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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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VOLUME 114, NUMBER 9

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020

.75 CENTS - 10 PAGES

Local businesses share in \$86,000 worth of grants

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Thanks, in part, to the efforts of the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation, some Cass City businesses are sharing in \$86,000 worth of state funding designed to help offset losses stemming from the COVID-19

pandemic. "Fifteen businesses from different parts of Tuscola County received grants of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 from the Michigan Small Business Relief Program with input from the Tuscola County EDC," said EDC Executive Director Steve Erickson. The recipients include the Char-

mont restaurant and bowling alley, Nick's Country Oven and Petal and Bean, all of Cass City; Sherwood on the Hill in Gagetown; and Beagio's of Kingston.

Other Tuscola County businesses receiving Small Business Relief grants were the Brentwood, The Oven, Starbrite Restaurant, Woodyzzz Motel, Bayshire

Beauty Academy, Harvest Coffee and Himelhoch Bread and Breakfast, all in Caro; the Trackside, Reese; McPherson's Restaurant, Millington; and the Vassar Theatre.

The money was provided through the EDC's regional partner — the Flint and Genesee County Chamber of Commerce — from the Michigan EDC to distribute to local businesses in need.

"The majority of grant recipients are in the food and beverage industry," Erickson said. "A committee of Tuscola County businesspeople reviewed applications for the grants. A regional committee with representatives from Tuscola County and other parts of the I-69 Thumb Area Region made the final decision on awarding of the grants.

Statewide, the Michigan EDC had \$10 million in grants and \$10 million in loans allocated to assist small businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the need far exceeded available resources, making the task of selecting businesses to receive funding an agonizing one,

according to Erickson.

"It was a very difficult decision when the demand for assistance from our businesses exceeds the available supply of funding by such a large margin," he said.

"Our local committee spent more than five hours reviewing all aspects of the applications that were submitted to the EDC. We wish there would have been more funding to be allocated, but unfortunately, that was not the case. Other parts of Michigan were in the same boat as Tuscola County."

As part of the Small Business Relief program, EDC officials spoke with more than 80 businesses about the program and how the EDC could assist them.

"As a result of all forms of communication with these businesses, we received funding requests for a total of \$1,765,500," said Erickson. "The applications were submitted by 64 businesses from all segments of the economy — retail, service, restaurants, educational businesses, manufacturing, agricultural and high tech. They came from nearly all geographic parts of Tuscola County, even the smaller

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WHILE MANY of the state's businesses have been largely idled by the COVID-19 pandemic, farmers are greeting spring with the chores that ensure a plentiful food supply for all. Above, a Thumb farmer spreads manure on a field south of Deckerville Road, just east of Deford, last week.

Governor, lawmakers lock horns over orders

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The battle over Michigan's government response to the COVID-19 battle kicked into high gear Thursday as the state's Republican-led Legislature refused to extend Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's COVID-19 emergency declaration.

The governor responded by issuing executive orders stating under one law that an emergency still exists, while under another law declaring new 28-day state of emergency and disaster.

The measures extend, through May 28, the temporarily closure

of certain places of public accommodation such as theaters, bars, casinos, and more. In order to maintain social distancing, the order also limits restaurants to carry-out and delivery orders.

The restrictions do not apply to office buildings, grocery stores, markets, food pantries, pharmacies, drug stores, and providers of medical equipment and supplies, health care facilities, residential care facilities, congregate care facilities, and juvenile justice facilities, warehouse and distribution centers, and industrial and manufacturing facilities.

On Friday, Whitmer signed another executive order, effective May 7, allowing resumption of some types of work that present a very low risk of infection, including construction, real-estate activities and work that is traditionally and primarily performed outdoors.

Michigan's "stay at home" order remains in effect through May 15. "COVID-19 is an enemy that has taken the lives of more Michiganders than we lost during the Vietnam War," Whitmer said Thursday. "While some members of the Legislature might believe this crisis is over, common sense and all of the scientific data tells us we're not out of the woods yet.

"By refusing to extend the emergency and disaster declaration, Republican lawmakers are putting their heads in the sand and putting more lives and livelihoods at risk. I'm not going to let that happen.

"Today I signed new emergency and disaster declarations using independent sources of statutory authority to make sure our health care workers and first responders have the tools they need to save lives and protect Michiganders," Whitmer said.

"We're all in this together. Defeating COVID-19 is an all hands-on deck moment for our state, and I remain hopeful that Republicans in the Legislature will stop the partisan games and start working with me to re-engage our economy safely and responsibly."

The new orders issue a continued state of emergency under the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945, and a state of emergency and a state of disaster

Please turn to page 6.

Village locks in funds for Seeger Street

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

With billions of dollars being spent because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cass City Village Council recently took action to lock in funding for a major infrastructure project.

During a special virtual meeting Thursday, the council officially accepted a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) super-project

loan totaling \$1,237,000 for the Seeger Street project.

Officials had decided several months ago that the best time to do some much-needed water and sewer system upgrades on Seeger Street was before the roadway is re-paved.

"We have been working with the USDA for the application for this project for almost two years. There are some timelines in this project that have to happen —

funding, bonding and designing with the engineers," explained village Manager Debbie Powell. "What approving this actually does, is it will earmark (money) for the Cass City project. It will obligate the USDA to put a hold on that money for us.

"It was suggested that we do this as soon as possible, especially with the economy and the condi-

Please turn to page 6.

Local district ranked 101st in Michigan

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Cass City Junior-Senior High School just missed making the top 100 Michigan high schools in the U.S. News and World Report's 2020 Best High Schools report.

But school officials aren't too disappointed after Cass City was recently ranked 101st out of 1,147 high schools — 645 of which made the annual rankings — across the state this year.

Cass City, which has been recognized for achievement in each of the previous U.S. News and World Report's rankings, also soared above its own performance in the 2019 report, which ranked the local district 198th out of 650 junior-senior high schools in Michigan.

School Supt. Jeff Hartel has always been guarded in his assessment of regional reports that rank or grade schools based on test scores and other factors, saying such studies should be looked upon as just one indicator of a district's performance in educating students.

However, he said, "We certainly

Please turn to page 4.



TESTING FOR COVID-19 is now available in Tuscola County, thanks to partnership with Great Lakes Bay Health Care. The service is being offered in the parking lot of the county health department in Caro (pictured above) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 to 11 a.m., although not everyone is eligible for testing, and supplies remain limited.

Virus testing continues in the Thumb

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in the Cass City zip code increased by two over the past week, and local health department officials announced Huron County has now recorded its first fatality stemming from the virus.

Ann Hepfer, health officer for the Tuscola and Huron county health departments, said the Huron County fatality involved a 63-year-old

Harbor Beach man. No other information was released.

Testing for COVID-19, meanwhile is continuing this week.

Eligible Tuscola County residents can be tested at the Tuscola County Health Department parking lot in Caro from 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. In Huron County, testing is available from 10 a.m. to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Great

Please turn to page 5.

Cass City Schools name "students of the month"

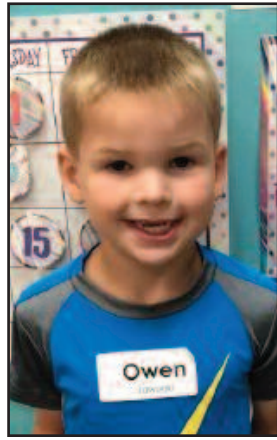


Kindergarten Student of the Month is Lillian Vincent

Nominated by: Mrs. Stoutenburg

Characteristics she displays: Lillian is the daughter of Rebecca Vincent. Lillian is a Super Kindergarten student. She displays all the SOAR traits. Lillian always strives to do her best. She is kind and helpful. Lillian is a good friend to others.

Some of her favorite things: Lillian likes to go to water parks. She likes making art projects and jewelry, including friendship bracelets. She likes finding beach glass. Lillian likes to eat mac and cheese.



1st Grade Student of the Month is Owen Jaworski

Nominated by: Mrs. LeValley

Characteristics he displays: Owen is the son of Matt and Tracey Jaworski. Owen is hard working. He is polite and kind to his classmates and teacher. Owen has completed his daily work while school is not in session. He also practices skills on many computer programs. Owen even sent a video to his teacher of him reading to his sister.

Some of his favorite things: Playing and wrestling with my dog in the backyard. Legos, spending time with my family, especially having movie nights.



2nd Grade Student of the Month is Lilyon Roberts

Nominated by: Mrs. Sweeney

Characteristics she displays: Lilyon is the daughter of Garrett and Heather Roberts. Lilyon is a good friend to everyone. She is always positive, honest, kind, helpful and hard working. She puts all her effort into everything she does.

Some of her favorite things: Hanging out with my family and friends, school, church, animals, reading and golf.

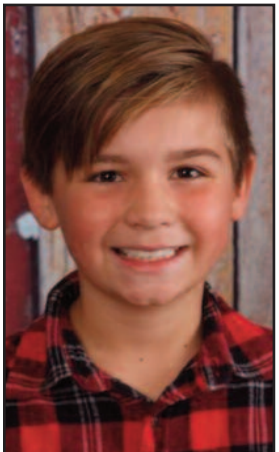


3rd Grade Student of the Month is Logan Boyle

Nominated by: Mr. Hollocker

Characteristics he displays: Evan is the son of Eric and Karn Brown. Evan is a fantastic all around student! He is kind, respectful and diligent. He's also our classroom IT expert!

Some of his favorite things: Playing Soccer Math Reading Counts



4th Grade Student of the Month is Keyton Simmons

Nominated by: Fourth Grade Teachers

Characteristics he displays: Keyton is the son of Jeremy and Terisa Simmons. Keyton has adjusted very well to school from home. He has taken the initiative to participate in his classes, attend Zoom meetings and engage in his assignments. Further Keyton has gone above and beyond with Science experiments, sharing results with his online classmates. Keep up the hard work!

Some of his favorite things: Video Games Playing with his kitten, Daisy, fishing, playing with friends & Science



5th Grade Student of the Month is Alyvia Hollis

Nominated by: Fifth Grade Teachers

Characteristics she displays: Alyvia is the daughter of Amber Hennessey and Eric Hollis. Alyvia is a very hard worker! She isn't afraid to seek out help from her teachers if she needs it and is very pleasant to work with. During this unusual time, in learning, Alyvia has put forth a great deal of effort to keep up with her studies online. She attends Google Meetings and adds to our conversations. We are very proud of you Alyvia!

Some of her favorite things: Playing volleyball Doing her mom's hair Drawing, coloring Hunting with her dad



6th Grade Student of the Month is Kaleigh Kubacki

Nominated by: 6th Grade Team

Characteristics she displays: Kaleigh is the daughter of Jason and Jamy Kubacki. The picture of Kaleigh displays one of her best characteristics, the smile. Her attitude on a daily basis matches that smile. A real pleasant addition to the classroom and digital as well.

Some of her favorite things: While not in the classroom right now, she spends time every day doing online homework. She also watches movies and reads. Her favorite subjects are math and science. In her spare time she loves to dance, play volleyball and swim. She loves pizza, staying up late, making face masks. She is not too fond of bees or sauerkraut. Her goal is to attend college after high school and become a physical therapist. Knowing her positive determination and work ethic, we are certain that this goal or one that is similar will be attained without a problem. Good job Kaleigh!



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

Here's How It Works:

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

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Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Tired of the couch? Get out and move

If the state's "stay-at-home" executive order has you in the habit of making more trips to the refrigerator than outdoors for a little safe exercise, you might be interested in checking out some opportunities to get fit and have a good time doing it.

The Michigan Fitness Foundation (MFF) is providing fun resources for families to stay active during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MFF and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) are launching Walk and Wheel Wednesdays to give Michigan residents of all ages opportunities for healthy and fun outdoor activity.

Beginning today (Wednesday, May 6), families are invited to be active by spending at least 20 minutes outside every Wednesday. This includes walking, bicycling, hiking or other outdoor activities with individuals from the same household.

While being active, families are reminded to practice social distancing by staying at least six feet away from other members of the public, avoid all shared outdoor equipment, cover coughs and sneezes, and wash hands immediately upon returning home.

Families are also encouraged to post photos of their Walk and Wheel Wednesdays activities to social media by tagging @MichiganFitness and @MichiganDOT with the hashtag #WalkandWheelMI.

The initiative is being spearheaded by MFF through their Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program with support from MDOT. SRTS collaborates with schools throughout the school year to improve students' ability to safely walk and bike to school by providing students with bicycling and pedestrian education and activities, such as Walk and Bike to School Day.

When it comes to making your outing safe and enjoyable, MDOT officials offer the following pedestrian/bicyclist safety tips:

- *Plan your route.
- *Always wear a helmet when riding a bike.
- *Stay visible. Wear light and bright colored clothing. If you must be out at night, wear reflective clothing.
- *Stay alert. Enjoy time away from the phone.
- *Walk on sidewalks. If no sidewalks are available, ensure that there is safe distance between yourself and passing vehicles and walk facing traffic.
- *Children can ride their bicycle on the sidewalk. If riding in the street, ride with traffic, obey all traffic laws, and use proper hand signals.
- *When possible, cross at a crosswalk. Only cross when safe to do so. Make eye contact with drivers and make sure all cars have stopped before crossing.
- Physical activity at an early age, such as walking or bicycling, helps reduce stress, heart disease, diabetes, and other obesity-related illnesses.
- With many families staying home to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, Walk and Wheel Wednesdays offer families a great way to be healthy while learning about safe bicycling, walking and ways to connect as a family through physical activity.

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Toilet paper wars



"Hey, buddy can you spare a square?"

One of my jobs helped prepare me for this situation. At the office, we were allowed only so much toilet paper from the corporate office. It was never enough. The office staff was mostly women with a few token males.

Because of that and because women have to use toilet paper for everything, we had to resort to sneaking into the men's room to pilfer their paper. Towards the end of the month, some brought their own supply and hid it in filing cabinets.

And, this is not the first time there has been hoarding and toilet paper shortages.

It also happened back in about 1973. From what I remember, the run on toilet paper started when a late-night comic made a joke about a shortage. There actually wasn't a shortage back then, but that started panic hoarding.

There really wasn't a shortage then, and there supposedly isn't one now. Whether that is true or not is difficult to determine because it sometimes requires a couple of trips to the store to score a couple of rolls.

When my son has to go out for supplies, he calls it going out to forage.

The situation was becoming desperate — it took him a couple of forages to finally be able to get a couple of packages of toilet paper. As he was bringing the store items into the house, he spiked a package of toilet paper on the ground like a football and yelled "Score!" as he beamed with pride of finally being able to find some.

Being a mother, I scolded my 40-year-old son for treating the precious commodity so irreverently. He just cocked his eyebrow and gave me the "like, really, mom?" look.

Of course, that was my cue to talk about the days of outhouses like we had on the farm back when I was growing up.

I remember being fascinated the first time I used an inside bathroom at my cousin's house in North Branch, such an amazing invention boggled my four-year-old mind. Shortly after that, dad had a friend build a bathroom onto our farmhouse.

It was a gift. A gift that kept on giving and giving whenever we had to go, and not have to go outside to do it.

Because of actually having to use one back in the day, I cannot see people's fascination about making miniature replica outhouses to decorate their gardens.

Anyway, my lecture to him included how having a two-seater outhouse was a luxury because there was no waiting in line, that sale catalogs were indeed used as toilet paper, and even corncobs were used at times. All of that earned me another "really, mom?" look from him.

As he put the toilet paper away in the bathrooms, I thought about the changes that simple household product has gone through over the years. There was one-ply and two-ply. It used to come in a variety of colors and designs. Today, it is quilted for extra softness. Some have ridges for extra cleanliness, etc.

After thinking about that, I realized just how spoiled our buns have become over the years, and my son's irreverent "really, mom" look he gave me was warranted.

And, speaking of irreverent, Facebook is rife with potty parodies. There was a posting showing little squares of the precious white stuff in small plastic bags, saying it was selling as "dime bags" for \$10 like a drug deal. Another posting shows a group of people wearing protective face masks playing poker. Instead of chips or money, it was rolls of toilet paper being used as the ante.

Hey, it doesn't hurt to break up the shelter-in-place routine with a little humor.



Their work may be going unnoticed, but a special group of volunteers continues to make sure Cass City students' nutritional needs are being met, in spite of the closure of school buildings for the remainder of this school year.

In addition, organizers behind the effort say they hope to soon offer supplemental food to area families as the community — like its neighbors across the state — continues to struggle with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shari Bock, director of food service for the Cass City Public Schools, shared some impressive numbers with us Thursday.

"We have processed 17,122 meal kits (for students) — each kit is one breakfast and one lunch — in the last six weeks, so a total meal count of 34,244," said Bock, who acknowledged the effort relies heavily on volunteers.

"It takes an army," she said. "Our army includes Revive Ministries, Novesta Church of Christ, Walther Farms, Meating the Need for Our Village Hunger Project, Cass City Rotary, Cass City employees — including food service employees, bus drivers, para-pros. We've also had a few private donations of money."

"We pack food Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have 10 people packing food about 20 hours each week," Bock noted.

"We also signed up for a new USDA program that will give us fresh food boxes that we can distribute to our families. So, we can help the whole family, not just the kids," she added. "(There's) not much information on it yet, as it was just announced. But I believe the government is going to try to buy some of the products that are rotting in the field to help the farmers out. Hopefully (we'll be getting) some dairy also."

Bock says the local student meal program was recently approved for federal funding through the end of June.

Our guess is the families benefiting from this effort will remember and appreciate these volunteers far beyond that.

There was a surprising amount of traffic on the Cass River this weekend reports my daughter Kacey Haire, who has been cooped up in her high school home longer than she prefers. Kacey made the most of favorable weather conditions to take three kayak trips — one on Saturday and two on Sunday — down the waterway from Evergreen Park off of M-53 to the walking trail bridge off River Road. The journey takes about 2 ½ hours, according to the MSU sophomore.

Jacob Boynton, Hospice Care Consultant at Compassus in Cass City, invites the public to check out their "Quarantine Inspirational" works created every workday since the shelter in place began.

"Some are motivational, inspirational and some are just meant to be funny. We put them on a large poster board and then put them in our windows along the front of our building. The idea was not only to motivate and keep our people uplifted but for the community to be able to read them as well," he said.

Compassus is located at 5986 Cass City Road, just west of town.

Letters to the Editor

People need help - now

No, it is not Christmas, but residents in our area are in dire need. We have many needy people in our village and community, too.

Did it ever occur to our residents who are able to, to make a donation to those people?

Yes, we are supposed to get government checks, except everything takes time. People who exist paycheck to paycheck need help, and they need it now. One does not need to have to be a millionaire to give; every bit helps.

If God has been good to you or you have saved for the future, can you share some now? One does not have to give thousands or even hundreds.

So, all those who can give, just call or, better yet, drop off or mail your donation to Revive Ministries, Cass City.

Every dollar helps — this is called pay it forward. May God bless you all.

Ginna Gentner
Cass City

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Ubly Village officials considering purchase of old Masonic building

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The Ubly Village Council is looking to add more land to the village and at the same time eliminate a traffic hazard.

The owner of the old Masonic hall in town is interested in selling the building, according to Ubly Clerk Barb Butch.

"The hall is located on the corner of Washington (M-19) and Atwater. It is close to the road, and vehicles on Main Street (Atwater) need to pull out farther to make sure traffic is not coming before pulling out," Butch said. "This is a busy intersection and has caused problems in the past.

"If the Village were to purchase the hall, then it would be taken down and the corner would be opened up."

The first step in the process of

acquiring the property was an appraisal. One quote came in at \$1,500 and a second quote brought an estimate of \$3,500.

Now, the council will have to determine what steps should be taken next.

"The building has set vacant for at least 20 years, probably more. The building is a vision hazard for the intersection," said village President Jason Nicol. "We are looking into grants for either acquiring the building and/or tearing it down. We don't really have a set vision for the area once the building is gone."

If the project moves forward, it could provide a green space following the building's removal.

"Over the years, people have asked about tearing it down and maybe creating a pocket park," Nicol said. "It could be just a grass area until a vision for the

area is put into place.

"(Mostly) we are just trying to be proactive with safety at this intersection."

It other matters, the council discussed allowing commercial lawn care operators to resume working in the village as long as social distancing is maintained in compliance with state executive orders related to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

After some discussion of whether or not landscaping was essential, the council approved allowing commercial lawn care and general maintenance to resume. It was decided the service could start based on the stipulation that there can be only one person per vehicle, and that the workers practice social distancing.

The council also approved the purchase of a 2018 John Deere lawn mower for \$11,350.



UBLY OFFICIALS are looking to add more land to the village and at the same time eliminate a traffic hazard by possibly purchasing the old Masonic hall building (above).

Burn permits are available again in state

Just over a month after it suspended open burning across the state in response to COVID-19 concerns, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced it is again issuing burn permits.

"We're going to issue burn permits based on local fire risk and

weather conditions, just as we have always done," said Dan Laux, fire section supervisor for the DNR's Forest Resources Division. "We still expect people to practice social distancing and use good sense to prevent the possible transmission of the COVID-19 virus."

Laux said firefighters, now with a month of experience during the COVID-19 emergency, have better protocols in place to slow the spread of the virus.

The DNR issues burn permits online at Michigan.gov/BurnPermit if weather and fire danger conditions are favorable. In most of the southern Lower Peninsula, burn permits are issued by local fire departments and local government offices.

Residents are urged to make sure to check local regulations before they burn.

Open burning of yard debris and brush was suspended March 26 to make firefighters available for emergencies related to COVID-19 and to protect first responders.

With more favorable fuel conditions occurring as Michigan moves toward the "green-up" of vegetation where plants and trees are leafing out and filled with sap, fire potential can now be regulated based on local fire danger ratings. These ratings are based on weather conditions, including anticipated wind and rain.

Year after year, burning yard debris is the top cause of wildfires in Michigan. People who want to burn are still expected to check in at Michigan.gov/BurnPermit to make sure fires are allowed on the day they want to burn.

School officials pleased with ranking

Continued from page one.

do well on these rankings, whether it's the Mackinac Center (report card) or U.S. News and World Report. In Cass City, we're generally at the top of our Thumb schools.

"It's coming out that our students are doing well, or schools are scoring high, so yeah, we're doing well," he added, noting the credit goes to the entire Cass City Schools staff, including the teachers, administration, chief financial officer, board of education, para-professionals, social workers, food service staff, bus drivers, secretaries and custodians.

"It takes a collective, team attitude," Hartel said. "It's a feather in everybody's cap, and we're proud of what our district is doing."

Cass City Junior-Senior High School earned an overall score of 83.9 and was ranked 2,864th nationally this year, according to the U.S. News report, which listed the students' proficiency rates at 54 percent in math and 75 percent in reading, with a graduation rate of 96 percent.

Students in the local district have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement coursework and exams, and one-quarter of students take advantage of these advanced opportunities. The report also noted 45 percent of Cass City students are classified as being economically disadvantaged.

Among other area school districts, Caro Community Schools was ranked 215th in Michigan, Ubly Community Schools was ranked at 317th and USA Schools was ranked at 361st. Kingston Community Schools was ranked between 467th and 645th, and Owendale-Gagetown Schools was not ranked in the report.

The Thumb high school earning the highest ranking in Michigan was Frankenmuth, which came in at 21st overall (787th nationally).

The U.S. News and World Report rankings annually underscore the importance of a strong high school education, which can provide a foundation that will help graduates enter the world ready for college or a career.

Graduation rates and college readiness, both key factors for the path to a higher education, are among the many metrics U.S. News used to determine the 2020 Best High Schools. U.S. News ranked approximately 17,790 public high schools, out of a review of more than 24,000 in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The number of ranked schools is up by more than 500 from last year.

Six indicators of school quality were used to calculate the rankings:

*College readiness, based on the proportions of 12th grade students who took and passed AP and/or IB (International Baccalaureate)

exams.

*College curriculum breadth, based on proportions of 12th grade students who took and passed AP and/or IB exams in multiple content areas.

*Math and reading proficiency, based on student performance on state-required tests.

*Math and reading performance, based on whether performance on state assessments exceeded expectations given the school's proportion of underserved students.

*Underserved student performance, based on how black, Hispanic and low-income students performed on state assessments compared with those who are not underserved in the state.

*Graduation rates, based on the proportion of students who entered ninth grade in 2013-2014 and graduated four years later.



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Reporter's notebook**From the makers of Lysol: hairspray**by Tom Montgomery
Editor

I'm no expert when it comes to selling, but how long do you suppose it will be before some savvy marketing guy (or gal) from the makers of products such as Lysol will come up with a whole new line of COVID-19 products?

Anti-bacterial hair spray and make-up could become all the rage, and I'm guessing anti-bacterial sunscreen would yield a fortune, especially in some of the southern states.

Well, that's assuming there's anyone left on the beaches. Some governors evidently believe the best approach to battling the novel coronavirus is to let folks congregate in herds and simply hope for the best.

Of course, we all know this country can't remain idle.

I guess it's a matter of deciding how quickly our communities should re-open for business — timing as well as risk versus cost. Personally, I have a problem when citizens and politicians declare (or at the very least imply) that commerce and individual rights supersede the right of others to stay healthy and alive.

Others are more vocal, such as the recent angry gatherings at governors' mansions across the country (including Lansing), with some protestors thumbing their noses at social distancing and/or armed to the teeth. I'm going to assume I missed the scientific breakthrough study proving that, yes, you really can shoot down those pesky little virus particles.

Now, make no mistake — every American has the right to protest, but they're still expected to follow the rules.

But I digress.

Anyway, it wouldn't surprise me if we start seeing Deep Anti-bacterial Woods Off on the shelves this summer once more restrictions are lifted and folks feel comfortable going camping again. Or not — maybe the mosquitoes will leave us alone now?

Who knows? What is certain are the changes the pandemic has already brought to what we used to consider normal.

Who would have thought that closely guarding secrets regarding the location of a store where you discovered a supply of toilet paper, hand sanitizer or hair coloring would become a thing? Hey, it's a tradition fishermen and morel mushroom enthusiasts have honed since the dawn of time.

And now, everyone in Michigan is required to wear a face covering. Seems like a wise decision to me — one that should have been in place weeks ago, although there seems to be some confusion about the purpose (which is to protect other people in case you're infected but don't know it).

I'll grant you, wearing a mask takes some getting used to, but it's worth it if we're protecting one another even a little.

I have no idea how my wife, Deb, can stand to wear one of those N95 models for 12 hours or more at a time when she's on duty at one hospital or another.

As far as I'm concerned, even the handmade masks are uncomfortable and present some other challenges to those of us who wear glasses (they fog up).

At the same time, when we witness people doing silly things, like families still insisting that they go grocery shopping together, they can't see the expressions of dismay on our faces.

Virus testing continues in area

Continued from page one.

Lakes Bay parking lot in Bad Axe.

Patients no longer need to bring a doctor's lab order in order to be tested.

However, they must meet certain criteria. They include:

*Those experiencing a cough, shortness of breath and/or difficulty breathing, or at least two of the following symptoms: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and a new loss of taste or smell.

*Those who are health care workers or first responders with or without COVID-19 symptoms or exposure.

*All essential workers with or without COVID-19 symptoms or exposure (if you are working, you are essential).

*People who reside in community settings such as nursing homes and homeless shelters.

Hepfer noted that people who have no primary care provider and want to establish care related to COVID-19 symptoms and/or known exposure should call (989) 753-6000 for assistance.

Hepfer encouraged all residents to remember the importance of continued social distancing as the number of COVID-19 continues to rise. "I know that the stay-at-home order is getting to everyone," she said. "(But) please remember that it is still essential that when you go out in public... keep the six-feet of spacing. This also means when you are playing golf or spending sometime outside with your neighbors. I have noticed many people on the golf course not keeping the spatial distance.

"What we know about this virus is that even though you are outside, the virus can be carried through the droplets in the air," Hepfer added.

Latest numbers

Between Monday, April 27, and Monday, May 4, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased from 137 to 173, with the three counties' combined death toll rising from 17 to 20 victims.

As of Monday afternoon, Tuscola County had recorded 113 confirmed cases and 14 deaths, Huron County had recorded 24 cases and one death, and Sanilac County, 36 cases and five deaths.

Tuscola County Health Department officials updated their new COVID-19 dashboard Friday, detailing the number of cases reported in the county as well as a breakdown of those cases by zip code and age groups.

According to the data, Tuscola County has recorded 103 cases and 14 fatalities as of Friday. The totals represented an increase of 27 new cases and two additional deaths compared to the week before.

Of the 103 confirmed cases, 33 were reported in the Caro zip code (an increase of six), followed by 23 in the Vassar area (up from 18) and 16 in Millington (an increase of four cases). Officials reported nine cases in the Cass City zip code (up from seven), with four in the Deford area (an increase of one) and one in the Kingston area. No cases have been reported in the Gageton zip code.

Statewide, Monday's total of confirmed cases reached 43,950, with a total of 4,135 deaths, compared to 38,210 cases and 3,407 deaths a week earlier.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas

**5 YEARS AGO (2015)**

Elizabeth "Libby" Venema, was presented with nearly \$20,000 worth of scholarships during Cass City Junior-Senior High School's annual Senior Honors Night last Wednesday. She is the daughter of Martin and Lisa Venema.

Erin Zdrojewski was announced as the A.A.U.W Outstanding Female Athlete Award winner and Jack Stern was chosen as the Paul Smarks Outstanding Male Athlete Award winner last week, highlighting for many the Red Hawks' annual Senior Awards Night assembly.

10 YEARS AGO (2010)

Leigh and Sharon (Kanaby) Langenburg announce the birth of their son, Cooper Francis. Cooper was born April 8, 2010 at Covenant Hospital, Saginaw. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 1/2" long. Maternal grandparents are Francis and Marilyn Kanaby of Ubly. Paternal grandparents are the late Lewis and Jeanette Langenburg of Cass City. His great-grandmother is Marie Wheeler of Bad Axe. Cooper was welcomed home by his brother, Brady, and his sister, Madeline.

Army National Guard Pvt. Sarah L. Adams has graduated from the Automated Logistical Specialist Advanced Individual Training (AIT) course at the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School, Fort Lee, Petersburg, Va. The course is designed to train soldiers to establish and maintain stock records and other documents such as inventory, materiel control, accounting and support reports, automated and manual accounting records; perform stock record/warehouse functions pertaining to receipt, storage, distribution and issue and maintain equipment records and parts; review and verify bills of lading, contracts, and purchase orders; repair and construct shipping crates for equipment and supplies, and perform prescribed loads and shop stock lists in manual and automated supply applications. Adams is a 2008 graduate of Kingston High School.

Cass City High School seniors Eli Kelley and Lindsay Jamieson were honored as king and queen during the high school's annual prom, held recently at Ubly Heights.

25 YEARS AGO (1995)

Navy Chief Petty Officer William S. Van Allen, son of Douglas W. and Hilda M. Van Allen of Cass City, recently returned from a 6-month deployment to the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas with Assault Craft Unit Two after serving off the coast near BosniaHerzegovina. Van Allen was part of a team in charge of 4 135-foot-long landing craft that were launched from the flooded well-deck of USS Nassau. Spending 125 days at sea, Van Allen also visited Portugal as well as France before returning to Norfolk. The 1974 graduate of Cass City High School joined the Navy in November 1975.

Bowler of the week for April: Week ending April 1 - Andrea Gotham who bowled a 556 on March 29 on the Wednesday Nite Ladies' League at Pigeon Lanes. Week ending April 8 - Marilyn Smith who bowled a 660 May 3 on the Monday Night Ladies' League at Huron Lanes. Week ending April 15 - Pat McIntosh who bowled a 580 May 13 on the Merchante League at Charmont Lanes. Week ending April 22 - Dorothy McPhee who bowled a 496 May 19 on the Wednesday Afternoon Ladies' League at Bad Axe Lanes. Other qualifiers: Joyce LaRoche 575, Laurie Weber 555.

A recent 12-week study adventure in Vienna, Austria, opened Tracy Robinson's eyes. Sitting on the porch of her family's farm on Huron Line Road, about 4 miles southwest of Ubly, Friday, Robin looked out on the open fields and marveled at the contrast be-

tween her roots in the rural Thumb and her experiences in a city with a population of 1.7 million. In between classes, she recalled visiting dozens of historical sites ranging from the balcony of a building where Adolph Hitler gave a speech after the Nazi takeover of Austria, to the graves of some of the world's greatest composers; Brahms, Strauss, Mozart and Beethoven. Robinson, who recently completed her second year at Saginaw Valley State University, explained her time in Austria was part of a study abroad program through the Midwest Consortium For Study Abroad.

35 YEARS AGO (1985)

Mrs. Jim (Bernadette) Walters of Bay City has graduated from Delta College School of Nursing. Commencement was held Sunday in the Delta gymnasium.

Mrs. Walters is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Zimba of Deford and is a graduate of Cass City High School. The Walters have two children, Nathan and Joshua. She is employed at Saginaw General Hospital in the cardiac section.

Navy Airman David R. Dereszynski, a 1983 graduate of Kingston High School, has completed the basic aviation electronics technician course at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, TN. Dereszynski, the son of Donna Ihrke, 5633 E. Sanilac Rd., Kingston, entered the Navy during June, 1984. He has received instructions on the fundamentals of electronic circuitry, and was introduced to the wide variety of electronic equipment currently being installed on Navy and Marine Corps aircraft. He studied airborne radar, communication and computer equipment, along with the technical manuals, safety precautions and troubleshooting procedures used for maintaining the equipment. Dereszynski was recently stationed at Cory Naval Station, Pensacola, FL.

40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Dale Stieg of LeRoy, a son, Christopher Brandon, April 16. He weighed nine pounds and one and a half ounces. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stieg of Reed City and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ballagh of Cass City. Great-grandmothers are Mrs. Hilda Wills of Cass City and Mrs. Clara Tessman of Tustin.

The admissions department of Upper Iowa University in Fayette has announced the acceptance of Rusty Hoag as a new student for the fall semester of 1980. Rusty is the son of Dean and Sue Hoag of Cass City. He intends to major in business administration after his graduation from Cass City High School.

Patricia A. Goslin was recently inducted into the Lake Superior State College Alpha Chi Michigan Gamma chapter. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith J. Goslin of Bay City-Forestville Road, Gageton. To be inducted into the national college honor scholarship society, a student must be in the top 10 percent of the junior or senior class. Miss Goslin, a junior nursing major, is a 1977 graduate of Cass City High School, where she was senior class president, class valedictorian and a member of the varsity basketball and softball teams. The college is located at Sault Ste. Marie.

50 YEARS AGO (1970)

Joe Graham, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Graham of rural Cass City, has been wounded in action in Viet Nam, about 25 miles south of DaNang. His parents were notified that their son became a battle casualty Tuesday morning. Graham is a corporal in the Marines and was directing artillery fire when struck in the head by a piece of shrapnel. Although the full extent of his injuries are not known, the Grahams were told that the injury

was very serious, but that his condition is not critical. He is currently in a service hospital in intensive care, his father said. Graham is a 1968 graduate of Cass City High School and was a member of the varsity basketball team. In the Marines for a two-year hitch, he was due to be rotated from Viet Nam and discharged in August. His father recently spent seven days with his son while on a stop on a worldwide trip. It has been a constant worry since Joe was in Viet Nam. John Graham noted, that the Marine car would drive to our door. Now that it has, we still don't know too much about what happened...but it could have been much worse he said quietly, still not quite able to entirely mask the trauma that the Marine's visit that morning recalled.

Mr. and Mrs. George Fisher, Sr., Theo Hendrick, Mrs. Irene O'Dell and daughter Karen attended the wedding Saturday at 2 p.m. in St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Rochester of Miss Michelle Higgins of Upper Long Lake and John Charles Rebholz of Rochester. They also attended the late afternoon reception at the Glen Oaks country club at Farmington. The bride's father, Kenneth Higgins, is a former resident here. The Cass Cityans also called on Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Smith at Clarkston in the afternoon.

75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Mrs. Joseph Fox of R. R. No. 1, Cass City, received a telegram from the war department on May 2, telling her that her son, Pfc. Leo C. Fox, was missing in action in Germany since April 16. Her anxiety was short-lived as she heard the name of her son over the radio Friday morning with the information that he was one of 11 Michigan men who had been liberated from a prison camp in Germany.

T/5 Thomas O'Connor and Cpl. Alton O'Connor spent a day together in Leige, Belgium. This was their first meeting since leaving England where they had the good fortune to meet twice. T/5 O'Connor is now back in Germany and Cpl. O'Connor is in France attending O. C. S.

So M 3/c Kenneth Price, son of Mrs. Ella Price, has completed his course at the San Diego West Coast Sound school -and is now stationed on Treasure Island, California.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Little and sons, Dale and Bruce, and daughter, Lois, were guests at dinner Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Alva McNeil in Almer township. Mrs. McNeil and Mrs. Little are sisters. This was a family gathering when all members of Mrs. Little's family were present except Cpl. Paul Craig, who is in Germany, and Grant Little of Detroit.

100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Arthur D. Walker, a student at Ypsilanti Normal and son of W.A. Walker of Cass City, won honors as the highest individual point winner at a dual track meet between Ypsilanti Normal and Detroit Jr. High in which the Normal won by 66-65 score. Walker was first in high hurdles and pole vault, second in high hurdles and broad jump and third in javelin, winning 17 points. Walker carried off the honors as highest individual point winner in the contest.

The gasoline service of J.C. Farrell served its first patrons with gasoline Tuesday and it proved a very busy day for the proprietor and his helpers. Approximately 4,500 gallons were sold. Many auto tanks were replenished and gas barrels were filled and every conceivable receptacle which in from village and country to get a supply of gasoline. The first two days sales showed up to 7,800 gallons.

Miss Gertrude Henderson is back at her position as teacher in the primary department at St. Agatha's school. Miss Henderson has been in poor health all winter. Miss Esther Wald taught during her absence and proved herself very proficient as teacher.

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Governor, lawmakers lock horns over rules

Continued from page one.

across Michigan under the Emergency Management Act of 1976.

Senator Dan Lauwers (R-Brockway Township), whose district includes Huron and Sanilac counties, voted in support of Senate Bill 858 Thursday, saying the legislation is designed to “continue many non-invasive COVID-19 protections and defend the Legislature’s role in states of emergency.”

“Today we took actions acknowledging the current health crisis in much of our state, while also requiring the governor to work in concert with the Legislature in finding sensible solutions to get us back to work safely,” he added.

“Michigan’s government is one of checks and balances, and the Legislature is the voice of the people and the branch most responsive to the residents. We must have a seat at the table to ensure the concerns of our constituents are considered as part of the decision-making process.”

Among the 28 orders included in Senate Bill 858, Lauwers said, are those regarding expanded unemployment benefits, distance learning for schools, and liability protections for health care workers treating patients in innovative ways. The bill does not include or extend the state of emergency declaration or the governor’s stay-at-

home order.

The Senate also approved a resolution that would allow the body to challenge in court any executive actions taken by the governor after the Legislature’s state of emergency extension expired May 1.

Whitmer promised to veto Senate Bill 858, saying it does not comply with constitutional requirements. And, she promised not to sign any bills that “constrain her ability to protect the people of Michigan from this deadly virus in a timely manner.”

In the House, meanwhile, 84th District state Rep. Phil Green (R-Millington) issued a statement following a vote in support of what he called an effort “to restore representative democracy and end the governor’s unilateral control over the state’s COVID-19 response.”

“With these votes today, we took the first steps back to a representative form of government. The plan approved by the Michigan House would return governance to the hands of the people,” Green said.

“Taxpayers and families in Huron and Tuscola counties expect their elected leaders to work together at all times, especially during tough times such as these with COVID-19,” he added. “People have serious concerns about how the governor has handled this situation so far. I am counting on

the governor to work with us to safely reopen the state of Michigan.”

Whitmer’s executive orders cite extensive data that she says validates the existence of an emergency and disaster across the state. Specifically, although the pace of COVID-19 spread has showed signs of slowing, the virus remains aggressive and persistent: as of last week, there were 41,379 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 3,789 deaths from the disease — fourfold and tenfold increases, respectively, since the start of April.

And while COVID-19 initially hit Southeast Michigan hardest, the spread is now increasing more quickly in other parts of the state.

Court case

The Michigan Court of Claims last week rejected claims brought by a group of five Michigan residents who filed legal action against the governor, alleging the state’s mandatory quarantine measures in place infringed on their constitutional rights to procedural and substantive due process.

They also alleged the state’s Emergency Management Act is unconstitutional.

In the first substantive ruling examining the constitutionality of Whitmer’s “stay home, stay safe” executive orders, Judge Christopher M. Murray, in his opinion, acknowledged the rights asserted by the plaintiffs as being fundamental.

“But those liberty interests are, and always have been, subject to society’s interests — society being our fellow residents,” Murray wrote. “They — our fellow residents — have an interest to remain unharmed by a highly communicable and deadly virus, and since the state entered the Union in 1837, it has had the broad power to act for the public health of the entire state when faced with a public crisis.”

As for the Emergency Management Act being an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power to the governor, Murray noted the act does not provide the governor with “uncontrolled, arbitrary power.” Instead, he indicated the act provides for very specific procedures and criteria for the governor to declare a state of disaster or emergency, and what conditions qualify as a disaster or emergency.

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 info to follow when the dust settles.

~The Planning Committee

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Village officials lock in funding

Continued from page one.

tion it is in,” she said, noting acting now will lock in the funds for the upgrades.

“(Approving) this does not obligate the village. It obligates the USDA,” added Powell, who compared the loan to a home-loan, line of credit that is drawn down as funds are needed. “If we modify the scope of the project and do not need that amount of funds, we do not have to borrow that amount.”

The plan is to address aging water mains and complete some sewer upgrades. The work would include replacing undersized and old water mains, complete additional looping to eliminate dead-ends, and replace sewer crossings to eliminate failures.

To help offset the cost of the improvements, the village applied to the USDA for funding to help cover the estimated \$1.3 million project that is expected to start in 2021 and go on through the fall of 2022 before being completed. The work will be done in two phases over two years.

The village is in the initial stages of the design for phase one, which is for south Seeger and four blocks of Third Street. The design for north Seeger has not been started.

“This may not happen on the time schedule we have laid out with everything that is going on. We are doing our due diligence in the paperwork so we are ready to do the work,” said Trustee Joe Leeson. “We are just laying the paperwork foundation to get ready. It will be a year or two down the road before work begins. There is plenty of time to work out details.”

Paving Seeger Street ties in with the comprehensive, multi-year plan for infrastructure improvements developed in September 2018.

In other business during the 40-minute meeting, the council approved spending \$10,297 for a new blower housing and impeller for the village’s leaf vacuum.

Dennis McCabe, director of public utilities, pointed out some minor repairs have been done to the machine over the last few years.

“It has gone through a lot the last two falls when it was so wet. Super wet leaves are harder on the machine and to pick up,” McCabe explained, adding a new machine would cost between \$60,000 to \$70,000. “This (one) is worth fixing. It will be needed in the fall.”

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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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DNR updates opening dates and modifications for Michigan public outdoor recreation sites

To help slow the spread of the coronavirus and carry out Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's extended "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order through May 15, the Department of Natural Resources has updated expected opening dates and available amenities at many of its public outdoor recreation sites and facilities.

Most state parks and recreation areas and state-managed trails and boating access sites remain open to provide local opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, but social distancing is key. Federal and state health officials consistently have said that keeping at least 6 feet away from those outside your household is vital to containing the virus spread.

Proposed facility reopening dates are based on the updated stay-at-home executive order that ends May 15 and are staggered to allow for proper preparation. Details on closures and changes in services, as well as frequently asked questions, are available on the DNR's COVID-19 response webpage at Michigan.gov/DNR.

The changes and planned public opening dates include the following, but further changes to the EO could affect these plans:

- *Prep time needed to get facilities ready
- *Camping, overnight lodging and shelters set to open June 22
- *State forest campgrounds and DNR-operated harbors set to open June 10
- *Boating access sites – availability and safety
- *Other operational announce-

ments

Ron Olson, chief of the DNR Parks and Recreation Division, said he and his staff are eager to welcome back campers and visitors, but proper safety precautions and maintenance work must happen first.

"We know millions of residents are eager to return to state parks and recreation areas, and we will be here to serve them and make their visits as enjoyable as possible, but we have to open the right way and be certain that facilities and sites are clean, safe and ready to accommodate everyone," Olson said.

PREP TIME NEEDED TO GET FACILITIES READY

To prepare state-managed parks, trails and boating facilities, many important tasks must be completed once nonessential work is permitted. The department anticipates staff can start work May 15 once the stay-at-home order is lifted; prep work is expected to take roughly five weeks. Duties include:

- *Acquiring drinking water permits from county health departments.
- *Opening bathrooms.
- *Hiring and training seasonal staff.
- *Ensuring sanitation systems are running efficiently.
- *Making progress on infrastructure needs.
- *Other operational duties.

CAMPING, OVERNIGHT LODGING AND SHELTERS SET TO OPEN JUNE 22

Camping and overnight lodging

reservations for dates between May 15 and June 21 have been canceled, but the following reimbursement options are available:

Request to change reservation dates to later in the season (pending availability within the reservation booking window) and earn a free night for that time period. No reservation fees or cancellation/modification fees will be charged. Reservation holders who want this option must contact the call center at 800-447-2757 by May 15 at 8 p.m.

Choose a full refund to automatically be applied to original payment method, including the reservation fee. Reservation holders DO NOT need to take any action; all remaining reservations will automatically be canceled after May 15, and an email will be sent when the refund is completed. No cancellation/modification fees will be charged.

In addition, reservation holders whose camping reservations for stays between March 23 and May 15 were canceled due to COVID-19 are eligible for a free night of camping on reservations made later in the season. Those who want to make a reservation or have already booked one for a later date should call 800-447-2757 by May 15 at 8 p.m. and have their canceled booking number handy.

Please note: Reservations extending beyond June 21 will be changed to a June 22 arrival date and canceled nights will automatically be refunded to the original payment method.

Shelter reservations between May 15 and June 21 will automatically be canceled. Reservation holders for those dates will receive full refunds to the original payment method, including the reservation fee paid at the time reservations were made. No cancellation/modification fees will be charged.

Questions can be directed to the reservation call center at 800-447-2757.

STATE FOREST CAMPGROUNDS AND DNR-OPERATED HARBORS SET TO OPEN JUNE 10

The DNR will extend closures in state forest campgrounds and DNR-operated harbors through at least June 9, allowing for additional time to prepare for public reopening.

Reservations for dates between May 15 and June 9 will automatically be canceled after May 15 for a full refund to the original payment method, unless a customer calls the call center at 800-447-2757 by May 15 at 8 p.m. to request a reservation be changed to a later date as outlined above (including one free night).

BOATING ACCESS SITES – AVAILABILITY AND SAFETY

DNR-managed boating access sites that already were open for the season and remained open during the stay-at-home order will remain open. The addition of various amenities, such as the placement of courtesy piers and the reopening of bathrooms at boating access sites, will begin as staff time and maintenance schedules

allow.

The most recent stay-at-home order specifies that boating (including motorized) is now allowed, but people from different households are strongly encouraged to practice social distancing and stay at least 6 feet apart.

OTHER OPERATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bathroom buildings and hand-washing stations are closed through at least June 3, although those facilities associated with campgrounds will remain closed until the campground opens. Trash service also has been halted during the same time frame; please leave the sites as you found them. Bring bags to carry out any trash with you.

Dispersed camping on approved state-managed lands is not permitted until at least May 15.

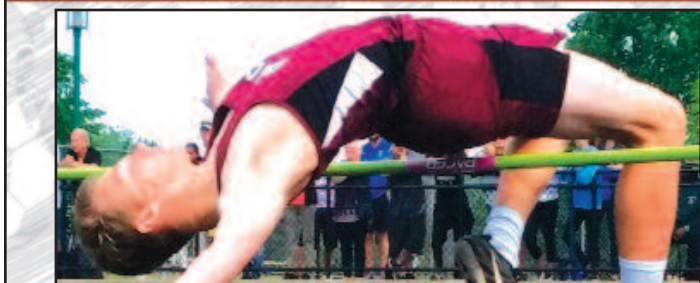
Due to the extended stay-at-home order and operational functions associated with starting the season, the tentative opening date at Silver Lake State Park ORV Area in Oceana County is Wednesday, June 3. Staff is scheduled to return May 15 and the prep work is anticipated to take about three weeks. Read full press release.

In order to minimize face-to-face interactions and the exchange of money, the Recreation Passport requirement for vehicle entry to state parks and recreation areas, state forest campgrounds and state-managed boating access sites has been suspended until at least two weeks after the stay-at-home order ends.



CASS CITY Schools 6th grader Brynn Pallas, 12, is all smiles after taking this tom in Tuscola County. The young hunter is the daughter of Danny and Janelle Pallas.

Cass City Red Hawk ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Knights Insurance Agency is proud to introduce their Cass City Red Hawk Athlete of the Week, Dylan Halpin. The Red Hawk sophomore was closing in on the school's high jump record before COVID-19 struck.

As a freshman, Dylan skied 6' 1" to place 9th in the state final meet equaling his best effort on the season according to Coach Jon Zdrojewski.

"I think Dylan has a good chance to break Chris Summersett's record," he said.

Dylan is the son of Sabrina Izydorek and Ken Halpin.

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Obituaries

Keith Frappart

Keith Robert Frappart, 60, of Pigeon, died Friday, May 1, 2020 following a courageous battle with cancer in Scheurer Hospital, Pigeon.

He was born August 20, 1959 in Saginaw, MI to Albert and Earlene Alice (Hubel) Frappart. He married Peggy May Repshinska on June 21, 1980 in Caro.

Keith spent his childhood in Cass City. He worked in sales at Family Farm and Fleet in Cass City, for Farmer's Co-op in Kinde and later as an Operations Manager for Midwestern BioAg in Kinde. Keith was most recently employed at Cass City Oil and Gas. He coached Little League, summer baseball, JV baseball, and JV football in Cass City. Keith also coached Little League baseball in Owen-Gage, travel softball in Elkton and JV softball at Lakers. He loved outdoor hobbies including: deer hunting, fishing, boating, golfing and camping with family and friends. The Upper Peninsula was his favorite place to visit and spend time. Keith was known as a great story teller, especially around the bonfire. His favorite sports team was the Detroit Tigers.

Keith is survived by his wife, Peggy; daughter, Stacy (David) Binder of Elkton; sons, Matthew Frappart of Pigeon and Kristopher Repshinska of Pigeon; grandson, Acelin Collis; brothers: Rocky (Marilyn) Anscomb of Saginaw, Bill (Judy) Clairmont of Port Charlotte, FL and Earle (Paula) Anscomb of Astatula, FL; sisters, Carlene Sattelberg of Caro, Diane (Thomas) Smith of Owendale and Debra (Bill) Dougherty of Saginaw; mother-in-law, JoAnn Repshinska of Gagetown; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and father-in-law, Paul Repshinska.

Visitation will be held 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, in Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City. A private family graveside service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, May 7, in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Pigeon with Brad Speirs of Novesta Church of Christ, Cass City officiating.

The graveside service will be broadcast live and archived on the Kranz Funeral Home website.

A public celebration of life will be held at a later date. Family and friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com.

Due to current COVID-19 health concerns and the executive order, chapel visitation will be limited to 10 people at a time.

Arrangements by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



News briefs

Motorist could face charges

SANILAC COUNTY – Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies say a one-vehicle crash Thursday could lead to criminal charges for a motorist.

The crash was reported shortly after 2 p.m. on M-53 near Clifford Road in Marlette Township, according to Sgt. Matthew Armstrong of the sheriff's department.

"The investigation determined that a 26-year-old female from Ray was northbound on M-53 and lost control of her 2007 Dodge passenger car. The vehicle left the roadway on the east side of the road and overturned before landing on its roof," Armstrong reported.

The driver was transported to Marlette Hospital by Marlette EMS. Investigators said they believe she had been wearing her seatbelt, and the vehicle's airbags deployed.

Armstrong said alcohol was a factor in the crash and a request for charges will be forwarded to the prosecutor's office at the completion of the investigation.

Deputies were assisted at the scene by the Marlette Police Department, Michigan State Police and Marlette Fire Department.

Huron register seeking term

HURON COUNTY — Sarah Holz-Durr recently announced she is seeking re-election as the Huron County register of deeds.

She won the seat in mid-2018 when Sheri Stanton retired early.

The register of deeds office is responsible for recording and maintaining the legal documents pertaining to the transfer and encumbrance of land and property in the county.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

Grants go to area businesses

Continued from page one.

communities such as Gagetown," he noted.

Of the 64 applications submitted by businesses, 50 applicants requested a grant through the Small Business Relief program. The total amount of grant funding requested was \$426,500, far more than the \$86,000 state officials determined would be available in grants for allocation in Tuscola County, Erickson said.

"We also received 14 applications requesting a loan through the program. The total amount of loans requested was \$1.339 million," he added.

Business owners in Tuscola County who were awarded funding say they're thankful for the help as they continue to navigate financial challenges resulting from the pandemic.

"I want to thank the EDC again for the financial assistance that made all the difference for us in Cass City," said Tony Nika, who owns Nick's Country Oven in Cass City.

Pam Nowaczyk, owner of Sherwood on the Hill, agreed the funding came at a good time.

"It helped us out a lot – it helped us keep up with our electric bill and (expenses) like that. We were very appreciative of it," said Nowaczyk, whose restaurant is open on Thursdays and Fridays for take-out. Nowaczyk said she and her two daughters are currently keeping the businesses running, and their golf course is open as well, but restrictions in place have made for a slow start. Still, she indicated, they hope to be able to hire their summer staff in time.

Don Hall of the Himelhoch Bed and Breakfast, said the funding he received has made a big difference for his business as well. "This grant has been a major key to keep our doors open during this trying time," he added.

"It is organizations like the EDC working on our behalf, showing great leadership, which is needed now more than ever," Hall said. "This program shows the vital and ongoing role that the EDC plays throughout Tuscola County."

Erickson said EDC officials are continuing to work with numerous businesses, managers and local banks to submit applications to the Small Business Administration (SBA).

"The SBA's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is a loan that provides an incentive for businesses to keep paying their staff," he explained. "The SBA will forgive the loan if all employees are paid over an eight-week period and the loan proceeds are used for working capital – including payroll expenses."

In addition, the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act includes the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, which provides small businesses with loans of up to \$2 million.

Dorothy Sue Sorenson

Dorothy Sue "Susie" Sorenson, 63, of Cass City, died following a brief illness Sunday, May 2, 2020 in McLaren Thumb Region, Bad Axe.

She was born April 21, 1957 in Detroit to Gordon and Frances Lowery Guthrie.

She married Dale Mark Sorenson July 27, 1979 in Roseville. He died November 15, 2014.

Dorothy graduated from Fraser High School in 1975. For many years she worked as a housekeeper for Cass City United Methodist Church. Dorothy's main love and focus was always her family, especially her children and grandchildren.

A good cook, she kept her family well fed and no one ever went hungry. A favorite family meal was her famous pigs in a blanket. Dorothy was fond of visiting B's in Cass City and recently Murphy's of Bad Axe for a treat of coffee and donuts. She looked forward to the Christmas holiday when she could bake Christmas cookies and make memories with her grandchildren.

Dorothy is survived by her children: Scott (Danielle) Sorenson of Sterling Heights, Jordan (Rick) Schank of Cass City, Jason Sorenson of Cass City and Kyle Sorenson of Cass City; grandchildren: Alex, Alessandra, Alyssa, Alexa, Dakota, Austin and Eliana; brother, Guy Guthrie of Mt. Clemens; sister-in-law, Terry Milner of Roseville; brothers-in-law: Lynn Sorenson of Cass City and Craig (Carolyn) Sorenson of Cass City.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dale; and sister, Jackie Dale.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to Kranz Funeral Home for the benefit of the family.

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



Public Notice?

Without it in your newspaper, you're left guessing what the government's doing in your community.

Public notice is the people's right to know the issues that affect them directly, and people know the place to find public and legal notices is in the newspaper. What you're holding right now is a historical document, printed and published with a date on every page. Public notices have been posted here since the days of colonial America. In our democratic society your newspaper fulfills an essential role in serving your right to know. After all, it shouldn't be your responsibility to know how to look, where to look, or when to look, let alone to know what you're looking for to be informed. Why guess? That is why you have, and read, your newspaper... where your right to know is already being served.



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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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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.

General Merchandise
 WANTED - 1964 and earlier silver dollars, half dollars, quarters and dimes. Paying 10 times the face value. Call 989-392-7355, 2-4-22-52

FOR SALE - Small bales, second cutting alfalfa grass; also large rounds, call 872-3549. 2-5-6-3

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

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

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

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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

Man accidentally shoots himself at campground

Huron County Sheriff's deputies responded to an accidental shooting at a private campground in Hume Township Friday night.

Officers were dispatched to the scene shortly after 6 p.m., according to Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson.

"When our deputies arrived, a 49-year-old man from Sterling Heights was being loaded into an ambulance from Thumb EMS to be taken to Thumb McLaren Hospital with a gunshot wound to his left wrist," Hanson reported.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the victim and a 24-year-old man from Warren had just finished raking leaves and had walked over to a table," he said. "As the 24-year-old was leaning over the table, his holstered 9 mm handgun apparently was about to fall out. At that time, he and the victim attempted to get the gun before it completely fell out of the holster. In the shuffle, the gun accidentally discharged.

"A nearby 60-year-old Port Austin man verified their account as he, too, witnessed the event," Hanson said. "Both he and the 49-year-old man from Sterling Heights administered first aid, which included a tourniquet."

The blast actually blew the victim's watch off his hand as it exited his wrist," Hanson said, noting the victim's wounds weren't expected to be life-threatening.

Pair sentenced last week

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

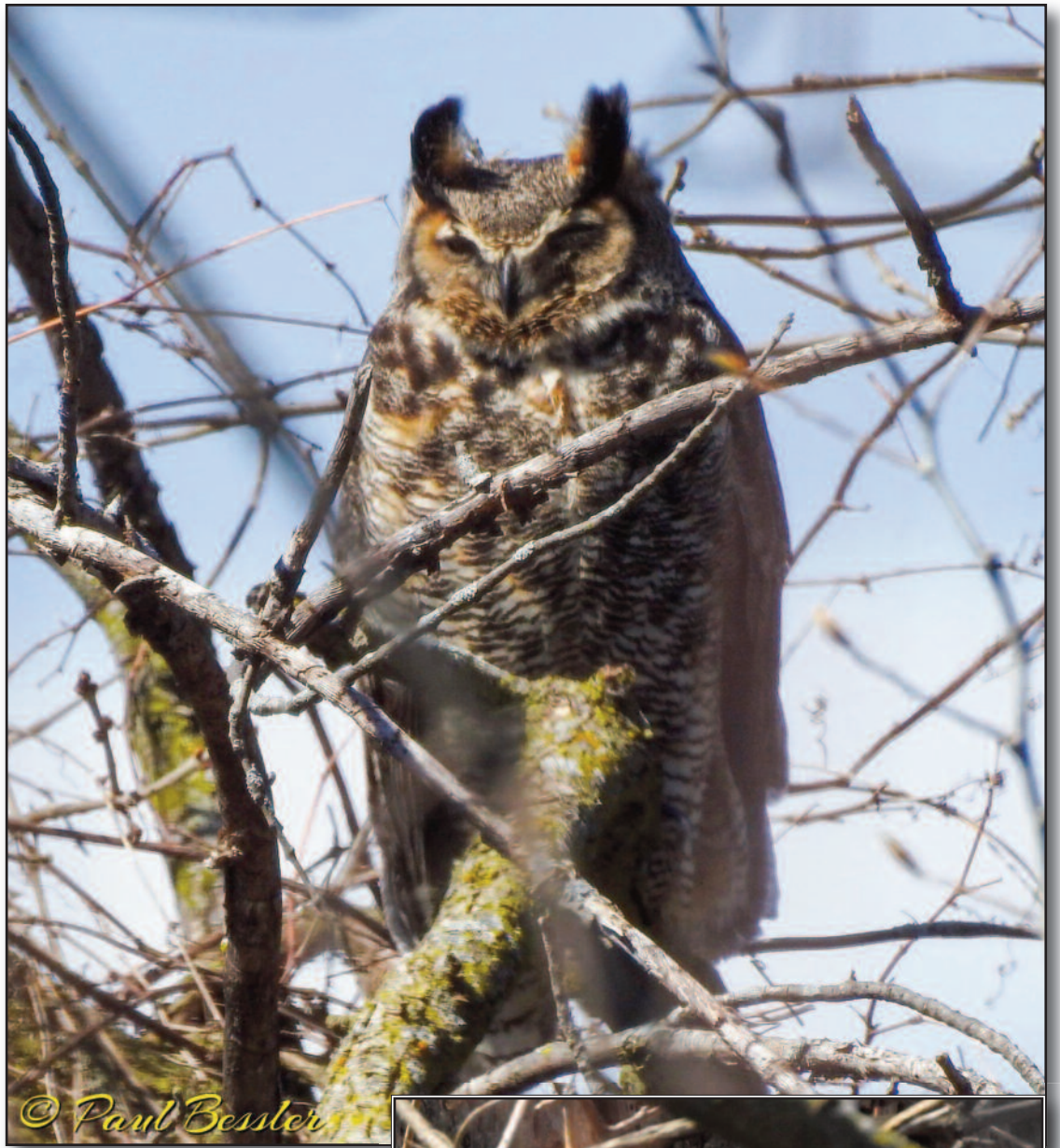
*Jonathon A. Giddings, 20, Caro, pleaded no contest to charges of attempted assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, and domestic violence Dec. 22 in Almer Township.

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

*Steven N. Milot, 25, Mayville, was sentenced to 365 days in the county jail following his pleas of no contest to carrying a weapon with unlawful intent, assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony Jan. 5 in Mayville.

In a separate case, Milot pleaded no contest to charges of larceny in a building and domestic violence, second offense, Jan. 13 in Caro.

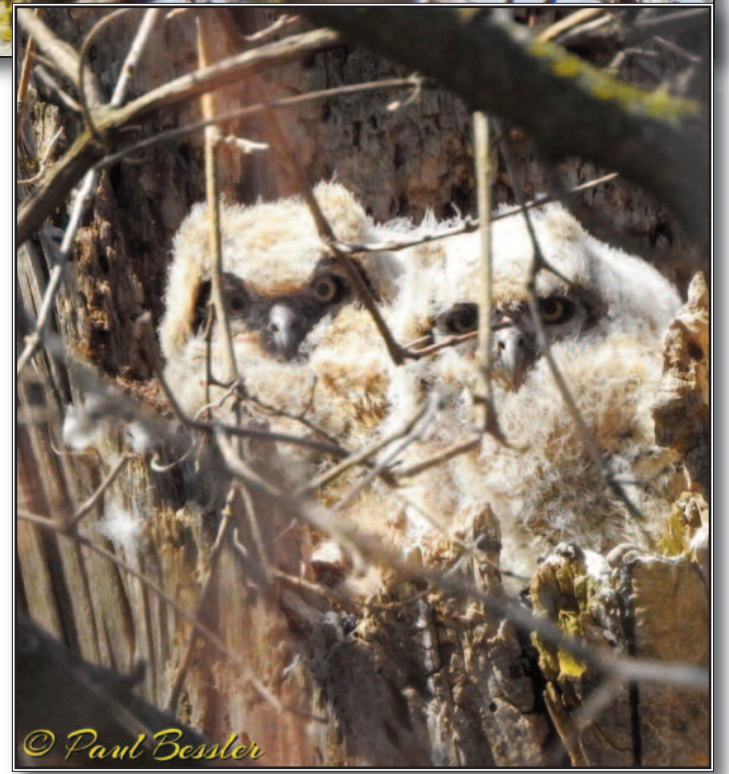
Aside from jail time, the balance of which was deferred by the court, he was placed on probation for a combined 60 months and ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$2,034.



© Paul Bessler

Who, me?

WITH ITS long, earlike tufts, intimidating yellow-eyed stare, and deep hooting voice, the Great Horned Owl is the quintessential owl of story-books. Cass City photographer Paul Bessler captured these shots of a mother owl and her owlets during a recent outing in Tuscola County.



© Paul Bessler

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All prices are BES-SRP at participating retailers while supplies last.† The actual listed guide bar length may vary from the effective cutting length based on which powerhead it is installed on.