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# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 114, NUMBER 13

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020

.75 CENTS - 10 PAGES

## Lunch is served

*Free summer meal program  
has new look: pick-up only*

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

This is the time of year when Shari Bock, the Cass City Public Schools' veteran food service director, is typically gearing up to kick off the district's annual free summer meal program for area youngsters.

It's a routine Bock is familiar with, having headed up the program for the past dozen years. Last year, local school officials worked to provide kids up to age 18 with free breakfasts and lunches at three different meal sites – one in Cass City and two in Caro – and dozens of children benefited by receiving nutritious meals they might not have otherwise had access to during their summer vacation.

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed nearly everyone's routine, and Bock is no different.

"We still can't have the kids gathering in groups," said Bock, who explained concerns over spreading the virus mean there will be no meal sites this summer. However, Bock and her crew are planning to continue serving up meal kits – a week's supply of breakfasts and lunches for each participant – just as they have since the pandemic shut down schools in March.

"Beginning June 8, we will transition our school meal kits program, (but) with the end of the school year, we will no longer be allowed to deliver meals," Bock said.

Please turn to page 2.

## Whitmer lifts state stay at home order

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Michigan's retailers and restaurants will be allowed to reopen over the next few days, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced Monday as she lifted her blanket "stay at home" order, moving the state to phase four of the MI Safe Start Plan.

The governor's order will allow retailers to reopen on June 4 and restaurants to reopen on June 8, both subject to capacity limits. Day camps for children will also be permitted to open June 8. Effective immediately, groups of 100 or less will be allowed gather outdoors with social distancing.

Office work that is not capable of being performed remotely can re-

Please turn to page 8.

## Crash claims biker's life

Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies Thursday identified the victim of a motorcycle crash that occurred about two miles east of Mayville in Tuscola County's Dayton Township last week.

Sheriff Glen Skrent said Jacob Michael-Paul Merrow, 29, of Gaines, died in the crash.

Deputies were dispatched to an area near Clifford and Pattison roads shortly after 2 p.m. Tuesday, according to reports.

"They found that a male had been driving a motorcycle, lost control and crashed," Skrent said. "The driver was found deceased and was possibly in the ditch several days."

Merrow had been reported as a missing person from Genesee County.

An autopsy was scheduled. Deputies were assisted at the scene by Mayville Ambulance and the Tuscola County Road Commission.



### Digging up some fun...

CASS CITY'S DPW crew broke ground last week on the village's new splash park next to the Helen Stevens Memorial Pool. "The village has purchased the splash park equipment, toys and water features. We continue to fundraise and apply for grants to fund the installation expenses such as concrete, fencing, and contractors," reported village Manager Debbie Powell. "We remain hopeful the project (will be) completed this year." (Photo courtesy of the village of Cass City)

## Walsh: village has strong foundation to weather financial fallout from virus

by Mary Drier  
For the Chronicle

With all of the money that is being spent by the federal and state governments due to the COVID-19 pandemic, local government officials are concerned about the financial repercussions they will be facing in the coming months.

That concern was brought during a recent Cass City Village Budget and Finance Committee meeting – and addressed by village Clerk-Treasurer Nanette Walsh, who has been following the situation closely.

"The bottom line: Cass City has been doing the right thing. We have been pretty conservative in building up our fund balances. It will be a bumpy road, but I think we have a super strong founda-

tion," Walsh said. "We will have to stay on top of our budget amendments. We will be looking at having to do really deep budget amendments after the June financials come out, and again in September. They will be a little more in-depth."

After studying projections related to state revenue sharing, the preliminary estimate is that Cass City could see a decrease in revenue of about \$29,000.

Walsh explained larger municipalities are more vulnerable to revenue losses because of pension funds taking a drop in the market, as are those that have city income tax, and units of government that charge a lot of fees are the most at risk of decreased revenue, according to the reports and webinars Walsh has been monitoring.

Cass City does not have a pen-

sion fund, a city tax or charge additional fees, she pointed out.

Actually, this time might provide some financial benefits for the village.

"It is recommended this is a perfect window to do capital improvements — like the Seeger Street project," Walsh said. "We are (well) leveraged with a lot of funding sources that are looking to jump in on this project."

"This time might be a super sweet spot to do that. Some communities will be cash poor. They will have to do short-term loans. We don't have to worry about that."

The village has three loans that could possibly be refinanced at a better interest rate. There is the arsenic treatment plant that is a USDA bond, the balance owed on

Please turn to page 6.



DR. RICHARD HALL (far right), pictured above with Cass City physicians (from left) Dr. Francis Ozim (now retired), Dr. Donald Robbins Jr. and Surendra Raythatha (Dr. Ray), recently announced he is closing the books on a medical career spanning more than 40 years in Cass City.

## Cass City's Dr. Hall now officially retired

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Dr. Richard Hall needs no introduction in the Cass City community, where he's spent decades building a reputation for providing the sort of personal, compassionate medical care many patients have come to depend on locally.

He's a familiar face not only in the community, but also at Hills and Dales General Hospital, where he's been an integral part of the medical team since 1977.

With a career now spanning more than 40 years, Dr. Hall recently announced his plans to retire.

"Dr. Hall has provided care to thousands of patients, from delivery to elderly, he has become one of the most respected and beloved medical providers in the area," said Danielle Blaine, director of marketing for Hills and Dales General Hospital. "Other than a brief time when he worked at St. Luke's, which is now Covenant, he has been a part of Hills and Dales for the duration of his career."

Looking back over the years, many hospital staff members can remember a time when Dr. Hall and Dr. Surendra Raythatha (Dr.

Please turn to page 4.



**TUSCOLA COUNTY Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a fatal motorcycle crash shortly after 2 p.m. May 26 on Clifford Road near Pattison Road. Investigators discovered the victim deceased and reported the accident may have occurred days earlier. The victim had been reported as a missing person from Genesee County. See story, page one. (Photo courtesy of the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department)**

## Driver injured in three-vehicle accident

Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies responded to a three-vehicle traffic crash last week on South Van Dyke Road (M-53) near Reynolds Road in Marlette Township.

Sheriff Garry Biniiecki reported the crash May 26, with officers dispatched to the scene at about 6:35 p.m.

"The initial investigation determined that a 2019 Ford Ranger operated by a 68-year-old male

from Marlette was traveling southbound on South Van Dyke Road when it stopped on the roadway to make a left hand turn into Hilltop Gas Station. A 2001 Chrysler Voyager operated by a 29-year-old male from Brown City...rear-ended the 2019 Ford Ranger," Biniiecki said.

"The 2001 Chrysler Voyager then spun into the northbound lane where it was struck by a semi-truck operated by a 23-year-old male from Ohio that was trav-

eling northbound."

The 29-year-old driver from Brown City was transported to Marlette Regional Hospital by Marlette EMS for treatment of his injuries.

Deputies were assisted by troopers from the Michigan State Police post in Caro and the Marlette Fire Department, according to the sheriff, who noted the names were being withheld pending further investigation.

## Summer meal program will have new look

**Continued from page one.**

"All meal kits will be picked up at Cass City High School — the south drive where student drop-off/pick-up is usually done," she added. Pick-up times will be 3 to 5 p.m. on Mondays and 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays.

The meal kits, made available at no cost to the district through a U.S. Department of Agriculture summer feeding program administered by the state, will still be available free to all children up to age 18.

Bock said residents interested in receiving the meals should continue to place their orders on-line at [casscityschools.org](http://casscityschools.org) (click on the coronavirus tab).

Over the past several weeks, the Cass City Schools Food Service staff, teachers, para-professionals, bus drivers and other volunteers have prepared, packed and distributed thousands of meals, with many being delivered to families in the district.

"I would say we're (serving) an average of 475 kids (6,650 meals in all) a week," Bock said.

On average, 150 to 200 meal kits have been ordered and picked up per week at each of two different locations; Revive Ministries in Cass City and the Novesta Church of Christ. "And we've been delivering, probably, an average of 120 to 130 a week," she added.

Even before the pandemic plunged many more families into uncertain financial waters, the summer meal program proved popular, not surprising considering 53 percent of the Cass City Public Schools student body qualifies for free or reduce-price meals.

Still, Bock is hesitant to predict what the summer will bring in terms of demand.

"I don't know if our numbers are going to stay as high as they are now. I don't know what to expect," she said.

"We hope (families) will continue to support this program. We will continue to send home seven days' worth of breakfast and lunches for each child at one pickup," she added. "We are also working on getting extra dairy boxes and produce boxes to help support the entire family."

Bock said the dairy items being made available through a surplus program will include milk, cottage cheese, sour cream, French onion dip and chocolate/strawberry milk.

"My hope is that we're going to be able (to continue the summer meal program) through the end of July," said Bock, who is awaiting word from state officials. "But (we already know) we're going through the end of June."

Updates and more information on the meal program are available

by visiting the Cass City Public Schools website or by contacting Bock at (989) 872-5729.

## Sanilac drug team arrests pair in meth investigation

**by Tom Montgomery  
Editor**

Officers with the Sanilac Drug Task Force arrested two suspects after conducting a traffic stop and executing a search warrant in Elk Township last week as part of an ongoing investigation into the manufacturing of methamphetamine.

Drug task force Director Jim Johnson said officers initiated the traffic stop shortly after 10 a.m. Tuesday about eight miles southwest of Sandusky.

"Components used for manufacturing methamphetamine were located. A search warrant was then obtained for the residence related to the traffic stop," Johnson said. "The search warrant was executed in the 3000 block of Melvin Road. Located during the search warrant were additional components used for the manufacturing of methamphetamine, including a used 'one pot'."

One-pot methamphetamine laboratories, also called "shake and bake" labs, have become increasingly popular. The portable labs create smaller batches of methamphetamine in a shorter amount of time compared to traditional methods. The process involves the combination of several common household ingredients in one container, with the chemical reaction producing a crystalline powder that users can smoke, snort or inject.

However, one-pot labs are also extremely dangerous because the concentration of ingredients used can build up the pressure within the sealed container to levels beyond which the containers were made to withstand. If the bottle is shaken the wrong way, if any oxygen gets inside of it, or if the cap is loosened too quickly, the bottle can explode into a giant fireball.

Johnson said officers arrested a 41-year-old male and a 58-year-old female, both from the Elk Township home. Both are expected to face multiple charges.

"Oversight of the collection of evidence and containment was conducted by trained certified members of the Sanilac Drug Task Force and sheriff's office," he noted.



**MEMBERS OF the Cass City Public Schools Food Service staff, including (from left) Tena Rabideau, Kim Michalski, Andrea Caister and Barb McComb, along with other volunteers are gearing up for the start of the district's annual free summer meal program, which will look very different this year because the COVID-19 pandemic has forced officials to provide meals for pick-up only. Food service Director Shari Bock noted the protective face shields worn by the staff in the photo were provided by the Elkland Township Fire Department.**

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4		9						1
	1		5		8			
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# In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire  
Publisher

Tom Montgomery  
Editor

## Here's to our state's conservation officers

The nation recently recognized law enforcement officers during National Police Week, so we believe the time is also right to highlight the important work of conservation officers in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division.

These men and women are in the field and on the front lines every day, protecting our state's natural resources and public health and safety. It is a physically and mentally demanding career that officers and their families commit their lives to.

Conservation officers work with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and respond to emergency and general criminal complaints in every area of the state, urban and rural. They talk with anglers, boaters and hunters, search for lost residents, save lives and even help contain wildfires.

More recently – in the wake of the COVID-19 emergency – these officers also have been part of social distancing “drive by” birthday celebrations.

“I'm proud of the excellent workforce we have today,” said Gary Hagler, DNR Law Enforcement Division chief. “We have sworn officers and civilian employees who are flexible and adaptable to the evolving nature of conservation law enforcement.”

Stationed in nearly every county of the state, conservation officers are fully licensed peace officers charged with enforcing laws related to fish and wildlife, state parks, trails and forests, and outdoor recreation activities such as off-road vehicle use, snowmobiling and boating. They are also first responders to a variety of natural disasters and emergencies.

Their duties vary from season to season and include observing and checking hunters and anglers, enforcing snowmobiling, off-road vehicle and watercraft regulations; enforcing laws that protect the environment; outdoor recreation safety education; writing criminal case briefs and giving court testimony.

They work varied shifts, often outdoors in inclement weather. Because they enforce hunting regulations, conservation officers often deal with those possessing firearms. As peace officers, on occasion they make physical arrests of criminals who may be intoxicated and/or disorderly.

In addition to enforcement, they have a wide array of responsibilities including education, recreational safety and public outreach.

The coronavirus pandemic has created new opportunities for Michigan conservation officers to serve.

In early April, as the number of COVID-19 cases in Detroit was rapidly climbing, state officials decided to convert the downtown TCF Center (the former Cobo Center) into a field hospital for more than 900 patients, assisted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Conservation officers assigned to the Law Enforcement Division's emergency management section helped coordinate and staff a DNR incident management team at the Detroit site.

Thankfully, the need for the field hospital lessened and has since closed, but conservation officers continue to help distribute essential personal protective equipment and supplies throughout the state.

As Michigan moves through this public health emergency, DNR conservation officers remain committed to protecting and supporting their communities, and they deserve our appreciation and respect.

## Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Life -- a matter of attitude and perspective



Most think there are only two kinds of people — pessimists whose views are negative, and optimists, whose views are positive.

I think there is a third — the realist. I am one of them. It might be because I'm a reporter that I see the world a little differently than most.

The adage goes that a pessimist sees a glass of water as being half empty. An optimist sees the glass as half full.

A realist looks at the glass and sees just a half a glass of water. And as such, more water can be put in, or drank in one gulp.

As a realist, I am looking at this pandemic that way. I am not making light of the tragic and devastating impact the COVID-19 virus is having, but it has brought about some interesting results.

I wish I would have kept a list of how the world has changed in such a short time because of sheltering in place.

Without so much traffic, the water in the channels in Italy cleared up so fish have returned and jellyfish have been spotted. Sea turtles in record numbers are laying their eggs on beaches undisturbed. The air quality in some cities has greatly improved because of fewer vehicles traveling. And, there were countless photos posted showing a variety of wildlife roaming empty city streets. There were a couple of other positive environmental impacts, but I don't remember them.

Anyway, with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day last month, I wanted to point out how much the earth has healed in just a few months without humanity mucking it up.

When the COVID-19 pandemic is over, I hope people keep in mind how the earth healed in such a short time so they make better choices about the environment and how they treat it.

With that on my mind, I was moved by a poem I found on Facebook that was supposedly written by Kathleen O'Mara during a previous pandemic about people staying at home, relaxing and reading books, having time to exercise, learning new ways, and started making different choices, which also helped heal the earth.

The poem went viral, I read, and I believed it because its words touched my soul, which poems are supposed to do.

However, it was pointed out to me O'Mara didn't write the poem and the information about it was wrong.

I was disappointed that I couldn't use it in a column, but I still agree with the sentiment the poem conveyed.

Seeing how the world's environment has improved because man's behavior has changed due to the virus, I hope people do make better choices and live differently to help the earth.

So, when life hands out lemons, the saying goes that you are supposed to make lemon-aid.

When handed a lemon, a pessimist will wrinkle their

nose at the bitter fruit, the optimist will marvel at the bright color and clean smell of the lemon.

As a realist, I prefer tequila when I have lemons.



## Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

The Sanilac County Sheriff's Department was kept busy during the Memorial Day holiday weekend, Sheriff Garry Biniecki reports.

The department handled 103 calls for service over the weekend, according to Biniecki, who noted deputies made three arrests stemming from various incidents and initiated 101 traffic stops, with 16 citations and 73 verbal warnings issued.

“The sheriff's office corrections division booked three subjects into the jail stemming from arrests by deputies and other police agencies throughout the county,” he said.

“The Marine Division was on the water (during the) holiday weekend, patrolling the Lake Huron waterway from vessels stationed in Port Sanilac and Lexington harbors,” the sheriff added. “The marine division responding handled three incidents (ranging) from vessel tows to an overturned kayak. There were no water related injuries that were reported and no citations were issued.”

Biniecki noted his officers were able to conduct additional enforcement during the weekend, utilizing Operation Stone Garden grant funding.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you've got some returnable bottles and cans that aren't doing anything (and who doesn't these days), the staff at the Tuscola County Animal Shelter, located on M-81 near the Tuscola Area Airport, will be glad to take them off your hands.

The shelter began accepting donations of returnable cans and bottles Monday, with plans to use the money to help cover the cost of animal maintenance.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Arbor Day Foundation has a book that helps people identify trees in a simple, step-by-step process. The book, What Tree Is That?, is available for a \$5 donation to the nonprofit tree-planting organization.

What Tree Is That? is a fun, easy-to-use tree identification guide that features hand-drawn botanical illustrations highlighting the distinctive characteristics of many tree species.

Nature lovers and professional arborists alike have called this pocket field guide a must-have, user-friendly resource. Its beautiful, full-color illustrations are in precise detail and depict natural colors, shapes and textures so users can make a positive species identification in a few steps.

The Arbor Day Foundation offers this book to help people identify trees throughout the Eastern and Central regions of the United States. What Tree Is That? uses a unique step-by-step approach for identifying the species of each tree, explaining what to look for in the shape and arrangement of the leaves, differences in the leafstalks and specific characteristics of fruits, flowers, buds and bark.

“Our What Tree Is That? Pocket guide is an ideal resource for developing a greater appreciation for trees,” said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “The Arbor Day Foundation strives to help people enjoy and appreciate trees, and we feel our pocket field guide will do just that.”

What Tree is That? is also available as an online interactive version at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

To obtain a tree identification guide in full color, visit [arborday.org](http://arborday.org) or send your name, address, and \$5 for each guide to: What Tree Is That?, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410.

## 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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**OFFICERS FROM the Huron County Sheriff's Department rescued two swimmers – a 26-year-old Swartz Creek woman and a 50-year-old Caro woman – after the pair found themselves struggling to return to shore as they battled an offshore breeze off Huron County's Lake Township last Wednesday.**

## Cass City's Dr. Hall announces retirement

Continued from page one.

Ray) were the only two primary care physicians, along with a surgeon, on staff at Hills and Dales.

"It has been an adventure," commented Dr. Hall, smiling.

"Cass City has always been my home. I raised my family here and my patients became like my second family," he said. "It has been a true privilege working beside my colleagues. Medicine sure has changed throughout the years, but I am proud of the care our team provides, and it has been a wonderful career at Hills and Dales."

"Dr. Hall was my family doctor when he first started, and it has been a pleasure working beside him here at Hills and Dales," said Jean Anthony, president and CEO of the Cass City hospital.

"Dr. Hall is a compassionate, dedicated physician and we will certainly miss seeing him. When a physician works their entire career with the same hospital, they really become like family," Anthony added. "We wish him all the best as he moves into retirement. He

leaves a legacy behind and we couldn't be more thankful for the years of service he gave to our community."

A 1964 graduate of Owen-Gage High School, Dr. Hall attended Central Michigan University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1968. He then went to Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, Kirksville, Mo., earning his Doctor of Osteopathy Degree in May 1976.

"I am so proud that both my grandson and his wife are attending medical school at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. It will be a great achievement for our family," Dr. Hall said, noting previous family members who have served the Cass City community include Dr. Thelma June MacRae and Dr. Ivan MacRae.

In retirement, Dr. Hall said he's looking forward to attending church, visiting family and friends, and doing some traveling – after restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have been lifted.

According to Blaine, patients looking to find a new healthcare

provider will find many options at Hills and Dales.

"If a patient would like to stay with Cass City Medical Practice, feel free to contact the office at (989) 872-8202 and the staff will help you with the transition to a new provider," she said. "If you'd like to look at all of our providers and clinic locations, feel free to visit [www.hdghmi.org](http://www.hdghmi.org)."

# Huron deputies handle two rescue operations

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

The Huron County Sheriff's Department launched two successful rescue missions on Saginaw Bay last Wednesday.

The first involved a pair of swimmers who found themselves struggling to return to shore off Huron County's Lake Township.

Deputies were dispatched to Sleeper State Park Beach at about 5:55 p.m., according to Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson.

"It was reported that two swimmers on separate swim floaties were believed to be in trouble by not being able to get back to shore due to a moderate shore breeze pushing them out," Hanson said.

"First responding Deputy Alex Jobs determined that the wind had overtaken the swimmers and they were approximately a half-mile offshore and not making any progress (getting) back," he added. "It was also appearing that one of the swimmers was in the process of abandoning their swim floaty to likely try to swim back in."

Jobs and other beachgoers were able to get the swimmers' attention by yelling at them and telling them to stay put.

"Myself and Deputy Ben Willenberg responded to the scene with our 28-foot Caseville patrol boat," the sheriff reported. "There we located two females who stated that they were unable to get back to shore — one of their swim floaties had also lost a lot of air."

"Both ladies, a 26-year-old from Swartz Creek and a 50-year-old from Caro, were brought aboard and taken back to shore without incident. They needed no reminder about taking the wind for granted when utilizing swim toys at a beach."

The second rescue was reported shortly after 9 p.m. about 2 1/2 miles west of the Port Austin Reef light off Port Austin Township.

"In that incident, a 61-year-old male lone occupant, from Lake Orion, on a 14-foot motorized boat was stranded due to an engine failure," Hanson said. "Deputy John Atwell and two Port Austin firemen responded in our 31-foot Port Austin patrol boat to retrieve the individual."

The officers picked up the man and towed his boat back to Port Austin without incident.



**HUMMINGBIRDS are a common sight around feeders filled with sweet nectar and hung near residences throughout the Cass City area. The smallest migrating bird in the world (although they don't migrate in flocks like other species, and they typically travel alone for up to 500 miles at a time), hummingbirds, on average, weigh less than a nickel. The tiny bird's heart rate is more than 1,200 beats per minute, compared to a human's average heart rate of 60 to 100 beats per minute at rest.**

## SNAP families can buy online

To make life easier on families who need to stay home during the pandemic, Michigan families who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) soon will be able to buy their food online from two national retailers.

In addition, the state is also rolling out "quarantine care kits" with essential goods for families with low and moderate incomes who are in quarantine or isolation.

duced-price lunches at school, as well as made food assistance available to students in college career and technical education programs.

MDHHS has also begun working with community partners on two projects that deliver food boxes to older adults or people who are otherwise vulnerable due to COVID-19.

More information is available by calling 211.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) officials announced Thursday that the state expects to have the online purchase option available by the end of last week. Michigan received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service to allow SNAP recipients to redeem their food assistance benefits at Amazon.com and Walmart.com.

"Before and since the COVID-19 pandemic, we've worked hard to make it easier for Michiganders to use food aid," said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. "Now that families can order groceries online using their EBT cards, it'll be easier for them to put food on the table."

Once online purchasing is activated, people who receive food assistance will be able to go to the Amazon and Walmart websites and use their Electronic Benefits Transaction cards – known in Michigan as Bridge Cards – for purchases of eligible food items just as one would use a credit or debit card for an online purchase.

Any delivery fee cannot be paid for using SNAP benefits. Anyone who has cash assistance benefits loaded onto their Bridge Card will not be able to use the cash benefits for online purchases. Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefits also cannot be used for online purchases.

In April, more than 1.4 million Michigan residents received food assistance benefits. In recent weeks, the state also has increased the monthly amount of food assistance for many households, provided new or additional benefits for the families of 900,000 children who qualify for free or re-



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## Reporter's notebook

### We're all facing some hard truths

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor



I don't know about you, but I'm still trying to digest the angry protests that recently erupted across the country following the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis.

News footage dominated the headlines and airwaves, with video footage showing demonstrators clashing with police in various cities. There have been vivid images of looting along with buildings and vehicles set ablaze.

Of course, none of them compared with the video showing a Minneapolis police officer kneeling on Floyd's neck for several minutes as he is heard begging an officer to stop and saying he couldn't breathe. That officer has been arrested and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter. Three other officers were present but have not yet been charged. All four were fired.

And all of this in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has now claimed 100,000-plus lives in the United States over the past several weeks.

The levels of anger and hate and division over executive orders issued by governors in many states – all stemming from the pandemic — were already boiling over before the inexcusable actions that took Floyd's life.

It's easy to lose hope during times like these, especially when you consider some of the hard truths we need to acknowledge if we're ever going to improve our lot.

The list is endless, but recent events have certainly underscored the reality that:

\*Ignoring injustice and inequality won't make it go away. If history has taught us anything, it's that ignorance, apathy and racism will continue to feed a justifiable anger that can only be quenched by absolute, immediate and consistent accountability. And if you think this is an issue for "someone else" to address, you're fooling yourself.

\*Ignoring science in the face of a virus that kills tens of thousands of people in a matter of a few months won't make it go away. Also, you can't quarantine foolishness or ignorance or stupidity.

\*When my rights are more important than your rights, we're both in serious trouble.

\*When we view the world with one focus – how every person, event and thing affects me – we're in serious trouble.

\*Looking to politicians for a message of unity is pointless when they've demonstrated time and time again that a reelection campaign is far more important to them than integrity – more important than doing their job. Sincerity and truth matter, especially during times like these.

\*The same goes for politicians who vow to serve constituents by not politicizing issues, only to politicize those issues through thinly veiled rhetoric designed to garner support for "their" side or to justify their party's position.

\*There is no substitute for true leadership.

\*Summarily dismissing legitimate criticism via distraction, deflection, silence, etc., won't put an end to the questions.

\*In general, individuals who break the law are not heroes, no matter how many folks cheer and wave signs and honk their horns.

\*Regardless of your faith, there's no way around not reaping what you sow.

\*There are no versions of the truth. Truth stands alone.

As I said, it can be easy to lose hope.

But then I remember seeing so many examples of the sort of humanity we're capable of; images of Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson and other officers talking to protestors and then joining them in a peaceful march in Flint Township protesting Floyd's death over the weekend; images of people risking their own health to care for others on the medical front in response to the pandemic; and strangers rolling up their sleeves and reaching out to mid-Michigan residents, many of whom lost everything to catastrophic flooding last month.

Those are wonderful examples of compassion for and caring about our neighbors.

Aside from the faith many people share, reminding us that God remains in control, they are also reminders that we should – and do – have hope for the future.

# 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.

### 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.

### 25 YEARS AGO (1995)

Brian Wright, of Decker, a junior at Saginaw Valley State University, has had his recognition scholarship renewed for the fall semester. To receive the scholarship, students must have a cumulative 3.4 grade point average and be enrolled in 12 or more credit hours.

### 35 YEARS AGO (1985)

S.S.G. Juan Medrano, U.S. Army, who is attending school in Fort Benjamin, Ind., spent from Friday until Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Francis. Fred Francis, U.S. Air Force, Mrs. Francis and their daughter Tiffany from Fort Worth, Texas, came Friday and are spending two weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Francis.

### 40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Born to the James Hielborns of Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Oscoda, May 25, a son, James Bradley. Mrs. Hielborn is the former Tami Kritzman. The baby weighed eight pounds and four ounces and joins a sister, Heather. Mrs. Harvey Kritzman returned home June 1 from a week's visit with Mr. and Mrs. James Heilborn and great great-grandchildren at Wurtsmith AFB.

Born May 19 to Richard and Marcy Brinkman of Cass City, a son, Joshua John. He weighed nine pounds and six ounces. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Brinkman of Cass City and Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Miller of Owendale. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Winford Brinkman of Akron, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Jacoby of Unionville and Mrs. Sylvia Miller of Pigeon.

### 50 YEARS AGO (1970)

In the days before radio and talking pictures you could have a sweet thing going as a profes-

sional musician if you could cut the mustard and George Jetta, 71, of Cass City, was one of the men of the bowler hat era who could. As a young man of 21, the ambitious young musician came down from Calumet in the Upper Peninsula armed with his flute and piccolo and the ability to make beautiful music. Jetta received a gold Federation of Musicians card after 30 years' membership in the Union. He received his gold card in 1954.

### 75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Sgt. Neil D. Sweeney, 24, of Sheridan, was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action, on the east bank of the Rhine River in Germany in April. Sgt. Sweeney entered the Army Mar. 16, 1942, and received six weeks training at Fort Custer, Mich., and went overseas on April 28, 1942. He saw service in Iceland, Eng-

land and Ireland and entered France on "D" day with the third army of General Patton and was with the now famous fifth division on "VE" day, having fought their way through France, Germany and Czechoslovakia, where he is now stationed. Sgt. Sweeney is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Sweeney, of Sheridan. He has one brother, Steve, in the Navy, who is stationed in the Marianna Islands.

### 100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Considering the size of our town, we have many aged ones. Two that are extremely old, Mrs. Catherine Daugherty, who has passed the hundred mark, and David Simons of more than ninety years. Mr. Simons is the father of Mrs. Shaw, where he lives, who has lately moved here from Caro. We also have nearly a score who are living on "borrowed time," that are growing old beautifully.

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**Special Meeting Notice**  
**Greenleaf Township**  
**Zoning Board of Appeals**

Address: 6435 Bay City Forestville Road, Cass City, MI 48726

**Meeting Date: June 18, 2020**  
**Meeting Time: 6:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting Location: Greenleaf Township Hall**

Purpose(s) of Meeting: Robert DeLong is seeking variance approval to add onto an existing non-conforming structure. Porch on the east side will be remodeled and added on to wrap around the south side of the house. Property located at: 8673 Hadley Rd. Cass City, MI 48726. Parcel No.: 130-004-300-020-00

This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, (MCL 41.72a(2)(3)) and the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The Greenleaf Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio recordings of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting or public hearing upon 10 days notice to the Greenleaf Township Board. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Board by writing or calling the following: Judy Keller, Township Clerk P.O. Box 135, Cass City, MI 48726

Written comments may be mailed to the Township Clerk, P.O. Box 135, Cass City, MI 48726.

Judy Keller  
Greenleaf Township Clerk

A copy of this notice is on file in the Clerk's Office, located at 6435 Bay City Forestville Road, Cass City, MI 48726.

**BID REQUESTS**  
**2020 M-81 SIDEWALK SPECS**

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

Bids must be completed and put in the Village drop box by **Friday, June 19, 2020.**

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

**SPECIFICATIONS**

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

\*Maps available at the Village Hall

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## Governor appoints Thumb farmers to state wheat promotion committee

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recently appointed Jeffery R. Krohn of Owendale to the Michigan Wheat Promotion Committee.

Krohn is the manager of his family's farm, where they grow wheat, alfalfa, corn, soybeans, dry beans and sugar beets. He is the owner of Northern Thumb Crop Consulting, Inc.

Krohn was appointed to represent District Seven growers for a term starting June 1 and expiring May 31, 2023. He succeeds Cass City wheat farmer David Milli-

gan, whose term expires May 31.

Milligan, who three years ago became the first Michigan farmer to serve as an officer with the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), was named president of the national organization earlier this year.

Another Thumb farmer, Sally M. McConnachie of Deckerville, was also named to the state committee.

She is a partner and office manager of Dave's Dirt, LLC. They grow wheat, sugar beets and edi-

ble dry beans.

McConnachie also serves as the Michigan director for the NAWG. She was reappointed to represent District Five growers for a term starting June 1 and expiring May 31, 2023.

The Michigan Wheat Promotion Committee seeks to promote the production and consumption of wheat grown in Michigan and assists in the agricultural research and development of wheat products.

# Obituaries

## Roxanna "Rocky" Carpenter

Roxanna "Rocky" Griffith Carpenter, 53, of Gagetown, died unexpectedly Friday, May 22, 2020 in Hills and Dales General Hospital, Cass City.

She was born May 23, 1966 in Kansas City, MO to Harry Wadell and Marie June (Stegall) Griffith.

She married Jeremy Adam Carpenter May 31, 2005 in Sanilac County.

Growing up, Rocky attended several high schools in Missouri. She came to Michigan in her late teen years to visit her sister and eventually moved to Michigan in 2002. Rocky was a terrific cook and worked for various restaurants as a chef and line cook. For a while, she also arranged flowers as a florist. Rocky had a huge place in her heart for animals. She cared for many cats and dogs and enjoyed feeding the deer in her backyard. Rocky was particularly fond of dragonflies and hummingbirds. She loved to plant flowers and play outside in the yard with her grandson, Clayton.

Roxanna is survived by her husband, Jeremy; daughter, Tiffany Griffith of Gagetown; grandson, Clayton Griffith; brother, Roger Clayton Griffith of Kansas City, MO; niece, DeeDee LeMoine; great-nephews: Rudy LeMoine, Brendan LeMoine.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and sister, Maria Jane Bracken.

A private family service has been held.

Memorials may be made to Sanilac County Humane Society or Thumb Veterinary Clinic.

Family and friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at [www.kranzfuneralhome.com](http://www.kranzfuneralhome.com). Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



## Catherine Fox King

Catherine June Fox King, 96, of Cass City, died Tuesday, May 26, 2020 in her home.

She was born June 1, 1923 in Evergreen Township to John and Bessie (Emigh) McQueen.

She married Milton J. Fox June 21, 1941 in Ohio. He died July 18, 1975. She married Gerald King October 22, 1982 in Evergreen Township. He died August 11, 1986.

Catherine graduated from Cass City High School in 1941.

She was a hard worker and helped Milton on the dairy farm. She later worked as a housekeeper in Hills and Dales General Hospital, Cass City. Catherine was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star of Decker. She loved the challenge of a good crossword puzzle. Catherine was fond of cats and enjoyed following her favorite baseball team, the Detroit Tigers.

Catherine is survived by her sons: Mike (Susanne) Fox of Caro and John (Kim) Fox of Bad Axe; daughters: Bonnie Laming of Cass City and Lona Fox of Cass City; seventeen grandchildren: Cindy, Lana, Cheyenne, Kristie, Victor, Tony, John, Jennifer, Candace, Kaitlin, Skylynn, Michelle, Marsha, Jillian, Joni, Rick and Ryan; twenty-one great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her son, Richard Fox; three great-grandchildren; two brothers; and a sister.

A private graveside service was held Friday, May 29, in Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City with Pastor Bill Cleland of Owendale United Methodist Church officiating.

Memorials may be made to Heartland Hospice of Bad Axe.

Family and friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at [www.kranzfuneralhome.com](http://www.kranzfuneralhome.com). Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



## Linda Matthews

Linda J. Matthews, 72, of Gagetown, passed away Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at Sparrow Health System, Lansing.

She was born August 14, 1947 to the late Glen and Mildred (Kirby) Shelly in Howell.

Linda married Kenneth Matthews on May 24, 1986. He passed away March 10, 2004.

She retired from Hills and Dales General Hospital, Cass City, having worked as an Xray Technician and loved mowing the lawn with her John Deere Tractor.

Linda is survived by her children, Curtis Harju of Diamondale and Cynthia (Michael) Shivley of Gagetown; grandchildren, Frank Abfalter, Cody Harju and Christopher Remsing; sisters, Judy Flowers of FL, Barb (Ron) Milson of AZ and Nancy (the late Jim) Myers of Lapeer; and many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

A private family visitation has taken place. Honoring Linda's wishes, cremation took place at Sunset Valley Crematory, Bay City. Please share condolences at [www.thabetfuneralhome.com](http://www.thabetfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements were made by Thabet Funeral Home of Cass City.



## News briefs

### Hydrant flushing schedule set

CASS CITY — The village of Cass City has scheduled its next round of hydrant flushing for 4 a.m. today (Wednesday) and Thursday, June 3 and 4.

During the procedure, there may be an abundance of crystallized iron (rust) in the local water supply.

This condition does not render the water unfit or harmful for consumption; however, clothing washed in this water will probably become discolored. Residents should check the color of their water before placing clothes in the washer, as the village is not liable for damage.

### Deputies help to deliver meals

CARO — Tuscola County Sheriff Department deputies recently took their mission of protecting and serving an additional step by lending a hand to officials with the Human Development Commission (HDC).

As a result of increased demand for home delivered meals, the HDC director reached out to Sheriff Glen Skrent and his staff for help in delivering meals in the Cass City area. Deputies Bryan Hemerline and Kirk Dutcher spent several hours delivering meals, utilizing the department's work-crew van.

"We do what we can to assist when time permits," said Skrent, noting the department also helped deliver meals the previous week.

### Farmers market in Ubyly canceled

UBLY — Although some communities are going ahead with opening their farmers' market, others are not.

Organizers of a farmers market in the village of Ubyly is among those that have opted out of opening for business this year due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.

### MTA offers student scholarships

MICHIGAN — The Robert R. Robinson Scholarship, awarded annually by the Michigan Townships Association (MTA), is seeking to offer financial assistance to students aspiring to leadership roles in their communities.

The scholarships are designed to help Michigan students who are preparing for a career in public administration. Applicants must be a junior, senior or graduate student in a Michigan college or university.

The scholarship is awarded on a competitive basis, with applicants considered based on several factors, including academic achievement, community involvement and commitment to local government administration.

Requirements include: a letter of recommendation from a professor or instructor; a copy of a resolution of support from an MTA-member township board in good standing; and a short essay on an important issue facing local government.

All applications are due by Wednesday, July 15. More information is available online at [www.michigantownships.org/scholarship.asp](http://www.michigantownships.org/scholarship.asp), or by contacting MTA at (517) 321-6467.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

## Village has strong foundation

Continued from page one.

the grit master that had to be replaced, and an installment loan for the downtown development authority.

"We could talk to those institutions to see if there is something out there (interest rates) more competitive," she said.

In other matters, village officials have been working with Mike Engles at the Michigan Rural Water Association on doing a study of the village's procedures.

"He has a lot of questions, especially on our rate structure for water and sewer. We have a five-tiered rate structure for water, (and) he said it is really unusual for a village to have a five-tiered rate structure. He said a village of our size would have two, maybe three at most," village Manager Debbie Powell told committee members.

"He also talked about our sewer usage rates. He said he has never seen like what we have either. To him, it looks like the rates are based on the meter size of \$9.95 per gallon, and he suggested that we might look at giving a break to larger users," Powell added.

"We will be looking at possibly changing and simplifying billing."

It was also recommended the village update its investment policy, which has not been done in about 20 years.

"We do have an investment policy that is simple. The gist of it is investments should be very solid, and be able to be liquid," said Walsh. "It says to keep our investments solid rather than chasing interest. No commercial paper, no stock and no foreign investments. We have pretty much followed that guideline."

## VILLAGE OF CASS CITY PUBLIC NOTICE

**The Village of Cass City to begin 2020 Street Projects this summer. Beechwood will be reconstructed from Hospital Drive to Hemlock Drive, which will also impact Herron Drive and some Spruce Street residents. Pine Street will be reconstructed between Seeger and Leach Streets, which will impact the Rawson Memorial Library.**

**The Village of Cass City will hold a public pre-construction meeting with Spicer Engineering and Astec Asphalt on Wednesday, June 10, at 10:00 am to be held at the Lions Pavilion in the Municipal Park. The public is invited and will receive information concerning project timeline, access to property, parking, trash pick, and other matters during the road reconstruction.**

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## Turning in tagged fish could net cash reward

### Tag returns help biologists understand fish survival, age and movement

People who regularly fish Michigan waters likely are familiar with the state's marked and tagged fish program. Through assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Lakes states, including Michigan, are mass marking popular gamefish (like steelhead, Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon, brown trout and lake trout) before those fish are stocked.

As more anglers get out on the water this summer, the DNR reminds them that catching a trout or salmon with an adipose fin clip could be worth a \$100 reward. The adipose fin is the

small, fleshy lobe on the fish's back, just forward of the tail fin.

Most trout and salmon with an adipose fin clip also have a coded-wire tag in the snout. Because the tags are small – like the tip of a lead pencil – they must be removed by lab technicians. If anglers catch and want to keep an adipose fin clipped fish, they are asked to turn the head in at one of the local drop-off stations.

Randy Claramunt, the DNR's Lake Huron Basin coordinator, said the department relies on the help of anglers to supplement the marked and tagged fish program. "We have limited capacity to

take that important data from sport-caught trout and salmon," he said. "We have creel clerks at some ports, but there are several areas – including some river systems with unique fisheries, like Atlantic salmon or steelhead – where we don't have staff. To get enough tag returns to learn about these species, we're asking people to take a little extra time to turn in those heads."

The Great Lakes Salmon Initiative recognized the need for citizen science in this effort and teamed up with Captain Chucks II in Ludington and Moonshine Lures to sponsor 33 rewards

worth \$100 each. Fish with tags submitted before Nov. 1, 2020, will be eligible for the rewards, which will be randomly selected.

Additional details about the reward program:

\*Each head with a tag that is turned in equals one drawing entry.

\*Eligible tagged fish include steelhead, brown trout, and Chinook or Atlantic salmon.

\*The drawing will occur around January 2021.

\*Contact information (name, address, phone number) must be provided with each head.

\*Catch data (date, location and body of water) must be included with each head.

\*The head must be left at a Michigan drop-off location.

According to Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin coordinator, fish tag returns help biologists understand survival, age and movement of important sportfish.

"We are particularly interested in confirming how naturally reproducing Chinook salmon contribute to the fishery; the movement and wild contribution of steelhead in lakes and rivers; and survival and movement of Atlantic salmon," Wesley said. "This reward program sponsored by Captain Chucks II, Moonshine Lures and the Great Lakes Salmon Initiative will help incentivize anglers to become citizen scientists, and that ultimately helps us collect valuable data."

For more information on how to recognize a tagged fish and how to fill out the proper information, visit [Michigan.gov/TaggedFish](http://Michigan.gov/TaggedFish).



FISHING can be a wonderful family activity during a pandemic.

## Cass City Red Hawks ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

The Knights Insurance Agency Cass City Red Hawk Athletes of the Week have both talent and brains. Meet 2020 seniors Mary and

Marla Muter.

The twin sisters have stood out for 4 years on the cross country trails for Coach Jon Zdrojewski in the fall, and also as distance specialists on the track team in the spring. More importantly, they graduated as Valedictorian and Salutatorian at Cass City Junior/Senior High School. Both girls are headed to the University of Michigan for their next educational journey.



MARY MUTER



MARLA MUTER

"You won't find a pair of better student-athletes than Mary and Marla," says Zdrojewski. "Super quiet, remarkable girls, sweet kids."

Mary, the local Valedictorian with a GPA of 4.12, and Marla, the local Salutatorian with a GPA of 4.11, are the daughters of Dale and Catherine Muter.

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Cass City Chronicle  
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**ADAM GENNRICH, a Caro native and Kingston High School graduate, was recently named factory superintendent of the Michigan Sugar Company's factory in Sebewaing.**

## Kingston grad new sugar factory chief

A Caro native was recently named factory superintendent of the Michigan Sugar Company's factory in Sebewaing.

Adam Gennrich, 43, joined Michigan Sugar in September 2014 as a factory chemist in Sebewaing. In August 2019, he became the electrical and instrumentation supervisor, a position he held until this recent promotion.

Gennrich graduated from Kingston High School in 1995 and studied aviation for two years at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla. He returned to Michigan in 1997 and worked various jobs before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 2000.

He served in the Navy from 2000 to 2006, working as a nuclear engineering laboratory technician and eventually serving on the U.S.S. Scranton, a 361-foot-long nuclear-powered submarine. He said his service took him around the world to places such as Spain, Italy, the Middle East and the United Arab Emirates.

After completing his naval career, Gennrich went to work for two years at Consumers Energy and then for six years at the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station in Van Buren County's Covert Township, first as a lab chemist and then as the environmental

lead for the site.

Adam and his wife, Jeni, live in Sebewaing and have four children — Austin, 20, a student at Michigan Technological University; Tirzah, 17, who graduates this year from Unionville-Sebewaing Area High School and plans to attend Western Michigan University in the fall; Michael, 11, who will begin the sixth grade this fall at USA Middle School; and Rosalie, nine, who will begin fourth grade this fall at USA Elementary School.

Jeni Gennrich is a former Michigan Sugar employee and Adam's brother, Erich, works in the boiler house at the Sebewaing factory.

## Governor lifts her stay at home order

Continued from page one.

sume. And in-home services, including housecleaning services, can resume operations, according to news release from the governor's office.

"The data has shown that we are ready to carefully move our state into the next phase of the MI Safe Start Plan, but we owe it to our brave frontline heroes to get this right," Whitmer said.

"While Michiganders are no longer required to stay home, we must all continue to be smart and practice social distancing, and encourage those who meet the criteria to get tested for COVID-19," she added. "If we all do our part, our goal is to announce a shift to phase five for the entire state prior to the fourth of July."

"The governor and I, along with a team of experts, have determined that our state is ready to move into the next phase of the MI Safe Start Plan. Hospitalization numbers are down, our frontline workers have PPE to last them several weeks, and the number of positive cases and deaths are declining," said Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Chief Deputy for Health and Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh Khaldun.

"We will continue to monitor the data and work closely with local health departments to ensure Michiganders practice safe social distancing. On behalf of our health care professionals and first responders on the front lines, we must all be smart and be safe," Khaldun noted.

Residents must continue to wear facial coverings when in enclosed public spaces and should continue to take all reasonable precautions to protect themselves, their loved ones, and the community, said Whitmer, who recommended that residents continue to work from home to the maximum extent possible.

Subject to local regulation, gyms and fitness centers may conduct outdoor classes, practices, training sessions or games, provided that coaches, spectators, and participants maintain six feet of distance from one another during these ac-

tivities. Outdoor pools can also reopen, with restricted capacity.

### Testing revised

Tuscola County Health Department officials, meanwhile, are continuing to tweak local COVID-19 testing schedules in accordance with demand.

And while the number of confirmed cases of the virus have decreased markedly in the upper Thumb, Ann Hepfer, health officer for the both the Tuscola and Huron county health departments, says it's still vitally important that residents take time to be tested.

Starting tomorrow (June 4), testing in Tuscola County will be offered only on Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. in the health department parking lot in Caro until further notice, Hepfer said.

"We have tried the evening and we tried the afternoons, but very few people came through the clinic," she reported. "The daytime clinics were better received."

"If there becomes a resurgent of the virus, we can once again consider additional times," Hepfer added, (and) if residents need additional times, they can call us and we will assist them with finding alternate testing sites."

In Huron County, testing continues to be offered in the Bay Great Lakes Health Care Center parking lot in Bad Axe on Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon, and starting today (June 3), on Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m.

Anyone living in rural area, with or without symptoms, is eligible for testing. The only requirement is to write down your full name, date of birth, address, telephone number and insurance information and numbers, and present the information at the time of testing.

Hepfer recently announced a new, comprehensive website designed to provide residents as well as businesses with a wealth of information and resources as state officials continue to lift restrictions related to the pandemic.

"We created a large resource center for small (and) large business, daycares, restaurants and many other" organizations, she said of the Michigan Thumb Public Health Alliance website, which can be accessed online at <https://www.mithumbpha.org/covid-19-response-center>.

Hepfer also announced the local health department has resumed

immunizations four days a week by appointment only, as well as hearing and vision clinics.

"We want those babies vaccinated and those school children ready for September back to school. This is for both Huron and Tuscola counties," she said.

### Latest numbers

As for the latest COVID-19 statistics in Tuscola and Huron counties, Hepfer said, "We are still holding steady and are flattening out — (it's) looking much better than a few weeks ago."

Between Monday, May 25, and Monday, June 1, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased by just 11 — from 267 to 278 — with the three counties' combined death toll rising from 29 to 30.

As of Monday afternoon, Tuscola County had recorded 189 confirmed cases and two dozen deaths, Huron County had recorded 48 cases and one death, and Sanilac County, 41 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 as of Friday, 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 Gageton zip code.

Statewide, Monday's total of confirmed cases reached 57,532, with a total of 5,516 deaths, compared to 54,881 cases and 5,240 deaths a week earlier.

According to Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the state has confirmed roughly 38,100 patients recovered from COVID-19, with 96 of those involving Tuscola County residents and 24 in Huron County.

To-date, Hepfer noted, Tuscola County has had 2,404 residents tested and Huron County, 1,091 residents tested.

# Owen-Gage officials gearing up to honor Class of 2020 grads

by Mary Drier  
For the Chronicle

When the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted school districts' routines mid-March, everything changed — especially for graduating seniors.

"Our original graduation was scheduled for May 28," Owendale-Gage-town School Supt. Terri Falkenberg said. "We would have loved to have moved forward with it, but of course we were unable to do so per the governor's 'stay home' order."

Although the standard pomp and circumstance didn't happen, school officials wanted to make sure seniors were recognized and honored.

"We have been celebrating our graduates via distance to this point with trinkets and signs at the school and in their yards," explained Falkenberg. "We also celebrated Decision Day and had special prize deliveries."

The district still wants to give Owen-Gage graduates their due with a rescheduled graduation now slated for 7 p.m. Thursday, June 25.

"With high hopes, we will be able to gather at least 50 people together by that time. If we are able to do that, then we would have close family attend for an intimate ceremony," she said.

If that date does not work out, a back-up graduation date of Thursday, July 23, also at 7 p.m., has been set.

"We are no less proud of our Owen-Gage graduates than any other district, but we are trying to be mindful and set proper examples for our students," said Falkenberg, who noted the district's prom has been tentative scheduled for Friday, July 17.

## 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 judiciary 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 in 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 in 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

## NOTICE FOR GILFORD TOWNSHIP

May 14, 2020 - MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: D. Strasz, Treasurer; R. Haines, Clerk; J. Stockmeyer, Supervisor; A. Goss, Trustee; K. Houghtaling, Trustee. Order of agenda approved. One member of the public in attendance.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by D. Strasz, second by R. Haines to approve minutes. Motion approved.

Treasurers Report: Motion by J. Stockmeyer, second by K. Houghtaling to approve Treasurers Report. Motion approved.

### REPORTS:

Supervisor: No Reese Fire runs. Motion by R. Haines, second by K. Houghtaling to accept bid from Brickel Brothers for landscaping North side of Hall. Motion approved. Motion by K. Houghtaling, second by A. Goss to accept bid from Brickel Brothers to install downspout tiles and dry wells at Hall. Motion approved. Discussion on roadside mowing, will announce seeking bids in newspaper. AMAR will be auditing the Township.

Treasurer: Nothing.

Clerk: Reimbursement request for March election has been submitted. Public Accuracy test for the August election has been set for July 13, at 10:00 A.M. at the TWP. Hall. Motion by D. Strasz, second by A. Goss to pay bills. Motion approved.

Trustees: Nothing.

Ambulance Representative: Nothing.

Fire Department Representative: Nothing.

Zoning Administrator: 3 permits issued.

Public Comment: Can a homeowner shoot a dog trespassing on their property? Is anything being done about junk on road right of way in Gilford?

Motion by J. Stockmeyer, second by R. Haines to adjourn at 8:45 P.M. Motion approved.

Robert L. Haines  
Gilford Township Clerk

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# Purely organic

## Bardwells' MapleWorxz syrup earns organic certification from the OEFFA

by Mary Drier  
For the Chronicle

The Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) recently notified MapleWorxz of Cass City that it has been certified as an organic maple syrup producer.

"The lengthy certification process started in August of last year with a 44 page application, and culminated with an intensive inspection of our maple operation by a certified organic inspector last March," explained Thom Bardwell, who is patriarch of the family operated business in Ellington Township.

It has been an educational journey, which underscored the area company's effort to operate and produce maple syrup at a level that few are able to achieve — a level that meets all the best practices in processing maple sap into organic maple syrup.

"From tree to table, our maple syrup process assures our customers the best in organic quality and packaging," Bardwell noted.

Although maple syrup produced from the sap of maple trees is a natural product, there is more to having the finished product certi-

ventional maple syrup, our organic syrup goes through many unique processes," Bardwell said. Some of the steps in the process include:

\*Maple woodlots are inspected and certified. They have buffer areas to assure no non-organic contamination from neighboring areas impacts the woodlot.

\*Taps into a maple tree are limited to a diameter of 16 inches and above to assure proper forest management, and no more than one tap per tree.

\*Fertilizers and other non-organic substances are not allowed to enhance tree growth nor on surrounding areas such as farmland that is not organic.

"Only approved cleaners are used on the equipment — we use white vinegar. Equipment is restricted to stainless steel and our maple process is lead free," he said, noting those are only a few of the perimeters that have to be met.

In addition, Bardwell added, "MapleWorxz has a licensed kitchen by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDARD), assuring cleanliness and process control."

Organic certification also requires rigorous record keeping and the tracking of batches or lots for process traceability should there be a problem with the bottles or syrup after the sale, and the operation is reviewed by an independent organic certified inspector.

In addition to the latest recognition, MapleWorxz was awarded the top honor of "Best of Show" by the Michigan Maple Syrup Association in January.

Bardwell makes syrup the same way as when the business was started in 1949 by his grandfather, Frank Bardwell, and his father, Fred Bardwell. This year, his son, Aaron Bardwell, who is a naturopathic doctor, is the fourth generation to help carry on the business.

The Bardwells boil sap straight from the tree without removing

any water via reverse osmosis, although doing that would cut down on the time it takes to produce the syrup. Bardwell feels that is what gives syrup the best flavor.

In an average year, each tap hole in a tree will produce about 10 gallons of sap, which will make about one quart of maple syrup.

Bardwell is the chairman of the Tuscola County Commissioners. Aside from his maple syrup business, the Bardwell family also operates a custom frame business at their residence at 3540 North Hurds Corner Rd., Caro.

Area residents interested in learning more about MapleWorxz syrup can visit the website <https://mapleworxz.com> or call (989) 550-7648.



THOM BARDWELL and his wife, Karla (pictured above), as well as other family members operate MapleWorxz in rural Cass City. Their maple syrup company recently earned the designation of certified organic maple syrup producer.



**THE BARDWELLS' MapleWorxz maple syrup is now USDA Certified Organic, which involves a comprehensive process.**

fied as organic.

Organic products are grown naturally without the use of any products such as pesticides, chemicals or other non-natural ingredients that have not been approved as organic.

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