each first-place winner will be given a crown.

In addition, the winners in the Junior Miss Dynamite, Teen Miss Dynamite and Miss Dynamite categories will ride in the grand parade Saturday, July 6.

This is the third year Patrick has coordinated the event. Registration forms and more information are available by contacting her at (989) 551-5419 or via email at aptinydancer@gmail.com.

Registration forms can be mailed to her at 4860 Crestwood Circle, Cass City, MI 48726 or registration can be completed in person one hour before the event.



AREA WINNERS from last year's Pageant in the Park take a quick picture with program coordinator Ashley Patrick.

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Strongman Competition back by popular demand

The Freedom Festival Strongman Competition returns to the Freedom Festival Saturday, July 6, from one to 5 p.m. in the parking lot of the Hills and Dales General Hospital Corporate Services Offices and Regional Education Center (formerly the Baker College campus).

The event is sponsored and coordinated by Jon Ligrow, owner of Ligrow's 24 Hour Fitness, 6447 Main St.

"This will be our third annual strongman competition. This was a great event the last couple years and we are hoping to make this a big-time event again for this year," Ligrow said.

"Aaron West will be hosting the competition again this year, and he and his crew are top notch when it comes to strongman competitions."

The competition is divided into divisions — lightweight, middleweight and heavyweight for men and women.

"We are going to have a semi-truck pull. We had that last year and it went over really well," he said.

"There is (also) going to be a circus dumbbell pull," added Ligrow, who explained the competition utilizes a heavy dumbbell that a participant has to pick up and lift it up overhead with one arm. The lightest one is 130 pounds—the heaviest weighs in at 180 pounds.

Another event is the, involving weights on a bar that participants must lift as many times as they can in 60 seconds (the weights are 405 pounds for light weights and 505 pounds for heavy weight contenders). And, Ligrow said, "There is the super yoke event where they have to pick up weight on their shoulders and walk with it for 60 feet. The weight for that is 460 pounds and on up to 660 pounds."

The last event in the competition involves putting a stone over a bar as many times as possible in 60 seconds. "That might sound easy,

but the weight of the stones start at 220 pounds and go up to 300 pounds," he said.

Ligrow is hoping the number of registered competitors will climb as the competition nears.

"Last year there were 34 competitors total, which is double from the first year when there was 17. Last year there were a lot of sign-ups just before the competition started," Ligrow said. "It's a

fun event to watch. We had a lot of spectators last year, and the event draws people who want to compete from all over the state."

The cost to participate for those who are members of Ligrow's 24 Hour Fitness is \$50, and the cost for non-member is \$75.

To register or learn more, call (989) 872-3260 or (989) 600-6308.



SANDUSKY resident Cody Gueldenzopf, 26, puts everything he's got into the lightweight truck pull during the strongman competition held last year in the former Baker College campus parking lot Saturday.

Revive Ministries plans free kids' block party

Among the goals when Revive Ministries was established was to give back to the community, and that goal will be part of the annual Freedom Festival.

The non-profit organization will

host a free kids' block party from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday, July 5, on West Street, next to Revive's resell store at 6400 Main St.

There will be inflatables, face painting, games and more, according to Gail Tuckey, event coordinator. There will also be free popcorn and pickles on a stick. "This is something we want to do for the kids in the community," Tuckey said.

Aside from the kids' block party, a new addition to the festival, Revive hosts a number of free activities and events throughout the year.

To help operate the resell shop, Revive accepts donations during store hours, including gently used clothing, sheets, blankets, couches, tables, chairs, dressers, beds, kitchen utensils, dishes, refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers in working condition.

Revive also hosts food pantries throughout the year for those who live in the Cass City School District.

For more information, or to make a donation, call (989) 551-7803.

Revive also has a newsletter. To sign up, visit the website www.revivecc.org.

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To our loyal customers of "Wieners for Life", it is with heavy hearts that we write to inform you that we will NOT be selling our hot dogs during the Cass City Freedom Festival this year. Our master griller, Dennis Regnerus, passed away last fall and we have decided to take a year off.

We appreciate everyone that came out to our tent over the past few years and we hope to see everyone next year. Same place... Same time... Please consider attending the Tuscola County Relay for Life on Saturday Sept. 21st, 2019 at the Caro High School. 10 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

If you'd like to consider donating to this event and cannot attend the Relay, please send your donations to either Dawn Rick 4405 Ale Street or Barb Peters 4751 Seeger Street both of Cass City, MI 48726.

Again, thank you all for your support!

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Fire in the Sky tourney coming

The popular Fire in the Sky Three-on-Three Basketball Tournament will be back again for the 41st annual Cass City Freedom Festival.

The tourney has been a festival favorite for well over 20 years, generating plenty of action and big crowds around the basketball courts at Cass City Recreational Park following the annual grand parade.

This year's competition is slated for Saturday, July 6.

Organizers say the event typically draws more than three dozen teams ready to showcase their three-point and nothing-but-net skills.

"The cost is \$60 for a team. Each team has three players with one alternate in case someone gets hurt or needs to take a break," said Justin Ketterer, who helps coordinate the event along with Aaron Fernald.

Ketterer is the Cass City varsity girls' basketball coach, while Fernald coaches the varsity boys' team.

This is Ketterer's second year of involvement in coordinating the tournament, which requires teams to register in advance of the event.

Those who register receive a free T-shirt, and the winners in each bracket are awarded a trophy.

"Last year we had a good turnout. There were a lot of people there. The weather was nice, which is always a plus," he said.



"There are usually about 35 to 40 teams that show up for this," he added. "There are divisions for girls and boys, and the other divi-

sions depends on what kind of entries we get."

The divisions are generally broken down into players ages eight to 10 years old, 11 to 12 years old, 12 to 14 years old, 13 to 16 years old, 16 to 18 years old, and those over 18.

The competition, as always, is expected to be fast-paced and intense, said Ketterer, noting it is a great event for both the kids and adults, and a great opportunity to meet new people from other schools.

Ketterer indicated he's excited about this year's three-on-three event because the basketball courts have been refurbished.

The base of the courts was pulled up and pulverized, with a new court surface installed. The 25-year-old facility boasts eight full-size courts that are high-school length and width.

According to village Manager Debbie Powell, the Pinney Foundation donated more than \$19,000 towards the \$39,000 project completed by Yeager Asphalt.

In case of inclement weather, the games will be moved to Cass City Junior-Senior High School.

More information related to the tournament is available by contacting Ketterer at (989) 280-2379.

Festival ball tournaments slated

Home Run Derby

The home run derby is back again this year during the 41st annual Cass City Freedom Festival. The event, sponsored by Thumb Bank and Trust, starts at 5:30 p.m. Friday, July 5, at the Little League field at Cass City Recreational Park.

"This event is open to both girls and boys, and you may use your own bat, and wearing a helmet is required," said Ashley Patrick, derby coordinator.

"The home run derby is broken down into age divisions, with trophies given to the top hitters in each age category of eight-and-under, 10-and-under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16 and 17 and up.

"Moms, dads and grandparents can play — anyone who wants to bring out their inner ball player," Patrick commented.

There is a fee to participate in this event. The 12 and under group gets 10 pitches for \$5, and those in the 13-and-up age group gets 10 pitches for \$10. There is a \$5 fee to try again.

"So, this can get pretty competitive," she said.

Depending on how many participants sign up, the derby can last for a while, but that won't be a problem this year.

"This will be the first time that, if play goes on late, it will be okay. New lighting is being put in," said Patrick. "We bought the old lights from Kingston School's field that were replaced, so we can play under the lights and keep going as long as we need to. The lights are being put in now. We repurposed them. DTE and the community helped pay for this.

"The Little League program will also be helped with this, so we are excited to be able to play under the lights."

For more information, call (989) 551-5419 or email aptiny-dancer@gmail.com.

Slow-pitch Softball

A slow-pitch softball tournament will be back again at the Cass City Freedom Festival this year starting at 8 a.m. Saturday, July 6, at the softball diamond in the main park area.

But this ball tournament is a little different from most.

"It's a co-ed slow-pitch tournament. It has six guys and four girls on each team," explained Doug Hyatt, who is coordinating the event. "The players alternate with batting of boy-girl, boy-girl, etc.

"So far, sign-up for it has been slow," Hyatt commented a couple weeks ago. "I'm hoping it picks up. I'm hoping to get more

teams."

The fee to enter is \$150 per team.

"Last year we had 10 teams. Right now, only four teams have signed up so far," he said. "It's a fun event that is for those ages 16 and over. A lot of people come and watch the teams play."

The tournament features a two-game elimination format.

This is the second year for this event. Last year, teams from throughout the area signed up, and hopes are the same will happen this year.

Many of the forms for the various events can be found on the Cass City Chamber of Commerce website at casscitychamber.com.

Fest finances look good

Although fees for some events help to offset the cost of organizing and running the Freedom Festival, there are other ways to help support the event.

Towards that end, glow-in-the-dark Freedom Fest bracelets are being sold for \$1.

Proceeds from sales of the bracelets go to the Freedom Festival and fireworks. They can be purchased at Chemical Bank, Independent Bank, Thumb Bank and Trust, Rawson Memorial District Library and Cass City Hardware.

In addition, donations can be made at the Cass City Chamber of Commerce Office, 6506 Main St., Cass City, MI 48726.

Chamber Administrator Judy Keller credited the festival's sponsors with shouldering much of the financial support. They include Diamond Sponsor: Walbro of Cass City; Platinum Sponsors: Walther Farms, Thumb Bank and Trust, Rolling Hills Golf Course, Agri-Valley Communications (Agri-Valley Services, Thumb Cellular), Cass City Oil and Gas, Harris and Company (David and Heather Weiler and family), Ligrow's 24 Hour Fitness, Cass City Lions Club, the village of Cass City and the local chamber of commerce; and Gold Sponsors: Bert and Holly Althaver, Chemical Bank and Trust, Coach Light Hometown Pharmacy and D/S Services Inc.

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Golf tourney big fundraiser

Cass City has celebrated the birth of the nation in a big way for more than 40 years. This year's Freedom Festival will be no different, with a grand finale of fireworks at dusk on Saturday that can be seen throughout the area. In order to make the festival's fireworks display bigger and better than ever, organizers have been working to schedule fundraisers, and one of the key revenue-generating events is the four-man Freedom Fest Golf Tourney set for Thursday, July 4, at the Rolling Hills Golf Course. The cost is \$300 for a four-man

team, which includes 18 holes of golf, six drink tickets, a cart, lunch, a barbecue dinner, and prizes, according to Amy Lowman, Rolling Hills Golf Course owner and coordinator of the golf tournament. There is a 7 a.m. check in time with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. The maximum participation for this event is nine teams, with an afternoon tee time of 1 p.m. (noon check-in) and shotgun start at 1 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top winners. Rolling Hills Golf Course has hosted the event for the last 29

years. The event typically raises about \$3,000 to \$4,000 to help pay for the fireworks. For more information, call (989) 551-1141. Also, the golf course will host a corn hole tournament at 5 p.m. Friday, July 5, and that is followed with live music at 7 p.m., performed by Untamed Beauty. "They play music from the '80s, '90s and now," Lowman noted. "There is no charge for the music or for the cornhole tournament." Lowman pointed out that the golf course at 6586 Milligan Rd. is also an ideal location to watch the fireworks.

Magician to amaze fest crowds

For 41 years, Cass City has been the place to be to celebrate the birth of this nation during the community's annual Freedom Festival. This celebration truly offers something for everyone in the family, with plenty of child-friendly events, including a free magic show presented by Gordon the Magician. The event, sponsored by Coach Light Pharmacy, will be Saturday, July 5, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Cass City Lions Pavilion.

amateur magician. When I was in high school, a lady asked me to put on something for the National Honor Society because the theme for their party was carnival/circus," he explained. "People who saw my show called and asked me to put a show on for them."

Being a magician is a full-time occupation. "I work all around Michigan and Ohio and Indiana. I do private parties, fairs and festivals," he noted. More information about Gordon the Magician is available on his website at gordonruss.com.



MAGICIAN Gordon Russ will be back again this year with his comedic routine to entertain the crowds.

Hills and Dales brings back 5K, 8K walk, run and "toddler trot" to fest

The 22nd annual Hills and Dales 5K and 8K Run/5K Walk and Toddler Trot will take place Saturday, July 6, as part of the Cass City Freedom Festival. The 5K and 8K races start and finish in the parking lot of the

medical arts building directly south of the hospital at 6190 Hospital Dr. The course is a moderately hilly route, consisting primarily of side streets running through the village of Cass City. One small stretch of the course is

gravel road. The course crosses Seeger Street twice and there are crossing guards at each location. The 5K and 8K courses split at the second crossing of Seeger Street and Bulen Street. The 5K course heads into the subdivision to the west, while the 8K course follows Seeger Street north to Milligan Road. There will be one water station on the 5K route and two water stations along the 8K route. The cost to pre-register to participate in the 5K walk, 5K run or 8K run is \$20 through 1 p.m. Friday, July 5. The fee for onsite registration, from 6:30 to 7 a.m. on the day of the race, is \$25.

Trophies/awards will be presented to the 5K walk, 5K run and 8K run overall male and female winners and masters male/female winners, and there will be trophies and medals for top three places for each age/gender division. Participants must complete the full course on their own to qualify for an award. The Toddler trot entry fee is \$10, with the race slated to get underway at 8 a.m. The Toddler trot is a half mile lap around the hospital. There will be crossing guards at each corner to ensure the safety of all participants. Parents are also welcome to run with their child. All toddler trot participants will receive a medal. T-shirts will be distributed on a first come, first served basis on the morning of the event. Among the prizes for the event will be free passes to the Hills and Dales Health and Fitness Center in Cass City. There will also be door prizes at the end of the race, featuring gas cards, free fitness memberships and other items. Participants must be present to win raffle prizes. More information is available by calling (989) 912-6401 or (989) 872-2084.



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School upgrades underway

Continued from page one.

2018, paving the way to generate enough funding for a number of upgrades designed to provide students with a safer, more secure and energy efficient learning environment.

In a nutshell, voters agreed to an extension of an existing three-mill tax that originally raised money for capital improvement projects at what is now Cass City Elementary School. That tax is slated to expire in 2021 but will now be levied for an additional 15 years, with the proceeds going towards repairs and upgrades to the high school as well as the elementary building.

Total bond expenditures in 2020 are projected at \$2.358 million, with another \$3.685 million in 2022 for a total of \$8.455 million generated by the bond extension.

When it's all said and done, upgrades at the high school will include technology improvements, renovation of science labs and restrooms, band instrument storage, classroom and art room casework, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) lab and classroom furniture.

In the elementary building, upgrades will also target the hearing/air conditioning/ventilation system, including replacement of boilers; electrical service; parking lot paving; and playground equipment.

Paving of the parking lot at the district's preschool is also planned as well, as are bus loop paving and restroom upgrades. And, school officials will be purchasing multiple new school buses to update the district's aging fleet.



CASS CITY School Supt. Jeff Hartel surveys the work underway in a classroom at the junior-senior high building, where construction crews are in the process of installing a new heating, air conditioning and ventilation system.



THE CASS City Junior-Senior High School gym is packed with furniture and equipment removed from the building's classrooms, enabling construction workers to replace the radiant heating units with a forced air system. Teachers and students alike pitched in to clear the classrooms, according to Hartel.

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

Join us for the 22nd Annual
**Hills & Dales General Hospital
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Schedule of Events:
Registration: 6:30-7:30am
Toddler Trot: 7:30am-7:50am
5K & 8K Run/5K Walk: 8:00am

To register, go online to
www.hdghrehab.com, or
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race! You can also stop by the
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Centers for a paper form.

For questions, call Danielle at 989-872-2121 or Lauren at 989-872-2084.

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