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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020

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Whitmer extends executive order, eases restrictions

Lawmakers meet in special session Friday, saying the governor's actions have gone too far.

by Tom Montgomery
editor

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer Friday announced extension of her stay-at-home executive order through May 15 along with an easing of some restrictions.

The state Legislature, meanwhile, met in special session Friday, approving measures designed to limit the governor's authority after a state of emergency has been declared, and to investigate the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Closer to home, testing for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19),

arrived in Tuscola County this week and will be available to eligible residents at the local health department, located at 1309 Cleaver Rd., Caro, on a weekly basis.

The governor's latest executive order requires people to wear face coverings when they enter enclosed public spaces. It will also lift some restrictions on outdoor activities and allow some workers who perform previously suspended activities to go back to work.

“Data shows that most Michiganders are doing their part by staying home and staying safe. That's good, but we must keep it up. Social distancing is our best weapon to defeat this enemy,” Whitmer said. “With new COVID-19 cases leveling off, Please turn to page 2.



A salute to frontline heroes...

MEMBERS OF the Tuscola County law enforcement community, fire departments and ambulance crews staged in Caro Thursday morning for a parade that took a multitude of police cruisers, fire trucks and ambulances past the Tuscola County Medical Care Community, central dispatch building, the county health department and Caro McLaren Region Hospital in honor of frontline health care and emergency response workers. “They deserve much more – it's the least we can do,” commented Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent. “Without all these people, doing what they do on a daily basis, we would be much worse off.”



County unveils dashboard detailing local virus stats

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Tuscola County Health Department officials last week unveiled their new COVID-19 dashboard, offering residents updates on the number of cases reported in the county as well as a breakdown of the cases by zip code and age groups.

According to the data, Tuscola County has recorded 76 cases and 12 fatalities as of Friday. The total includes 11 new cases last week, down from 17 new cases the week before.

Of the 76 cases confirmed as of Friday, 27 were reported in the Caro zip code, followed by 18 in the Vassar area and 12 in Millington. Officials reported seven cases in the Cass City zip code, with three in the Deford area and one in the Kingston area. No cases have been reported in the Gagetown zip code.

Among the total patients confirmed with COVID-19 to-date, the county's most affected age groups are 20 to 29 years of age, and 80 to 89 years of age, with 13 cases reported in each group. There are a dozen cases among those ages 50 to 59, and 11 cases each in the 40-49 and 60-69 age groups. The county has not had any cases confirmed in teens or children.

The Tuscola County data map can be found on the website <https://areg.is/08qrqn>.

“As we start to expand testing in the county, we expect the numbers will go up. This data is for Tuscola County only, and we started with our first case from the week of March 15,” noted Ann Hepfer, health officer for the Tuscola and Huron county health departments. She said updates will cover periods from Fridays at 3 p.m. through Thursdays at 3 p.m., with the data maps updated on Fridays.

“We are in the process of developing the same type of data mapping for Huron County,” added Hepfer, who lauded Cody Horton, Tuscola County GIS coordinator, and Jon Suber, health department MIS manager for their work in developing the new data site.

Few county races scheduled in August primary election

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Tuesday, Aug. 4, primary election will be a quiet one for area county officials, but last week's deadline to file nominating petitions did pave the way for a number of local, state and congressional races.

The deadline for partisan candidates to file for the primary was Tuesday at 4 p.m.

In Tuscola County, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Prosecutor Mark E. Reene, Clerk Jodi Fetting and Register of Deeds John Bishop are all running unopposed, as are Drain Commissioner Robert Mantey and road commission board members Jack Laurie and David Kennard. All of the candidates filed as Republicans.

Veteran county Treasurer Patricia Donovan-Gray, meanwhile, opted not to seek another term, setting the stage for a race between Republican challengers Ashley Bennett and Rita Papp.

State Representative

In the 84th District, comprised of Tuscola and Huron counties, first-term state Rep. Phil Green (R-Millington) filed to seek reelection. Also seeking the two-year term are a pair of Democrats; Douglas P. Marker of Bay Port and Patrick J. Wood of Otisville.

Green won his first term in 2018 by defeating Democrat William

Please turn to page 6.

School officials: virus casts financial cloud over district

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Cass City Board of Education began the process of looking to an uncertain financial future — due to a variety of circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic — during a virtual monthly meeting Monday night.

Cass City Schools Chief Financial Officer Allison Zimba dis-

cussed some of the potential impacts on state funding for the coming budget year, which officially begins July 1, including a projected revenue loss of \$300 to \$1,000 per pupil.

Most schools are anticipating a loss of \$500 per student, Zimba said, adding another potential hit could come in the form of a dip in enrollment, which is likely given the pandemic's potential impact

on exchange student programs.

As an example, if the Cass City Schools loses 30 students as well as \$500 in per-pupil funding from the state, the local district would face a revenue shortfall of roughly \$438,000 next year after a federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act subsidy is figured into the equation.

The good news, Zimba pointed Please turn to page 8.



COVID-safe celebration...

AMY PETERS, the Cass City Rotary Club's 2020 Rotarian of the Year award recipient, is pictured above on her front lawn with club President Kevven Dorland, who along with other local club members surprised Peters during a special “isolation style” presentation Thursday.

Rotarians find a way to honor local member

By Tom Montgomery
Editor

Cass City Rotary Club members typically honor their Rotarian of the Year award recipient during the group's annual St. Pat's dinner/auction, but like many other events in recent weeks, restrictions designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 put the kibosh on those plans.

However, that didn't stop the club from figuring out a way to honor 2020 recipient Amy Peters.

“We wanted to make the presentation special in another way. (So) as many of us as could get away, we invaded her lawn and driveway, keeping our six-foot social distancing in mind,” said club member Debra Kranz, who added the group used a Please turn to page 10.

Whitmer extends order, eases restrictions

Continued from page one.

however, we are lifting some of the restrictions put in place in the previous order. I want to be crystal clear: the overarching message today is still the same. We must all do our part by staying home and staying safe as much as possible."

The order will require people to wear homemade, non-medical grade face coverings when they enter enclosed public spaces. It will also require employers to provide at least cloth face coverings to their employees. People won't have to wear face coverings when they're taking a walk in the neighborhood, but when they go to the grocery store, they should be wearing one.

Under the order, however, no one will be subject to criminal penalty for going without a mask.

The new executive order also allows some workers to go back on the job. Landscapers, lawn-service companies, plant nursery employees and bike repair and maintenance workers can return resume business, subject to strict social distancing.

Retailers that do not sell necessary supplies may reopen for curbside pick-up and for delivery, and big box stores are allowed to reopen closed areas such as like garden centers.

At the same time, the order will ease some restrictions, allowing for motorized boating and golf (but no golf carts), consistent with sound social distancing. It will also permit individuals to travel between their residences, though such travel during the epidemic is strongly discouraged.

Lawmakers take action

State legislators, including 31st District Senator Kevin Daley (R-Lum), say Friday's special session in Lansing was in response to Whitmer's decision-making related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Folks in my district are upset with the governor's stay-home-order and rightfully so," said Daley, whose district includes Tuscola County. "People deserve to have their voices heard when decisions about their livelihoods are being made. Placing unchecked power in one branch of government is not in the best interest of our state."

The bills approved Friday would repeal the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945, which does not require legislative input on executive actions, and would amend the Emergency Management Act of 1976 to only allow

declarations of disaster or emergency to last 14 days before requiring legislative approval, instead of 28 days.

"I believe the governor's previous stay home order went beyond reason, and the measures taken today would increase the possibility of having an open discussion regarding the state's response rather than single-handed executive action," Daley said.

The Legislature also approved House Concurrent Resolution 20, which would create the Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic to more fully review Michigan's preparedness for and response to the virus outbreak. Daley noted the bipartisan, bicameral committee will have the ability to subpoena information related to the governor's actions thus far during the pandemic.

Fellow Republican and 84th District state Rep. Phil Green, Millington, echoed Daley's comments. "The people of Huron and Tuscola counties have grave concerns about how the state is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This new committee is designed to investigate the state government's actions during the state of emergency and give the Legislature some oversight in the process," Green said.

"I am glad this new committee has subpoena powers because it will help the Legislature get answers to the people's questions more quickly and thoroughly. It's a step in the right direction."

Daley said the Legislature's action was more important than ever following Friday morning's news that the governor would be extending her the stay-at-home order.

"The governor's blanket rules have resulted in hundreds of thousands of Michiganders being out of work and struggling to provide for their families," he added.

"While I am happy to see that some of the burdensome and illogical restrictions included in the previous order have been lifted, I still believe decisions of this magnitude should require input from more than just the executive branch of government."

Thumb testing

Testing for COVID-19 in Tuscola County is being offered through a partnership with Great Lakes Bay Health Care, according to Ann Hepfer, health officer for the Tuscola and Huron county health departments, who announced the service would be offered

starting Tuesday (April 28) from 9 to 11 a.m., and continue on Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. until further notice.

The actual testing will take place in the parking lot in front of the Great Lakes Bay Health mobile unit (follow the signs).

Hepfer said testing is continuing in Huron County on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon at the Bay Great Lakes Health Care Center parking lot in Bad Axe.

"The testing supplies have increased, but there are still not enough to widely test everyone who might want a test," Hepfer pointed out.

Among the testing changes is the elimination of the requirement of a testing order issued by a medical provider. However, anyone wishing to be tested must present "face sheet" that includes full name, date of birth, address, phone number and insurance information and numbers. Those who do not have insurance should call (989) 673-8114 and ask for a CD nurse.

Residents eligible for testing include:

- *Health care facility workers with or without symptoms (all workers within a health care facility – not just providers of direct health care services).

- *Patients over the age of 65 with symptoms.

- *Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms.

- *First responders (with or without symptoms).

- *Individuals with mild symptoms.

- *All health care workers and first responders (with or without symptoms).

- *Critical infrastructure workers (those still leaving home for in-person work, with or without symptoms) – provided there are sufficient testing supplies.

Updated numbers

Between Monday, April 20, and Monday, April 27, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased from 105 to 137, with the three counties' combined death toll rising slightly from 16 to 17 victims.

As of Monday afternoon, Tuscola County had recorded 90 confirmed cases and 13 deaths, Huron County had recorded 13 cases and no deaths, and Sanilac County, 34 cases and four deaths.

Statewide, Monday's total of confirmed cases reached 38,210, with a total of 3,407 deaths, compared to 32,000 cases and 2,468 deaths a week earlier.

Pair recently sentenced on felony charges

Editor's note: while the COVID-19 pandemic has forced local courts to significantly scale back proceedings, a few criminal cases are now being adjudicated virtually via video conferencing technology.

The following individuals recently appeared on criminal charges in Tuscola County Circuit Court through video conferencing:

*Gina M. Nickens, 40, Caro, was sentenced to 18 months to 20 years in prison following her plea

of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Aug. 12 in Fremont Township. She was also convicted of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to prison time, she was ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$308.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case, her bond was revoked and she was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Jason Samuel-Harley Mayberry, 35, Caro, was sentenced to three to 20 years in prison following his plea of no contest to assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder July 11-13 in Indianfields Township.

In a separate case, Mayberry pleaded no contest to interfering with a witness July 30 in Caro.

He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$516.

Owen-Gage announces honor roll

Officials at Owendale Gageton Schools announce 3rd Marking Period Honor Students, they are:

3rd Grade:

Derek Bowers
Vincent Dzielinski
Axton Hellebuyck*
Brotey Hewitt
Autumn Hoppe*
StarAnn Miller
Alexander Nutt
Landen Percell
Keaton Sanders
Olivia Sheufelt*

4th Grade:

Hailey Forman*
Nolen Gruehn
Cailum Hewitt
Logan Kaminski
Hunter Mihacsi*
Sierra Miller*
Gavin Neal-Arnold
Madalyn Rabun

5th Grade:

Jessica Bowers*

Wynter Brinkman*

Steven Hicks
Hunter Hoppe*
Rylin LaCroix*
Mya McCreedy*
Faith Morrish
Jessie Rolston
Ava Sheufelt*

6th Grade:

McKenzie Baker
Aubrey Hellebuyck*
Brooklyn Hunt
Logan Mihacsi

7th Grade:

Danielle Hunt*
Lucas McKnight

8th Grade:

Shelby Bowers*
Karsyn Gruehn*

9th Grade:

Allison Haldane*
Amber Haldane*
Dagon LaCroix
Erin Morrish

Emily Schultz*

10th Grade:

Madelyn Haldane*
Dana Morrish
MaKayla Sparks

11th Grade:

Katriana Curtoys
Boyd Evans*
Clay Evans*
Ethan Harp
Jameson McKnight*
Libby Ondrajka
Alivia Roehrig

12th Grade:

Branden Fritz*
Aaliyah Gonzales
Carley Haldane*
Chase Howard*
Kaitlyn LaCroix
Madyson Menzel*
Andrew Roemer*
Hailey Schave*
*Denotes all A's

BID REQUESTS 2020 M-81 SIDEWALK SPECS

The Village of Cass City is seeking bids for the M-81 sidewalk project. The contractor must be licensed and insured. The contractor must follow ALL of the State specifications as this sidewalk is along a state highway. The new sidewalk is starting at Videomation and heading west to Doerr road; there will also be work along Shell Gas (Forward) Station and Thumb Bank and Trust. The bid will also include curb work by the post office and a post office pad; please see specs.

Bids must be completed and put in the Village drop box by **May 20th, 2020.**

Any questions or concerns please call 989-872-3153.

SPECIFICATIONS

- 660 LINEAL FEET-VIDEOMATION WEST TO DOERR RD
- SIDEWALKS ARE TO BE 48" WIDE
- SIDEWALKS ARE TO BE DEPTH OF 4"
- (2) DRIVE ENTRANCES AT ELEVATOR MUST HAVE DEPTH OF 8"
- (5) HANDICAP APPROACHES AT END OF ROADWAYS
- GRADUAL SLOPING APPROACHES AT BOTH SIDES OF DRIVEWAYS
- VILLAGE WILL PROVIDE DURALAST 30X24" BRICK PADS (4)
- CURB CUTS AT ALL DRIVEWAYS
- CONTRACTOR MUST ABIDE BY STATE OF MICHIGAN CODES
- 48" CURB CUT AT UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
- 4'X7'X3" (1) PAD FOR UNITED STATES POST OFFICE BOXES (LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED)

*Maps available at the Village Hall

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**In Our
OPINION...**

**Clarke Haire
Publisher** **Tom Montgomery
Editor**

Miss Arbor Day? It's not too late

It's no surprise that Arbor Day came and went with little in the way of celebrating, given the new (isolated) normal most of us are living in these days.

But it's not too late to mark the observance in a meaningful way and, at the same time, get some fresh air and better your backyard.

Michigan's 20 million acres of forests and abundant urban trees do a lot for us: trees clean our air and water, make homes for wildlife, create forests for us to hike and bike through, absorb carbon, keep us cool, supply renewable materials for the things we need and provide natural beauty.

Arbor Day, celebrated the last Friday in April, is a holiday dedicated to all the great things trees do for people.

It's especially important for Michigan. Did you know Arbor Day, first held in 1872, was championed by Michigan native J. Sterling Morton? He envisioned it as a way to spread awareness about the importance of trees and encourage tree planting.

While shutdowns and cancellations have been hogging the headlines in recent weeks, the folks at the Arbor Day Foundation say residents can participate in Arbor Day-themed celebrations and still practice social distancing guidelines.

Here are a few ideas:

**Hike through a forest. Find a nearby trail in a forest (or park) and go for a walk, hike or bike ride. Natural settings are effective in lowering stress. Exercising outdoors compared to exercising indoors helps people feel more revitalized and less tense.*

**Try some online nature learning. When you can't make it outdoors, stay in and learn about it. Carly's Kids Corner is full of fun and educational resources to connect children with nature. The site includes interactive games that highlight the value of trees.*

**Draw your favorite trees. This is a great activity to do with young ones. Bring out the colored pencils and crayons, and start drawing your best artwork.*

**Experiment with nature-based crafts. Indoor days are perfect for arts and crafts. Pinterest is full of creative ideas for crafts made with natural materials like pinecones, needles, leaves, and twigs. See what you can find in your backyard and let your imagination get to work.*

**Order a tree. Can one ever have too many trees? Whether you find a tree from a local nursery or the Arbor Day Foundation Tree Nursery, nothing says Arbor Day like buying and planting a tree.*

**Become a member of the Arbor Day Foundation. You'll not only be supporting tree planting efforts around the globe, membership also includes discounted trees from the tree nursery, a bi-monthly newsletter and a copy of the Tree Book.*

While there is a lot of uncertainty in the air, it's still important to take time to pause, relax and continue to celebrate the good things. Trees are proven to reduce stress and improve well-being. If ever there was a time for trees, now is that time.

Area residents can find more information by visiting the Arbor Day Foundation website at www.arborday.org and the Michigan Arbor Day Alliance website at www.miarbordayalliance.org.

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Will green thumbs prevail?



The COVID-19 pandemic has created a lot of insecurity, confusion and boredom.

Insecurity because of perceived toilet paper and food shortages.

Confusion on whether to mask or not mask your face when going out, and boredom by not being able to get in a car and just go anywhere you want to at any time.

I guess because of all of that, more people than ever are talking about planting a garden. And, many of them will do that for the first time this year.

My dad was a farmer. As soon as you were old enough to wield a hoe, you were expected to help keep crops free of weeds. And, as soon as you were tall enough to reach the pedals you were expected to help with driving the tractor.

Mom always planted a big garden and canned the produce that was left from what we didn't eat.

I remember them talking about helping and teaching some friends who lived in Bay City how to plant a "Victory Garden" during World War II. Back then gardens were planted both at private residences and on public land to reduce the pressure on the public food supply because of the war.

The Victory Garden campaign served as a successful means of boosting morale, expressing patriotism, safeguarding against food shortages on the home front, and easing the burden on the commercial farmers working to feed the troops.

We are fighting our own war against an invisible enemy.

And, although the governor has restricted large stores from selling gardening items, there are other stores and catalogs where those items can be bought.

Even though it has been several years since I have had a vegetable garden, if I remember right, it is too early to plant one.

Anyway, back to my original point. My parents both swore by the Farmer's Almanac and when it said it was time to plant.

Some of their friends followed the "natural order" of when to plant gardens. Those who planted using the natural order used the following planting schedule:

When apple trees bloom, it is time to plant bush beans; and when apple blossoms fall, it is time to plant cucumbers and pole beans.

When the lilacs are in bloom, squashes and flowers can be planted.

When peonies bloom, cantaloupe can be planted.

Back then everyone started their tomato plants in the house. It was time to transplant them when the lily of the valley are in bloom.

I never did hear if their planting according to vegetation guidelines worked or not, but some of the timing does make sense as to when certain seeds have to be planted.

Letters to the Editor

Pandemic restrictions tough? Not that bad

World War II was really a difficult time for everyone, making this pandemic a cake run by comparison, although it was still an unpleasant time.

To a seven-year-old kid in the early 1940s, I didn't like it and didn't fully understand the situation. Because of the restrictions, we as a family we could not visit family members who lived just a few miles away, because gas was rationed. We had to stay at home.

I remember needing shoes, for they had holes in the soles, and mom saying there are restrictions on buying shoes until we receive a ration coupon.

The COVID-19 virus moves rapidly through the air, infecting people in close contact. Therefore, we wear masks or stay away from family and friends to stop the movement of the virus to prevent infection.

I didn't like WWII restrictions that limited where I could go or visit, a lot like today.

Our family lived in Pontiac during WWII, giving them a simple marketing scheme to buy gasoline coupons. With the family in Pontiac and our grand-

Please turn to page 5.

Whichever method is used, I hope everyone's garden produces well.

There is nothing like eating a fresh tomato in the garden when it's still warm from the sun.

Rabbit Tracks
by Clarke Haire
(And anyone else he can get to help)

A sure sign of spring is nearly here: morels. As sunshine and rains wake up the forests, the annual search for the elusive mushrooms is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. You can find them from late April to early June, and – according to Michigan State University Extension – they're believed to grow in every Michigan county.

Most Michiganders will tell you that the location of a good morel patch is a matter of utmost secrecy. This makes mushroom hunting a perfect chance to practice the six-foot-minimum social distancing that is such a critical step in slowing the spread of the coronavirus. Mushroom hunters should plan to search locally, too, and only with people who live in their household.

To find morels, target hilly areas with plenty of hardwood trees like maple, beech and oak, checking for burn scars where a wildfire or prescribed burn has occurred. Pick a warm day after a rain to start your hunt, when mushrooms are most likely to have bloomed. When heading to the woods, take a mesh bag for carrying your prizes, a knife (always cut, never pull morels) and a map of your hunting area.

Learn how to find morels, tell a false one from a real one, prepare them, and boost your odds of success – with a map showing sites of last year's wildfires and prescribed burns – at Michigan.gov/MiMorels.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the Michigan 4-H community has stepped up to help. CDC guidelines encourage the use of cloth face coverings to protect against disease spread; 4-H families across the state have sewn homemade cloth face coverings to protect the public, essential workers, and health-care workers. By mid-April, more than 2,400 cloth face coverings had been donated to more than 25 organizations. These cloth face coverings were created in 32 counties by more than 40 4-H youth and adult volunteers.

Though an amazing feat, the need is still great. MSU Extension has a goal of providing 5,000 cloth face coverings in the next 10 days for area community members. Fortunately, the Michigan 4-H community is as great as the need; by working together, we can help to address this and more.

The newly launched Michigan 4-H Mask Project website has instructions for making and donating to our efforts, using basic sewing skills and a few simple supplies. Join us in making a difference in the fight against COVID-19. Questions about this project? Contact MSU Extension staff: Anne Kretschmann at kretsc11@msu.edu or Gary Williams at will1009@msu.edu.

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

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

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County health officials, TBHS offer support to address mental health

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

It's safe to say the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions are new to Americans, resulting in much uncertainty and fear.

The ease those concerns, officials at the Tuscola County Health Department and Tuscola Behavioral Health Services (TBHS) are encouraging area residents to take advantage of hotlines established to address worries related to the novel coronavirus.

"I have talked to the sheriff and List Psychological about this. They have seen an increase in those who are very nervous about being out of a job and feeling disconnected," said Ann Hepfer, health officer for both the Tuscola and Huron county health departments. "We started the second week in March when this started to put together information (to address concerns)."

TBHS provides community mental health services, so it is considered an essential service and continues to serve clients. Emergency Services are available 24/7. More information is available by calling (989) 673-6191 or 1-800-462-6814, or by logging on to the website www.tbhsonline.com.

The hotline is for anyone. A person does not need to be using community mental health services to receive assistance.

Tuscola County Commissioner Dan Grimshaw, who serves on the TBHS Board, concurred there are concerns the pandemic could lead to more suicides, domestic violence and substance abuse due to stress.

"The first Executive Order (was) dated March 24. From March 24 to April 22 we've had 19 domestic violence cases. In 2019, we investigated six for the same time frame," said Tuscola County Undersheriff Robert Baxter.

"There are many possible reasons why domestic violence cases have increased. They range from people spending more time together, more alcohol consumption and drug use while being together, and people's routines have been changed."

Although anxiety is high, the number of suicides has not increased significantly.

"The numbers are low and relatively the same for the same time period last year," noted Baxter.

Hepfer, meanwhile, is also worried about the impact pandemic restrictions are having on children.

"I'm concerned about the trauma; the social isolation and not being with their peers...and seniors who cannot graduate in the traditional way," she said.

Hepfer and Grimshaw agreed some employees will understandably be nervous about the virus and going back to work when restrictions are eased.

However, Hepfer added, "We are resilient. We know how to take care of ourselves, and there are others to depend on. I'm confident we will get through this, but it will take a while."

The emotional and financial impact of the virus will be more than the 2008 economic crisis because it is affecting so many more people.

Key concerns include the unpredictability of the virus and the lack of a vaccine and proven treatments at this point, not to mention spikes in cases, depending on the region.

"Right now, our medical system here is not taxed. There is no COVID in our hospitals here. They are at Covenant, and it is

getting full, so we have to be careful not to overwhelm that system. They are the experts in dealing with this," Hepfer said. She added healthcare workers are also coming down with the illness.

"This is overwhelming the healthcare system (in parts of the state). If we had not taken the drastic measures that we did, you would have seen a lot more infection. I believe that is very true. This virus is highly infectious."

Testing for the virus remains limited due to inadequate supplies of testing materials.

"Testing (cannot be done) for when someone coughs or sneezes because testing too early gets a false negative as it has not reached its viral mode yet, it doesn't show up on tests," she explained. "We have learned to wait this out. Put them in quarantine and isolation, then do testing. Even with a negative test, you cannot let your guard down."

"Tomorrow the person could test positive because at the time of testing they did not have enough virus load to test positive," Hepfer explained. "People do not understand that testing is not cut and dried."

Research is ongoing to develop a vaccine using the blood of those who have recovered. "(But) there is no research yet to tell us how long the antibodies last. We don't know if it is for a lifetime, 30 days or one day," she said.

Hepfer noted COVID-19 is a lingering illness that frequently leads to pneumonia, which is why there has been a shortage of ventilators. With most illnesses, ventilators are used for a short period of time, she said, but a COVID-19 patient can need to remain on the lifesaving equipment for weeks.

As for the near future, Hepfer is hopeful but very cautious regarding the lifting of restrictions.

"I believe there will be some things opening May 1, but things will have to be rolled out slowly. We can't let our guard down."

At the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Director Dr. Robert R. Redfield is warning there could be a second wave of COVID-19 coming in the fall along with flu season, which could be more disastrous than the current outbreak, especially for states that lift lockdowns too soon.



CASS CITY High School's 71 seniors are being honored with specially-designed tribute signs recently placed near the school along Seeger Street. Students are invited to pick up their signs Friday, May 8.

Cass City School officials honor members of the Class of 2020

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Although there may not be the traditional pomp and circumstance associated with high school graduation ceremonies this year, the Cass City School District is taking steps to honor its 2020 senior class.

District officials are in the process of developing a way to honor each and every one of the 71 seniors in the class, and planning is underway to tentatively organize some celebrations later this summer.

The first honor is a tribute sign created for each senior. The signs are similar to the campaign signs that are typically posted on lawns in an election year.

"To celebrate the Class of 2020, we were able to get double-sided lawn signs made for each senior. The signs (are being) displayed in front of the school and along Seeger Street," said Superintendent

Jeff Hartel. "Each senior will be able to take their sign to display in their own yard later."

Each sign has the graduation photograph of the senior on it and says "congratulations".

"Misty Delong, a parent and active member of the athletic boosters, brought this idea to my attention," explained the Cass City Student Services Director Christen Hempton. "We were looking for ways to recognize our seniors."

A junior-senior high committee composed of Tessa Campbell, Christin Hempton, William Hartzell, Justin Ketterer and Stephanie Moore was charged with placing the signs.

Should Gov. Gretchen Whitmer lift restrictions on social gatherings in time, school officials hope to honor seniors and families. According to Hartel, plans call for a make-up prom to be held at Rolling Hills Golf Course Saturday, July 18.

"There will be a tent set up out-

side. The golf course provides a beautiful setting for pictures and for an evening of fun. We hope students will take advantage of this event and make new memories," Hartel said, noting more details and ticket information will hopefully be available in the near future.

"A special thanks to Ryan and Amy Lowman (who own the golf course) for their assistance in setting up this event."

If things work out, plans also call for a commencement ceremony to take place Friday, July 31, at 7 p.m. at the football field. If the weather doesn't cooperate, the event would be held in the high school gym.

"Prom and graduation were scheduled so that people...could make plans accordingly," said Hartel. "We intend to honor our seniors in the best manner possible, (but) if the current situation is still in place, those events would be cancelled."

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Reporter's notebook

Yup, my waiting room is better...

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



It wasn't on my bucket list, but I can now say I've successfully completed a virtual appointment with my family physician.

Unfortunately, I managed to fully showcase my ignorance along the way, thanks to a stubborn tendency to understand only enough technology to get by at home and on the job.

I'll explain.

I was attempting to obtain authorization for a prescription renewal when the doctor's office informed me it was that time again for a face-to-face visit. So, I scheduled a day and time, and was informed that the office is scheduling only "virtual visits" through the end of the month.

"Okay, I said, I have no idea how to do that."

"No, problem," the gal from the office responded. "Do you have an Android or an Apple (phone)?"

Silence.

First of all, no, I wasn't sure what kind of phone I have. Second of all, don't judge – it was only a few years ago that my wife was finally forced to pry the really cool and faithful flip phone I had learned to really love from my clenched fist.

Anyway, the lady at the doctor's office instructed me to turn my phone over and look for an apple symbol.

"Yes," was my sheepish response.

"Okay, she continued, adding the office would be calling me at 9 a.m. to check me in using FaceTime, which would be followed by a call from the doctor a few minutes later, also on FaceTime.

"Do I have FaceTime on my phone?" I asked (hey, might as well be honest and dive all the way in, right?). Truth is, I had heard of the app, which allows people to see one another during a conversation or meeting, but I had never used it.

Guess you could say I'm a pre-COVID-19, old school reporter who prefers to talk to and interact with people in person.

Regardless, I received the call from the office and, turns out, FaceTime is really easy to use, pretty much the same as answering a phone call. After hanging up, I waited for my official doctor's appointment to arrive.

I decided to wait in my home office. The room isn't large, but it's wall-to-wall windows, giving me a great view of the woods, pond and all sorts of wildlife from every view. And, I wanted to edit some copy at the same time.

I figured it was a safe venue, given the warnings I had received about making sure you're adequately dressed when you receive a FaceTime call, given the fact that the caller can see you and your background. So, standing in front of a castle built out of empty beer cans during my isolation would be a bad idea, for example.

It would also be awkward in my case, considering my physician is well aware of my battle with alcoholism in the past and my eight-plus years of sobriety since, you know?

But I digress.

The doctor called, we had a brief chat, he asked about any issues I might be having, and it was over.

Have to admit, a FaceTime appointment has its advantages, including the fact that there was no waiting involved. At. All. His call arrived precisely at 9:15 a.m. as promised. And, there was also no travel on my part.

Still, it left me with the same empty feeling that's been nagging at me since most of us started isolating ourselves at home more than a month ago in the name of protecting everyone's health against the novel coronavirus.

Honestly, I missed the in-person contact, even with a health professional who ordered a colonoscopy for me last fall.

On the other hand, I like my waiting room better.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2015)

It may not have been quite the level of roar Matthew Stafford is used to when he and his Detroit Lions teammates take the field, but the veteran quarterback appeared genuinely impressed and appreciative of the welcome Cass City Elementary School students offered him last Tuesday afternoon. The veteran quarterback was greeted by a sea of Honolulu blue and about as much enthusiasm as a gym full of 560 kids in grades K-6 can muster as they chanted and cheered.

If you know any of the life savers listed here, let them know job well done. Seventy-one heroes donated blood earlier this month at a blood drive sponsored by the Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary and our local VFW Post. Daniel Kurtz earned a one-gallon pin, James Hiser, Cheryl Lester and John Kurtz earned 2-gallon pins, Barb Merchant earned a 3-gallon pin, Marlene Donaldson earned a 5-gallon pin, Marilyn Mastie earned a 7-gallon pin, Connie Schwaderer earned a 9-gallon pin and Edsel Ford and Gerald Guinther earned 12-gallon pins. Daniel Torrez, Amy Matthewson and Margaret Mozden were all first-time donors. Thank you!

10 YEARS AGO (2010)

A former Cass City resident and U.S. Army veteran is among 5 individuals who were recently honored by Northwood University as 2010 "Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award" winners. The former area resident is Lisa Hirn, daughter of Bob and Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City. She is a 1987 graduate of Cass City High School. The Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award is given annually to those alumni who exhibit the highest qualifications, including achievement and dedication in their respective careers, support and involvement in their local communities, support and commitment to Northwood University and their commitment to promote and better the university whenever the opportunity arises, and for their interest in other Northwood alumni living in their communities.

Owen-Gage School officials recently announced the area school district's top graduates in the Class of 2010. They are Kelsey M. Quick, who has been named valedictorian, and Christine B. Schmidt, who has earned salutatorian honors. Quick, the daughter of Larry and Deb Quick of Gagetown, achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.94.

25 YEARS AGO (1995)

Longtime educator Bob Stickle was honored as Cass City's 1995 Citizen of the Year during the Cass City Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner, held Saturday at the Cass City VFW Hall. Also honored were Cass City High School seniors Michelle Brown and Mandy Nizzola, who were selected to receive the Junior Citizen of the Year award.

Kathleen M. Gavalas of Saginaw announces the engagement of her daughter, Nicole M., to Jeffery W. Hartwick, son of Carole A. and Leslie W. Hartwick of Cass City. The bride-elect, who is also the daughter of the late Constantine N. Gavalas, is a graduate of the University of Michigan-Flint. Her fiancé is a graduate of Ferris State University. A fall wedding is planned.

35 YEARS AGO (1985)

Walter E. Walpole, 79, of Cass City, Wednesday was the first person to be presented the master entrepreneur award at the Saginaw Valley Entrepreneurs Club meeting held at Saginaw Valley

State College. Besides the master award to Walpole, three entrepreneur of the year awards were presented to Donald R. Golding, Bay City, Mrs. Sharon Long, Midland, and Guy D. Watrous, Midland. Walpole, who retired from Walbro Corporation in Cass City in 1984, now serves as chairman of the board of directors. He was originally from Chicago and started his career as a messenger boy for a bank in 1919. He started working for Borg-Warner in 1927 and 10 years later transferred to Marvel Schebler Division of Borg-Warner in Flint, serving as secretary-treasurer. He left to establish Walbro Corporation in Fenton in 1950. He moved the company to Cass City in 1954. Walbro now has facilities in Cass City, Caro, Auburn and Bad Axe and in Mexico, Japan, Singapore and West Germany.

Rebecca Ann Hartel, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hartel, was baptized Sunday at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Amy Buchholz and Clarke Haire were sponsors. Frank Easlick, Jr., a 1984 graduate of Kingston High School, has completed recruit training at the Navy Recruit Training Command, Navy Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. Easlick, son of Rita M. and Frank N. Easlick, Sr., 3485 Linden Rd., Kingston, began basic training Jan. 14, 1985. After basic training, Easlick was assigned to the Damage Control Training Center, Philadelphia, Pa., where he is taking training to be a hull-technician.

40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Tobias and daughter Jamie, Mrs. Genevieve Erla and Miss Gertrude Erla had dinner at Wildwood Sunday. Following dinner, all but Mr. Tobias went to Fair Haven where they visited Mrs. Erla's daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley (Florence) Pijnawoski.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hennessey left Wednesday to take their daughter, Sue Parker, and grandson Joshua to join her husband stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Hennessey plan to be gone two weeks.

Teresa J. Scollon has been awarded a four-year National Merit Scholarship at Michigan State University. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Scollon of Cass City, and a senior at Interlochen Arts Academy, near Traverse City. She graduates from there May 31. The scholarship is awarded with the stipulation that she attend MSU, which finances it.

50 YEARS AGO (1970)

Tom Proctor was named Rotary district governor nominee Thursday at the annual meeting of the district held at Chesaning. Becoming the nominee is tantamount to election in the Rotary election system. When he takes office, Proctor will become the first Rotarian from Cass City to be the governor. He won the office in competition with a candidate from Alpena and during the course of the campaign visited nearly all of the 29 clubs in the district.

Mrs. E. C. Fritz arrived home Sunday night from a South American trip with Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Hunt. The Hunts are en route home from Florida and will arrive this week. The Cass Cityans spent 24 days in South America, 12 days with Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Forthun (Sally Hunt) at Ascuncion, Paraguay, and with James Fritz at Rosario, Paraguay, where they are serving in the Peace Corps. The other 12 days were spent in various South American countries. Mrs. Fritz was impressed with the work that UNICEF is doing in the South American countries.

Mrs. Elsie Anthes accompanied Mrs. Barton Beecher and daugh-

ters of Bad Axe to Caro Sunday where they were dinner guests of Mrs. Lucille Bush. The birthdays of Mrs. Anthes and of Bonnie Kay Beecher were celebrated. Also present in the Bush home were her son Donald and two fellow students from MSU, East Lansing. Donald will spend the summer in Holland where he will live in the home of one of the students.

75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Sgt. Verne W. Crane of Cass City, top turret gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress in the 351st Bombardment Group, has been decorated with an Oak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal for "meritorious achievement" on bombing attacks on strategic and tactical objectives in Germany. The 27-year-old flier is a veteran of a dozen combat missions. He has taken part in assaults on targets in Berlin, Chemnitz, Essen, Kassel, Bremen, Swinemunde, Lohne, Hopsten, Vechta and other war centers. The citation accompanying his award read in part: "The courage, coolness and skill displayed by this enlisted man upon these occasions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States." Before entering the army June 3, 1943, Sgt. Crane was a machinist for the Pontiac Motor Co. in Pontiac. His wife, Mrs. Marilyn A. Crane, lives at Tyre. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. James Crane of Cass City.

Cpl. Leland C. Hartwick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hartwick, of Cass City, is a member of the 40th Mobile Communication Squadron of the Ninth Air Force that recently was awarded the Meritorious Service Plaque for superior performance of duty in connection with tactical operations of both the Air and Ground Forces prior to and during the invasion of the continent, according to a release sent to the Chronicle by the Public Relations Office. Cpl. Hartwick, a driver and vehicle mechanic, is charged with seeing that the vehicles are ready for movement at any time. The citation covered the period from Jan. 1, 1944, to July 1, 1944, when the squadron, with detachments working in England, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and Germany — furnished weather communications to all commands of the Ninth Air Force, in addition to the U. S. First, Third, Seventh, and Ninth Armies, and the First Tactical Air Force and First Allied Airborne Army. Cpl. Hartwick has been overseas 13 months. He served in England before going to the continent.

Capt. Ferris A. Kercher came to Cass City Saturday afternoon to spend a 45-day leave after being overseas nearly four years. He has been in Iceland, Ireland, England, France, Luxembourg and Germany.

100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Mrs. McPherson spent a few days the past week with her relatives living north and east of here, J. McIntyre, Mrs. J. Allen and Mrs. R. Moore. The few days we spent in Marlette last week called upon old friends and Saturday evening witnessed the grand display of the new electric street lights. The numerous cars lined up on both sides of Main street gave us the impression that Marlette was booming. Attended the M. E. church on Sunday and was much pleased with the music rendered by the Wilson orchestra.

Miss Genevieve Wills gave a party Monday evening at her home in honor of her neighbor and schoolmate Miss Mae Toohey. Music, games and dancing were enjoyed by 20 of her high school friends. Mae was reminded of her birthday, when her sister, Julia, presented a beautiful store cake lit with 19 candles. Mae received wishes for her bright and prosperous future.

Letters to the Editor

Restrictions not that bad

Continued from page three.

parents in Kingston, we wanted to make the trip often but were restricted because of the rationing of gas. I am sure the statute of limitations has passed to tell this story, for some of the actions were not completely legal. On these trips the car often included farm products like eggs, butter and meats that could be bargained for gas ration coupons back in Pontiac.

I am telling this story to communicate the feelings I have today regarding the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions compared to WWII restrictions. The gas ration coupons were designed to restrict the use of gasoline by keeping everyone at home. Like all Americans, we were pushing the intent of restrictions just a little bit.

Today, the restrictions ask us to use a face mask, stay six feet away from others and stay at home, for we may contaminate someone else or ourselves. Back then, we could not leave the home to save fuel for the war. In both cases, we were restricted or asked to stay at home.

I did not like the restrictions in WWII and I do not like the restrictions today, but I am complying with the current restriction today, for we are in a life and death situation.

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Community foundation announces emergency fund, thanks to donors

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Tuscola County Community Foundation (TCCF) has established a new emergency needs fund, thanks to donations totaling more than \$10,000, foundation Executive Director John Hunter announced Friday.

"Recently two generous donors stepped forward to jump start this new fund to help meet emergency needs in our Tuscola County communities," said Hunter, who added Northstar Bank chipped in \$1,500, while an anonymous donor offered a gift of \$10,000.

"(Both) recognized that our communities will have additional, unforeseen challenges to meet today's changing COVID-19 world we are living in," he said.

"The sole purpose of this emergency needs fund is to provide support for emergent needs that arise for residents residing in Tuscola County. Priority emergent needs are defined as food, clothing and shelter," Hunter explained. "Applicants who are addressing these needs will be given preferred consideration in grant decisions."

"Secondary needs include organizations that are 'first responders'

in times of community crisis, (and) tertiary needs include those organizations providing services during times of emergency in Tuscola County not (previously) listed," he said.

Hunter welcomes any other contributions to the new fund. Donations earmarked for the "Tuscola County Emergency Needs Fund" can be sent to TCCF, P.O. Box 534, Caro, MI 48723, or by utilizing PayPal's secure network on the foundation's website at www.tuscolaccf.org. More information is available by calling (989) 673-8223.

Few county races in August primary vote

Continued from page one.

Shoop in the general election after emerging the victor in the Republican primary over two other candidates.

The 84th District seat was previously held for two terms by Dr. Edward "Ned" Canfield (R-Sebewaing).

Rep in Congress

Races are also set for representative seats in both the Fifth District and 10th District.

In the Fifth District, incumbent Dan Kildee (D-Flint) is being challenged by Republicans Christina Fitchett-Hickson, Burton; Tim Kelly, Saginaw; and Earl Lackie, Hale.

In the 10th District, a trio of Republicans are vying for the post previously held by two-term incumbent Paul Mitchell (R-Dryden Township), who opted not to seek a third term. The challengers are Lisa McClain, Clinton Township; Doug Slocum, Macomb; and Shane Hernandez, Port Huron.

U.S. senator

Democratic incumbent U.S. Senator Gary Peters, Bloomfield Township, is seeking reelection and faces challenges from a pair of Republican candidates; Bob Carr, Mackinac Island, and John James, Livonia.

Commissioners

Races are set in three of five Tuscola County Board of Commis-

sioner districts, including in District Two, where current board Chairman Thom Bardwell faces a challenge from fellow Republican Richard A. Lipan. District Two is comprised of Almer, Ellington, Kingston and Novesta townships and the city of Caro.

In District Four, meanwhile, Commissioner Mark Jensen opted not to seek reelection, setting the stage for a two-man race, with Republicans Roger A. Bacon, Sr. and Douglas DuRussel vying for the two-year term. District Four is comprised of Arbela, Millington, Tuscola and Watertown townships.

Incumbent Commissioner Daniel Grimshaw is being challenged by fellow Republican Dean A. Tomlinson in District Five, which is comprised of Denmark, Juniata and Vassar townships and the city of Vassar.

Running for reelection unopposed are Republicans District One Commissioner Tom Young, who represents Akron, Columbia, Elkland, Elmwood, Fairgrove, Gilford and Wisner townships; and District Three Commissioner Kim Vaughan, who represents Dayton, Fremont and Indianfields townships.

Townships

Among Cass City area townships, Veteran Elkland Township Board member Terry L. Muntz is seeking the supervisor's post unopposed following longtime Supervisor Dan Erla's decision to retire. Also running unopposed in the township are Heather Sever-

ance, clerk; Cindy Kruse, treasurer; and trustees Tavis Osentoski and Steve Wright. All of the candidates filed as Republicans.

Candidates running in other area townships include:

*Ellington Township – Russell Speirs, supervisor; Suzy Rockwell, clerk; Carmell Pattullo, treasurer; and trustees Laura Boyke-Hawes and Gregg Campbell. All the candidates filed as Republicans.

*Elmwood Township – Christopher Graff, supervisor; Pam Brinkman, clerk; and trustees Nicholas Bliss and Joan Sattelberg, all Republicans.

*Kingston Township – Wm. Jesse Zimba, Democrat, supervisor; Carrie Gilley, Republican, clerk; Mary Lou Wolak, Democrat, treasurer; and trustees Gary King and Timothy Ruggles, both Republicans.

*Koylton Township – Doug Kramer, supervisor; Rex Vroman, clerk; Linda Jobson, treasurer; and trustees Justin Boyl and Lawrence Sabin. All of the candidates filed as Republicans.

*Wells Township – Carmen Stevens, Republican, clerk; Stefanie Bruce, Republican, treasurer; and Albert Pearsall III, Republican, trustee.

Tuscola County Clerk Jodi Fetting said the names of some individuals, including a number of candidates in Novesta and Wells townships, won't be listed until after July 16 – the filing deadline for those planning to run without a party affiliation and whose names will appear only on the November ballot.



CASS CITY High School senior Morgan Russell is among 62 Michigan students named 2020 Breaking Traditions Award recipients, the Michigan Department of Education announced last week. The students were recognized for overcoming obstacles and stereotypes to succeed in career and technical education programs. Russell, who was enrolled in the law enforcement program at the Tuscola Technology Center in Caro, has enlisted in the National Guard, according to her instructor, Steve Roland, who noted Russell aspires to join the Michigan State Police in the future.

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COVID – 19 Community Support Phone Line

Starting Monday, April 13, 2020

Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems (TBHS) has set up a **COVID-19 support line** through our main phone number 989.673.6191. This phone line is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm for individuals **not** currently receiving Community Mental Health (CMH) services. The phone line will be available for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis or until such a time where it becomes unnecessary. **This phone line is staffed by mental health professionals and can support people:**

- Who are struggling with feelings of isolation and loneliness
- Who are dealing with panic or anxiety over the possibility of getting sick, financial struggle, resource scarcity, or caregiving
- Who are first responders, essential employees, medical professionals on the front lines of the Coronavirus situation and struggling with burnout, anxiety, depression and feeling overwhelmed
- Who are sick at home, or caring for a sick family member and dealing with fear, anxiety, depression and feeling overwhelmed
- Anyone who could use someone to talk to during this difficult time.
- If the mental health professional determines that the issue is more severe than the COVID-19 Support Line can manage- they will refer individuals to appropriate resources.

If you leave a message and get a call back from the COVID-19 Support Line- it may come through as a blocked caller – phone contact may state private number.

Anyone in Tuscola County can utilize the COVID-19 Support Line, you do not need to be using CMH services, or have a mental health diagnosis of any kind – it is for the general public. The Support Line should not be used for crisis calls. If you or a loved one is in crisis please call TBHS and request Emergency Services. The COVID-19 Support Line is not meant to take the place of therapy/counseling or to treat or diagnosis any physical or mental health condition. It is a support resource for anyone in the community who could use a listening ear during this national emergency. **Those wishing to contact the COVID-19 Support Line should call 989.673.6191 and ask for the COVID-19 Support Line.**

While TBHS is not available to conduct any community trainings, speaking engagements or events during this time, our focus continues to be on supporting our community and sharing vital information via several different outlets:

TBHS Facebook page - updates and information related to caring for your mental health during times of crisis, healthy activities to engage in from home, information for families, links to other support service/resources, etc.

www.tbhsonline.com - Comprehensive information about all TBHS programs and services, up-to-date information on hours of operation and locations, a resource page with links to COVID-19 information and resources

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Deckerville, Mayville moving down from Class C to Class D in 2020-21

Classifications for Michigan High School Athletic Association elections and postseason tournaments for the 2020-21 school year have been announced – including football divisions determined pre-season for the first time since 1998 – and with enrollment breaks for postseason tournaments posted to each sport’s page on the MHSAA Website.

Classifications for the upcoming school year are based on a second semester count date, which for MHSAA purposes was Feb. 12. The enrollment figure submitted for athletic classification purposes may be different from the count submitted for school aid purposes, as it does not include students ineligible for athletic competition because they reached their 19th

birthday prior to September 1 of the current school year and will not include alternative education students if none are allowed athletic eligibility by the local school district.

All sports’ tournaments are conducted with schools assigned to equal or nearly equal divisions, with lines dependent on how many schools participate in those respective sports.

For 2020-21, there are 752 tournament-qualified member schools. Schools recently were notified of their classification, and sport-by-sport divisions were posted to the MHSAA Website today (April 20). MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said schools may not subsequently lower their enroll-

ment figure. However, if revised enrollment figures are higher and indicate that a school should be playing in a higher division, that school would be moved up.

Football will undergo a significant classification change for the 2020 season, with teams in both 11 and 8-player assigned their divisions before the season for the first time since 1998; from 1999-2019, divisions for the 256-team 11-player field (and later the 8-player tournament) were determined after the regular season. A hard enrollment limit also will take effect this fall for teams to be eligible for the 8-player tournament – all schools with 215 or fewer students are eligible for the 8-player playoffs if they play that format during the regular season.

Two 11-player football champions will play in different divisions in 2020 than those they won a year ago. Grand Rapids Catholic Central will move to Division 5 after winning the Division 4 championship last season, while reigning Division 6 champion Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central will play in Division 7 this upcoming season. Also, 2019 Division 2 runner-up Detroit Martin Luther King will play in Division 3 this fall. In 8-player football, the reigning champions will trade divisions – 2019 Division 1 winner Colon moving into Division 2, and Division 2 champ Pickford moving into Division 1 for this fall.

A number of 2019-20 champions will be playing in different divisions in 2020-21. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern’s boys soccer team will move into Division 1 after winning the Division 2 title in 2019. The East Grand Rapids girls swimming & diving team will move back into Lower Peninsula Division 2 – which it won in 2017 – after earning the last two championships in Division 3. Bridgman’s girls cross country team will move into Lower Peninsula Division 3 after winning Division 4 last fall, and Grass Lake’s boys bowling team will move into Division 3 after winning the Division 4 title this winter. The Allegan boys tennis team will move into Lower Peninsula Division 3 after sharing the Division 4 title in the fall, while the Ishpeming Westwood girls tennis team will move into Upper Peninsula Division 1 after winning the Division

2 title the last four seasons. (NOTE: MHSAA Finals in five Winter sports and all Spring sports were canceled in 2019-20 due to COVID-19.)

Visit the respective sport pages on the MHSAA Website at <https://www.mhsaa.com/sports> to review the divisional alignments for all MHSAA-sponsored tournament sports.

Traditional classes (A, B, C, D) – formerly used to establish tournament classifications – are used only for MHSAA elections. To determine traditional classifications, after all counts are submitted, tournament-qualified member schools are ranked according to enrollment and then split as closely into quarters as possible. For 2020-21, there are 188 member schools in each class.

Effective with the 2020-21 school year, schools with 831 or more students are in Class A. The enrollment limits for Class B are 392-830, Class C is 182-391, and schools with enrollments of 181 and fewer are Class D. The break between Classes A and B decreased 32 students from 2019-20, the break between Classes B and C decreased three students, and the break between Classes C and D is seven students fewer than the 2019-20 school year.

The new classification breaks will see 18 schools move up in Class for 2020-21 while 15 schools will move down:

Moving Up from Class B to Class A
 Fowlerville
 Harper Woods
 Ionia

Moving Down from Class A to Class B
 Battle Creek Harper Creek
 Eastpointe

Moving Up from Class C to Class B
 Blissfield
 Canton Prep
 Dearborn Riverside Academy
 Detroit Pershing
 Detroit Edison
 Ecorse

Moving Down from Class B to Class C
 Adrian Madison
 Detroit Jalen Rose Academy

Grand Rapids Wellspring Prep
 Menominee
 Otisville-Lakeville Memorial
 Perry
 Pinconning

Moving Up from Class D to Class C
 Birmingham Roper
 Detroit Academy of the Americas
 Detroit Southeastern
 Detroit The School at Marygrove
 Eau Claire
 Genesee
 New Buffalo
 Painesdale Jeffers

Moving up from Class D to Class B
 Detroit Cornerstone Lincoln King
 Academy

Moving Down from Class C to Class D
 Benton Harbor Countryside
 Deckerville
 Detroit Douglass
 Detroit Public Safety Academy
 Indian River Inland Lakes
 Mayville

New Postseason Eligible Tournament Schools in 2020-21
 Bay City Academy
 Boyne City Concord Academy
 Detroit Cornerstone Lincoln King
 Academy
 Lansing Martin Luther
 Detroit Collegiate
 Redford Westfield Prep

Enrollment Breaks by Classes – 2020-21
 (Number of schools in parentheses)
 Class A: 831 and above (188 schools)
 Class B: 392 – 830 (188)
 Class C: 182 – 391 (188)
 Class D: 181 and below (188)

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by more than 1,500 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments, which attract more than 1.4 million spectators each year.
 #####



JOB WELL DONE. Packing home her first turkey kill is Cass City Elementary student Shayler McIntyre. She used a 20-gauge shotgun to take the Huron County tom while hunting with the dad, Kurt, and Uncle Fred McIntyre. Shayler is 12-years-old.

Cass City Red Hawk
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



SIERRA SPRY

Sierra Spry is Knights Insurance Agency Cass City Athlete of the Week.


The Red Hawk junior is a 3-sport athlete at the local high school and was looking forward to track and field this spring.

Instead COVID-19 wiped out all Michigan High School Athletic Association sports.

Sierra was expected to be Coach Adam Dorland’s best long jumper and a valuable relay team member.

Sierra is the daughter of Jeff and Joan Spry.

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Cass City Elementary School

Kindergarten

Registration

GSRP, Young 5’s & Kindergarten enrollment forms will be available May 4, 2020 on our website www.casscityschools.org

Forms will also be available in the Elementary School Office

office hours:

Monday & Wednesday’s: 8 a.m. to Noon

Tuesday & Thursday’s: Noon to 4 p.m.

Please include copies of the following items:

- Child’s Birth Certificate
- Complete Immunization Record
- Proof of Residency (drivers license)
- 2019 Tax Return (GSRP Only)

To register for **GSRP Program** use the following link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgxuBbiK_MFF5nnOF0WKHxzX0F-Z6UaIZRuPOo82oXWsr0DQ/viewform

***Enrollment will be for any child who will be 4 or 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2020.**

Obituaries

Fern McCreedy

Fern Lorraine McCreedy, 90, of Cass City, passed away following a lengthy illness Saturday, April 25, 2020 in Courtney Manor Skilled Nursing and Rehab of Bad Axe.

She was born July 8, 1929 in Caseville to Vern and Mary (Cobb) Langley.

She married Harvey Alger McCreedy March 4, 1950 in the Caseville Methodist Church. He died October 27, 1999.

Fern graduated from Bay Port High School. She worked for various companies over the years, including Sherwood on the Hill and General Cable. Fern had a passion for singing. She sang at weddings, in the Sutton Sunshine Methodist Church choir, with the Tom Thumb Singers, to her family; quite frankly, to anyone that would listen. Fern was known to call loved ones to sing a song, and if they didn't answer, she would sing anyway in a message. She also enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, reminiscing about her younger years, growing up in Caseville and all of the fun she used to have there. Fern loved to cook, bake, write and read poetry, eat sweets (even when she knew she was not supposed to) and spend time with her cat Nikki. She was passionate about her faith in the Lord and prayed for her family and loved ones every night. Fern was always asking people if they knew Jesus. She was known for her quick wit and always had a new joke to tell. This same wit continues to be passed down to further generations.

Fern is survived by her children: Mitch (Sharon) McCreedy of Deford, Robert (Gail) McCreedy of Gagetown, James McCreedy of Gagetown, Marie McCreedy of Cass City, Bill (Toni) McCreedy of Cass City, Gayl Ann (Richard) Patera of Cass City, Tim McCreedy of Caro and Diana (Kurt) Mika of Unionville; fifteen grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law: Dorothy McCreedy of Cass City and Leona Langley of Caseville; and her very special friend, Jesus Christ.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey; two infant sisters; brothers: Fred Langley, Eugene Langley and Ed Langley.

A private funeral service was held in Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City with Brad Speirs of Novesta Church of Christ, Cass City officiating.

Interment is in Hillside Cemetery, Cass City.

Memorials may be made to Sutton Sunshine United Methodist Church of Caro.

Family and friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com. Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



Larry Milazzo

Larry Milazzo, 72, of Thomas Twp., formerly of Gagetown, was born into eternal life on the morning of Monday, April 20, 2020, at his home, due to complications from Parkinson's Disease.

Larry was born in Cook County, Illinois on September 22, 1947, the son of the late Tony A. and Victoria (Alonge) Milazzo and grew up in the Downers Grove neighborhood of Chicago.

As a young man, Larry was active in football, track, music, drama club, reluctantly took accordion lessons, and enjoyed fishing trips with his mother and father to Minnesota and Wisconsin.

On June 19, 1971, Larry was united in marriage to the love of his life, the former Dianne Lubaczewski, at St. Agatha Church in Gagetown.

A man of strong character and integrity, Larry first began work in the broadcasting field as an announcer in 1968, then transitioned to Regional Sales Manager and Food Distribution for various companies on the East Coast.

25 years later, Larry returned to Michigan to resume his first love of broadcasting as his on-air personality, L Maxi Mills, where he worked until retiring in 2005. It's as a young man in college where Larry developed his love of music; a love that carried on throughout his life, especially when Larry was playing the drums in various bands and listening to Motown music with his family. Larry was a parishioner of Holy Spirit Parish in Shields, and formerly St. Agatha in Gagetown, where he enjoyed his weekly lunches at Sherwood on the Hill with his friends from church. After returning to Michigan in 1998, Larry enjoyed the annual Christmas time tradition of helping his bother-in-law Ted, his nephews Nick and Brett, and close family friends at the Lubaczewski Tree Farm. Family always came first with Larry. He passed on a strong work ethic to his children and always believed success came from a positive attitude and hard work. Larry was a pillar of strength and a mentor to all. He will be deeply missed, yet lovingly remembered for years to come.

He leaves to carry on his legacy, his faithful wife of 48 years, Dianne Milazzo and their two children, Anthony L. (Teresa) Milazzo and Gina F. (Christopher) Roka. Larry was the most loving and proud "PopPop" of Jordan, Aaron, Colin, Ava and Dylan. He also leaves behind his brother-in-law, Ted (Linda) Lubaczewski; sister-in-law, Sylvia Gucwa; and many nieces and nephews, who he loved dearly.

In addition to his parents, Larry was preceded in death by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Walter & Irene Lubaczewski, brother-in-law, Stanley Gucwa, and first cousin, Patricia Terone.

A private family funeral will be held at Skorupski Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 1550 Midland Rd., between State & Gratiot with the Rite of Committal to follow in St. Agatha Cemetery, Gagetown. A Memorial Liturgy will be held at Holy Spirit Parish, following the COVID-19 pandemic. Memorial contributions may be directed to the wishes of the family, for a charitable donation to be made by the family at a later date.

Expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family online at www.skorupskis.com.



Rosemary Rutkoski

Rosemary Jean Rutkoski, 73, of Cass City, died following a lengthy illness Thursday, April 23, 2020 in Tuscola County Medical Care Facility, Caro.

She was born January 3, 1947 in Cass City, the tenth of fifteen children born to Enick and Helen (Jurkowski) Rutkoski.

Rosemary graduated from Cass City High School.

She worked for Sherwin-Williams in Hamtramck, MI and Dayton, OH. Rosemary finished her career working for Beau Townsend Ford in Dayton, OH.

She made approximately thirty-five Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls for her nieces and nephews. Rosemary enjoyed annual summer trips with her friends from Ohio. Frankenmuth and Dollywood were among many favorite locations. Rosemary enjoyed visiting with family and friends, sewing and cake decorating. She was skilled at making crafts and especially talented at scrapbooking. Her family and friends will miss her delicious, homemade pumpkin rolls. Rosemary had a lifelong love of Elvis Presley and his music.

Rosemary is survived by her siblings: Herb Rutkoski of Cass City, LaVern (Carol) Rutkoski of Cass City, Catherine Keahn of Utica, Ron (Caroline) Rutkoski of Decker, Veronica (Gary) Priestly of Caro, JoAnne (Tom) Osantowski of Cass City, Larry (Ann) Rutkoski of Essexville, Patti (Rennie Sandercott) Willcocks of Sterling Heights and Mike (Cecelia) Rutkoski of Columbus, OH; sister-in-law, Joanne Rutkoski of Ocala, FL; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings: Mildred (Ralph) Orzel, Frank Rutkoski, Lucille Rutkoski, Phyllis (Del) Lowrie, Jeanne Rutkoski; brother-in-law, Gerald Keahn; and sister-in-law, Kay Rutkoski.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in Our Lady Consolata Parish, St. Pancratius Catholic Church, Cass City.

Interment is in Novesta Township Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Tuscola County Medical Care Facility, or Our Lady Consolata Parish, St. Pancratius Catholic Church.

Family and friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com. Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



School officials: virus casts financial cloud over district

Continued from page one.

out, is the Cass City Schools has a healthy fund balance equal to nearly 20 percent of the district's general fund budget, so the school could spend \$300,000 of the surplus in the next school year and still retain a 15 percent fund balance.

"We've always been against spending fund balance, but this is (an unprecedented) deal we're looking at," said school Supt. Jeff Hartel. "It's kind of a 'rainy day' fund, and it's raining out."

According to Zimba, the district has already cut expenses this year stemming from the shutdown of schools and cancellation of athletics for the remainder of the school year. A number of daycare workers have been laid off along with some third-party contractors (bus drivers, etc.).

Zimba didn't outline any proposed additional cuts Monday, but she said the impact of the pandemic on school operations is likely to be felt for at least a couple of years. "We're probably going to have to make some tough decisions coming up next year," she added.

Hartel agreed, but pointed out that in his first year as superintendent nearly a decade ago, the local school board was forced to cut nearly \$1 million from the budget due to a downturn in the housing market "Somehow we got through that - we'll get through this," he said.

Education plan

Turning to the district's efforts to continue educating students long-distance, Hartel and board members both lauded the teaching staff for getting a head start on implementing the district's Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan required by the state.

In short, schools are expected to provide instruction at a distance using a variety of methods that meet local needs, including printed materials, phone contact, email, virtual learning, or a combination of those means. Although educators are required to do so by April 28, the Cass City teaching staff has been actively working on their plan for at least two weeks.

"We got a quick start and our staff has really stepped up," Hartel told the board.

As for the remainder of this year, school work completed during the fourth marking period will be evaluated for student learning and will be documented in Google Classroom or other similar platforms used by staff, according to Hartel, who said fourth marking period grades will not be officially recorded.

"We feel there is too much of an inequality in learning opportunities across our community to fairly assign grades. However, a student who shows dedication, effort and engagement in the lessons for fourth marking period assignments will have their second semester grade improved as determined by the teacher using documented engagement time, work completed and overall effort in doing the work assigned."

No student will have the grade they earned during the third marking period lowered by electing not to do work for the fourth marking period, but school officials have been encouraging all students to stay engaged in the lessons provided by their teachers.

Grades earned during the third marking period (which ended April 13) will be the second semester grade and count as a half-credit towards graduation - just like every year.

"All seniors on track to earn the required graduation credits are exempt from any further schoolwork," Hartel said. "Seniors are encouraged to maintain contact with Mr. Daniels, Mrs. Hempton and Mrs. Fluegge to ensure (they) are all set to graduate. All students in grades K-11 on track to advance to the next grade will do so based on progress made through the third marking period."

Provided the state's executive orders prohibiting public gatherings are lifted in time, local school officials are planning both a prom and commencement ceremony this summer.

Prom is slated for Saturday, July 18, at Rolling Hills Golf Course, Cass City, while graduation will be held, if possible, at the football field Friday, July 31, starting at 7 p.m.

In other business

In other business during the regular monthly meeting, the board:

*Approved fourth year probation for four elementary school teachers. They are: Matt Sweeney, sixth grade; Kelli McIntyre, special teaching assignment; Stacey Gruber, kindergarten; and Emily Bauer, second grade. Probation was also approved for junior-senior high teachers Heather Middleton, second year, science; Andrew Whittaker, second year, special teaching assignment; Chris Kimble, third year, science; Jeremy Buxman, fourth year, social studies; and Susan Hanby, second year, math.

*Approved plans to complete some capital improvement projects this summer - all funded by a voter-approved bond extension approved two years ago. Work planned this summer will include installation of new boilers at the elementary school, bathroom renovations at both the elementary and high school, and installation of a heating-air conditioning-ventilation system in the high school office.

ATTENTION!! Class of 1955

In light of the uncertainty surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic, the planning committee has decided to post pone the reunion from August 8, 2020 until a new date in 2021. More infor to follow when the dust settles.

~The Planning Committee

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

**The Cass City Chronicle
welcomes letters
to the editor.**

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

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

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

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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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT.

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in TUSCOLA County, starting promptly at 10:00, a.m. on May 21, 2020.

The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Eric Albrecht, a single man, whose address is 6709 Vassar Road, Vassar, Michigan 48768, as original Mortgagors, to CSMC Inc., DBA Central States Mortgage, being a mortgage dated July 27, 2007, and recorded on August 15, 2007 in Liber 1127 Page 806, Tuscola County Records, State of Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held through mesne assignments by

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated March 28, 2019 and recorded on April 8, 2019 in Liber 01419 Page 00939, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FORTY-THREE AND 77/100 (\$63,443.77).

Said premises are situated in the Township of Vassar, County of Tuscola, State of Michigan, and are described as: PART OF THE SOUTH 20 ACRES OF THE SOUTHWEST FRACTIONAL 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST FRACTIONAL 1/4 OF SECTION 30, TOWN 11 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST, DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SAID FRACTIONAL SECTION 30 WHICH IS NORTH, 229.90 FEET FROM THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION 30; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID WEST LINE NORTH 165.00 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 20 ACRES; THENCE ALONG SAID NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTH 20 ACRES, NORTH 88 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST, 264.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 165.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST, 264.00 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

Street Address: 6709 Vassar Road, Vassar, Michigan 48768 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 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 FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: April 15, 2020 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing:

Kenneth J. Johnson, Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 18, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 20 4079

News briefs

M-53 project is now underway

HURON COUNTY – A road construction project targeting a section of M-53 in Huron County was scheduled to get underway Monday, according to Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials.

MDOT plans to invest \$832,000 to resurface two-tenths of a mile of M-53 at Atwater Road. The work will include concrete curb and gutter, drainage, maintenance on the bridge over the Pigeon River, and widening for a center left-turn lane to improve traffic operations and safety at the intersection.

One lane of M-53 will be open with traffic moderators during daytime hours. Atwater Road will be detoured for up to five days to accommodate widening of the road via Bay City Forestville Road, Bad Axe Road and Atwater Road.

The project, designed to improve the safety and operation of the intersection and extend the life of the bridge, is expected to be completed in June.

Food giveaways slated in Caro

CARO — The Anchor Cove Church 201 E. Sanilac Rd., Caro, will be hosting free food distributions in the coming weeks and months.

Distributions are planned for 10 a.m. Saturday, May 16; Saturday, Aug. 15; and Saturday, Sept. 19.

Avoid sharing your info online

SANDUSKY — Bored? Playing question games on the Internet, such as on social networking websites, can be risky.

The Sandusky Police Department recently shared a scam warning originally posted by the Glendale Police Department in Wisconsin, where law enforcement officials are urging residents to think twice before clicking.

The warning focuses on participation in filling out quick quizzes that could lead to giving out personal information scammers can use to figure out your password and security questions. Some of the standard questions on these quizzes include your pet's name, where are you from, mother's maiden name, street you grew up on, first job, child's first name, etc.

Bids sought for new sidewalk

CASS CITY —The village of Cass City is moving forward with some planned improvements, with bids being sought for the M-81 sidewalk project.

The 660 lineal-foot sidewalk extension will start at the Videomation store, 6234 Main St., then run west to Doerr Road. There will also be sidewalk work along Shell Gas station and Thumb National Bank towards Doerr Road. The work will also include two drive entrances at the elevator along with five handicap approaches at the end of driveways.

The project also calls for some curb work at the post office, which will be paid for by the U.S. Postal Service.

Plans set for mosquito season

TUSCOLA COUNTY – Spring-like days have been few and far between this year. But the cooler temperatures have prevented mosquitoes from developing, so there has not been a need for Tuscola County Abatement to ramp up operations in early April, according to the department's new director, Larry Zapfe.

Zapfe has been working with Tuscola County Emergency Services Manager Steve Anderson and Ann Hepfer, health officer for the Tuscola and Huron county health departments, on precautionary steps to be able to start suppression.

"We have been out in the field doing (trap number) surveillance. So far, we have not had a significant hatch yet," Zapfe said. "The weather has been cooperating with colder temperatures."

"I've gotten phone calls to come for treating standing water, and residents concerned about getting started," Zapfe added. "I explained we are shut down because of the virus. They have been understanding about that so far."

Because mosquito season will be starting soon, Zapfe has developed a plan to get started with a limited number of employees.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

Rotarians honor Amy Peters

Continued from page one.

bullhorn to get Peters' attention inside her home.

Once she and her husband, Virgil, emerged, club members presented Peters with her certificate, balloons and flowers.

"She was very pleasantly surprised to see all of us. It was nice to see everyone in person — even at a six feet distance. The only thing missing was hugs," Kranz said of Thursday's surprise presentation.

Cass City Rotary Club President Kevven Dorland read a tribute in Peters' honor.

"Six years ago, the Cass City Rotary Club started honoring a local Rotary 'hero' each year for their service to the club and community," he explained.

"Our past Rotary heroes are Bert Althaver, Val Hartel, Debra Kranz, Carolyn Sorenson and Dave Milligan. These individuals have and continue to show exceptional service and dedication to our club and our community. This year's recipient is no different," Dorland said, noting Peters has been a member of the club since 2006.

"She has served and continues to serve on our board and many area boards. She is a past Rotary Club president along with being a Rotary Foundation member, and (she) received the Paul Harris Fellow award. She has chaired and worked on highway clean-up, St. Patrick's Day Committee, Wine and Cheese Fundraiser, and is the person we go to when we need to make sure something is done."

Peters grew up in Cass City, later moving to Cedar Springs in her early teens. She returned to the area in 1998.

"She and her husband, Virgil, raised two children here, Justin and Emily. She attended CMU and SVSU. She holds a Michigan State license to sell property, casualty, life and health insurance and has her Certified Insurance Service Representative designation," Dorland said.

"She serves on the Tuscola County Community Foundation Board of Directors, the Cass City Chamber Board of Directors and is the chair of their membership committee. She serves on the board of the DDA/EDC."

Peters also continued the "chili cook-off" tradition started by her father, Alan Klco, and still heads up the event for the local chamber of commerce. She purchased the insurance business from her father in 2011 and is the current owner of Knights Insurance Agency.



A MUSKRAT glides across a farm pond south of Cass City recently. Muskrats are large, semi-aquatic rodents that spend most of their time in water. They resemble beavers but are more closely related to mice and rats, earning their name a strong smell or "musk" that they produce during mating season and to mark territories.

Van Auken elected to MLA board

Kate Van Auken, a Cass City resident and former longtime Rawson Memorial District Library director, was recently elected to the 2020 Michigan Library Association (MLA) Board of Directors.

Kelly Richards, library director, Muskegon District Library, was voted president-elect of the MLA. Van Auken, who now serves as director of the White Pine Library Cooperative, was elected a board member-at-large along with Tim Gleisner, head of special collections, Library of Michigan; and Jasmine Parker, youth services/teen librarian, Ferndale Area District Library.

Members-at-large are elected to three-year terms.

Van Auken has served as the director of the White Pine Library Cooperative in Saginaw since August 2019. Prior to her role as co-operative director, she served as library director of Rawson Memo-

rial District Library in Cass City from 2002 through July 2019 and as a local library board trustee from 1999 through 2002.

Van Auken holds a Master of Library and Information Science Degree from Wayne State University, Detroit, and a Bachelor of Science-Administrative Management Degree from Clemson University, Clemson, S.C.

She has been a member of MLA for more than 15 years and in that time has attended numerous MLA annual and Spring Institute conferences and presented at MLA's annual conference.

Van Auken has served as a member of numerous boards and committees, including the Rawson Memorial District Library Board of Trustees, White Pine Library Cooperative Board (serving as board president and vice president), Baker College Business and Technology Advisory Board, Tus-

cola County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board, Tuscola County Community Foundation Board, Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation Board, Hills and Dales General Hospital Foundation Board, Cass City Arts Council Board and the Cass City Schools Technology Board.



Kate Van Auken

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