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# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 114, NUMBER 12

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020

.75 CENTS - 10 PAGES - 1 SUPPLEMENT

## Governor extends order, lifts more restrictions

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer Friday extended the state's temporary closure of some busi-

nesses, including theatres, gyms and casinos, through June 12.

Whitmer signed the latest executive order one day after a Michigan Court of Claims judge threw cold water on the Legislature's as-

sertion that the governor has exceeded her authority to extend a state of emergency under the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act without first obtaining approval from lawmakers.

Whitmer also signed another executive order Friday extending the state of emergency declaration related to the COVID-19 pandemic until June 19 in an effort to "continue to protect Michigan families

from both the public health and economic impacts of the virus, and to lower the chance for a second wave."

Whitmer said her aggressive "stay home, stay safe" measures are working, but there is still more to be done. She cited, for example, cases in some counties in western and mid-Michigan doubling roughly every 10 days.

"While the data shows that we are making progress, we are not out of the woods yet," Whitmer said. "If we open too soon, thou-

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### Clerk works to clarify AV application confusion

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Last week's announcement from Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson that all registered voters in Michigan will receive an application to vote by mail in the August primary and November general elections resulted in reactions ranging from confusion to various conspiracy allegations.

The news – which was also news to local and county clerks, including Tuscola County Clerk Jodi Fetting – prompted Fetting to act quickly in an effort to explain what's happening, and why.

"The biggest confusion right now is some think they are going to get a ballot automatically, (but) it is just the AV (absentee voter) application that they will receive. They will still need to return that to the local clerk – not the state – to get a ballot if choosing to vote AV," Fetting explained.

Some people are also confused about whether or not they will be able to vote in person due to concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, she acknowledged.

"Either way to vote is okay, and a person needs to do what they feel is best," she said. "I understand that we are under unusual circumstances right now and people may be hesitant to come to the polls, but it is their right that has

Please turn to page 2.

### Red Hawk seniors on parade...

**GOING OUT in style!** The COVID-19 pandemic canceled the traditional graduation ceremony in Cass City, but that didn't stop members of the Class of 2020 from celebrating – social distancing style – with a parade through town Thursday evening, led by the Elkland Township Fire Department. The seniors staged the event at the high school, then drove/rode south to Main Street, where they proceeded to follow the old cruise night loop as family members and friends cheered them on.

## New hotline designed to protect seniors from scams

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

In spite of numerous warnings and educational campaigns, local law enforcement officials have seen scammers take thousands of dollars from senior citizens.

But officials haven't given up efforts to significantly reduce crimes involving fraud and targeting some of the area's most vulnerable citizens.

A collaboration involving the Human Development Commission (HDC), the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department and TRIAD – an organization composed of the

sheriff, local police agencies and seniors working together to protect seniors – has led to the start of a new program to help fight scams.

"Scams are prolific and often target seniors," said Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent, who explained the new collaboration's focus is on preventing the loss of savings among those who can least afford it.

Towards that end, officials have established the free Elder Fraud Hotline, (989) 550-3654, which is available 24 hours a day. Seniors who are approached and asked for money are encouraged to call the

number for advice.

"If someone gets a call, email or letter from someone that sounds suspicious, before giving away your hard-earned money, tell the person you are first going to call us. If it's a scam, they will balk at that and most likely hang up," Skrent said. "Scammers do not want you checking into their request."

Calling the hotline will put a senior in contact with an elder advocate with HDC who can advise if they feel it's a scam and instruct the senior on how to proceed.

"The need to provide additional services to seniors, especially those designed to help protect them from harm, has never been so important," said HDC Program Development Director Kristen Misener.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has further increased financial scams and abuses that target seniors," she added. "Seniors have become isolated, many with limited social supports, which leaves them particularly more vulnerable. The Elder Fraud Hotline is a free and confidential resource that will be used to help safeguard them."

Skrent agreed, saying some seniors have a difficult time discerning what is real and what is a scam.

"Some are too trusting of others

and fall prey to a smooth talking person, even if it does not make

Please turn to page 4.



**CASS CITY Farmers Market organizers kicked off the first market of the summer with six vendors Thursday. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the limited market was only able to host vendors selling food, plants and/or basic hygiene items. Above, Matt Lynch looks over Mark and Diane Battel's selection of pure maple syrup. (Related photo, page 6)**

## Tuscola Co. land values rise

by Mary Drier  
For the Chronicle

The latest equalization report shows the value of land in Tuscola County has increased by more than six percent from last year.

"The increase in value is from commercial wind farm developments in the county," explained Equalization Director Angie Daniels. "The soybean processing plant in Gilford Township, and marijuana businesses in the Vassar area helped to increase values."

Vassar Township's value increased by 10.05 percent, and the city of Vassar's worth increased by 4.55 percent.

Wind farm development boosted Columbia Township's value 34.57 percent and Fairgrove Township's value increased 14.4 percent because

Please turn to page 8.

# Man loses leg in auger accident

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

A Sterling Heights man remains hospitalized after losing his leg in a PTO accident in Tuscola County's Dayton Township Sunday morning, sheriff's deputies reported.

Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent reported officers were dispatched to a property near Harmon Lake Road just before 11

a.m.

"A 48-year-old male from Sterling Heights was doing construction on his property when an article of clothing became entangled in a ground auger attached to the tractor's PTO, amputating the man's leg," Skrent said. "A friend that was nearby, assisting with the job, quickly shut off the tractor, applied a tourniquet, and called 911."

The victim was flown to Hurley

Hospital in Flint for trauma care and was moved to the hospital intensive care unit, according to Skrent, who noted the quick actions of his friend in providing immediate emergency treatment saved the man's life.

A Mayville Ambulance crew, both the Kingston and Mayville fire departments and a FlightCare medical helicopter crew all assisted deputies at the scene.

## Whitmer extends order, lifts restrictions

Continued from page one.

sands more could die and our hospitals will get overwhelmed. While we finally have more protective equipment like masks, we can't run the risk of running low again. We owe it to the real heroes on the front lines of this crisis — our first responders, health care workers, and critical workers putting their lives on the line every day — to do what we can ourselves to stop the spread of the virus."

Whitmer, who previously lifted restriction on construction, manufacturing, landscaping and some other businesses, added to that list last week by lifting on retail businesses and auto dealerships, which can now conduct business by appointment. Effective Friday, the order also lifts restrictions on non-essential medical, dental and veterinary procedures.

In addition, gatherings of 10 or fewer people are now allowed provided participants practice social distancing.

### Court upholds order

As for the Legislature's challenge of the governor's authority to extend a state of emergency, Michigan Court of Claims Judge Cynthia Stephens ruled last week that Whitmer did, in fact, have the legal authority to extend the state of emergency under the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act, calling claims to the contrary "meritless."

However, Stephens said the governor exceeded her authority by trying to extend the emergency under the Emergency Management Act of 1976, which requires legislative authority.

At the same time, Stephens upheld the constitutionality of the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945, which overrides the argument from the Republican-led House and Senate that Whitmer had no authority to extend the coronavirus state of emergency past April without legislative approval.

"Through two distinct acts, stated in plain and certain terms, the Legislature has granted the governor broad but focused authority to respond to emergencies that affect the state and its people," Stephens said.

Whitmer extended the state of emergency from April 30 through May 28 after Republicans in the House and Senate refused to extend her declared state of emergency.

The governor has maintained that lawmakers do not have the ability to end emergency declarations targeting ways to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, which resulted in 54,000-plus cases and killed more than 5,150 people in Michigan.

### It's not over

While the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths has slowed significantly in the Thumb, local health department officials are urging residents to take social distancing and other preventative measures seriously.

When it comes to returning to some semblance of normalcy, "It's all about lowering the numbers and opening safely," said Ann Hepfer, health officer for the Tuscola and Huron county health departments.

"For our numbers to improve, we need wear the masks to prevent asymptomatic and sick people from infecting others, we need to get better at practicing social distancing. We are doing well in stores, but we need to move these practices to our personal lives. This includes when we are camping, meeting with friends even outside, not allowing others to touch our coolers and drinks.

"You do not know where others have been. You think your friends...are safe, but the truth is, none of us can say for sure," Hepfer added.

"This virus does not discriminate. It does not care if you make \$100,000 a year or \$100 a year; we are all created equal when it

comes to this virus.

"Do your part practice social distancing, even outside," she said. "Wear your masks when you are in areas where social distancing of six feet cannot be practiced, wash your hands with soap and water or sanitizer like it will save your life. These things are simple — you can do this.

My team will continue to work on the reopening plans for businesses, libraries, parks and schools," Hepfer continued. "This takes all of us. The businesses can only do so much to make their stores safe. It is your responsibility to do your part.

### Latest numbers

Between Monday, May 18, and Monday, May 25, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased by just a dozen — from 255 to 267 — with the three counties' combined death toll rising from 25 to 29.

As of Monday afternoon, Tuscola County had recorded 185 confirmed cases and 23 deaths, Huron County had recorded 42 cases and one death, and Sanilac County, 40 cases and five deaths.

Tuscola County Health Department officials updated their new COVID-19 dashboard at the end of last week, detailing the number of cases reported in the county as well as a breakdown of those cases by zip code.

Of the confirmed cases, 39 were reported in the Caro zip code (no change), there were 46 in the Vassar area (up from 42), and 28 in Millington (an increase of four cases). Officials reported 33 cases in the Cass City zip code (up from 31), with five in the Deford area (an increase of one case) and one in the Kingston area (no change) and three in Unionville (no change). No cases have been reported in the Gagetown zip code.

Statewide, Monday's total of confirmed cases reached 54,881, with a total of 5,240 deaths, compared to 51,915 cases and 4,915 deaths a week earlier.

## Fetting clarifies AV application plan confusion

Continued from page one.

been fought for and we will do what we can to make it safe to vote in person."

Voters who need to use an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ballot marking system will be able to do so in person on Election Day, Fetting noted.

"My last concern with August is the voter needs to understand they have to 'stay in the column' of the party they choose to vote in. Democrats will be in column one and Republicans will be in column two — once they (voters) start in 'lane one', they can't switch to 'lane two'."

In her announcement last week, Benson indicted the mailing of AV applications was designed to give all voters a choice on how they cast their ballots, regardless of whether or not they feel safe leaving their homes yet after weeks of staying home stemming executive orders designed to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Of the 7.7 million registered voters in the state, about 1.3 million are on the permanent absent voter list, and their local election clerk mails them applications ahead of every election.

In addition, some jurisdictions are mailing applications to all local registered voters, according to Benson, who added the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections has ensured all remaining registered voters receive an application.

"We appreciate that some clerks are proactively protecting public

health by mailing applications to all their registered voters, and we are fulfilling our responsibility to provide all voters equal access. We know from the elections that took place this month that, during the pandemic, Michiganders want to safely vote."

Benson reported record-breaking turnouts were recorded in about 50 elections held across 33 counties earlier this month, with nearly 25 percent of eligible voters casting ballots and 99 percent of them doing so by mail or in a drop box. From 2010 to 2019, the average turnout in local elections in May was 12 percent.

"The vast majority of voters across the political spectrum want the option to vote by mail," Benson said. "Mailing applications to all registered voters is one of the ways that we are ensuring Michigan's elections will continue to be safe, accurate and secure."

Fetting issued a statement listing several items voters should be aware of regarding elections. They include:

\*Each citizen's right to vote is important to her and their local clerk.

\*It is residents' choice to vote in-person or to vote by absentee.

\*The AV application will come from the state if you are not already signed up on your local clerk's auto AV application list. If you are currently on the Auto AV Application list, the AV application will come from your local clerk.

\*The Bureau of Elections has not provided when the mailing is

planned to be sent out, but Fetting expects it will be sooner rather than later. If you choose to vote by absentee, please return the AV application to your local clerk as soon as possible.

\*The AV application allows you to: request an absentee ballot for August only, request an absentee ballot for November only, request an absentee ballot for August and November, and request to be placed on the auto AV application list for future elections.

\*The AV application is to be returned to your local clerk only.

\*Once the AV application is returned to your local clerk, a ballot will be mailed to you. Ballots are in design stage right now and will not be available until June 20.

\*The local clerks and county clerk are working together to plan for a safe environment for voters who intend to cast their ballots in person.

\*If you vote by absentee, also know that your local clerk has procedures in place to follow to maintain the security of your voted ballot from the time that it is received by the local clerk until it is processed on Election Day.

Fetting said she and local clerks are "communicating regularly to keep up on the changes that have been happening and to share thoughts on how to best move forward to protect the election inspectors and the voters on Election Day."

In the end, she pointed out, "the most important thing to remember is to vote!"

## Kingston police: citizen tip prevented theft of vehicle

The Kingston Police Department reported an alert citizen's tip foiled a would-be thief's plans to drive away with someone else's vehicle early Friday morning.

A resident contacted village police at about 12:15 a.m., according to information posted on the department's Facebook page, which noted the citizen reported seeing a vehicle in the middle of Washington Street, sideways and with its headlights on.

"Within seconds the Kingston Police Department responded to find a 28-year-old male in the process of stealing a Ford service truck. The suspect was in the driver's seat of the vehicle and had placed the truck in neutral," the post stated.

The truck had been rolled out of the driveway onto Washington Street by the suspect, who then allegedly removed the dash from the truck and pulled out wires in an attempt to hotwire the vehicle.

"The suspect had a suspended driver's license and was intoxicated," police said, adding the suspect was arrested and lodged in the Tuscola County Jail on multiple criminal charges.

Troopers from the Michigan State Police post in Caro assisted village police at the scene.

"Thanks to a tip from a concerned citizen noticing something was out of place and calling the police, the village of Kingston saved a vehicle from being stolen," the Facebook post stated. "Please lock your doors and, if something looks out of place, contact law enforcement to investigate."

## VILLAGE OF GAGETOWN

The 2019 Village Water Report is ready for your review.

If you are interested in reviewing it contact  
DPS Supervisor at 989-665-0200.

The report will also be posted in the  
Post Office, Allway Stop, Hillside Community  
Church, Sherwood on the Hill, and  
Our Lady of Consolata Church of Gagetown.

Thank you,  
Village of Gagetown

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# In Our OPINION...

**Clarke Haire**  
Publisher

**Tom Montgomery**  
Editor

## Support the Green Ribbon Campaign

*One in five people — 43.6 million Americans — experienced a mental illness in 2018, according to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration.*

*The data underscores a sobering reality, one that's especially true today with the added stress and isolation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, making this month the perfect time to focus on mental health awareness.*

*Members of Thumb Community Health Partnership (TCHP) are celebrating May is Mental Health Awareness Month across the region this year with the unified Green Ribbon Campaign.*

*TCHP members include local community mental health agencies, public health departments, eight local hospitals, and the Human Development Commission (HDC), which have joined forces to address mental health issues in Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac and Tuscola counties.*

*The Green Ribbon Campaign is designed to promote mental health awareness and reduce stigma.*

*People who experience mental health concerns often face disapproval. Feeling stigma can mean that people keep problems hidden and are reluctant to look for help. Relationships can be damaged. People feel more isolated. Daily life can become harder and harder.*

*One simple step can show your support, which tells the people you know and love that it is okay to talk about the stress they feel. It's okay to ask questions, and it's okay to seek support.*

*TCHP members are encouraging area individuals, agencies and businesses to join the Green Ribbon Campaign by taking one or more of the following steps to let people know they care about this very important issue:*

- \*Wear a green ribbon on clothing.*
- \*Tie a green ribbon around a tree in your yard or on your mailbox.*
- \*Add a green ribbon to the teddy bear in your window.*
- \*Hang a big green ribbon on your door.*
- \*Share a picture of your ribbon on Facebook.*
- \*Add a Green Ribbon Facebook Frame to your Facebook profile picture. Update your profile picture and search for the TCHP frame.*
- \*Follow the TCHP Facebook page for #Tools to Thrive all during the month of May.*
- \*Reshare mental health awareness posts.*
- \*Watch social media pages of TCHP members for information about mental health services.*

*For more information about how you can be involved in the Green Ribbon Campaign, visit the TCHP Facebook page or contact Kay Balcer at (989) 553-2927. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, contact one of the following crisis lines: Tuscola County (1-800-462-6814), Huron County (1-800-356-5568) or Sanilac County (1-888-225-4447).*

*While millions of people face the day-to-day reality of living with a mental health condition, everyone faces challenges in life that can impact their mental health. And that's why the Green Ribbon Campaign benefits us all — by offering encouragement and a reminder that we can all play a positive role by simply being there for one another.*

# Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Lest we forget...



I'm part of an exclusive club no one wants to be a member of because the price of admission is a death; the death of a child while they were in service to our country.

I became a Gold Star Mother May 24, 2005, when my son, Army Sgt. Charles Drier, was killed in action in Iraq.

This year's Memorial Day passed with little to no fanfare because most of the traditional events honoring the fallen were cancelled due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.

I totally understand the reasons for canceling this year's parades and ceremonies that are done on Memorial Day to honor those who paid the ultimate price for freedom.

And, each April for the last 13 years, a high-quality, cream-colored envelope sealed closed with a gold sticker embossed with the Michigan seal, addressed to me in beautiful script handwriting, arrives at my home.

My heart sinks when I see it. It is a reminder that I am a member of a club that I never wanted to belong to.

The envelope contains an invitation asking me to participate in the annual "Michigan's Fallen Soldiers and their Gold Star Families" event at the capitol, and then to go to the governor's mansion for a luncheon.

During the service at the capitol, a senator who has had a service member in their district killed during the last year in action has a folded U.S. flag on their desk. The senator walks forward to place the flag in a basket and says a few words about the service member being honored.

My first invitation came from then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm, then later from former Gov. Rick Snyder.


This year I received a regular looking letter that had a Lansing address announcing the event had been canceled. I have no hard feelings about Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's decision.

Memorial Day events are a brief reminder to think about and honor those who "gave their last full meas-

urer of devotion."

I'm just saddened that those who gave their life for our country weren't honored on Memorial Day in the traditional ways this year.

The pomp and circumstance that goes with parades and ceremonies is a reminder that freedom isn't free; it comes at a cost.



## Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Eight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2020-21 academic year have been selected to serve two-year terms on the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council. The elite group includes one student leader from the Thumb area.

The Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student's perspective, and also is involved in the operation of Association championship events and other programming. Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members are selected annually to serve on the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The incoming juniors will join the group of eight seniors-to-be appointed a year ago.

Selected to begin serving on the Student Advisory Council in 2020-21 are: Brinlee Barry, Caledonia; Faith Breinager, Frankenmuth; Amina Ferris, Dearborn; Nicolas Johnson, Britton Deerfield; Brenna Kosal, Peck; Ashton McNabb, Three Oaks River Valley; Brock Porter, Orchard Lake St. Mary's; and Melik Williams, Ypsilanti Lincoln.

Those eight new members were selected from a record-high 179 applicants, twice as many as generally apply for SAC positions every year.

The first Student Advisory Council was formed for the 2006-07 school year. With the addition of this class beginning this summer, members will have represented 117 schools from 45 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in nine MHSAA sports, and seven will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council meets seven times each school year, and once more for a 24-hour leadership camp. In addition to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the Council discusses issues dealing with the 4 S's of educational athletics: scholarship, sportsmanship, safety (including health and nutrition) and the sensible scope of athletic programs. There also is a fifth S discussed by the group — student leadership.

This school year, the Council selected the 2019-20 "Battle of the Fans IX" champion and presented Sportsmanship Summits in front of more than 1,000 students from across the state, handed out championship trophies at Finals events and provided feedback to the MHSAA Representative Council on proposed rule changes. The Student Advisory Council also provided a student point of view as the MHSAA considered how to progress after sports were halted in March because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2021 members who were selected a year ago: Pierre Brooks II, Detroit Douglass; Macy Brown, Cadillac; Lydia Davenport, Ithaca; Freddy Koppow, Traverse City St Francis; Colin McAuliffe, Salem; Avery Peters, Mason; Abigail Pfeiffer, Novi; and Landen Thompson, Stevensville Lakeshore.

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

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

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

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

## CASS CITY CHRONICLE

6550 Main Street  
P.O. Box 115  
Cass City, MI 48726  
Phone: (989) 872-2010  
Fax: (989) 872-3810  
Email: [chronicle@ccchronicle.net](mailto:chronicle@ccchronicle.net)  
Website: [www.ccchronicle.net](http://www.ccchronicle.net)

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### News Staff

**Clarke Haire**  
Publisher  
[clarke@ccchronicle.net](mailto:clarke@ccchronicle.net)

**Tom Montgomery**  
Editor  
[tom@ccchronicle.net](mailto:tom@ccchronicle.net)

**Krysta Boyce**  
Sr. Sales Executive  
[sales@ccchronicle.net](mailto:sales@ccchronicle.net)

[chronicle@ccchronicle.net](mailto:chronicle@ccchronicle.net)

**Deb Severance**  
Composition

**Mary Drier**  
Freelance Writer, Columnist

**Tina Pallas**  
Columnist

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(USPS 092-00)

# Van Auken gearing up for library cooperative's move to Tuscola Co.

by Mary Drier  
For the Chronicle

For the most part, being a librarian is pretty much routine for Kate Van Auken — until this year.

When she left her job as director of Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City after 17 years to take over as director of the White Pine Cooperative last July, she knew there would be some differences and some challenges.

However, not as many or the kinds of challenges she has had to deal with in the last few months.

After finally getting settled into her new office and routine, Van Auken and her staff will have to pack up and move from the White Pine Cooperative's headquarters at 3210 Davenport Ave., Saginaw, because the building has been sold.

"They told me in late fall they were going to sell the building. The owners didn't think the building would sell quickly and then when the virus hit, they thought now it really won't sell. But they have received an offer, which is great for them," Van Auken said. "Since the beginning of the year, I was looking for a spot and most things in the Saginaw area were more expensive for less space."

As a result, she started looking in other areas for a new location for the cooperative's headquarters. "I looked in Tuscola County and

found a few places, but the best offer and the best office space was at the Rolka Building across from the courthouse," she said, noting there is no date set yet for the move.

In the process of moving the office from Saginaw to Caro, White Pine staffers have been going to the office in shifts and purging files.

"I think the White Pine office has been in this one building for over 30 years and I don't think many files were disposed of during that time, but they are being recycled now," Van Auken said.

In the meantime, the new owners of the building in Saginaw have to honor White Pine's lease, which goes through September.

"As for challenges, I could say coronavirus has been the biggest challenge, but that is true for everyone. Working from home for myself and staff has been different, but we have worked out most issues," said Van Auken.

The COVID-19 pandemic along with the resulting social restrictions has had a huge impact on libraries that are part of the White Pine Library Cooperative, which consists of 49 libraries in 13 counties. "They all have been working overtime. Their digital resources, OverDrive, RBDigital, Hoopla, and so many others, have had huge circulation numbers the past two months," Van Auken noted.

She has also been reaching out to

the Library of Michigan (LOM), Michigan Library Association (MLA), and the Michigan Cooperative Director's Association (MCDA), and all have been meeting weekly, sometimes twice a week, as they try to navigate what the "new normal" will be.

"There are Zoom meetings with programming ideas for all ages of library patrons. Libraries host Facebook live story times, YouTube classes, author chats, and provide support for teachers, parents and students," she explained.

"Directors have been working diligently with their area health departments to facilitate reopening plans as well as following the CDC and OSHA guidelines," Van Auken said. "Librarians and library staff are so creative and adaptable, that the realm of virtual programming will be yet another way libraries can reach patrons moving forward."

Even though Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has opened up parts of the state, libraries have not been included in the easing of restrictions yet.

Because the LOM and MLA are part of the governor's work group, Van Auken is hopeful that no-touch, curbside library services will soon be able to be offered.

"Each library director will work closely with their board to decide how reopening will look for their facility and their community. Some may have reduced hours and staggered staff as to abide by the safe distancing and other safety protocols needed not only for patrons, but for staff as well," she said.

Unfortunately, the pandemic isn't the only challenge facing libraries in the region following last week's historic flooding in mid-Michigan.

"I have libraries dealing with the current flooding situation (in Midland and Saginaw counties) and one has roof damage from an earlier storm in March, so my challenges are nothing compared to what they are dealing with," Van Auken said.

"No libraries in Huron or Tuscola (are flood damaged)," she added. "A branch library in Ogemaw had water and I am waiting to hear from a few others. Thomas Township in Shields is a White Pine member and I saw online Gratiot Road in Shields was completely flooded, so how many have issues I am not sure at this point."



Kate Van Auken

## Woman suffers injuries in Sanilac County crash

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

A multiple vehicle traffic crash late Thursday morning in Sanilac County's Lamotte Township left an Almont woman injured, Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies reported.

Deputies were dispatched to the scene — the intersection of Sanilac (M-46) and Germania roads — at about 11:30 a.m.

According to reports, a 43-year-old Dryden woman was driving a 2018 Silverado north on Germania Road when she stopped at the

intersection and then failed to yield and struck a westbound 2013 Kenworth semi-truck driven by a 53-year-old Cass City man. The Silverado then struck a parked, unoccupied 2001 Silverado in the D and D Party Store lot.

Deputies said a 69-year-old Almont woman who was a passenger in the Dryden woman's vehicle was treated at the scene by an EMS worker who was driving to work, along with Lamotte Township fire fighters and Marlette EMS.

The Almont woman was transported to Marlette Regional Hospital, according to investigators, who noted all of the occupants were wearing seatbelts and alcohol was not a factor.

The crash remains under investigation.

## New hotline designed to help seniors

Continued from page one.

sense," he said, adding scam artists typically push their victims to act quickly, so they don't have time to think about it. They also typically tell seniors not to say anything to others about the transaction.

As hard as it may be to believe, old scams such as calling a grandparent to saying their grandchild is in jail and needs bond money, still work.

"Some people are compulsive and just can't stop themselves (from believing those stories)," Skrent said. "Even after law enforcement, family and friends tell them to stop taking calls or answering those emails, the perpetrator calls right back and the person falls for it again. Horrible."

And, fraud cases targeting seniors and others "are almost impossible to solve," he noted. "The type of transaction they use makes it hard. Plus, the suspects most likely are using an inexpensive software that constantly changes the phone number.

"The federal agencies don't even get involved unless it is extremely large amounts of money lost. The foreign countries the suspects live in have a hard time shutting these people down for various reasons. Even if you can find an address in the U.S. to check on, many times it's a vacant lot," Skrent said.

"Most companies are not that cooperative and make the officer obtain a search warrant. Then take months to answer back."

## 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 accommodation 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

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## Reporter's notebook

### Our milk choices today: holy cow!

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor



No offense to the dairy industry, but I've never been a fan of drinking milk. As a kid growing up in the 1960s, my mother – like all good moms of the day – must have figured I'd dry up and disappear if I didn't drink it, which led to some epic kitchen table battles.

Now, cheese was a different matter; back then, and still today, I can't get enough. Back then, there wasn't a lot of variety in the dairy case. There was your standard vitamin D milk, skim milk, butter milk (I can remember watching my grandmother drink that stuff. Still gives me nightmares).

These days, it seems like a significant segment of the population is lactose intolerant or otherwise avoids milk because it gives them a belly and headaches or allergic reactions, or they simply believe a non-dairy alternative will give them what they've been missing in their cereal bowl or cup of coffee.

And there are tons of plant-based alternatives out there. If you don't believe me, pay closer attention to the commercials in between your favorite TV shows.

Maybe you'll be left with the same burning question: how the heck does one milk an almond?

Anyway, a little research on any number of nutrition and medical websites reveals you can, indeed, buy almond milk, as well as oat milk, hemp milk, flax milk and cashew milk today, and they all have their fans.

There's even something called tiger nut milk, made from – you guessed it – tiger nuts, also called chufa, yellow nutsedge or earth almonds, which are not actually nuts, but rather edible tubers. In case you're curious, they're about the size of a chickpea, but wrinkly with a chewy texture and sweet nutty flavor similar to coconut.

As long as I did the research, you may also want to know that tiger nuts were one of the first plants cultivated in Egypt and traditionally used as both food and medicine. They're rich in a variety of nutrients and have been linked to several health benefits ranging from better digestion to a reduced risk of heart disease.

But I digress. So, how does good old-fashioned milk compare to all the available non-dairy options out there?

Well, a cup of whole milk contains roughly 149 calories, eight grams of protein and eight grams of fat. It also contains nutrients and minerals that include calcium and potassium. Many suppliers also add vitamin D to their milk.

Similarly, some plant-based milks are highly nutritious, and many manufacturers offer products fortified with calcium and vitamin D.

Almond milk, for example, is a popular milk alternative because it's easy to make, cheap to buy, and many find it delicious.

A cup of almond milk contains about 39 calories, one gram of protein, and 2.5 grams of fat.

A cup of one of the leading brands of soy milk, meanwhile, contains seven grams of protein, four grams of fat, and just 80 calories, meaning it provides almost as much protein as whole milk.

In contrast, coconut milk is naturally very fatty, which helps it provide the same texture as cow's milk. However, a cup of fortified coconut milk contains 74 calories and five grams of fat, but less than one gram of protein.

Rice milk tastes sweeter than other dairy alternatives, and one cup contains approximately 113 calories, less than one gram of protein, and just over two grams of fat.

I guess that's all well and good if you like your milk made out of plants, but if you ask me, none of those examples are all that creative. I mean, why hasn't anyone created broccoli milk or brussels sprouts milk?

Yeah, I know. Udderly ridiculous.

# Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



## 5 YEARS AGO (2015)

Harold and Joan Little of Cass City will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. The couple were married June 10, 1955. They have three children: Carol (Ron) White of Asheville, NC; Kurt (Melissa) Little of Evanston, IL; Suzanne (Mike) Grimmer of Vicksburg, MI. They have 3 grandchildren: Matthew, Kayla and Anna Little.

Tuscola Technology Center (TTC) Graphics Program students Shyanne Decker of Cass City, Kylee Hagan of Caro and Abigail Santoviz of Vassar recently impressed the judges in a statewide animation contest. The trio participated in the Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society's (MITES) inaugural animation competition, according to Bethany Phipps, graphic communications instructor and MITES advisor at the Tuscola Technology Center in Caro. "With four categories to choose from, our young animators chose character development animation," Phipps explained. "The competitors had to create a character and animate it in a video clip lasting 10 seconds to one minute."

## 10 YEARS AGO (2010)

Brittany Nicol of Cass City recently graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy. She attended high school at Interlochen Arts Academy for the past 3 years studying theatre. During her time there, Nicol had the opportunity to perform in many productions, including "Little Women", "Seussical the Musical" and "A Christmas Carol". She plans to continue her theatrical studies at Michigan State University. Nicol, the daughter of Jim and Jeanne Nicol, will be having a senior recital at Cass City Middle School Saturday, June 12, at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Philip A. Nahernak, a 2006 graduate of Cass City High School, will receive his Bachelor of Science Degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University. Among his multiple affiliations while at Cornell University, he was president of the Seal and Serpent Society, as well as head of IvyCORPS. He was honored to be published in The Cornell International Affairs Review. Nahernak is the son of Dr. Nicholas and Veronica Nahernak of Cass City. His grandparents are Mieczyslaw and Lidia Kobylak of Cass City, and Emil and Delores Nahernak of Clinton Township.

## 25 YEARS AGO (1995)

Mandy Nizzola's busy high school athletic career earned her the Outstanding Woman Athlete award, presented by American Association of University Women representative Pat Smith and last year's recipient, Darcie Monroe. The Paul Smarks award for outstanding male athlete was presented to Jason Morgan. Presenting the award to the football, basketball, track and baseball player was last year's winner, Paul Ulfing. 4-year band member Leana Edwards was awarded the Paul Ferguson Award as a senior outstanding member of the Cass City High School band.

Michael Furness, Cass City, has been accepted at ITT Technical Institute in Troy. A 72-week program in computer-aided drafting technology will prepare him for an entry level position in the drafting/CAD field.

## 35 YEARS AGO (1985)

Jacob Taylor Piaskowski, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Piaskowski of Cass City, was baptized Saturday, May 18, in St. Pancratius Catholic Church. The infant wore his great - great - grandmother Sowden's baby dress, which is 110 years old. The gown was also worn by his mother, a brother Jeffery and an uncle, Dan Mellendorf. Grandparents of Jacob are Mr. and Mrs. Dale Mellendorf and Mrs. Mary Ellen Piaskowski, all of Cass City, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown of Florida. Great-grandparents include Mr. and Mrs.

Lester Kappen, Cass City, Mrs. Erma Mellendorf, Owendale, and Mrs. Pauline Baginsky, Richmond. Godparents are Mr. and Mrs. Dean Rabideau, Cass City.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Battel of Cass City announce the engagement of their daughter, Linda Ann, to Michael DeWayne Stec, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stec, also of Cass City. A June wedding is planned.

## 40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Terri Lynn Moore, 8-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Moore of Cass City, was baptized Sunday, May 11, at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Open house was held Sunday afternoon at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Millard Ball.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Rockefeller of Cass City announce the birth of a grandson, James Erwin Vahovick. Born Friday, May 9, at Huron Memorial Hospital in Bad Axe, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Vahovick of Elkton. The baby weighed eight pounds and three ounces. Mrs. Lona Rockefeller of Owendale is the great-grandmother.

## 50 YEARS AGO (1970)

Laura Kay is the name of the seven-pound, eight-ounce daughter born May 17 to Mr. and Mrs. John Grenevitch. Mother and baby went to their home Friday from Hills and Dales Hospital. Mrs. Grenevitch's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Houston Cantrell of Flint, spent Monday and Tuesday with their daughter and family.

A few years ago Larry Meyer, 28, of Cass City was a concert master violinist, playing a \$10,000 violin, and acclaimed as one of the best young musicians in Saginaw.

Today the only music he wants to produce is the sweet sounding roar of a high performance engine. Meyer makes his living at Lynn's Leonard Service as an auto mechanic and gets his kicks from beefing up performance in engines in stock racers. He came to Cass City after his marriage to the former Sally Profit. The violin that has been in his family for 100 years or more is carefully put away and when he got it out for display purposes Monday it was the first time it had been from the case in three years.

## 75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Miss Eleanor McCallum of Grand Rapids, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John McCallum, of Greenleaf, and Capt. Ferris A. Kercher son of Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Kercher of Cass City, were united in marriage. The bride, a talented musician, was formerly supervisor of music in the Cass City schools and also in Grand Rapids. Previous to her marriage she was employed in a secretarial position in a doctor's office in the latter city. Capt. Kercher recently returned to the States to spend a 45-day leave after serving overseas for nearly four years. He has been in Iceland, Ireland, England, France, Luxembourg and Germany. The newlyweds visited the groom's parents over the week end and Tuesday morning left for Detroit for a short stay.

## 100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Mrs. Bohnsack entertained Sunday, May 23, at a dinner party in honor of her mother, Mrs. Geo. Martin, on her seventy-first birthday. The guests were Mr. and Mrs. John Doerr and Mr. and Mrs. David Lae.

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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.



Andy Gray

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# Open for business

## Tuscola County Sheriff's Department returning to schedule

After weeks of being closed to the public due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department has reopened. "All employees are now back to work," Sheriff Glen Skrent said Thursday, noting individuals who would normally visit the office, such as those who want to take care of gun registration matters, can once again do so in person. "(We're) working on visitation (at the jail) soon, probably at the

end of the month," he added. Skrent released the following list of services and how the sheriff's department is handling each at this time:  
 \*Court ordered fingerprints and/or DNA samples are pending the reopening of the courts.  
 \*License to purchase a pistol — by appointment: Contact Deanna Marshall at dmarsh@tuscolacounty.org or (989) 673-8161 (ext. 2237).  
 \*Gun registration after purchase

— mail to 420 Court St, Caro MI 48723.  
 \*SOR (Sex Offender Registry) registration — by appointment: Contact Deanna Marshall at dmarsh@tuscolacounty.org or (989) 673-8161 (ext. 2237).  
 \*Tether payments — Push buzzer at the door and you will be let in (do not allow anyone to follow you inside).  
 \*Drug testing and PBT's (preliminary breath tests) remain suspended during state shutdown.  
 \*If you are turning yourself in on a warrant, push the buzzer and you will be let in (do not allow anyone to follow you inside).  
 \*Commissary deposits and Bond payments must be made through the kiosk, online at www.expressaccount.com, or by telephone at (866) 422-6833.  
 \*Housing payments must be mailed to Deb Mika at 420 Court St, Caro, MI 48723.  
 \*Requests for copies of reports or Freedom of Information requests — email Shannon at sgwizdala@tuscolacounty.org.  
 \*Mail and package deliveries — Commissary and All Star — Push the buzzer and you will be let in (do not allow anyone to follow you inside).  
 \*Victim services or PPO (personal protection order) requests — contact Nancy at (989) 673-8161 (ext. 2241) for an appointment.  
 \*Impound release requests — Push buzzer and wait for assistance.  
 \*If you need to file a complaint or have a "fix it" ticket, contact Tuscola County Central Dispatch at (989) 673-8738 for an officer.  
 More information is available by logging on to the sheriff's department webpage at <https://www.tuscolacounty.org/sheriff/>.



**NEW CASS City Farmers Market vendor Pearl Romberg, Ubly, was on hand for the opening of this year's market Thursday, where she offered assorted homemade breads and jams and jellies for sale. Pictured shopping above are Sue Copeland and her daughter, Riley. Masks and social distancing were the order of the day under sunny skies, with organizers looking forward to including a wider variety of vendors once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. (Related photo, page one)**

# News briefs

## Kingston Days now canceled

KINGSTON — The summer festival that fought its way back from near extinction last year has been dealt another blow. The Kingston Village Council recently decided to cancel this year's Kingston Days celebration due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The festival was in danger last year of falling by the wayside, but a new group of volunteers stepped up to not only save the event, but also to expand it. Kingston Days is a celebration of community, and many view it as an opportunity to plan a homecoming of sorts by returning to their roots. To help fund the event and to fund community improvements, Kingston Days Committee members sell 300 raffle tickets. Organizers of the festival say the sale of raffle tickets will continue.

## Sanilac County Fair still on

SANDUSKY — So far, organizers of the Sanilac County 4-H Fair are still planning to host the event that is the county's biggest attraction of the year, with carnival rides, a midway and grandstand shows scheduled for Aug. 10-15 at the fairgrounds. However, the COVID-19 pandemic could halt the event as it has in neighboring counties. The Huron Community Fair's 152nd fair that was scheduled for Aug. 2 and 8 was recently cancelled, and what would have been Tuscola County's 139th fair, scheduled for July 26 to Aug. 1, will not be taking place this year. While the Sanilac County Fair is still on the schedule, there could be a few changes for 4-Hers when it comes to exhibiting their projects and showing off livestock. Hopes are to be able to do all that in the traditional way, face-to-face, with fairgoers, but if not, organizers may pursue a virtual exhibit/show format. The fair board is scheduled to meet Tuesday, June 2, to solidify plans or to modify them, and to review the governor's latest executive orders.

## Mini-grants available in Thumb

THUMB — The I-69 Thumb Region has mini-grants available. There will be 15 grants of up to \$2,000 each available to provide organizations with funding to implement small projects that encourage and contribute to a stronger sense of place. Those eligible to apply include municipalities, government organizations, and non-profit organizations. Projects can range from physical upgrades to internal municipal system and process improvements. Selected projects must be completed by Sept. 4. The application deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, June 1, with the grants awarded July 1. For an application or more information, call Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Steve Erickson at (989) 673-2849. The I-69 Thumb Region includes Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair and Tuscola counties, and is one of ten Michigan regions.

## 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.

*Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery*

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# 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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 clarke@ccchronicle.net

## ORV riders asked to take extra precautions

Although motorized trails are open to the public, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources urges off-road enthusiasts to use even greater care when riding trails this spring.

Due to the updated "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order and the State of Michigan's discretionary spending freeze, ORV trail maintenance has been temporarily suspended.

Typically, ORV grant sponsors handle needed maintenance work before the riding season starts. Under the order, normal preseason activities like clearing dead or fallen trees, trimming brush, grading and replacing signage haven't yet been completed. That means it's more likely that riders may come across downed limbs and trees, uneven trail surfaces, missing signage and other related hazards.

ORV riders are asked to:

- \*Slow down.
- \*Take corners with caution.
- \*Watch for potential hazards.
- \*Stay on designated trails.

These measures, along with greater awareness of other trail users, are critical to ORV rider safety.

"While the DNR encourages taking advantage of local opportunities to get outdoors, there has been a sharp rise in ORV trail use," said Greg Kinser, the DNR Parks and Recreation Division's northern Lower Peninsula trails coordinator.

"Many riders return to their favorite trails year after year, but current conditions on those same trails are requiring more advanced riding skills this spring," Kinser said. "As soon as it's possible, we will begin the process of assessing

trails and returning to regular maintenance activities. In the meantime, we are asking everyone, please, to slow down, stay safe and stay local."

An ORV license (\$26.25) is required to ride anywhere other than private property, and an ORV trail permit (\$10) is needed on state-designated ORV trails, routes or areas. During the stay-at-home order, purchases can be made online at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses.

Visit Michigan.gov/ORVInfo for more details, including information on trail closures, maps and safety.

Riders are reminded to "Ride Right" by keeping on the right side of the trail, operating at a safe speed and anticipating other riders. Learn more about the campaign at Michigan.gov/RideRight #####



RACING in Owendale has stalled due to the pandemic. Photo courtesy of Silver Bullet Speedway.

## Thumb race track using time off to make upgrades

by Mary Drier, For the Chronicle

Although opening night at Silver Bullet Speedway has been postponed indefinitely, it has given owners, Matt and Nick Hoonhout, extra time to do several upgrades in the meantime.

The season at the race track at 5801 Sebewaing Road, Owendale, was scheduled to have started back on May 2 but the COVID-19 pandemic put the breaks on that.

Matt Hoonhout posted a visual tour to show off some of the work at the track that has been completed so far:

The building to the pit entrance is in the process of receiving metal siding. New lights are going up in the front stretch, and the bleachers there have been painted. The scoring booth has been painted, the track graded twice so far, the camping area has been cleaned up.

A lot of painting as been done throughout the area to "freshen" things up. To do that, the primary colors being used are red and black.

Also, a new fence with safety cables has been installed as well.

Although things are getting ready for the track to open, Hoonhout pointed out the track is not open.

"We will absolutely adhere to the restrictions placed on us, but it is our intention to hold racing events at Silver Bullet Speedway once the governing bodies have given us the clearance to do so," he said. "During this quickly changing situation, governing bodies have not given any definitive dates for resuming public activity."

"But the (state) guidelines do make it clear that certain milestones will have to be met weeks before any racing events can be held."

So at this point, the owners have no definitive date for the start of the 2020 racing season. They will continue to monitor the situation along with the governor's policies, and will resume racing when restrictions are lifted.

"We understand the lack of a definitive start date is frustrating; but during this unprecedented situation, we are thankful for the flexibility and understanding of our fans, drivers, crew members, sponsors, officials, employees, friends, and family," he said noting some professional sporting organizations may be holding events without fans. "We, however do not have that option and we can't hold events without our fan base."

Some of the races at the track include: IMCA modifieds, street stocks, sprint cars, and more.

The brothers purchased the track, which has a long and lustrous history, and which is the longest continually operated dirt track in the state, in 2013.

In years past, well known racers like Indianapolis 500 winners Parnelli Jones, and A.J. Foyt and some others competed against Thumb area drivers.

Watch for updates and more information at [www.silverbulletsspeedway.com](http://www.silverbulletsspeedway.com).

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## Cass City Red Hawk

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Knights Insurance Agency proudly presents Cass City Red Hawk Athlete of the Week, Madilyn Tschirhart. The 2020 graduate was the type of player that put the team first and flurshed on the volleyball courts and softball diamonds. Madilyn helped Cass City claim its first district softball crown in 16 years as a junior. We were expecting big things from her in softball. Last year had a great season and did whatever we asked of her. Great kid, according to the coaching staff. Madilyn, who is headed to SVSU to continue her education, is the daughter of Scott and Christi Tschirhart and Bob and Sonya Otremba.

**MADILYN TSCHIRHART**

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## County land values rise

Continued from page one.

Consumers Energy's Crosswinds phase III farm went online at the end of 2019.

That wind farm has a taxable value of about \$64 million, and when part of NextEra Energy's Pegasus Wind Farm went online, that added about \$39 million in taxable value.

However, the county cannot count on increased revenues from wind farm taxes in the long term; their values decrease because of depreciation, and at a faster rate than what was originally promised.

The Michigan State Tax Commission (MSTC) changed the tax code in 2011 so that turbines are now taxed at 80 percent on the first year, and that figure drops to 30 percent within five years.

Under the original format, each turbine's tax was based on 100 percent of its value for the first year, depreciating over 15 years until bottoming out at 30 percent for the remainder of the turbine's life, which is estimated at about 30 years.

Daniels listed Tuscola County's top taxpayers. They are: Consumers Energy, Pegasus Wind, Tuscola Bay Wind, International Transmission, DTE Energy, Tuscola Wind, Tuscola Bay Wind II, Poet Biorefining, Thumb Electric, and Dairy Farmers of America.

The taxes on those entities comprise about 26.46 percent of the county's taxes, she noted.

The state equalized value, which is about 50 percent of the real total value of property in the county, rose 5.85 percent, from \$2,695,437,655 in 2019 to \$2,853,165,206 this year.

According to Daniels, the county saw increases across the board except for agriculture, which dropped in value by one percent.

Commercial property increased by 4.83 percent, industrial property increased by 1.25 percent, residential property increased by 6.73 percent, and personal property increased by 19.87 percent.

Of those categories, residential property makes up 51 percent, agricultural property makes up 43 percent, commercial property makes up four percent, and industrial property makes up two percent.

District 5 Commissioner Dan Grimshaw questioned the decrease in agricultural land values because that is normally the backbone of property taxes.

"It was in the northwest side of the county," Daniels said. "That is our best ground."

The decline stems from flooding along Saginaw Bay and the Quiancassee River in Akron Township and Wisner Township. Akron's value decreased by 2.68 percent and Wisner's, by 2.82 percent.

Grimshaw, who indicated he has not seen a decline in agricultural land values in his company, Mid State Title Services Inc., suggested there isn't a factual decline in agricultural land values because of limited farm sales.

He said commercial land values have decreased and will be hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in coming months.

# Obituaries

## June Englehart

June Marie Englehart, 82, of Toledo, OH passed away May 22, 2020 at Ebeid Hospice Residence.

She was born June 7, 1937 in Cass City, to Frank and Violet (Nowland) Englehart.

June was employed with Kmart for many years, retiring in 2005. She enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

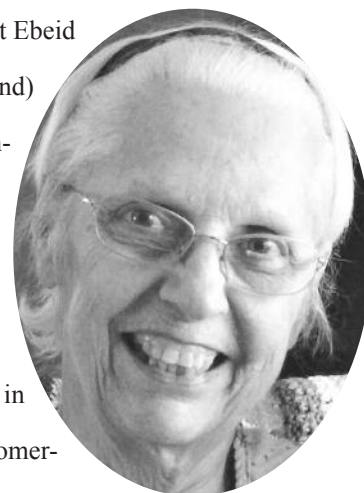
In addition to her parents, June was also preceded in death by her daughter, Deborah Sue Englehart; brother, Richard Englehart; and grandson, Paul Englehart.

June is survived by her son, Charles (Darla) Englehart; grandchildren, Michelle Englehart, Jennifer (Jamey) Kerstetter, Sarah Englehart and Jessica Englehart; and 7 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of June's life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society in June's memory.

To leave a special message for June's family, please visit [www.Newcomer-Toledo.com](http://www.Newcomer-Toledo.com).



# 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 STANCATO 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

## LIQUIDATION FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION SALE

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20th, 2020**  
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Osentoski Auction Service has been commissioned to sell at public auction the following personal property located from Cass City, MI, directions are 4 miles East to Vandyke, 2 miles South to corner of Vandyke & Pringle.

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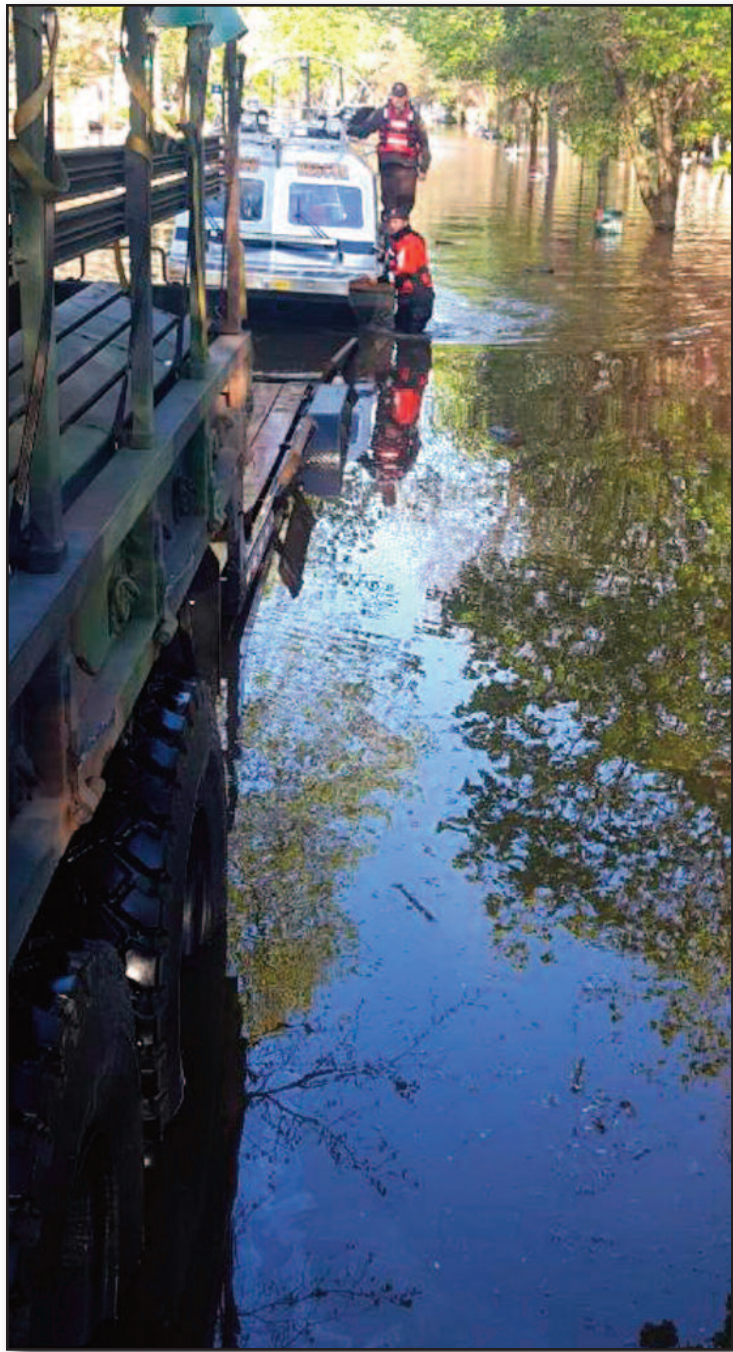


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# Thumb law enforcement steps up to assist Midland flooding victims

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Law enforcement officers from Huron and Tuscola counties answered the call when devastating flooding forced the evacuation of an estimated 10,000 mid-Michigan residents last week.

Compounding the flooding, following days of heavy rain, were the failure of both the Edenville and Sanford dams, sending rushing water through the city of Midland, destroying homes, businesses, roads, bridges and other infrastructure, and stranding some residents.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency in Midland County, and a day later expanded the state of emergency to include Arenac, Gladwin and Saginaw counties, where flood waters also destroyed homes and businesses, roads and bridges.

"We were requested to take (our) airboat to Midland Tuesday night about 7:30. The Caseville Fire Department, a deputy from our place and a deputy from the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office responded," Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson said.

"They had a relatively easy night, with only having to set up once for a rescue, but were called off after another boat became closer," he added.

"On Wednesday morning... myself, our undersheriff and another deputy from Tuscola relieved that crew," he said, noting the Thumb volunteers had just set up when they were dispatched to assist the Midland Fire Department with a rescue operation involving a man stranded at his home.

"We headed back into a neighborhood, with me pulling our manned airboat with our five-ton utility truck - with a fireman aboard - and I drove as far as I could until the boat started to float off the trailer. They then drove the airboat off... and picked up the individual while I repositioned the truck so they could drive back on."

"It was certainly something new for us, running that boat in the neighborhood (of) relatively high-end homes," Hanson recalled.

"As we drove in and out of that neighborhood, around a few stalled vehicles and lots of debris, the people who stayed were taking pictures of us," he continued, adding there were some kayakers in the vicinity and a few people walking, but it "sounded like most of the people heeded the warning... and actually did evacuate."

Hanson said the local crew remained at the scene until about 5 p.m.

"The water had come down enough to where (the airboat) wasn't that practical," he explained. "They had plenty of other

small boats there, too, so we left.

"We learned a lot that day about the capabilities and application of that airboat in situations like that," he said. "Specifically, that anything under about three to four feet of water is best served by a small boat or, better yet, our truck. Early on, though, when we were in the neighborhood in the morning, there probably were spots that had over five feet of water."

Hanson acknowledged the rescue operation was "something to see, especially how they had to organize all the help that was coming in. A drowning or missing person is a major management nightmare, which I've been through many of them. However, with all the boats and the agencies that showed up, they had two divisions of us broken down into probably 10 task groups."

"The calls weren't all about rescuing people; they were also about gas leaks, medical emergencies, fire alarms and picking up pets," he noted. "They (calls) really tapered off on Wednesday afternoon, but like I said earlier, the firemen were thinking many (residents) heeded the warning" to evacuate.

Hanson added, "We were glad to have helped the Midland Fire Department and it was very apparent that they appreciated us responding."

AMONG THE agencies that volunteered to assist following devastating flooding in Midland County last week was a contingent from the Thumb, including representatives of the Huron County Sheriff's Department, Tuscola County Sheriff's Department and the Caseville Fire Department.



THE HURON County Sheriff's Department utilized its five-ton utility truck to navigate flooded streets in Midland while also transporting the department's airboat to the scene, which was used to rescue a man stranded at his home by rising flood waters.

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