



CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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THE VFW POST 3644, Cass City, “avenue of flags” is pictured above at the Elkland Township Cemetery in this file photo. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted officials to cancel area Memorial Day parades and ceremonies, a group of volunteers plans to erect the local VFW post’s impressive American flag display at both the Elkland Township and Novesta Township cemeteries.

Memorial Day ceremonies canceled

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Not surprisingly, officials have decided to cancel this year’s Memorial Day parade in Cass City along with the traditional ceremonies honoring veterans at the

Elkland and Novesta township cemeteries and, in Huron County, the Grant Township ceremony.

However, Mark Zmierski, senior chief, U.S. Navy (retired), who has served as master of ceremonies for the services in both Elkland and Novesta townships, is

urging residents to observe the day on their own.

After consulting with Joe Merchant, commander of VFW Post 3644, Cass City, Zmierski said Friday they decided it would be best to cancel this year’s ceremony in Cass City out of concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, Zmierski reported a
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Board adopts resolution challenging the governor

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution Thursday opposing Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s executive orders, and demanding to know the criteria she used to make them.

The resolution is called Move Tuscola County Forward.

The board adopted the measure after talking via teleconference with 84th District state Rep. Phil Green (R-Millington), 31st state Senator Kevin Daley (R-Lum) and Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Steve Erickson.

It is believed to be the first resolution of its kind directly challenging and questioning the governor’s executive orders.

District Three Commissioner Kim Vaughn spearheaded the resolution because of what he described as the “devastating impact” her orders are having on small businesses.

“About 48 percent of those employed in our county are employed by small businesses,” he said, noting several of them won’t be able to recover financially from the shutdowns mandated in an effort to slow the spread of the virus.

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Freedom Fest canceled

Cass City Freedom Festival organizers are hoping to salvage some fireworks this year, but the July 4 celebration, scheduled for July 2-5, will not take place this summer as planned.

That was the news announced Monday on the organization’s Facebook page.

“After much consideration and discussion, the Cass City Freedom Festival Committee has decided to cancel our Freedom Festival until 2021,” organizers stated. “The well-being and safety of our community is top priority.”

Officials noted, however, that they are working on a plan to still host the community’s annual fireworks display Saturday, July 4.

Schools anticipate staggering cuts in funding from state

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

All of the money spent on the COVID-19 pandemic is leaving a mountain of red ink at the federal and state levels that will eventually have to be made up via funding cuts.

And, in Michigan, one of the targets of those cuts will be public schools, which depend on the per-pupil state funding that makes up the lion’s share of revenue in their annual budgets.

Over the last few weeks, news reports have indicated schools could face cuts of up to 25 percent.

During a virtual meeting with Tuscola County Commissioners Thursday, 31st District state Senator Kevin Daley (R-Lum), confirmed reductions in school funding are on the horizon.

According to Daley, estimates indicate Michigan is facing a deficit of roughly \$3.6 million stemming from COVID-19-related costs as well as from the loss of sales tax revenue due to businesses being closed for the past several weeks.

Any revenue cut, much less that steep of one, will have a significant impact on schools, especially those in rural areas such as the Thumb.

A state aid cut of between 20 and 25 percent translates into a loss of \$1,622 to \$2,028 – per student – for schools in the coming year.

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School officials ready to tackle new budget

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Armed with the latest funding estimates from the state, Cass City School officials agreed Monday to begin the process of preparing a new budget for the coming year by scheduling a sub-committee meeting for Monday, June 8, followed by a special board of education meeting a week later.

Cass City Schools Chief Financial Officer Allison Zimba updated the school board during Monday’s rescheduled monthly meeting.

Zimba, who reported in April that state officials were looking at a per-pupil funding reduction of anywhere from \$300 to \$1,000 in an effort to offset red ink related to the COVID-19 pandemic, reported the latest projected cut is \$700 per student. On a positive note, she added, it appears schools will be allowed to use the previous year’s enrollment totals, so a loss of students in the coming months won’t impact budgets.

For Cass City, the loss of \$700 per pupil adds up to \$690,000, but the

Please turn to page 4.



CASS CITY Recreational Park is open, but state executive orders designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 has forced the village to shut down its popular day camp program. The traditional Memorial Day weekend opening of Helen Stevens Memorial Pool has also been canceled, with no firm plans yet to open the facility.

Distracted driver plows into buggy, woman injured

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Tuscola County Sheriff’s Department investigators say distracted driving contributed to a traffic crash that left a Cass City area woman injured and a horse dead late Friday morning east of the village.

“Sgt. Mike Mattlin and Deputy Spencer Coleman responded to a crash on M-81 near Crawford Road in Elkland Township around 11 a.m. Their investigation showed a vehicle and a horse and buggy were both going East bound on M-81, (and) the car rear ended the buggy,” Sheriff Glen Skrent reported.

“The buggy driver was thrown from the buggy and the horse was killed,” he added.

Skrent identified the driver of the car as a 40-year-old Deford area man. He was not injured.

“The driver of the buggy, a 22-year-old female, was injured and transported to Hills and Dales General Hospital by MMR,” he noted.

“Statements by the car driver indicated he did not see the buggy
Please turn to page 5.

Cass City Parks and Recreation day camp, pool shut down for now

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The increasing warmth of spring and early summer annually draws the young and young at heart to Cass City Recreational Park, where hundreds of residents and visitors take advantage of the village's expansive park, including ball fields, outdoor pool and organized activities of all kinds.

But the COVID-19 pandemic has turned the local recreational treasure into a virtual ghost town this year, at least for now.

"Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges and restrictions associated with group activities, the summer recreation program will not be accepting registrations at this time, (and) it is very unlikely that we will be able to run the program during the summer if social distancing requirements remain in place," Cass City Village Manager Debbie Powell announced last week.

"The phones have just been ringing off the hook," Powell said of area residents calling the municipal building in recent days with questions about this year's offerings and schedules.

Unfortunately, while Cass City's recreational park remains open for public use, that's about all officials can promise at this time.

"Please use caution as the amenities and playground equipment are not disinfected or sanitized," Powell noted. "Public restrooms and fountains are not open or opera-

tional at this time."

Cass City's day camp program has been a popular offering over the years.

Designed for children ages six to 12 years of age, the program typically includes regularly scheduled "pool days" as well as several field trips, crafts, sports, games and reading time during the summer months. A breakfast and lunch program is also made available in the Cass City Elementary School cafeteria.

"We had 79 students registered for the day camp (in 2019)," said Powell, who pointed out the daily average attendance varied because not all participating youngsters took part in all of the activities or attended every day.

As for the Helen Stevens Memorial Pool, Powell said there will be no traditional Memorial Weekend opening this year.

"The pool may open for a limited period of time this summer," Powell said. "(But) the decision to open the pool would be dependent upon many factors; the health, safety and welfare of the public and our employees are first and foremost, and compliance with federal and state guidelines.

"At this time, no swimming lessons are being scheduled this summer due to the uncertainty of whether we will be able to operate the pool during the pandemic. These decisions are based on what we know now, and subject to change," Powell noted.

In 2019, nearly 280 youngsters

were signed up for swimming lessons at the Cass City pool, compared to 308 children signed up in 2018.

Elimination of the day camp and closure of the pool won't have a negative financial impact on the village because neither program generates enough revenue to cover expenses.

The village budgeted \$16,450 for the day camp in 2020, and revenues are projected at \$11,000, for example. This year's pool budget, meanwhile, was set at just over \$91,000, with swimming fees expected to generate \$25,500.

In spite of the uncertainty surrounding village parks and recreation activities in the coming weeks, Powell is quick to point out the local facilities continue to undergo improvements/upgrades and will offer the community outstanding opportunities for fun once it's safer to venture out again.

The village has been busy with plans and fundraising related to construction of a new splash park near the pool, and there will be some additions to the free-standing playground equipment adjacent to the park gazebo, for example.

Residents can inquire about updates on the status of the pool and all village recreational facilities and programs by calling the municipal building at (989) 872-2911 or visiting the website www.cass-city.org.

Board challenges governor in resolution

Continued from page one.

During the county's April meeting, Erickson said 20 to 30 percent of businesses — maybe more — could close their door permanently as a result of the governor's on-going "stay home, stay safe" shutdown.

Vaughn, a business owner himself, pointed out that business owners are responsible adults who know how to operate safely, so the orders are putting an undue burden on them.

The Tuscola County resolution states, in part, that the governor's orders "placed arbitrary and inconsistent restrictions, without reasonable scientific justification, on individual's rights to associate, assemble, worship, and travel, including but not limited to the ability of a person to assemble for worship or see family members outside of a person's household, regardless of efforts taken to implement national guidelines for safe social distancing that can combat the spread of COVID-19 and without considering if a person has recovered from COVID-19."

Tuscola's resolution contends the governor does not have the authority to enact most of her orders and is violating the constitution. Commissioners are also demanding that she produce the scientific data she used to make her decisions.

As of Thursday, there were 163 cases of the virus as well as 17 deaths in the county. Those numbers rank Tuscola 22nd out of the state's 83 counties for the highest number of positive COVID-19 cases.

The county board is demanding that state officials provide the following in three days:

*The daily number of available hospital related beds occupied by all patients since Jan. 1, 2020, segregated by in-patient beds, negative air flow beds, and intensive care unit (ICU) beds.

*The daily number of available hospital related beds occupied by verified COVID-19 patients since Jan. 1, 2020, segregated by in-patient beds, negative air flow beds, and ICU beds.

*The daily number of emergency room visits in total and the daily number of emergency room visits by patients testing positive for COVID-19 since Jan. 1, 2020.

*The daily number of verified COVID-19 hospitalizations and verified COVID-19 deaths that are related to retirement or nursing homes since Jan. 1, 2020.

*The daily number of verified COVID-19 hospitalizations and verified COVID-19 deaths of individuals, who have had other pre-existing or underlying health conditions, since Jan. 1, 2020, with a segregation of those health

conditions and a breakdown of verified COVID-19 hospitalizations and verified COVID-19 deaths by age, gender and race.

*The daily number of ventilators available and daily inventories of hospital Personal Protection Equipment since April 9, 2020.

*The number of medical professionals that have been furloughed, had work hours reduced, or received a cut in pay since March 10, 2020.

*All data related to emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and deaths related to COVID-19 patients be verified and confirmed to be COVID-19 positive patients, and the date of emergency visit, hospitalization, or death be recorded as the actual date of occurrence, not the date of any data adjustments being made subsequently.

The resolution also encourages

county residents to "continue to follow national guidelines for safe social distancing and the county continues to take specific measures to protect the population most at risk, including those residing in nursing homes and retirement facilities.

"...we encourage businesses in Tuscola County to determine the best approach to implement national guidelines for safe social distancing as they begin to open up and move Michigan forward without the Legislature extending the state of emergency and without the declaration of a statewide declaration of disaster," the resolution states.

According to Vaughn, Lapeer County Commissioners are expected to support Tuscola's resolution by adopting it, and he hopes other counties will follow suit.

Area ceremonies canceled

Continued from page one.

group of volunteers has come forward with plans to install the local VFW post's impressive "avenue of flags" display, which will be set up at both the Elkland Township and Novesta Township cemeteries by Monday morning.

"There will be no parade for Memorial Day," Zmierski said. He added, however, it would be appropriate for everyone to take time to remember those who lost their lives defending their nation.

"These men gave the ultimate sacrifice — their lives — in service to our country," he said. "First and foremost, never forget. We must remind ourselves that freedom comes at a cost, and we must never forget those that have fought and fallen to preserve the freedoms of our great nation.

"Please tell you're your children, grandkids and great-grandkids of such men and women," he added. "Every day should be Memorial Day to remember these brave men and women, and never forget the sacrifice they gave for our freedom.

"We must also always remember the families who lost a loved one in service to our country."

Zmierski lauded the efforts of Elkland Township Cemetery Sexton Steve Wright and his crew, saying, "The U.S. veteran markers and crisp new American flags have been placed on the Elkland Township cemetery graves of our brave men and women who have served our great country."

The veterans memorial in Cass City lists the names of local servicemen who paid the ultimate sacrifice in various wars and conflicts over the years.

The names include:

World War I Auslander, Floyd; Gillies, Russell; Hutchinson, Benoni; Lowe, George; McConnell, Ira; McRae, Donald; Patterson, Lester; Perkins, Ernest; Seeger, Arthur; and Spencer, George Leo.	World War II (Cont.) Reagh, Grant-MIA; Spencer, Myron; Spencer, Orton; Vaden, Edward; Walmsley, James; Wright, Roland; and Wehl, Lawrence.
World War II Anker, Dean-MIA; Dewey, Russell; Dickinson, Floyd; Englehart, Ralph; Ewing, Alexander; Horner, Romney; Kappen, Warren; McComb, George;	Korean War Hartwick, Gerald; Karr, Robert Reed; and Leboida, Richards S.-MIA.
	Vietnam War Giddings, John Patrick; Graham, David Del; and McPhail, Morris Gene.
	Operation Iraqi Freedom Howe, Casey E.

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In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Remember those who have served

Over the years, Memorial Day has increasingly become a holiday weekend devoted to family gatherings, trips to the beach, barbecues and fireworks, with some folks giving very little thought to the men and women who have died while serving their country.

We're proud to say, however, that Cass City residents and their neighbors in surrounding communities still give Memorial Day the respect it deserves.

We believe that will be true this year, too, although gatherings of virtually any kind have been put on hold as many areas of our state and nation continue to take seriously the recommendations of the medical community to stay home in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Sure, family members can still enjoy the holiday weekend with camp fires and cookouts, but there is, and always has been, a sense of deep appreciation here that coincides with what the members of our armed services stand for: patriotism, honor, dedication and sacrifice, with many paying the ultimate price to secure and keep our freedoms.

In the Cass City community, folks still remember to remove their hats when they recite the Pledge of Allegiance or hear the first note of the Star Spangled Banner.

For decades, you could see that same demonstration of patriotism in each and every one of the 600 or so flags volunteers with the Cass City Area Historical and Genealogy Society place on the graves of veterans resting at Elkland Township Cemetery a week prior to the Memorial Day holiday. You could also see it in the faces of members of Cass City Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3644 as they set up their impressive "Avenue of Flags" in honor of their comrades.

These folks aren't teenagers, and yet regardless of age, in years past they would go about placing this tribute with a sense of purpose. And respect.

Memorial Day, formerly known as Decoration Day, originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who have died in all wars.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. That practice continues, but the pandemic that has gripped the state, nation and world for several weeks now has forced organizers of Memorial Day services, including those in Elkland, Novesta and Grant townships, to cancel this year's gatherings.

Memorial Day typically marks the start of the summer vacation season. It's certain many residents' plans for various outings have been postponed this year, but we hope everyone will enjoy the holiday weekend – safely – just the same.

We also encourage everyone, in their own way, to take a moment to remember the many servicemen and women who are not here today because of their sacrifice for the freedoms the rest of us enjoy to this day.

It's the very least we can do. It's the right and honorable thing to do.

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Each birthday is a gift



I recently marked a birthday, and because I'm old, I've celebrated a lot of them.

As the years went by, my perspective on several things changed. A quote from Winston Churchill sums up one of the changes that I noticed:

"When you're 20, you care what everybody thinks. When you're 40, you stop caring what everyone thinks. And, when you are 60, you realize no one was ever thinking about you in the first place."

I used to be very self-conscious when I was much younger, but fortunately that changed as the years went by. I learned that no matter what you do or don't do, people are going to form their own opinion — right or wrong, good or bad.

It is not just because of my age that I have a different perspective.

I've been a wife, a widow and divorced. I had two sons, but one died. As a journalist, I work hard to just present the facts that are happening at area meetings and events. And, as a columnist, I can write about pretty much anything I want. Most of my columns center around my life and experiences.

Because of my recent birthday, I've been reminiscing with my son, Jason, about some of my and our past shared adventures.

And, of all of the birthdays that I have had, there are only two that I remember well. My birthday in May 2000 is one, which was about a month after the house fire.

The boys bought me a cake and they kindly only put one candle on it. When I told them that I appreciated their kindness of not loading up the cake with the appropriate amount of candles, they just looked at each other and smugly said they didn't want to deal with another house fire.

The other birthday I remember well was in 2011 when Jason woke me to say Osama bin Laden, the founder of the Islamist terrorist group, Al-Qaeda, had been killed.

We watched the news together. Then, we decided to go to the grave of my son, Army Sgt. Charles "Chuck" Drier. He was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq in May 2005.

My ex-husband blamed me for Chuck's death at the funeral — that I had let our son join the Army. Chuck talked about joining the service shortly after high school, but his dad threw a fit about it, so he didn't join. There were no wars going on at that time.

Later, when he was 23 years old, he again said he wanted to join the service. At that age, he was a man and needed to make his own decisions. As a mother, I reminded him of the dangers and that it would not be like playing war with the neighbor boys in Indianfields Park in Caro.

Anyway, Jason and I bought a bottle of Lambrusco

wine to go from the Colwood Bar that night. Chuck had introduced us to that wine, so it was fitting that we bought a bottle to take to his gravesite with us.

We were sitting in the Ellington Township Cemetery at about 2 a.m., drinking wine, talking about Seal Team 6 and memories of Chuck. I learned about some of my sons' misadventures that night that I was happy I didn't know about when they happened.

After a while, Jason started to worry the police might show up at the cemetery and we would be in trouble.

I said I didn't care. I would go to jail because being there that night was important to me; I wanted to be close to both of my sons.

Since that night nine years ago, I have had many more birthdays. I'm old, but at least I'm still here.

There are many like Chuck who will never have the chance to grow old. So, I celebrate each birthday. I've learned to view aches, pains and health issues that come with age as gifts of life.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Northwood Meadows Director Kelly Richmond is sad to pass along news that the Tuscola Senior Alliance Committee has cancelled the 2020 Tuscola County Senior Health Fair and the Tuscola County Senior Ball.

"The Tuscola Senior Alliance Committee regretfully is announcing the cancellation of the 2020 Tuscola County Senior Health Fair held in June of each year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For this same reason, the 2020 Tuscola County Senior Ball held in October of each year at the Caro Knights of Columbus Hall will be canceled. We hope to bring you bigger and better programs in the year 2021. We appreciate the support you all have shown us in the previous years," she said.

Sign of the times. The Michigan High School Athletic Association has made the decision to delay the opening of officials' registration for the 2020-21 seasons until June in order to have a better understanding of where we stand in returning to school sports in accordance with orders for the state of Michigan.

I sure hope it doesn't come to be but canceling high school sports this fall certainly seems a possibility.

A free hygiene drive will take place Saturday, June 6th at the Novesta Church of Christ pavilion from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The drive-thru giveaway will include youth, teen and children hygiene products while supplies last.

The church is located at 2896 Cemetery Road, Cass City. Social distancing measures will be in place.

Don't forget the Chronicle office will be closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day. Deadlines will remain unchanged, but newsstands and subscriber copies will be delivered a day later than usual next week.

Concerning travel plans predictions for the annual start of summer weekend, well, according to the AAA NewsRoom website, for the first time in 20 years, AAA will not issue a Memorial Day travel forecast, as the accuracy of the economic data used to create the forecast has been undermined by COVID-19. The annual forecast — which estimates the number of people traveling over the holiday weekend — will return next year.

"Last year, 43 million Americans traveled for Memorial Day Weekend — the second-highest travel volume on record since AAA began tracking holiday travel volumes in 2000," said Paula Twidale, senior vice president, AAA Travel. "With social distancing guidelines still in practice, this holiday weekend's travel volume is likely to set a record low." Stay healthy and happy holiday.

Letters to the Editor

Officers not forgotten

With Friday being National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, our office would like to pay tribute and remember those who have fallen in the line of duty.

An estimated 24,236 officers from across the country have paid the ultimate price. It's being reported on the Officer Down Memorial Page website that so far this year, 77 officers nationwide have lost their lives while on duty.

One was a Detroit Police officer, making him the 604th officer from our state, since records were first kept, to die in the line of duty. To further break it down, over the last five years, 940 officers nationwide have lost their lives, with 18 being from our state. Violent gunfire continues to be one of the top causes of line of duty deaths.

Locally, two of those 604 Michigan officers were from our county and served at our office. They were Sheriff Joseph Murray and Deputy Kelly Vermeersch. Sheriff Murray lost his life June 2, 1932, when he drowned off of the Port Crescent State Park during an illegal fishing investigation. Deputy Vermeersch died June 11, 2000, in an automobile accident in Casseville Township.

We here at the Huron County Sheriff's Office will never forget these two men and we ask all to do the same, as well as think of those many women and men nationwide today that have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving their communities.

Kelly J. Hanson,
Huron County sheriff

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Tuscola sees spike in virus cases

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A spike in COVID-19 cases last week in Tuscola County was the result of an outbreak at a facility in the Vassar area, according to Ann Hepfer, health officer for the Tuscola and Huron county health departments.

Hepfer reported the increase of 23 cases involved an outbreak at Wolverine Human Services.

"They have 25 of 38 female clients at the center and four staff who tested positive," Hepfer said. "Wolverine is working with the Health Department on containing this virus. It is only located in one of the areas of the camp and not widespread."

Hepfer reminds residents that the health department continues to offer COVID-19 drive-through testing in both Caro and Bad Axe.

Testing at the Tuscola County Health Department parking lot is offered on Tuesdays and Thurs-

days from 9 to 11 a.m. In Bad Axe, testing is at the Bay Great Lakes Health Care Center parking lot on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon, weather permitting.

"We have never run out of test kits yet, so please come out and get tested," Hepfer said. "We need to test more essential workers (all those whose job classification have enabled them to continue working during the pandemic)."

"Right after Memorial Day, we will be ready to start evening and afternoon testing in Tuscola County," added Hepfer, who noted a schedule will be released as soon as possible.

"It was difficult to find the personal protective equipment (PPE) we need for staff safety, and we needed it to continue to test, but we should have it all by the middle of this week. It's not all medical grade, but it will work."

Those planning to be tested do not need a physician's order.

However, they must present written information that includes full name, date of birth, address, telephone number and insurance information and numbers.

Residents without insurance are encouraged to call (989) 753-6000 for assistance.

Eligibility for testing includes the following:

*People with symptoms or a combination of symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing or at least two of these symptoms: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and/or new loss of taste or smell.

*Healthcare workers and 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 classified as essential).

*Those ages 65 and older with chronic health conditions.

Latest numbers

Between Monday, May 11, and Monday May 18, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased from 213 to 255, with the three counties' combined death toll rising from 23 to 25.

As of Monday afternoon, Tuscola County had recorded 172 confirmed cases and 19 deaths, Huron County had recorded 44 cases and one death, and Sanilac County, 39 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.

According to the data, Tuscola County had recorded 165 cases and 18 fatalities as of Friday. The totals represented an increase of 41 new cases and two additional deaths compared to the week before.

Of the confirmed cases, 38 were reported in the Caro zip code (an increase of one), followed by 42 in the Vassar area (up from 24) and 24 in Millington (an increase of five cases). Officials reported 31 cases in the Cass City zip code (up from 18), with five in the DeFord area and one in the Kingston area. No cases have been reported in the Gagetown zip code.

Statewide, Monday's total of confirmed cases reached 51,915, with a total of 4,915 deaths, compared to 47,552 cases and 4,584 deaths a week earlier.



A SMOLDERING fire in a pellet bin at the Michigan Sugar Company factory in Caro last week prompted officials to call the Caro Fire Department, which used its 105-foot aerial ladder to reach the roof of the bin to remove a section that had come loose from the pressure.

Caro firemen focus on bin hotspots at area sugar plant

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

There were some tense moments at the Michigan Sugar Company factory in Caro last week when a fire in a large pellet bin caused two of 20 roof panels to blow off the structure due to building pressure.

The Caro Fire Department was called to the factory, located at 725 S. Almer St., at about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

"One panel fell to the ground, landing about five feet from the bin. The second panel was left hanging from the bin and was removed by the Caro Fire Department," explained Rob Clark, director of communications and community relations for Michigan Sugar. "No one was injured in the incident."

According to Clark, company employees have been monitoring the bin for a couple weeks and working with local fire officials to control hotspots inside the bin.

Caro Fire Department were called to the factory twice on Monday when sugar crews found that hotspots had flared up when removing pellets from the bin.

"We were called Monday for smoke coming from a silo filled with dry pellets that (are) used for animal feed. The silo was filled with smoke from the product that was smoldering," said Caro Fire Chief Randy Heckroth. "It is believed the pellets may have become wet, which caused the smoldering and a type of spontaneous combustion to occur."

However, the department had to be careful in how it approached the situation.

"When the water reaches the pellets, they swell...and the added weight of the water can compromise the structure's integrity, and possibly cause a collapse," explained Heckroth. "Also, when using water on a hot surface, it turns into steam. If the steam is not able to be released, it can cause the structure to over pressurize and cause a building to collapse."

Although the department did use water, fire fighters limited the amount, allowing the fire to cool without compromising the structure.

Hotspots flared up again Tuesday, causing a build-up of heat inside the bin and eventually leading to the incident involving the roof panels blowing off. Fire fighters used the department's 105-foot aerial ladder to reach the roof and remove the section that had come loose. Water was also poured into the silo to cool it down.

In total, the fire department responded four times to the bin fire/smoldering issue, and it may not be over.

"The product must be removed for this to be over. This may take a few weeks to get everything out.

"We would like to put a few thousand gallons of water into it and cool it good. However, we know that would not be advisable. The fire department will continue to work with the sugar plant to get this resolved as soon as possible," he added.

School officials ready to tackle new budget

Continued from page one.

net loss to the district would actually be roughly \$450,000 after a federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act subsidy is figured into the equation.

Zimba noted the board has already discussed covering the loss with a combination of fund balance dollars and a reduction in expenses, and she suggested that the board schedule a sub-committee meeting to draft some proposals and report to the whole board next month.

Board President Alice Zaleski volunteered to serve on the committee along with Trustee George Batty and board Vice President Janie Meeker. The subcommittee will meet Monday, June 8, and will present its report during a special board session Monday, June 15, at 7 p.m.

The board is expected to approve the district's 2020-21 spending plan during its next regular monthly meeting, Monday, June 22, at 7 p.m. The state requires schools to have new budgets in place by the end of the June.

In other business Monday, Zimba updated the board on several capital outlay projects planned for this summer, all funded through a voter-approved bond extension.

The bond money is being spent in three phases.

The first phase was completed over the past year, noted Zimba, who pointed out the district's credit rating and a good interest rate generated an extra \$350,000 in funding when it sold its first set of bonds, generating a total of \$2.75 million and enabling school officials to move up several projects.

Among the work completed were

heating, air conditioning and ventilation upgrades at the high school, upgraded security measures at both buildings, purchase of a new bus, hallway improvements throughout the high school, and new ball field dugouts.

In the coming year, the district will tackle several major second-phase projects totaling about \$2.3 million. They include new boilers at the elementary school, a new roof at the elementary building, bathroom renovations throughout the elementary and in two high school restrooms, a new district-wide wireless network, and heating, cooling and ventilation installation in the high school offices.

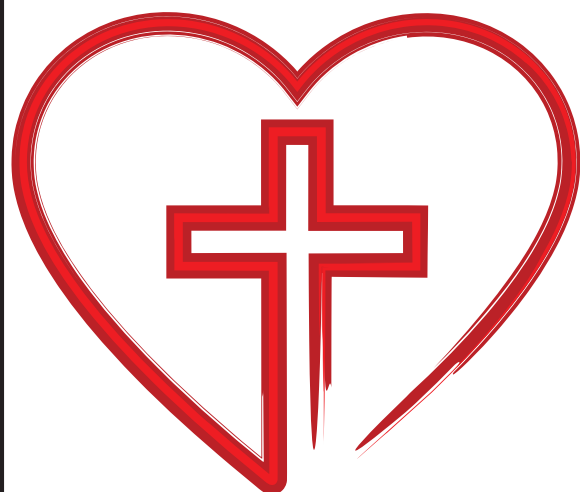
Also Monday, school Supt. Jeff Hartel told the board that school officials are still planning to organize a graduation ceremony for members of the class of 2020.

The options are to host a ceremony at the football field Friday, July 31, at 7 p.m., said Hartel, who added the second option would be to stage the ceremony in the front parking lot at the high school, also July 31, with the ceremony involving a parade led by police and a radio broadcast.



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

Reporter's notebook

Virus is the enemy, not 'us' or 'them'

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



Tuscola County Commissioners made a bold statement Thursday in adopting their Move Tuscola County Forward resolution, challenging Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, and demanding a long list of medical data from the state related to the virus.

They're not alone in challenging the state's ongoing "stay home, stay safe" executive orders, but it seems to me this resolution is more about saving the economy — now — than saving lives.

It's clear our county board strongly believes the governor has overstepped her bounds in issuing and extending orders — without the Legislature's blessing — requiring most residents to stay home and most businesses to shut their doors and remain closed.

It's a message that has also been shared by Republican Thumb lawmakers Phil Green and Kevin Daley, who discussed the matter with commissioners during a teleconference last week. Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Executive Director Steve Erickson has also weighed in on the impact the shutdown has had on small businesses throughout the county.

A host of other groups have also voiced their views across the state; some angry with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, others supporting her efforts.

There is no doubt this shutdown has been devastating to small businesses across this state and nation, especially in regions such as the rural Thumb. It's also certain we're going to have to gradually open businesses again and establish a new normal.

The question is, how quickly?

COVID-19 has already taken a devastating toll on human life, with more than 50,000 or so cases and nearly 5,000 deaths confirmed in Michigan alone so far.

Which begs the question: did our commissioners consult with the county's healthcare community (physicians, health department officials, etc.) before drafting their resolution? Did they discuss it with other organizations, such as our law enforcement agencies and other first responders?

I wonder that because the resolution states, in part, that the governor's executive orders "placed arbitrary and inconsistent restrictions, without reasonable scientific justification, on individuals' rights to associate, assemble, worship, and travel, including but not limited to the ability of a person to assemble for worship or see family members outside of a person's household, regardless of efforts taken to implement national guidelines for safe social distancing that can combat the spread of COVID-19 and without considering if a person has recovered from COVID-19."

I can buy the allegation that some of the governor's orders seem arbitrary and inconsistent, but "without reasonable scientific justification?" Really?

Countless scientists, doctors and other experts agree that opening up the economy again too quickly is almost certain to result in a resurgence in COVID-19 cases, especially with no vaccination in sight, not to mention no generally accepted treatment.

Those same experts have also repeatedly stressed that there's still much unknown about this highly-contagious virus.

As for relying on "efforts taken to implement national guidelines for safe social distancing," have you visited a grocery store or other business allowed to remain open? Don't get me wrong — many store owners are trying to do their part, but the number of adults entering these businesses while ignoring the most basic of safety guidelines (social distancing, wearing face coverings, etc.) is mind boggling.

Sort of reminds me of that scene from the movie "Jaws" in which marine biologist Hooper runs into a cement wall while trying to convince the mayor of Amity Island that he must close the beaches temporarily in order to prevent more shark attacks. Finally, in frustration, Hooper suggests the mayor won't address the problem until it swims up and bites him in the...well, you know.

When you get right down to it, the decision to pursue something with the appearance of "business as usual" comes down to weighing economic impact against the potential for even further widespread illness and death.

Of course, the arguments for and against whether or not our governor is protecting or oppressing Michigan residents will be decided in court.

But those on both sides of the debate need to keep their eye on the ball. We're all facing the same enemy; a virus that is very unforgiving and frequently deadly.

Unfortunately, with so many people stricken with COVID-19, and so many unable to make financial ends meet because they haven't seen a paycheck in weeks, it feels like we're darned if we do, darned if we don't.

I just hope those pushing to rush into re-opening the economy will set aside this "us versus them" mentality. And if they don't, I hope they're prepared to accept responsibility for their actions.

Distracted driver plows into buggy, area woman injured

Continued from page one.

because he was sending an email," the sheriff said. He added the man, whose name has not been released, received several citations.

Aside from MMR, the Cass City Police Department and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officers assisted deputies at the scene.

Fatal crash

A Tuscola County man lost his life in a one-vehicle fatal traffic crash last Wednesday, sheriff's deputies said.

The fatal crash was reported at about 3:40 p.m., according to Skrent, who said the deputies were dispatched to Barkley Road, south of Birch Run Road.

"The driver, a 27-year-old male of Arbela Township, was ejected from the vehicle and was later pronounced deceased at the scene. He was the only passenger in the vehicle," Skrent said.

"A preliminary investigation indicates that the vehicle was northbound on Barkley Rd. when the driver lost control of the vehicle, causing the vehicle to leave the roadway and roll several times. Witnesses...estimated the vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed."

The crash remains under investigation by deputies, who were assisted at the scene by Millington Fire Rescue and Vassar MMR.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2015)

Lauren Potter sent the Cass City Softball team into the district finals over the weekend with a bases loaded walk-off double in the bottom of the 7th inning.

Schneeberger's choice to receive their Athlete of the Week honor goes to the Cass City Lady Red Hawk junior high 3200 meter relay team. Coach Lloyd Schinnerer reports the team of Layna Mathewson, DeeDee Haley, Madi Tschirhart and Kacey Haire teamed up to establish a new standard in the distance relay with a time of 11:31.50. The new mark erased 8 seconds from the previous record set only a year ago. The record setters are all eighth grade students, except Tschirhart, who is only a seventh grade student.

10 YEARS AGO (2010)

Tyler Perry may be fresh out of high school, but he already has his sights set on a career focusing on protecting the rights of others. Even before he steps into a college classroom, however, the Cass City High School senior will have already logged hours of time and effort into protecting the rights of those he considers the most defenseless — the unborn. Perry's efforts haven't gone unnoticed by the Tuscola County Right to Life organization, which has twice named him its High School Oratory Contest's first-place winner, in 2009 and 2010. Now, the Right to Life of Michigan organization has recognized his efforts as an outstanding pro-life high school senior in the state by naming Perry its 2010 Youth Award winner, which comes with a \$300 scholarship.

Katie Swiastyn of Gagetown recently graduated magna cum laude from the College of Education at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU). Swiastyn majored in elementary education and special education, with an endorsement in emotionally impaired. She also minored in mathematics. While attending SVSU, she served as a mentor for the S.M.E.K. (Science and Math Extravaganza for Kids) program. She also was an active member of the SVSU women's lacrosse club team, earning the 2010 "Offensive Player of the Year" honors for the team. Swiastyn is a 2005 graduate of Owendale-Gagetown High School.

Stephanie Pierce, a 2000 Cass City High School graduate, has graduated from the University of Iowa with a PhD in molecular physiology and biophysics. She has taken a post-doctoral position in a research lab at the University of North Carolina, Chappel Hill. Pierce is the daughter of the late Brad Pierce and Kristen Kampe of Cass City.

Cass City's Paul Rubey shot 38 Friday in the final GTW Jamboree at Century Oaks Golf Course in Elkton. The senior lefty was the conference's top individual point producer in 2010.

Sophomore Stephanie Leeson enjoyed a banner week for the Cass City Lady Red Hawks' track team. She claimed the Greater Thumb West pole vault title on Tuesday and became a Division 3 Regional champ Saturday in Vassar.

25 YEARS AGO (1995)

Navy Chief Petty Officer William S. VanAllen, son of Douglas W. and Hilda M. VanAllen of Cass City, was advanced to Senior Chief Petty Officer April 16. He is currently stationed at Assault Craft Unit Two, Little Creek, Va. The 1974 graduate of Cass City High School joined the Navy in November 1975.

Paul and Libby Treiber of Unionville announce the birth of their third daughter, Mackenzie Ann Treiber. She was born May 8 at Bay Medical Center, weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 20 inches long. Mackenzie was welcomed home by her sisters Jessica and Carly.

Kevin Smith of Decker displayed

a research project at a Central Michigan University student exhibition. The second annual Student Research and Creative Endeavors Exhibition featured displays and computer and video demonstrations of class projects, senior and master's degree theses and other research projects by both undergraduate and graduate students, Smith, a senior at CMU majoring in physics, attempted to predict the properties of molecules and small clusters of atoms by using computer-based calculations. A graduate of Cass City High School, Smith is the son of Russell and Janet Smith.

Michelle Lynn Brown and Leana Edwards, both of Cass City, are among 522 top high school seniors from 367 schools throughout the state to receive University of Michigan Regents-Alumni Scholar merit awards for "outstanding academic achievement, scholarly promise and potential contribution to the University community."

35 YEARS AGO (1985)

Born to Gary and Natalie Putnam of Caro, a son, Kyle Christopher, May 10 in Saginaw General Hospital. The baby weighed 7-1/2 pounds. Grandparents are Wayne and Mary Rabideau of Cass City and Kathleen and Charles Putnam of Sun City, AZ.

Del Kostanko was presented the Harold Ferguson award by band director George Bushong for being the outstanding senior class band member. Kostanko has played trombone for Cass City school bands since he was in the fifth grade. The winner of the award is selected by a vote of the band members.

Army Sgt. Roderick C. Leland, son of Robert A. and Betty L. Leland of 2272 U.S. 23, Oscoda, has arrived for duty in Fuerth, West Germany. Leland, a chemical operations specialist with the 1st Armored Division, was previously assigned at Fort Carson, Colo. His wife, Cynthia, is the daughter of Mac McKee of Gagetown.

A pair of 1983 Sandusky High School graduates completed the Journeyman Electrician Course at the Marine Corps Engineer School at Camp LeJeune, N.C. Marine Lance Cpls. Robert Brown and Aaron Blank, both of Snover, graduated from the course that studied maintenance management, blueprint reading and several electrical systems. Brown is the son of Robert J. Brown Sr. and Diane J. Brown, Snover. Blank is the son of Gerald R. and Marion E. Blank, Snover.

40 YEARS AGO (1980)

For the first time since 1966 all the sons and daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Perry were together when they came to attend the wedding of John Perry and Miss Beverly Hurley Saturday. In Cass City for the weekend were Jerrold Perry of Radford, Va., Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Earth, Lisa and David of East Lyme, Conn., Miss Janet Perry from Chicago and Mr. and Mrs. Neil Holt, Brian and Bradley of East Lansing.

Former Cass City resident Sue Surbrook has received a certificate honoring her as outstanding student of the year in commercial foods and culinary arts at the Wilhacochee Vocational Technical School in Inverness, Fla. She earned all A's to receive the honor. Sue moved with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Miller, and sister, Leisha, to Inverness in November of last year. Had they not moved, she would have been graduating from Cass City High School this month.

Julie A. Nagy was valedictorian of this year's graduating class at Northwood Institute in Midland. The honor was presented to her at the college's annual honors day ceremonies recently held on the campus. She received her bachelor of business administration degree at graduation ceremonies Saturday. Having completed the full upper division curriculum at Northwood, Miss Nagy received the bachelor's degree valedictorian honor by maintaining the highest scholastic average in her graduating class. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nagy of E. Akron Road, Caro, and a 1973 graduate of Caro High School. Northwood Institute is a private, coeducational accredited college specializing in career preparation in business.

50 YEARS AGO (1970)

Here's a story with a twist. Pfc. Wayne Seeley and Pfc. David Guinther, cousins, are on duty at different bases in Vietnam. Guinther works in a hospital. Recently Seeley went to Hong Kong on a rest and recuperation trip and stopped to see David at the hospital only to find him gone. Wayne then completed his leave and returned to duty... and promptly twisted his ankle as he jumped from a truck. He was taken to the hospital where Guinther worked and an unplanned reunion resulted. The boys are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Seeley and Mr. and Mrs. Hazen Guinther, all of Cass City.

Two Owen-Gage girls were awarded college scholarships at the Future Homemakers of America State Convention at Western Michigan University last week. Miss Marna Barnes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edric Rapson of Gagetown, was awarded a scholarship from the F.H.A. scholarship fund. Marna plans to attend Michigan State University and study interior decorating. Miss Beth Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walton Brown of Sebewaing, received a scholarship from the Dow Chemical Company. Beth will attend Central Michigan University and is planning to major in Home Economics.

75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Mr. and Mrs. John Guisbert received a letter Monday from their son, Pvt. Dane Guisbert, who is in the Philippines, telling them that he had been slightly wounded in a leg by shrapnel from a Jap mortar shell, but that it's not serious.

The building on East Main St. occupied for many years by E. Paul & Son, implement dealers, has been purchased by that firm from the J. D. Brooker Estate, Realtor C. W. Ewing announces. Sam's Tavern on West Main St. was recently sold by Sam Meagher to Henry Cooklin. The transaction included both business and real estate. Mr. Cooklin has sold a half interest in his purchase to Vern Bogart. Mr. Meagher has bought the Riverside hotel in Cassville.

Mrs. Nelson Harrison received a telegram Wednesday morning directly from her son, Pfc. William N. Harrison, in which he said, "I am well and safe. Hope to see you soon. Love to all at home." On Saturday, Mrs. Harrison learned through the Red Cross that her son had been liberated from a German prison camp and that he inquired as to the welfare of his family here.

100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Mr. Terry, purchaser of the Stone Castle farm just north of town in Deford, is a game little cuss and gets there as if his legs were hung on spiral springs and body composed of rubber. Although he did not come in possession of the ranch til the middle of May, he will have all kinds of Michigan crops from the early radish to the late Irish lemon.

Two State records were broken during the Western State Normal's fourth interscholastic track and field meet. Cass City, with but two men entered and they in competition with the largest high schools in the state won sixth place in the meet and carried off the honors of breaking two of the records. Jas. Brooker set a record of 110 feet 7 inches in the discus and Earl Gowen set a mark of 52 2-5 seconds in the 440 yard dash. Cass City was the leader of the Class B schools and Brooker the highest point winner in that division.

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Daley supports federal funding bill to assist families, frontline workers

Thumb lawmaker Senator Kevin Daley (R-Lum) last Wednesday joined his peers in the Michigan Senate in approving a bill that would make \$524 million in available COVID-19 federal funds to help families in need of financial assistance, deliver much-needed supplies to front-line workers and support critical state infrastructure.

"The brave folks on the front lines have stood tall against this virus and kept our state going. They deserve all of the equipment and resources they need to keep themselves safe as they continue to serve us," said Daley, who represents the 31st District, which includes Tuscola County.

"We all owe a special thank you to our top-notch emergency personnel and medical workers who have been pushed to the limit yet remained strong and continued saving lives."

Senate Bill 690 would provide \$100 million in support pay for first responders, including police

officers, firefighters and EMS workers; \$50 million for additional testing supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) for front-line workers in hospitals and other settings; \$125 million to reduce child care costs for essential workers; and \$178 million to increase pay by \$3 an hour for direct care workers, including those who provide care for seniors in nursing homes, disabled individuals and individuals with mental illnesses.

The legislation also includes language to provide \$11 million to immediately hire an additional 300 temporary workers to the Unemployment Insurance Agency; \$12 million for agriculture processors for testing, facility needs and PPE supplies; \$45 million for at-home learning, summer education and assessment support for schools; and \$2.5 million in assistance to hospitality workers who may not be eligible for unemployment benefits.

"I have received countless calls from folks back home who are

losing hope by the day as their pleas go unanswered by the state's Unemployment Insurance Agency," Daley said. "The current system was not prepared for an influx in the number of unemployment claims and people are not receiving the benefits that were promised to them.

"This funding will not only provide some help to the agency in the meantime, it also includes additional assistance for hardworking Michigan families," he added.

Daley emphasized the importance in quickly utilizing the federal funds as the Legislature works to fill what's expected to be troublesome holes in the state budget.

"This...action by the Senate aims to start spending the \$3.8 billion in federal aid to help Michigan businesses and families fight the coronavirus," Daley said. "It's important that we quickly put these federal dollars to work and provide additional help to those in need."

News briefs

Argyle Township meeting brief

SANILAC COUNTY — Even though the Argyle Township's annual meeting had to be conducted via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it only lasted about 25 minutes.

The key topic of the meeting involved road repair.

Officials reported that Patterson Road, north of Argyle Road, is in bad condition and that a culvert on the roadway has washed out as well. In addition, Patterson Road at the intersection of Stone Road is in need of gravel.

In other matters, the board postponed voting on a two-percent pay increase for salaried employees.

The board also noted that the township fire department's annual auction has been cancelled because of the COVID-19 virus.

Sheriff's services still available

CARO — Although the Tuscola County Sheriff Department's lobby and jail are closed to the public, some business is still being conducted — just not as usual.

Residents who need to purchase permits, gun transfers or have other registration questions are asked to email Deanna Marshall at dmarsh@tuscolacounty.org to set up an appointment. To start the process, fill in the subject line with "gun transfer" or "gun registration" and then describe what needs to be done in the email.

In addition, residents can still drop off old or unwanted medications in the entrance way of the sheriff's department in Caro 24/7.

Two more festivals canceled

SEBEWAING — The COVID-19 pandemic has soured plans for Huron County's sweetest festival this year.

For the last 55 years, Sebewaing has been the place to be mid-summer for the Michigan Sugar Festival, but that won't be the case in 2020.

The event's organizers decided it would be best to postpone what would have been the 56th annual festival until June 17-20, 2021.

Also, the 2020 Bay Port Fish Sandwich Festival has been cancelled following an emergency meeting of the Bay Port Chamber of Commerce Board.

Recycling is up, running again

CARO — With the relaxing of some COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, some services and departments are up and running again.

Among them is Tuscola County Recycling, which is again operating on its regular schedule of being open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

However, in keeping with social distancing guidelines, there will be bins outside to place items in, so pre-sorting is encouraged before arriving, explained Mike Miller, recycling director, who is urges everyone to practice social distancing during the process.

The return of satellite recycling trailers to the communities of Millington, Mayville and Cass City has not yet resumed but will be addressed soon, as will the dates for township trailers on the weekends.

Kingston passes bus checks

KINGSTON — In his maintenance/transportation report, Kingston Community Schools Supt. Matt Drake recently reported the district has passed its annual bus inspection.

"We replaced 67 seat foams and a mirror," said Drake, who offered the board some additional good news, saying, "We are going to get a \$7,000 rebate check from our new boiler installations."

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

Uby Homecoming on hold until 2021

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted cancellation of another popular summer festival in the Thumb, and there may be others, the Uby Village Council learned recently.

Uby Village Trustee Steve Irvine informed the council during recent a regular meeting that the annual Uby Homecoming celebration has been called off in an effort to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, which has claimed hundreds of lives in Michigan.

The virus also prompted a change in the way the latest council meeting was conducted, with some officials meeting at the Bingham/Village Government Center, while others followed online in accordance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's on-going social distancing executive orders.

In attendance at the hall were village President Jason Nicol and trustees Brandon Zdrojewski, Gabe Turner, Sara Schmidt and Andrew Batzer. Trustees Jeff Rubin and Steve Irvine, Police Chief Dave Rothe and village Clerk Barb Butch attended via the Lifesize app.

Village Treasurer Larry Gornow-

icz and DPW Supervisor Dave Franzel had excused absences.

In a related matter, officials discussed another event in the village could also be cancelled due to the virus, although there is hope restrictions will be lifted by the end of the summer.

According to Tim Juhl, a member of the Model T Ford International Club, the club would like to stop in the village Aug. 8 for coffee and donuts and to share a display of 75 to 100 vehicles.

Juhl's request was made and approved at the council's March meeting, before the virus became an issue in the state. At the time, the council approved the club's request.

The Model T Ford International Club, founded in December 1952 in Chicago, was scheduled to host its 64th annual gathering July 19-24 in New Philadelphia, Ohio. However, the organization has since agree to wait until mid-May regarding this year's annual tour in Ohio as well as other events.

In other business, Butch reminded the council they need to contact Bingham Township clerk Joe Trepkoski before June if they will be running for their positions on the November ballot.

Up for re-election are Nicol, Butch and Gornowicz. One, two-year trustee seat along with three,

four-year trustee positions will also be filled during the election.

Also, the council approved putting one of the village's wells out of commission. Well No. Five will be disconnected from the local water system because it has tested too high for arsenic and hasn't been used in years. With the disconnection of the well, the state will inspect that it is done, and the village will not have to run monthly tests.

In addition, the council approved participation in the TNR Program. Trustee Gabe Turner explained the program involves trapping stray cats and transporting them to veterinarians to be neutered.

The cost is \$25 per cat. Community Club members will set live traps and transport the cats to the facility and back. The village approved spending \$500 on the TNR Program — enough to take care of 20 cats.

As part of the 2020-21 budget, the council's pay for meetings was increased from \$95 to \$100 per meeting. And, approval was given to increase the clerk's wages from \$8,150 to \$9,500 per year, while the treasurer's wages were increased from \$5,100 to \$5,500 per year.

Ellington officials take care of business during trio of board sessions

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The Ellington Township Board met three times in March to address a variety of issues, but there was no board meeting last month.

"There was no meeting in April because of the late March annual meeting. We never have an April meeting," explained township Supervisor Russell Speirs.

During this year's annual meeting, the board approved a motion to continue scheduling regular monthly meetings on the second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

The board also approved charging a four-percent administration fee for summer and winter taxes along with collecting a one-percent fee for past due summer taxes.

Turning to roads, the board approved a contract with the Tuscola County Road Commission for work on Dutcher Road, from M-81 to Hurds Corner Road; an expenditure of \$5,200 each for two roadside mowings; and a payment to the Caro Fire Department of \$14,178 for fire service coverage.

In addition, the township will pay \$101,462 for contract services/road improvements instead of \$45,000, and \$9,944 was paid for drains-at-large instead of \$4,700.

Also, the relocation of a newly placed sign is under consideration. Township officials noted the sign, designating an autistic person resides in the area, is not visible until a driver is only a few yards away because another sign a few yards away is the same height. The board decided to contact the Tuscola County Road Commission about the matter.

During the public comment section of the meeting, three people addressed the board. Victor Trisch, a Fairgrove area resident who owns property on Little Road, is considering building a house but does not want to be near a wind turbine. He asked for information regarding the township's turbine ordinance and was referred to township Zoning Administrator Stacy Campbell.

Ed Talaski suggested a change to the local Solar Ordinance for clarity. The suggestion was to replace the word adjoining with adjacent, and to add a diagram to clarify direction of front, rear and side yards.

Also, Duane Rushlo said he would like to see Cedar Run Road graded again, and to have it rolled to pack it down.

In other business during recent meetings, the board:

*Appointed Talaski and Eric Zybrowski to the planning commission for terms expiring on Dec. 31, 2021.

*Appointed Randee Speirs as alternate board of review member.

NOTICE

TO USERS OF VILLAGE WATER SERVICE

During the flushing of the hydrants **Wednesday and Thursday, June 3 & 4, starting at 4 a.m.** there may be an abundance of crystallized iron (rust) in the water supplied to your area of the village.

This condition does not render the water unfit or harmful for consumption; however, clothing washed in this water will probably become discolored.

Check the color of your water before placing your clothing into it.

The village is not liable for damage caused by this condition.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

VILLAGE OF CASS CITY

CHRONICLE SPORTS

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DNR seeks hunter input on proposed 2020 deer hunting rules



A new package of deer hunting regulations designed to simplify rules and remove barriers to participation was introduced to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission Thursday at the commission's regular monthly meeting, which was conducted in an online and conference call format due to COVID-19 public health and safety concerns. The regulations, proposed for the 2020 deer hunting season, are scheduled for an NRC vote in June.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources deer program experts say the regulations, if approved, will provide additional opportunities and cost savings for hunters and offer flexibility in how hunters pursue deer. The DNR uses existing and projected data to gauge the impact of proposed regulations. The data shows that the projected changes will not have a significant negative effect on the deer herd or the quality of deer hunting.

"These recommendations are aimed at making it easier for hunters of all ages and experience levels to enjoy a Michigan outdoor tradition, while at the same time facing the present and future challenges of managing the state's deer population," said Chad Stewart, the DNR's deer, elk and moose program leader. "We hope that hunters across the state will take the opportunity to review the regulations and share their opinions, because their feedback is critical in shaping the future of deer hunting."

Proposed regulation changes include:

Statewide

*Change Liberty and Independence hunt qualifications to include deaf people.

*Allow mentored youths (age 9 and younger), junior license holders (age 10-16) and apprentice license holders to be exempt from antler point restrictions in all seasons, in all deer management units (DMUs) and under all licenses.

*Require a 60% support threshold from a survey to prompt the DNR to recommend antler point restrictions (APRs) to the NRC, as decided by the 2019 APR work group. This replaces the 66% support threshold recommended by previous APR work groups. Additionally, failed APR initiatives would face a 10-year moratorium before another initiative would be considered.

*Change the statewide limit for antlerless license purchase to 10 per hunter. This limit offers maximum opportunity for those who wish to manage abundant deer on their property.

*Require hunter orange to be visible on occupied ground blinds.

Standardize baiting practices (eliminate the requirement to use single-bite baits in select counties) during the Liberty and Independence hunts for hunters with disabilities.

Upper Peninsula

*Allow Upper Peninsula archers to resume pursuing antlerless deer in all DMUs with their deer/deer combination license.

*Remove remnant APRs on the deer license in parts of DMU 122.

Lower Peninsula

*In addition to the archery season, allow antlerless deer to be taken on the deer/deer combination license during the firearm and muzzleloader seasons in all Lower Peninsula DMUs.

*Open early and late antlerless seasons in all Lower Peninsula mainland DMUs.

*Allow antlerless deer to be taken on a deer/deer combination license during both the early and late antlerless seasons in the Lower Peninsula.

*Change antlerless quotas in select DMUs.

*Shorten muzzleloader season in the southern Lower Peninsula to 10 days and extend the late

antlerless season to provide consistency between all regions of the state.

*Allow legal firearms to be used during the muzzleloader season in the southern Lower Peninsula.

*Scale carcass movement restrictions to areas most affected by chronic wasting disease. This eases some of the movement restrictions in parts of the state with a lower risk of harvesting a CWD-positive animal while still applying those restrictions to areas with the highest risk.

*Resume four-point restriction on combination license in select DMUs in the Lower Peninsula.

*Continue the expanded archery season through Jan. 31 for one more year in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Read the full NRC proposal memo or the justifications behind the 2020 proposed regulation changes at Michigan.gov/Deer.

Hunters are encouraged to review the proposed regulations and share their feedback either through an anonymous survey or by email to NRC@Michigan.gov. All comments must be received by June 5 and will be shared with members of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.

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Obituaries

Lloyd Good

Lloyd Sanford Good, 82, of Sebewaing, formerly of Gagetown, passed away peacefully at Scheurer Hospital in Pigeon on May 2, 2020.

Lloyd was born July 10, 1937, in Gagetown, to Edmund Good, Sr. and Bernadine Elanoria Kretzschmer Good.

Lloyd graduated from Owendale High School, where he played and enjoyed sports.

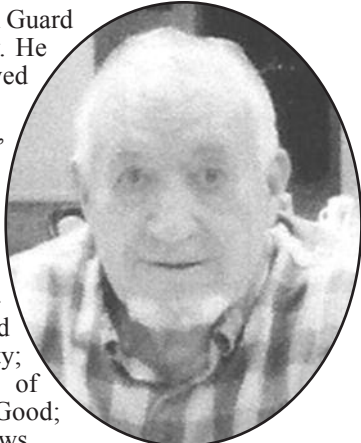
After school, he joined the National Guard and spent two years in active duty. He was a lifelong farmer, and enjoyed playing euchre with his friends.

Lloyd is survived by his children, Joseph Good of Saginaw and Sandra (Randy) Edler of Sebewaing; two grandchildren, Randall (Becky) Edler of Grand Rapids and Cassie (Moses) Marrero of Jacksonville, NC; siblings, Ed Good, Jr. of Gagetown, Robert Good of Holly and Elenore Good Truemner of Cass City; brother-in-law, Robert Albrecht of Owendale; sister-in-law, Hazel Good; along with several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, Mark Good; siblings, Ronald Good and Lois Albrecht; 2 nephews; and brother-in-law, Lyle Truemner.

Juengel & Mellendorf Funeral Home in Sebewaing handled the cremation. A private burial service will be held at Grant Township Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial donations may be given to the Wounded Warrior Project, Shriners Hospitals for Children, or Owendale United Methodist Church. Share a memory at www.jmfuneralhome.com.



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

A Public Hearing will be held on June 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. conducted in person at the Elkland Township Hall or if the Stay Safe, Stay Home Executive Order is in place, by way of conference call. The public is encouraged to attend in either case. If by conference call, join by dialing (712) 432-3900 and entering conference ID: 904380#

Public comments will be heard during the public comment period of the meeting. Public comments will be limited to 3 minutes. Public comments can also be submitted in writing by sending them to: 6691 Church St., Cass City, MI by Monday June 1, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.

Elkland Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities please contact the Zoning Administrator, Gary Jones at 989-912-0610 by June 1, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accomodation requests.

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Township of Elkland will hold a public hearing on the 3rd of June, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall/Fire Department located at 6691 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to consider the application by Gentner Excavating LLC for a special land use permit for the purpose of a mining operation to be located at 6929 Schwegler Rd., Cass City, MI on property identified as tax parcel number 007-003-000-0100-06.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing to ask questions or to make comments as to the application. Written comments may be submitted to the Clerk at 6691 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726 at any time prior to the public hearing.

Elkland Township Planning Commission
John Tilt - Chairperson

Without official

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Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m. • Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Phil Burkett • Associate Pastor: Joel Schwendinger • www.casscitymc.org



Cass City United Methodist Church

5100 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-3422
Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Summer 9:30 a.m.) • Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m.
Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon)
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Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Afternoon Service 2:00 p.m. • Wednesday - Pray/Bible Study & Youth Group 6:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Nathan Whipple



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1392 N. Kingston Rd. • 872-4055
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Pastor: David Cooper • Associate Pastor: David Cooper
DefordCommunityChurch.org



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Barrier Free

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Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
AWANA Clubs 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday - Kids4Truth Club - Teen Club 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Pastor: Christian Wright • Website: www.fbccus.com



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www.goodshepherdlutherancasscity.webs.com

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Family Training Hour: Wednesday 7 p.m.
Pastor: Jephtha Bryant



Mizpah Missionary Church

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

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. NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE 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 July 9, 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 register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by Alan K. Colosky, an unmarried man, as Mortgagor, to Frankenmuth Credit Union, as Mortgagee, dated March 17, 2003, recorded as Instrument No. 200300827899 at Liber 921, Page 223-236 of Tuscola County records, as amended by the following: Loan Modification Agreement by Alan K. Colosky and Jennifer Colosky, then husband and wife, dated February 29, 2008, recorded on April 15, 2008 as Instrument No. 200800907030 at Liber 1146, Page 1290 of Tuscola County records; Loan Modification Agreement by Alan K. Colosky and Jennifer Colosky, then husband and wife, dated February 28, 2013, recorded on March 11, 2013 as Instrument No. 2013963954 in Liber 1274, Page 48 of Tuscola County records; and, Loan Modification Agreement by Alan Colosky, then an unmarried man, dated January 25, 2018, recorded on January 29, 2018 in Liber 1390, Page 549 of Tuscola County records (collectively, the "Mortgage"). The amount claimed to be due and owing on the Mortgage is Fifty One Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy and 51/100 Dollars (\$51,770.51) on the date of this Notice. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, and the

statute in such case made and provided, take notice that on July 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., local time, or any adjourned date thereafter, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public auction, to the highest bidder, at the place of holding the Circuit Court within Tuscola County, Michigan. The Mortgagee will apply the sale proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above, plus interest accruing on the amount due at a rate of 6.40% per annum, costs and expenses of the Mortgagee as provided for in the Mortgage, and any amounts subsequently paid by the Mortgagee to protect its interest in the property. The property to be sold at foreclosure is all the real estate and improvements located in the City of Vassar, County of Tuscola, and State of Michigan, more particularly described as follows: All that part of Lots 15 and 16, Block 22 of the PLAT OF THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF VASSAR, NOW BEING T. NORTH'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF VASSAR, described as commencing at the Northwest corner of Lot 16; thence Southerly along East Street, 8 rods; thence West along the line of Lot 15, 8 rods; thence North parallel with East Street, 8 rods; thence East to the point of beginning, except the East 8 rods of the South 1/2 of Lot 15, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 21A of Tuscola County records. Tax Parcel No.: 051-500-122-1600-00 Commonly known as: 122 S. East Street, Vassar, Michigan 48768 The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of sale, unless determined to be abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the Mortgagors will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Purchasers: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorneys. Dated: May 14, 2020 STAN-CATO TRAGGE WELLS, PLLC Frankenmuth Credit Union, Mortgagee Attorneys for Mortgagee By: John P. Tragge 2 Towne Square, Suite 825 Southfield, Michigan 48076 (248) 731-4500 5-20-5

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A PILEATED Woodpecker pauses to admire his handiwork on an old stump near a Deford area residence. The Pileated Woodpecker is one of the biggest, most striking forest birds on the continent. It's nearly the size of a crow, black with bold white stripes down the neck and a flaming-red crest. The birds target dead trees and fallen logs in search of their main prey, carpenter ants.

State's schools anticipating staggering cuts

Continued from page one.

"Any cuts to education affects programs and jobs. We are making plans to meet with our school board to address these cuts to the per-pupil foundation. We intend to look at a variety of scenarios, with the intention of using a \$500- to \$1,000-cut to per pupil funding," said Cass City Schools Supt. Jeff Hartel.

"This does not even take into account the potential loss of students due to concerns with returning to school. None of it is good, but we will develop a budget to comply with state law."

School districts' fiscal years ends June 30, so time is running out in terms of drafting proposed 2020-21 spending plans, and there are many unanswered questions.

"Will we be bringing students to the school? Will we bring them to school in smaller shifts? Will we be transporting on district buses? Will there be sports? Will attendance be allowed at school events? We just don't know," said Kingston School Supt. Matt Drake, who agreed the projected cuts would be devastating.

"In a time with so much uncertainty, I'm not sure how we would respond. I know that Kingston will come up with the best possible plan to have the least amount of negative impact on students while trying to preserve staff and programs," Drake added. "Hopefully, all stakeholders will pull together

and everyone will be part of positive solutions."

To put it into perspective, a 20-percent cut to a district with a \$6 million budget would translate into a loss of \$1.2 million in funding.

"If we were to receive a 25 percent cut, obviously it would be devastating to not only our district but districts around the state," said Ubyly School Supt. Joe Candela. "Cutting up to \$1 million on a \$7 million budget is not easy. We need our Legislature and governor to lobby the feds for a stimulus bailout to states and local governments."

"In many small towns throughout Michigan, the schools are the heart of the community. This kind of cut would not only devastate schools, but it would also devastate communities. It is simply not acceptable with what our students have already gone through this year."

During Candela's tenure as an educator, he has seen a lot of ups and downs for school districts, but nothing like what he's experiencing now.

"The most I have seen in my career was in 2011 — a \$470 cut, which was difficult enough, but (now a proposed) \$2,000 per pupil would hurt students to levels we have not seen — ever," he said.

In the Owendale-Gagetown Schools, the smallest public school district in the Thumb, the financial impact could be crippling.

"As a small school, we already streamline and pay very close attention to budget detail. We have had to do this to survive all of the nonsense that has been thrown at us over the years," commented Owen-Gage School Supt. Terri Falkenberg.

"We have good children and good families, and they deserve a good education," she added. "For these reasons alone, we will continue to work day by day in the best interest of our students. We will work with surrounding districts and continue to share resources and programming if able."

"We will do what we need to do to maintain a safe learning environment for kids and adhere to some new guidelines."

Falkenberg pointed out that, once again, schools are being asked to do more with less.

"If the need arises, we will adjust programming and staff. However, ultimately we will prepare for the worst and hope for the best, as that may be all we can do at this moment until we have more factual information to make sound decisions," she said. "It saddens me and it's hard to understand how it will be expected that schools of any size will be able to survive, let alone provide a quality education."

"What will happen to our children? Distance learning appears to only be working for a small percentage," she noted. "Adults and students alike need interaction face to face."

Technology is enabling courts to keep working

The COVID-19 pandemic may have closed the Tuscola County Courthouse to the public, but the county's judges are utilizing technology to continue holding hearings.

"We understand that individuals want to get their cases heard. We've reviewed our dockets and started holding more court hearings via video conferencing to continue to serve the public," said Tuscola County Chief Judge Amy Grace Gierhart.

Since Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "stay home, stay safe" executive order went into effect, the courts were holding hearings only when necessary via Zoom. As the governor's orders have been extended, the judges, magistrate and referee determined that, with the right technology in place, court hearings could continue, Gierhart said.

"The response we have seen from attorneys and litigants has been remarkable. Individuals are eager to have their cases heard as we adapt to a new way of holding court," said District Court Judge Jason E. Bitzer.

The Tuscola County courts began streaming their hearings online to allow the public remote access to the courtrooms.

Judge Nancy L. Thane stressed that it is important that the public know that the courts are still operating.

"We are still processing pleadings and documents, as well as holding hearings by video conferencing or telephone," she said. "We understand that these are hard and unusual times, and we are doing our best to serve the community."

Citizens can view a court hearing by visiting the courts' websites at www.tuscolacounty.org/courts.

State's bridge walk canceled

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The Mackinac Bridge Walk has been held every year since 1958, except for this year.

Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) officials last week announced they have suspended the annual event due to the concerns surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Board Chairman Patrick "Shorty" Gleason made it clear the suspension is for the 2020 event only, and he expects the walk to resume in 2021.

The traditional walk over the bridge on Labor Day weekend was started by the late Michigan Gov. G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams. The first bridge walk was during the bridge's dedication ceremony in June 1958. Since 1959, the Mackinac Bridge Walk has been held on Labor Day.

"We recognize that September is months away, but the event requires months of planning and early expenditures," Gleason said. "Like organizers who have postponed festivals and other summer events, we needed to make a decision now."

Based on science and forecasts from top medical officials, board members observed that it is likely the pandemic will continue to be a health and safety concern, particularly for events that attract large crowds, for the foreseeable future.

"We can't in good conscience continue with an event we know draws people from across our state and beyond, and puts them shoulder-to-shoulder for hours, when medical advice strenuously advises against such gatherings," Gleason said.

MBA Vice Chairman Matt McLogan, who chairs the authority's finance committee, noted that toll revenues have been declining the past two months along with traffic volumes, diminishing funds available for the more than \$300,000 in expenses the MBA incurs for the annual bridge walk.

"The walk is a wonderful tradition, which I have consistently supported. But the MBA must hold the line on expenses wherever it can now because we don't know when or if regular traffic volumes will resume," McLogan said. "Pausing the Walk for 2020 is the responsible course of action."

Each year, between 25,000 and 57,000 people from several states and countries have come to the Mackinac Bridge for the annual bridge walk.

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

Looking to buy, list or sell? Don't stress, our agents are here to help!



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Very well maintained 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-story home in move-in condition with a 3-car garage and full finished basement. Original woodwork with lots of storage throughout, easy to heat, home has gas hotwater heat plus an outdoor corn burner connected to the gas furnace, 3 separate heat zones. Large pole building, plus a insulated-heated work shop all on 146.34 acres with over 143 acres of hunting land.



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CY2784