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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020

.75 CENTS - 10 PAGES

Protest in peace -- 250 march for justice in Caro

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Friday's Black Lives Matter March in Caro unfolded just as organizers Courtney Hartman and

Rayona Rayne had hoped -- with protestors peacefully sharing the message that racism and the senseless deaths of black men and women at the hands of law enforcement should not and cannot

be tolerated. "Our community went above and beyond anything I could've expected today. My goal was to raise awareness that it's (racism) here and it's time to change it. My goal

was to strike a conversation and I 100 percent did that," Hartman, of Caro, commented Friday after the event.

"To my knowledge, Caro had three separate groups of protestors within our city today, all supporting separate causes, and all remained peaceful," she said, adding her focus on maintaining a non-violent demonstration proves that protesting does not equal violence.

Hartman estimated about 250 people -- many of them wearing masks in compliance with CDC guidelines designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 -- participated in the demonstration.

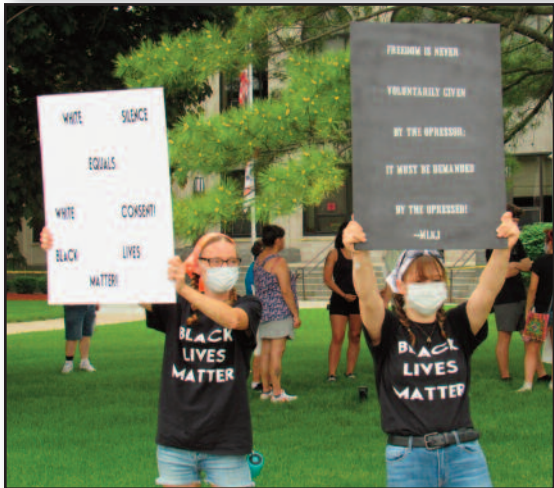
She also praised local law enforcement officials for what she

described as their "endless support and amazing effort" to establish a strong presence at the courthouse and along the march route in order to ensure everyone's safety.

Prior to the protest, there were indications on social media that some individuals might have planned to cause trouble, but those threats never materialized.

"(It) could not have gone better," said Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent, who noted the only incident involved an individual who tripped and injured her face, requiring a trip to the hospital.

"There are bad actors who said they were coming (to the protest) but were a no-show," Skrent said. "You plan for all these bad characters." Please turn to page 4.



AN ESTIMATED 250 people gathered for Friday's Black Lives Matter March in Caro. Above, protestors start their peaceful march from the courthouse lawn to Bieth Memorial Park (top photo). At left, mother and daughter Christina Muska and Carrington Reynolds, Caro, display their signs, and protest organizer Courtney Hartman (right) addresses the crowd.

Commissioners give themselves and road board pay increases

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

After carefully watching finances and not wanting to spend any extra money in April, the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners recently approved wage increases of more than \$30,000.

The board approved a \$12,800 wage increase, retroactive to Jan. 1, for Magistrate Joe Van Auken. Commissioners then voted to give themselves a pay increase of \$2,000 as well as a \$2,000 pay increase for each of five county road commission members. The increases will go into effect in 2021.

Commissioner Dan Grimshaw made the motion for the additional pay for each member of both boards -- which equals out to \$10,000 for each board -- and Commissioner Tom Young seconded the motion.

Please turn to page 8.

Wayward email puts brief hold on local road contract

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

While electronic communication can save time, it can also cause headaches, such as when an email

is sent to the wrong address. That was the case involving a contract from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) that was supposed to have been sent to the village of Cass City, but wasn't received because it had the wrong address.

MDOT's five-year contract with the village expired Sept. 30, 2019, but local officials didn't receive the new contract because the email never arrived, village Manager Debbie Powell explained.

The situation came to light in early May and was corrected by the village council during its rescheduled monthly meeting last month.

Please turn to page 6.

Caro resident driving moped critically hurt

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A Caro area man was critically injured Sunday afternoon when the moped he was operating collided with a pickup truck in Tuscola County's Ellington Township.

Sgt. Josh Herman, Deputy Jon Ramirez and Lt. Ted Hull were all dispatched to the scene of the accident -- Deckerville Road near Murray Road -- at about 2:45 p.m., according to Sheriff Glen Skrent, who reported the collision in-

Please turn to page 6.

It's graduation season!

Kingston has the will and finds a way

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Kingston Community School District officials are proving the old adage, where there's a will, there's a way.

The Kingston High School Class of 2020 is scheduled to graduate Saturday during a ceremony set to get underway at 9:30 a.m. School officials say it will be a drive-up, outdoor commencement staged in the elementary school's south parking lot.

"We believe that the class of 2020 deserves a graduation ceremony that is as close to a traditional Kingston graduation as possible," said school Supt. Matt Drake. "With this goal in mind, numerous staff and others have spent a great deal of time coming up with what we believe will be a very memorable and special

Please turn to page 8.

Ubly planning to honor its Class of 2020

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

One way or another, Ubly School District officials are determined to give their 2020 senior class a graduation ceremony.

As a result of the executive orders implemented to slow the spread of COVID-19, high schools seniors across the state, including Ubly, have not been able to participate in the traditional pomp and circumstance that goes with receiving their diplomas.

Members of the Ubly Board of Education recently addressed the issue and discussed some possible solutions, including holding graduation exercises at the football field. The board set a tentative date of Sunday, June 28, with an alternate date of Sunday, July 12.

"For Ubly Schools to hold

Please turn to page 8.



Generous gift...

THE Knights of Columbus Council 8892 recently dug deep to support Revive Ministries in Cass City. "One of our Knights of Columbus members, Kevin Kausch, noticed several times, a month ago, how long the line of cars was waiting their turn to get items from your food pantry," the council noted. "We decided that the council could donate some money and then decided to ask members to also donate. We (also decided) we would match donations from our building fund, up to \$2020." In the end, the council raised a combined \$4,645. Above, Kausch, deputy grand knight, presents the check to Revive's Jenny Hudson.

Whitmer says she's poised to lift more limits in mid-Michigan soon

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer Friday signed executive orders further allowing the reopening of businesses in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, saying she expects the entire state will see the lifting of more restrictions over the next several days.

Starting today (Wednesday) regions six and eight — which include much of northern Michigan and all of the Upper Peninsula — will advance to phase five of the governor's MI Safe Start Plan. Phase Five allows the reopening of salons, movie theaters and gyms, subject to safety protocols and procedures designed to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Starting Monday, June 15, personal services, including hair, massages and nail salons will reopen statewide.

Though the remaining regions, one through five and seven, will remain in phase four under Friday's executive orders, the governor has said she expects the entire state will advance to phase five in the coming weeks.

The Thumb, which has seen a marked decline in the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths over the past three weeks, is included in what is known as the Saginaw Region (region four).

"As we continue to slowly reopen different parts of our state, it's critical that we listen to the experts and follow the medical science to avoid a second wave of infections," Whitmer said. "The good news is that we are headed in the right direction, and if the current trajectory continues, I anticipate we'll be able to announce more sectors reopening in the coming weeks. We owe it to our frontline workers to keep doing our part."

"We are still on an encouraging

trajectory across the state, and while there are regional differences, we are seeing continued general rates of decline in cases and deaths," said Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh Khaldun.

"While we must continue to monitor the data, because of these positive trends we are able to move forward, on a regional basis, with the next phases of the MI Safe Start Plan. Although the risk levels are going down, it does not mean it has gone away. Please remain vigilant; wear your mask, practice social distancing, and remain patient as we continue to fight COVID-19 together."

Ann Hepfer, health officer for the both the Tuscola and Huron county health departments, agreed.

"This is not a free pass to go back to normal," Hepfer said. "You still need to keep up the social distancing, wearing of the masks, washing your hands like it will save your life. Together we are making a difference."

"There is still a tough road ahead as many people are still laid off and many businesses are still not open or just opening," she added. "Please be courteous and respectful to these businesses, their staff, and to each other. It is socially responsible to wear a mask to protect others."

Under the governor's latest executive orders, indoor social gatherings and organized events of up to 50 people are permissible. Outdoor social gatherings and organized events are also allowed if people maintain six feet of distance from one another and the gathering consists of no more than 250 people. In addition, outdoor performance and sporting venues will be open with a larger capacity limit of 500, which will allow for some outdoor graduation cere-

monies.

Latest numbers

Between Monday, June 1, and Monday, June 8, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased by 14 — from 278 to 292 — with the three counties' combined death toll rising by just one fatality, from 30 to 31.

As of Monday afternoon, Tuscola County had recorded 201 confirmed cases and 25 deaths, Huron County had recorded 49 cases and one death, and Sanilac County, 42 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, 42 were reported in the Caro zip code (an increase of one), there were 47 in the Vassar area (no change), and 27 in Millington (no change). Officials reported 39 cases in the Cass City zip code (no change), with four in the Deford area (no change), 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 confirmed cases reached 58,999, with a total of 5,673 deaths, compared to 57,532 cases and 5,516 deaths a week earlier.

According to Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Tuscola County has tested a total of 3,156 individuals for COVID-19 to-date (2,857 were negative and 299 were positive). Huron County has tested 1,407 people (1,331 negative and 76 positive), and Sanilac County has tested a total of 1,602 individuals (1,527 negative and 75 positive).

Huron County sheriff: one of 2 target shooting calls ends in gunshot wound

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Sheriff's deputies were called to a pair of target shooting incidents within a week in Huron County's Fairhaven Township, including one involving injuries when a stray bullet entered a home and struck a man Thursday night.

Huron County Sheriff's Deputy Marc Woodward was dispatched to investigate the latest incident.

"This one occurred in the 500 block of Unionville Road and (a bullet) actually ended up striking a person in the shoulder after penetrating a house," Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson reported.

"Deputy Woodward learned that a 53-year-old man from Woodhaven and a 50-year-old man from Lincoln Park were at their cottage, target shooting with a 9 mm handgun. This cottage was next door to the victim's residence and is separated by a wooded area," Hanson said. "Around 5 hours earlier at 4:30 p.m., for whatever reason it was chosen to target fire into that wooded area, which was toward the house."

Hanson noted a round entered the home and struck a 49-year-old man with a closed head injury, who was home alone.

"The victim then went over to where the shot had come from and talked to the two (suspects)," he said. "They, in turn, looked at the injury and thought it was just a flesh wound. They then put a Band-Aid on his wound and the victim went home."

"When his sister got home around five hours later, she discovered the injury and found out what happened. The victim was taken to Scheurer Hospital for treatment and it was found to be more than a flesh wound."

Hanson said the victim was later transferred to an out-of-county hospital with what was believed to be a non-life threatening injury.

Woodward confiscated the gun used by the suspects, according to Hanson, who said his office would be consulting with the prosecutor's office.

Close call

Deputies were seeking charges against two men after a homeowner reported shots being fired into a Fairhaven Township residence May 30 at about 8:15 p.m.

"Apparently, a resident was moving about in the house when a round went whizzing by her head. Another resident went outside and

heard a vehicle drive off, then (pursued) it to see who it was. That resident was able to quickly locate and stop the vehicle in question, which was occupied by a 20-year-old man from Mussey, Mich., and a 19-year-old man from Bad Axe," Hanson reported.

"Both admitted to target shooting on state land across from the residence, but stated they didn't know there was a house in the area... where they were shooting."

When deputies arrived, the homeowners and suspects were all on hand, according to Hanson, who noted the officers found a total of four bullet holes in the residence.

"Apparently, while target practicing, the two decided to shoot at a 'do not pass' sign, which was on the opposite side of the road from the state land. When doing so, the bullets from their .22 rifles strayed into the house," he added.

Deputies confiscated the suspects' guns.

Fortunately, no one was hurt or worse in the house," the sheriff said.

"Target shooters are advised to always exercise extreme caution when shooting," he added. "These incidents can be avoided when safety is put first."

Motorcyclist injured in Sanilac crash

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A motorcyclist suffered serious injuries in a two-vehicle crash on M-53 in Sanilac County's Marlette Township last week.

The accident, which occurred near Reynolds Road, was reported at about 5:25 p.m., Sgt. Matt Armstrong of the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department reported.

"The investigation determined that a 2010 Chevrolet Colorado being driven by a 73-year-old Brown City man and also occupied by a 60-year-old Brown City female was southbound on M-53 and attempting to complete a U-Turn to turn back northbound,"

Armstrong said. "The driver of the Colorado did not see a 2009 Kawasaki Motorcycle that was being operated by a 47-year-old Sandusky man that was also southbound on M-53."

"The motorcycle struck the Colorado pickup and the operator of the motorcycle was ejected off of the motorcycle."

Armstrong noted the occupants of the Colorado were not injured. However, "The operator of the motorcycle was taken to Marlette Regional Hospital by Marlette EMS then later transferred to Flint Hurley Hospital by FlightCare (helicopter)."

"The occupants of the Colorado were believed to be wearing their

seatbelts and their airbags did not deploy. The operator of the motorcycle was not wearing a helmet," Armstrong said. "Alcohol and drugs do not appear to be a factor in this crash."

No names were released pending completion of the investigation.

Deputies were assisted at the scene by the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department Reconstruction Team, Marlette Police Department, Brown City Police Department, the Michigan State Police and the Marlette Fire Department. The Sanilac County Sheriff's Office Personally Assigned Vehicle Program was also utilized to respond to the accident.

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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In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Foster homes still in demand in state

As Michigan continues to take measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 – even as more and more restrictions are being lifted – a number of issues have taken a backseat in the headlines, even though the need hasn't diminished.

Among those needs — families are still very much in demand to provide temporary foster homes for children.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) worked throughout May to raise awareness of that need in conjunction with Foster Care Awareness Month, but there is still more work to do.

In the meantime, MDHHS officials are reaching out to prospective foster parents in an effort to inform them about actions that are being taken to protect them and the children who are in foster care from COVID-19.

“During the coronavirus pandemic, many Michigan families continue to provide safe and loving homes to Michigan children in foster care,” said JooYeun Chang, executive director of the Children’s Services Agency in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

“Foster families from around the state have shown tremendous grace and flexibility during these uncertain times. MDHHS provides resources to families to keep them together whenever possible, but placement in foster care may be necessary when a child is not safe at home.”

While MDHHS is thankful for the families who are already caring for youth in foster care, there is always a need for more families to open their hearts and homes to fostering, even during the pandemic.

Michigan currently has roughly 12,500 children in foster care.

Children of all ages who have been victims of abuse and neglect need temporary foster homes to care for them until they can be safely reunified with their parents or – in a smaller number of cases – until they can find adoptive homes if it’s not safe for them to return home.

During the pandemic, MDHHS is informing prospective foster parents of a child’s health status prior to placement. The department is also asking health screening questions of all household members in a foster family before placement.

MDHHS has changed policies to temporarily decrease in-person contact and put practices in place to help keep everyone healthy and safe.

The first step to becoming a foster parent is contacting a “foster care navigator”.

Navigators are experienced foster parents who can answer questions, help individuals find an agency that’s right for them and provide guidance along their journey to becoming a foster parent. They can be reached at 855-MICKIDS.

Foster care navigators are ready to assist families thought the foster homes licensing process.

Area residents can learn more by visiting the website www.michigan.gov/hopeforahome.

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Virus has me saying uncle



I’m a very laid-back person. I’m not sure if it is because I’ve been retired for a while, or because of my age.

My guess is a combination of both of those things. So, it has taken me a while for the COVID-19 pandemic to finally get to me.

I took “staying home, staying safe” in stride. With my health and mobility issues, I don’t get around as much as I used to. And I didn’t blink an eye when I was ordered to stay six feet away from everyone. Being semi-retired and working from home, that wasn’t hard to do.

I also took it as a challenge to match my face mask or scarf to my outfit.

But, the straw from the COVID-19 situation that has finally brought me to my knees was its messing with my two favorite things — Jeopardy and football.

Although I can only generally answer about 10 questions correctly during the 30 minutes Jeopardy is on, I still enjoy the program and the challenge of pitting my knowledge against the contestants. I have not missed an episode of Jeopardy in several years.

And, my life is just an empty shell from the time the last piece of confetti falls at the super bowl until college games start.

I have even switched satellite television companies a couple of times over the years in order to be able to keep getting all of the football games. What can I say? I love football!

The drafting of players this year didn’t have the usual hoopla. And, according to some recent broadcasts, the start of college football games is expected to be delayed.

Both of those enjoyments have been ripped away from me because of the global virus situation.

Although I don’t remember the details of an interview several years ago regarding my favorite sport, I still remember one of the best lines that I ever heard regarding football and the love of the game.

It must have been an interview with a Green Bay Packers fan, and the Jesus Dome.

The reporter asked the person if she really believed Jesus cared about football. Without missing a beat, the person replied probably not, but “His Mother does.” And, so does this mother.

And, it was kind of nice watching older Jeopardy shows hosted by a younger Alex Trebek for a while.

I was heartbroken when Alex announced he had been diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer and was undergoing treatment.

I have gone through cancer and chemo, so I can relate to what Alex was going through. And, believe me, what he was and/or is going through makes it difficult to keep functioning. Yet, he has kept on going until production of the show was

altered because of the virus.

All of this poses the question, “What is life without football and jeopardy?” The answer, “What is boring.”



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Black Lives Matter.

That was one message delivered to me by my dad over 50 years ago. In fact, when I was a young child, my dad, John Haire, arranged (through the Lutheran Church) for an African-American kid from Detroit – I think we both were about eight years old — to spend a week at our Cass City home to help debunk any racial stereotypes I may have had at the time. My progressive father was ahead of the times, well ahead during the late 1960s.

It wasn’t just black people he was willing to defend; John didn’t feel Polish jokes were a bit funny, either, and his kids knew better than to utter racial slurs of any kind.

Joe Merchant, commander of VFW Post 3644, Cass City, would like to give a big shout to Chaplin Mark Zmierski and all the volunteers who were out in numbers at both Elkland and Novesta cemeteries, posting the U.S. colors over the Memorial weekend.

“With all that has gone on during these trying times, had it not been for them stepping up and doing the work, it would not have gotten done,” Merchant said, adding on behalf of all the members of the local VFW, we hope Cass City enjoyed the flags once again this year.

The Rawson Memorial District Library staff and board are excited to offer curbside service, in an effort to keep the public and staff safe and healthy, beginning today (Wednesday, June 10). This service will be offered throughout June. Curbside hours will be Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon.

“If you have books, audio books, DVDs, or magazines you would like to check out, call the library at (989) 872-2856 or email librarian@rawsonlibrary.org and let us know what you would like. If you prefer, you may also use our online catalog to reserve items,” explained Ruth Steele, library director. “To do this, go to our website, www.rawson.ploud.net and click on “Search for Books and Library Materials”. You may search by title, author, or subject. When you find what you are interested in, there’s an icon of a finger pushing a button with the word “Hold” above it. Click that icon. Enter your username and password (usually both are your library card number). When the item comes up, click “Place a Hold”. Library staff will check the holds list daily and if/when the item is available, we will contact you by phone to set up a time for you to pick up the item(s).

“Pick up details: Items requested will be checked out to you and placed in a bag with your name on it. At the pre-arranged time established for pick up, the bag will be on a table near the front door of the library. If the items are not picked up within an hour, they will be checked in and re-shelved.

“We request that all items be returned into the drop box located to the left of the front doors of the library.

“Fax and copy services are also available through curbside service. Please contact the library if you need these services and we’ll schedule a time to meet you curbside and you can give us the materials to be copied or faxed. Payment must be made at the time of service with cash or check.

“Our online services continue to be available through Overdrive and RBDigital. We have an excellent selection of books, audiobooks, and comics available for download onto your device. If you would like further information, please contact the library. Our Wi-Fi service is available for use from our parking lot or along Pine Street.

“While these temporary measures may change the way interact at this time, we are eager to provide educational, information, cultural, and recreational needs in a welcoming, respectful, and businesslike manner. Please contact (the library) with any questions or concerns.

“See you soon curbside!”

State Rep. Phil Green will be hosting an event in Bad Axe on Friday, June 12th, reports Mary Drier.

Green will be speaking on Senate Bill 690, which will offer restart grants up to \$5,000 to local businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Local businesses are invited to attend this event. Green will also be sharing important information to begin the application process.

The bill has \$188 Million designated to assist qualifying small businesses with restarting operations. Once these funds are exhausted, the program will be terminated. Businesses that sign up first will have the best chance of being granted the funds.

The event will take place Friday at 9 a.m. at Wilcox Park in Bad Axe. You are advised to bring a chair, as the event will be outdoors, and social distancing guidelines will be observed.

For more information, visit Green’s Facebook page.

Letters to the Editor

Charmont owners set to “pass on” the baton

Dear Editor,

We wanted you to be the first to know of our exciting news. We will be back open to full force Thursday and can’t wait to see all of our favorite faces. We really do have the best community that has been so supportive over the years.

Seven years ago we became the proud owners of Charmont. We have met so many amazing new people. This community is truly one of a kind. Since our time here we have been told we have completely brought the Charmont back to life. Bowling leagues are stronger than ever, our building is filled with laughter and families enjoying each other every time there is a home game. This makes us so proud to be a part of that for Charmont and this community.

We told ourselves that once our kids graduated, we

Please turn to page 5.

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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250 protest in Caro march

Continued from page one.

acters who say they're coming. It ties up all our resources and then they don't show, but we will be happy with that."

The law enforcement presence included officers from the sheriff's department and Michigan State Police as well as representatives of the Caro, Cass City, Unionville, Reese and Mayville police departments. Skrent said the FBI was also on hand to monitor the event.

Friday's protest and march was among many — similar demonstrations were also held in Bad Axe and in Vassar Friday — staged across the country and globally following the May 25 death of George Floyd, a black man who died in Minneapolis, Minn. During an arrest, Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, kept his knee on the side of Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes while Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down.

Floyd went into a full cardiac arrest and was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

Chauvin was initially charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in connection with Floyd's death. However, Attorney General Keith Ellison later elevated the charges against the him to second degree murder, and he charged three other officers who witnessed Chauvin's actions with aiding and abetting second degree murder.

A number of the demonstrations and protests that followed across the nation turned violent, with police and demonstrators engaging in skirmishes involving tear gas and rubber bullets. Multiple incidents of looting were reported as some protestors also burned businesses and police vehicles.

Friday's protest in Caro was staged on the courthouse lawn, with Hartman welcoming the group, followed by prayer offered by a member of the clergy. Hartman then encouraged everyone to lie down on the lawn for about eight minutes and 45 seconds while chanting some of Floyd's last words, including, "I can't breathe" and "I didn't do anything wrong."

After observing a few minutes of silence, the group began its march to Bieth Memorial Park, where several more speakers addressed the group. Caro police briefly blocked State Street (M-81) to ensure the safety of the marchers as they headed north from the courthouse, west towards Caro Schools and then south along the mile-and-a-half route to the park.

Hartman, who indicated she was inspired to organize the protest after a local high school student contacted her about the protests taking place to put the spotlight on racial injustice, said she was pleased with both the turnout and respect participants demonstrated throughout the event. "We had no idea it would be such a big impact on our community," she added. "I love to see the support."



THE PROTEST included participants lying down on the courthouse lawn for eight minutes and 45 seconds in memory of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Floyd, who was black, died after a white police officer kept his knee on the side of Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes while he was handcuffed and lying face down. The death has sparked demonstrations — some of them violent — across the nation.



A VISIBLE presence by law enforcement, involving departments from throughout Tuscola County, helped to ensure the protest and march remained peaceful.



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Reporter's notebook

Looking for some humor in a plague

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



There's nothing funny about the COVID-19 pandemic. There's even less humor in the way folks have taken up sides over what we should and shouldn't be doing to find a solution we can all agree on: a return to some semblance of normal without the needless loss of more lives.

Anyone who knows me will tell you I love a good debate, but even I'm weary of all the bickering, finger pointing and moronic conspiracy theories out there.

Or trying to explain (for the four millionth time) that people are being asked to wear face coverings in order to REDUCE the chances that they might expose others to the virus, which is especially important if they have been infected but are exhibiting no symptoms.

Don't get me started on the folks (those without certain health issues) who won't wear a mask because they're convinced that wearing one will somehow cause them to implode. You folks do realize that doctors and nurses wear them every day in ORs across the country, for hours at a time, right?

But I digress.

Anyway, instead of trying to sort through the arguments, I've decided to spend more time leaning on laughter. It may or may not be the best medicine, but there are days when it literally feels like it can help to cure what ails you.

Like I said, there's nothing funny about this pandemic, but when it comes to the side effects of isolation, I'll confess the following tidbits of humor – most of them spotted in Facebook memes – lightened more than one moment for me during an otherwise really difficult time for us all:

*All new! Quarantine Barbie – What Time is it? Edition. Comes with snacks, daytime and nighttime pajamas, calendar, etc.

*Now that I've lived through an actual plague, I totally understand why Italian Renaissance paintings are full of naked fat people laying on couches.

*Me: Alexa, what's the weather going to be today? Alexa: Why? Where do you think you're going?

*Wear the ultimate in face masks – featuring the Detroit Lions logo. Catching nothing.

*Please take your clothes out of the closet regularly, air them out and allow to stand in sunlight. Recent studies show that if clothes are kept in closets over lockdown, they shrink.

*Of course I'm scared of catching COVID-19. Anyone who has fished with me knows that I catch everything.

*Hold it right there, you so-called "doctors" and "scientists" – I think I'll let the YouTube educated white guys on Facebook who are afraid of airplane vapor trails and tap water explain the complex virology of a global pandemic to me, thank you very much.

*I'm starting to miss people I don't even like.

*Don't let anyone tell you to stay inside just because there's a tornado warning. It is your right to be outside. More people die from the flu than from tornados.

*When we come out of this and I ask you where you want to eat, I DO NOT want to hear you say, "I don't know." YOU HAD 45 DAYS.

*With so many sporting events being canceled, they're having to televise the World Origami Championship. It's on Paperview.

*I miss the days when we were terrified of Romaine lettuce.

*At first, I thought I had Covid because I couldn't breathe. Then I unbuttoned my pants and it was all okay.

*Her: What surprises you most about the coronavirus? Him: It has done what no woman has been able to do; cancel all sports, shut down the bars and keep men at home.

Any my personal favorite:

*I love my wife, but I really miss people.

Letters to the Editor

Charmont owners set to "pass on" the baton

Continued from page 3.


would explore our next opportunity. Well, that time has come — time to pass the baton to the next family to put their stamp on this community. We cannot wait to see where it can grow from here. Whether it's after school children's bowling programs, live bands for night life, or they tap into food delivery for the community.

We will be meeting potential buyers to find the right fit for our community. We have been praying about making the right decisions and know the Lord will guide us in His plan.

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Andy and Krystal Cole,
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Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2015)

The 2015 Greater Thumb West all-conference softball picks included 6 Cass City Lady Red Hawks. Highlighting the GTW all-conference second team choices were Cass City seniors Alliah Riddle and Hunter Langenburg along with freshman Sayge Cuthrell and junior Maegan LeValley.

Riddle anchored the Cass City defense at shortstop and held a .298 batting average in her final season. Her offensive numbers included 3 triples and 13 runs scored, while Langenburg batted .283 for the season with a .403 on base percentage. She belted 5 doubles and one home run on the year. Turning to the Red Hawk underclassmen, LeValley, after sitting out last season due to injury, held a .345 batting average and a .448 slugging percentage in her junior season, while Cuthrell held a team-high .492 batting average and scored 29 times in her rookie season. "Sayge stole 19 bases (21 attempts) and was named to the all-district and all-regional first teams," said Cass City Coach John Hacker. "She is the first player that I've coached that made an all-regional team." The Greater Thumb West all-conference honorable mention listings included Cass City senior outfielder Lauren Scott and junior pitcher Macy Dickinson.

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.

Ashleigh Stoeckle of Cass City has been awarded a \$1,500 scholarship as part of the annual Commitment to Agriculture Scholarship program. Stoeckle is one of 100 high school students from across the United States who received this award based on academic achievement and leadership in agriculture. She plans to attend the University of Findlay in the fall to study equine science.

25 YEARS AGO (1995)

Debbie and Patti Timmons accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord LaPeer to Toronto for a 3-day trip. Mrs. LaPeer won through Erla's Food Center. Casa Lorna Castle was one of the highlights. They also saw the C.N. Tower, the world's highest tower, and enjoyed the home of the Toronto Blue Jays, the Sky Dome, the world's first fully retractable roof. On the way home they visited relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Wiles, Jeff and Tim. The Wiles surprised all by having the Jon Rundle family there when the foursome arrived in Sarnia.

Angie M. Hennessey, Cass City, recently graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. She is currently employed as an accountant for MidState Industrial, a small business in Eaton Rapids. She is also preparing to take the CPA exam in November.

35 YEARS AGO (1985)

Jim Milligan had an unexpected guest arrive at his Milligan Road farm recently, a whitetail deer that was friendly to people, and Milligan's herd dog. Milligan first learned about the deer when a neighbor called him and said a deer was out in a field with his cattle and horses. Milligan was able to walk up to the deer and pet it. He added that it was a full grown doe, not a fawn. Milligan's three-year-old grandson Trent was also able to walk up and pet the deer. Milligan said the deer must have been someone's pet, but he

hadn't heard of anyone that had a tame deer run away.

Debb J. Rabideau is a 1985 graduate of Central Michigan University. Miss Rabideau received a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education. She majored in business education with a minor in physical education. Miss Rabideau is seeking a teaching position in the mid-Michigan area and currently is the head varsity volleyball coach at Shepherd High School. A 1979 graduate of Cass City High School, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Rabideau of Hobart Rd., Gagetown.

Jeanne Marshall, Cass City, received a certificate of recognition recently for her participation in the Caro Arts Society Program. Marshall was among six others to garner certificates at the Arts Society Program. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Marshall, 6631 E. Milligan Rd., Cass City. Michael Bielski, Vassar, and Kelly Ford, Caro, were recipients of \$750 scholarships from the Arts Society to continue their arts education.

40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Tracy and her father, Theo Hendrick, daughter Beth Walsh and daughter Lynne were at Milan and Belleville over the weekend to attend graduation exercises for Linda, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theo O'Dell, and for Delores, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Drouillard at Belleville. Theo Hendrick will spend two weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Sherwell Kelley in New Boston. Mr. and Mrs. Douglas O'Dell also attended the graduations.

The following are proud winners of the Campbell Elementary School third grade spelling bee. Top spellers of 40 participants were Mike Erickson, first; Janet Koch, second; Adam Suzor, third; Roger Root, fourth place; Melissa Knowlton, fifth.

Navy Seaman Recruit Timothy L. Fry, son of Robert F. and Betty M. Fry of 2491 Hurds Corner Road, Cass City, has completed recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week training cycle, he studied general military subjects designed to prepare him for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 basic occupational fields. Included in his studies were seamanship, close order drill, Naval history and first aid. A 1979 graduate of Caro High School, he joined the Navy in February 1980.

Two Cass City women were honored recently with Achievement Awards from Saginaw Valley State College. Clarajean Clarke, of 3475 Cemetery Road, was given the award for the 1980-81 academic year, and Sandra Bergman, of 6325 Kelly Road, was given an award for the 1980 spring-summer semester. To be eligible for the award students must earn a 3.25 grade point average as full-time students and have attained a sophomore status. They provide from \$100 a semester to a maximum \$200 a year for college expenses. The awards recognize leadership in college activities as well as academic excellence.

Kathy Dillard, a recent graduate of Harding University, Searcy, Ark., was named to the dean's list for the spring semester. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Clarke, Cass City. She majored in textiles merchandising. She and her husband, Mark, live in Pontiac. To be named to the dean's list, students needed to carry at least 12 credit hours and obtain a minimum 3.5 grade point average.

50 YEARS AGO (1970)

James Ballard of Cass City has suffered shrapnel wounds while serving with the army in Vietnam, according to information received by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. James Ballard. Dr. Ballard said that the wounds are evidently serious but not crippling. James was hit in the hip, knee and ankle and is in the hospital on crutches. It is not expected that he will be rotated back to the States because of the injury. Dr. Ballard said that he had received no official word of the af-

fair from the army.

Jerry Toner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Toner, made the first hole in one ever recorded at Rolling Hills Golf Course. He was competing in a tournament last Wednesday. The ace came on the 222-yard fourth hole.

A baptismal service was held preceding the Sunday evening worship service at the First Baptist church. Pastor Lloyd Streeter baptized Miss Karen Hillaker, Misses Janet and Kathy Auvil, Kathy McArthur, Sally Ware, Brian Helwig, Lee Taylor and Robert Jewell.

Steven K. Auvil, a student at Michigan State University, has been chosen as one of the top 50 chemistry or chemical engineering seniors across the country by the American Chemical Society's publication, Chemical and Engineering News. The awards are given annually for top scholastic achievement and outstanding participation in extracurricular activities during a student's undergraduate years. This is the fifth consecutive year that an MSU student has been given the national award. Auvil, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Auvil of Snover, is a 1965 graduate of Cass City High School. He plans to enter graduate school at Michigan State.

Pvt. David M. Hennessey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Hennessey, left for Fort Benning, Georgia, after spending a three-week furlough with his family. Hennessey has been promoted to corporal and is acting sergeant in charge of ten men.

75 YEARS AGO (1945)

2nd Lt. Sara Agnes Cooley. Appointment of Sara Agnes Cooley to the Army Nurse Corps, Army of the United States, with the rank of second lieutenant, has been announced at headquarters of the Sixth Service Command in Chicago. Miss Cooley was graduated from Mercy College of Nursing, Pontiac, Michigan, and has practiced nursing at Pontiac General Hospital, Pontiac, Albany Hospital, Albany, California, and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Cooley, live at Owendale. She has been assigned to Camp McCoy, Wis., effective June 6.

For several years, Michigan State college, claimed more Cass City graduates than any other one college. This year but one local student finishes at East Lansing. She is Miss Mary Jayne Campbell, daughter of Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Willis Campbell, of Cass City. Miss Campbell will receive an A. B. degree at the commencement exercises tomorrow (Saturday).

John Day, son of Mrs. Zora Day, of Cass City, has recently been promoted to the rank of Major. He is located in Germany with the Ninth Army.

Anthony J. Mosack, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Mosack, will be among the students graduating from Assumption college, Sandwich, Ont., Friday, June 8, at 8 p. m., in the college auditorium. Parents, relatives and friends will attend. Anthony Mosack, Jr., has attended Assumption college for his four years of high school.

100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Fire of unknown origin early June 14 destroyed another of Caro's old buildings, Hotel Secor, for many years known as the Exchange hotel. This is the third hotel in Caro to be eliminated during the past few months and leaves the town with but one. The Beatrice Creamery company, of Detroit, also maintained a station in the building, but most of the contents of that office were saved. Loss is estimated at \$8,000, with some insurance.

James Brooker highest individual point winner at the Tuscola County track and field meet, securing 30 3/4 of the 57 points won by the Cass City high school. Brooker is said to be the best all-round athlete ever placed by the local schools. He stands high in track and field events and is equally proficient in basketball, baseball and football.

Cass City School officials set to discuss possible budget cuts

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Cass City School officials will meet in special session Monday to begin discussions focusing on how to offset anticipated significant state funding cuts in the coming year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

And, for the first time in three months, board members will be able to meet face to face. The board canceled its March meeting — after state executive orders went into effect prohibiting gatherings in an effort to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus — and conducted virtual meetings via ZOOM in April and May.

The restrictions on gatherings of small groups have since been lifted by Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Monday's special session, which will begin at 7 p.m. in the high school library, will set the stage for the Cass City board's annual budget meeting later this month.

During their May regular meeting, board members formed an ad hoc finance committee, composed of board President Alice Zaleski, Trustee George Batty and board Vice President Janie Meeker, to make recommendations to the full board after hearing the estimates related to state cuts in per-pupil funding. The committee was scheduled to meet earlier this week.

According to Cass City Schools Chief Financial Officer Allison Zimba, the latest projections indicate schools will be losing \$700 per student in state revenue in the coming year. On a positive note, she said, it appears schools will be allowed to use the previous year's

enrollment totals, so a loss of students in the coming months won't further impact budgets.

For Cass City, the loss of \$700 per pupil adds up to \$690,000, but the net loss to the district would actually be roughly \$450,000 after a federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act subsidy is figured into the equation.

Zimba noted the board has already discussed covering the loss with a combination of fund balance dollars and a reduction in expenses.

The school board will be approving the district's 2020-21 spending plan during its next regular meeting, Monday, June 22, at 7 p.m. in the high school library. The state requires schools to have new budgets in place by the end of June.



There's a new deputy in town...

TUSCOLA County Sheriff Glen Skrent recently introduced the latest addition to his department — Scienna Rose, a Sebawaing resident whom he swore in as a corrections officer. “We wish her a long and successful career. It is a difficult job to do, but it can be rewarding, knowing you're helping your community to be a better place,” Skrent said.

Wayward email briefly delays contract

Continued from page one.

“This is for M-81 for MDOT to contract with local companies for road work. Signing this contract will reimburse us for the work we do on M-81 — snow removal and such,” she said. “We can bill for employee time and our equipment use...for work we do on that highway.”

MDOT officials are now using a program in which contracts can be virtually signed and submitted using a special computer program. The council approved the electronic signing along with a resolution adopting the MDOT state trunkline maintenance contract for five years.

The agreement is retroactive to October 2019 and will run through September 2024.

In other business, the council approved paying for some additional street work.

“We have recently completed the 2019 sidewalk work that was postponed due to a wet fall. Alexander concrete replaced 308 feet of sidewalk throughout the town and 64 feet of curb along Leach Street by Gilligan's parking lot,” Powell reported. “We originally were only going to do 38 feet, but we replaced 64 feet of curb. That extra 26 feet made the driveway entrance wide and easily accessible.”

“The extra curb work was done so we could improve the municipal parking lot behind Gilligan's.”

The additional work added \$919 to the original \$11,649 cost.

While discussing street work, it was noted the municipal parking lot behind Gilligan's is in rough shape, as is Scotty McCullough Drive.

“We graded it (Scotty McCullough Drive) and brought up a lot of large stones,” said DPW Supt. Dennis McCabe, who noted he is in the process of securing bids for gravel to fix the problem.

Trustee Tom Herron suggested using some of the millings from the street work that is going to be done in the parking lot and other areas around town.

Although millings will work, the general consensus was to use some gravel while waiting to use

the millings from the street work that will be done this summer.

Village officials also hope to tackle more sidewalk improvements. The village requested bids in April to extend sidewalks along M-81, but there was no response.

“We will be rebidding that out again. I will personally send vendors spec sheets,” Powell told the council.

The bid is for a 660 lineal-foot sidewalk extension that will start at the Videomation store, 6234 Main St., then go west to Doerr Road. There will also be sidewalk work along the Forward Corporation business and Thumb Bank and Trust going to Doerr Road.

The work also includes two drive entrances at the elevator along with five handicap approaches at the end of the driveways.

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

Also last month, the council authorized village President Dan Delamarer to sign the village's 2020 tax rate of 18.1387 mills, and to send the document to the Tuscola County Equalization Department, which will calculate the village's tax bills. The tax notices will be sent out later this month.

Village council to meet in special session tonight

The Cass City Village Council will meet in special session today (Wednesday) starting at 7 p.m. at the municipal building.

This will be the first face-to-face village meeting since the COVID-19 crisis prompted state officials to limit gatherings in order to maintain social distancing guidelines, which forced boards, councils and commissions to schedule virtual meetings.

The purpose of tonight's session is to receive and approve the village's annual financial audit, and to adopt a resolution to serve as fiduciary agent for local business grant recipients.

Village Manager Debbie Powell asks that residents planning to attend the meeting practice social distancing and wear face masks.

Also scheduled this month is a special meeting of the village's zoning board of appeals — Tuesday, June 23, at 7 p.m. at the municipal building — to consider a zoning variance for a non-conforming use of a building at 6325 Main Street.

As Gov. Gretchen Whitmer continues to lift “stay at home” restrictions, Village officials announced the municipal building would reopen this week (Monday), with limited hours of 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Snover man hurt in ATV crash

Sanilac County Sheriff's Department deputies recently investigated an ATV crash that left a 79-year-old Snover man injured.

According to reports, deputies were dispatched to North Germania Road, near West Sanilac Road, in Lamotte Township May 31 at about 7:25 p.m.

“The initial investigation...determined that a 2020 Honda Four Trax operated by a 14-year-old male from Snover was traveling northbound on North Germania Road when the vehicle entered the east ditch. The vehicle then jumped the side of the ditch and, while airborne, a 79-year-old male passenger from Snover was thrown from the vehicle,” Sheriff Garry Biniecki reported.

“The 79-year-old male was then transported to Hills and Dales (General) Hospital in Cass City for treatment of (his) injuries.”

The names of the driver and passenger were not released pending completion of the investigation.

Marlette EMS and the Lamotte Township Fire Department assisted deputies at the scene.

Moped driver critically hurt

Continued from page one.

involved a 1999 Ford F-150 and a 2018 TaoTao moped.

“Scene investigation and statements of the pickup driver indicate that the Ford F-150 was being driven westbound on Deckerville Road. The 17-year-old Deford woman (who was driving) stated that she was following the moped and it was travelling at a low rate of speed,” Skrent said. “She began to pass the moped and the moped began to turn south at the intersection of Murray Road.”

The driver of the pickup told officers she didn't believe a turn signal was used by the moped driver, a 55-year-old Caro man.

“The driver of the pickup advised that the moped struck the front passenger side of the pickup,” Skrent continued, noting the moped driver was thrown from his vehicle after impact.

The victim was not wearing a helmet, according to reports, which state he suffered life-threatening injuries and was transported by FlightCare Helicopter to St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw.

The driver and passenger of the pickup were uninjured.

The crash remains under investigation.

Assisting the sheriff's deputies at the scene were Caro police, Cass City MMR and Caro Fire Department.

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RACING in the Thumb is expected to return in mid-June according to track officials at the Silver Bullet Speedway.

Silver Bullet Speedway planning opening night

by Mary Drier
 For the Chronicle

The Silver Bullet Speedway will be opening soon.

“With the stay at home order being lifted in Michigan, we are planning on having our race season opening night on Saturday June 13 at 7:30 p.m.,” said Matt Hoonhout, who owns the race track at 5801 Sebewaing Road, Owendale, with his brother Nick Hoonhout.

The brothers will be posting racing details in the next few days.

Initially, the racing season was scheduled to start on May 2, but the COVID-19 pandemic with its restrictions put the breaks on that plan.

With the start date delayed, the Hoonhouts are taking advantage of the additional time to do some upgrades.

“Please be patient, especially with all the projects we need to finish in the next 10 days,” said Hoonhout.

So far some of the upgrades and improvements that have been done to the track include: siding the pit entrance building, new

lights in the front stretch, bleachers painted, painting the scoring booth and a new fence with safety cables has been installed.

The brothers purchased the track in 2013.

The Silver Bullet Speedway, which is also known as the Owendale Speedway, is the longest continually operated dirt track in the state.

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

Watch for updates and more information at www.silverbulletsspeedway.com.

MHSAA updates timelines for return of high school sports

The Michigan High School Athletic Association recently submitted to its member schools a series of updated timelines and recommendations to guide the return of sports, which have been suspended since mid-March to alleviate the potential spread of COVID-19.

The state’s current “Safer-at-Home” order runs through Friday, June 12. There can be no use of any school facilities (indoor and outdoor) and there can be no organized on-site athletic activity, including conditioning or competition, until the current stay-at-home order expires or is lifted by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. When the “Safer-at-Home” order expires or is lifted, the return-to-activity recommendations may be implemented locally by school district leadership, provided the district declares its facilities open to students and staff and the 2019-20 school year has ended for that district (based on its last originally-scheduled school day).

The “MHSAA/NFHS Guidance for Re-Opening School Sports” is based primarily on direction provided by the MHSAA and National Federation of State High School Associations’ (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committees, in addition to reopening plans provided by the Michigan and federal governments and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Concepts from the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee also were consulted.

The MHSAA/NFHS plan recommends a three-step process to returning to full athletic participation, and for each step outlines actions to be taken in five major areas: pre-workout/contest screening of athletes and coaches for sickness, limitations of the number of participants who may be involved in a gathering, proper cleaning for facilities, the use of equipment during activity and best practices for keeping participants safely hydrated. The plan also places sports into categories based on risk for transmitting the virus (low/moderate/high), with adjusted return-to-activity steps based on that level of risk.

The MHSAA serves more than 1,500 public and private schools, including 750 high schools.

“The MHSAA and its Representative Council believe restarting school sports is essential to the physical and mental well-being of students, and the guidelines outlined for schools today provide the ‘How’ for schools to return to athletics when they’ve received the go-ahead from state and county health officials,” MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. “We are thankful for our state government, state education and health departments, our medical partners and the NFHS for their guidance these last few months, and we will continue to follow and pass on their recommendations as we prepare our schools to bring back this part of student life that’s been sorely missed.”

At the present time, the only activity allowed continues to be individual, outdoor recreational activity including walking, hiking, running, etc. (as announced in Executive Order 2020-96). If this type of conditioning activity takes place with more than one person present, it must be in groups of fewer than 10 people with social distancing followed, and the activity cannot involve school coaches, be school sponsored or occur at any school facility (indoor or outdoor) until at least June 13.

Voluntary virtual (not in-person) communication and instruction from coaches to any number of students is permitted under MHSAA rules in all sports during the summer.

“The concept is that students can continue to individually condition themselves (by walking, hiking, running), but there should be no organized, group activity by any person until at least June 13. We must all continue to do our part to flatten the curve in hopes of increased activity over the coming weeks,” Uyl said. “Again, it is important to note that this document addresses ‘How’ schools can return to activity; the decision on ‘When’ schools can return to activity will be done under the direction of state government and health department officials. As government actions impact this timeline, the MHSAA will continue to update all involved.”

The return-to-activity guidelines are aimed to provide direction for schools as they continue to limit potential exposure to respiratory droplets, the primary avenue for transferring COVID-19. Specifically, the MHSAA/NFHS plan addresses social distancing, use of cloth and other face coverings, event scheduling and transportation, and the possibility that schools may have to break from or completely discontinue activity including competition during the fall or winter because of recurrent outbreaks of the coronavirus.

School district administrators will determine at which step in the MHSAA/NFHS plan their schools are operating based on the number of people allowed to gather by state medical officials.

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Cass City Red Hawk ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Knight Insurance Agency honors 2020 Cass City graduate Tiara Anthony as their Red Hawk Athlete of the Week.

Anthony was a 3-sport standout at the local high school, excelling in volleyball, basketball and

track. She earned Greater Thumb West all-conference praises in her senior year, landing on the all-conference second team in basketball after averaging 7 points and 5 rebounds in her final year. Additionally, she also was a force for the Red Hawk spikers on the front row and track coach Adam Dorland was expecting a big year for Anthony in the high jump before Covid-19 canceled the season.

Anthony was voted as the school’s 2019 Homecoming Queen. She is the daughter of Jeremy Anthony and Julie Pearson and plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University to continue her education..



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News briefs

Lab draw station has reopened

CARO — Now that more restrictions put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 have been lifted, non-emergency medical procedures are being allowed.

Officials at Hills and Dales General Hospital in Cass City recently announced their Caro Lab Draw Station has reopened.

To ensure a smooth transition, the clinic is starting with reduced hours, which will be increased as needed.

The clinic is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 11 a.m.

More information about the lab draw station, located at 1186 Cleaver Rd., Caro (the Hills and Dales Center for Rehabilitation and pool building), is available by calling (989) 912-6486.

Returnable pop cans in demand

CARO — The Tuscola County Animal Shelter is accepting donations of returnable pop cans and bottles during the entire month of June.

Donations can be dropped off at the shelter, located at 2738 W. Caro Road (M-81). The shelter will have drop-off designated areas outside.

The staff will be wearing proper personal protection equipment (PPE) and following health and safety guidelines when handing and returning cans and bottles.

Uby Village officials seeking grant

UBLY — The Uby Village Council is hoping to cash in available funding for road work.

The council recently approved a motion to apply for a \$105,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). If approved, the money would be used for street resurfacing.

Virtual wheat field day planned

MICHIGAN — Farmers are encouraged to not let a pandemic spoil their chance to hear the latest information about wheat production.

Registration is live for the Michigan Wheat Program's 2020 virtual Summer Field Day, set for today (Wednesday) from 8 to 11 a.m.

With MSU facilities closed to large groups, Michigan Wheat Program officials are forging ahead with their summer field day online — no car trip or hotel reservations needed.

"We have a lot of information to share with our growers, and I am personally pleased that our researchers were able to quickly capture videos and photos to represent their work, and to present their information in this online meeting format," said Dave Milligan, chairman of the nine-member Michigan Wheat Program board and a wheat farmer from Cass City.

"Our farmers have adopted lots of leading-edge technology in recent years, and we believe they're ready to take on this new virtual format — at least for 2020," Milligan added.

Topics for the program include disease and weed control, fertility, seed "singulation", upcoming new varieties and establishing a good wheat stand.

Farmers interested in attending the event should visit the website www.miwheat.org and click on the summer Field Day under the "what's hot" heading in the left column. Growers can also register via phone at 1-888-WHEAT01 (an email or cell phone number is required so that the code for joining the Virtual Field Day may be sent).

Village street work meet scheduled

CASS CITY — Some street projects will be getting underway soon in Cass City, and village officials are preparing by hosting a public pre-construction meeting with Spicer Engineer and Astec Asphalt representatives today (Wednesday) at 10 a.m. at the Lions Pavilion in Cass City Recreational Park.

The public is invited to learn more about the street projects, their timelines, access to property, trash pickup, and other issues during the street work.

The projects on tap include reconstruction of Beechwood Street, from Hospital Drive to Hemlock Drive. That work will also impact Herron Drive and some Spruce Street residents. In addition, Pine Street will be reconstructed between Seeger and Leach streets.

Evergreen Park open to public

SANILAC COUNTY — Sanilac County's Evergreen Park Campground and facilities are now open to the public.

Officials at the park, located about nine miles north of M-46 along M-53, noted the facility's movie nights and concessions have been canceled due to concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, as a result of social distancing requirements, special campground events for the 2020 season, including the Fourth of July Horse-shoe Tournament, Christmas in July, annual hog roast, and the annual Halloween weekend.

Refunds will be offered to individuals who have already made reservations for the special event weekends. More information is available by calling (989) 872-6600.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

Kingston finds a way to honor 2020 grads

Continued from page one.

event for the class of 2020 graduates and their families."

The plans call for each graduate to be allowed three car spots (passes will be issued in advance of the ceremony), with the graduates occupying cars in the first 40 spots. Only vehicles with car passes will be allowed in the parking lot, and law enforcement will be monitoring parking lot entry.

Each graduate will be issued three ceremony programs with their parking permits.

"A random lottery drawing will take place for the first 40 cars/spots," Drake noted, adding a there will also be a random drawing for the remaining spots.

The only people allowed to exit their vehicles will be speakers, the

graduates when they walk to accept their diploma, and limited school staff members and others involved in the production of the event, according to Drake.

Everyone must stay in their vehicles — windows, doors, sunroofs and convertible tops must be closed.

"We will call all graduates' names. Graduates will exit their car one at a time and proceed to the stage, where they will pick up a diploma cover, pose for a picture with a (high school principal) Mike Seaman cutout, and return to their car," Drake explained. "Once they have re-entered their car, we will announce the next graduate and this process will repeat."

John Scott of Scott Studios will take the traditional photo of each graduate after picking up their

diplomas.

Guest speakers will include: Kingston Board of Education board President Dave Kolacz, Drake, Seaman, guest speaker Brandon Jones, Valetictorian Jack Green, Salutatorian Joe Snover and class President Evan Neff.

The event will be videotaped.

Drake said the district has received approval from law enforcement and local health professionals to proceed with the event, but will continue to monitor and follow recommended health guidelines in an effort to keep everyone safe.

If it rains then, graduation will be held Sunday, June 14, and there is a back-up date of Saturday, July 18, in case the dates in June do not work out.

Football field to host Uby commencement

Continued from page one.

graduation ceremonies on the football field, the school district would have to make sure all guidelines set by the governor's office would be met concerning social distancing and crowd size (if they are still in place)," said Uby School Supt. Joe Candela.

Junior-senior high school Principal Jeremy Warner noted a drive-in graduation ceremony at an alternate location is another possible option.

"All members of the board and school administration agreed that we would hold off as long as possible to have the graduation ceremonies on the football field, but also decided that the graduation should be completed before Aug. 1 in whatever format meets the guidelines of the governor's office," he said.

The board agreed school officials will continue to provide information about graduation through the district's website, its Facebook page, instant alerts and media articles.

The board noted that as the school year comes to a close, parents are to drop off iPads and work packets. The iPads will be cleaned and updated for next year, and seniors can pick up caps and gowns for graduation.

In other business, the board:

*Accepted the resignation of Mark Dekoski as assistant varsity football coach and Larry Kemp as varsity hockey coach with regret.

*Approved the 2020-21 district calendar. The calendar outlines that classes will start Aug. 17, with exams taking place in the junior high and high school the week before Christmas break starts.

However, much planning and preparation will have to be done for that.

The state has formed a council of members in the education community across the state to address how and when — in a safe manner — to open schools this fall. Later this summer, a proposal from the committee will be sent out to school districts with recommendations.

"While we wait on those recommendations, we have been working to make sure no matter what, we are ready to make sure...students will be safe coming to our school district. We are in the process of purchasing a large amount of sanitizer and touchless sanitizer dispensers throughout the school district," Candela said.

"We will also have cleaning units in place that will allow us to disinfect the rooms and busses quickly and efficiently throughout the week. We will have masks available for those students that

wish to wear them if the committee or health department/CDC recommends the use of masks.

"We will do everything possible to ensure social distancing throughout the day," Candela continued. "Whatever the recommendations to open school, I promise that we will have a plan to make sure...children will be as safe as possible for them to learn."

*Approved a motion for Uby and Harbor Beach schools to join in a cooperative program for Uby students to have the opportunity to play both boys and girls soccer at Harbor Beach and for Harbor Beach students to have the opportunity to play golf at Uby.

Another sports change for the district is that Uby will no longer be the host school for the cooperative hockey program.

"The decision was made because the majority of schools participating in the cooperative hockey program come from Sanilac County," Candela said. "Uby students and others from Huron County will be allowed to participate in the hockey program, but a school district from Sanilac County will host the hockey program."

*Noted the district will be repaving the high school parking lot this summer, with the monies coming from an approved bond issue.

Tuscola Co. commissioners approve raises

Continued from page one.

The additional \$2,000 will lift county board Chairman Thom Bardwell's pay to \$12,345, while the other commissioners will each receive \$11,504 annually. Commissioners are also paid to attend meetings plus mileage.

In addition, the pay change allows commissioners to receive county paid medical insurance at a cost of roughly \$17,000 each.

During the board's April meeting, Sheriff Glen Skrent requested hazardous pay for corrections officers and road patrol deputies due to their increased risk for exposure to COVID-19 while serving the public.

At that time, commissioners discussed the suggestion but decided they needed to look at finances first because of possible cuts in state funding to counties. The board tabled the matter.

During the same meeting, Grimshaw said he was concerned about finances and asked Tuscola County Buildings and Grounds Director Mike Miller to prioritize

capital outlay expenses. Grimshaw indicated he wanted projects that were not "essential" delayed until the county had a better understanding of the pandemic's impact on the county's budget.

Van Auken's increase in pay was requested by Tuscola County Circuit Judge Amy Grace Gierhart, who cited the additional duties Van Auken has taken on since the office went from two magistrates to just one. She also pointed out that he has been a county employee for 19 years, and had been a practicing attorney for 30 years.

After a lengthy discussion with Gierhart, the board approved the

pay increase for Van Auken.

Commissioner Mark Jensen acknowledged the reasoning behind the salary hike, but he also expressed concerns regarding any pay increases, including for commissioners, given the possibility that funding cuts could lead to employee lay-offs.

"If \$10,000 is what stands between this county and being broke, we're already broke," Grimshaw said twice — while discussing commissioners' pay and the salaries of road commissioners. "Compensation needs to be worthy of what is expected of people who become (county) commissioners."

Huron Co. man charged in goat stabbing incident

Sheriff's deputies are continuing their investigation into a reported incident of animal cruelty in Huron County's Sherman Township.

Officers were called to a farm in the 8800 block of Helena Road May 31, according to Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson.

"What responding deputies learned was possibly that an act of revenge had taken place with a goat being the victim," Hanson said. "Apparently an earlier argument between brothers resulted in one brother walking off and eventually taking a nearly 9-inch long knife to his brother's goat and stabbing it four to six times in the neck."

The suspect, 34-year-old Eric S. Learman of Bad Axe, was arrested on a felony charge of animal cruelty. He was lodged in the county jail while awaiting formal arraignment.

Hanson noted the goat appeared to be recovering from its injuries.


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Legal Notices

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. **NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE** Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Tuscola County, starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. on July 9, 2020. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by Alan K. Colosky, an unmarried man, as Mortgagor, to Frankenmuth Credit Union, as Mortgagee, dated March 17, 2003, recorded as Instrument No. 200300827899 at Liber 921, Page 223-236 of Tuscola County records, as amended by the following: Loan Modification Agreement by Alan K. Colosky and Jennifer Colosky, then husband and wife, dated February 29, 2008, recorded on April 15, 2008 as Instrument No. 200800907030 at Liber 1146, Page 1290 of Tuscola County records; Loan Modification Agreement by Alan K. Colosky and Jennifer Colosky, then husband and wife, dated February 28, 2013, recorded on March 11, 2013 as Instrument No. 2013963954 at 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

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Hills and Dales earns accreditation

Hills and Dales General Hospital officials recently announced their laboratory and respiratory therapy (RT) departments have been awarded the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Accreditation.

Following an unannounced on-site inspection earlier this year, Danielle Moore, director of laboratory at Hills and Dales, reported, "The inspectors from CAP were very impressed with our hospital and departments. With only a few suggestions for improvement, the inspection results and accreditation are a testament to the hard work we do every day to ensure the highest standards for our patients."

The CAP is often referred to as the gold standard in laboratory accreditation.

As the world's largest organization of board-certified pathologists and leading providers of laboratory accreditation and proficiency testing programs, the organization serves patients, pathologists and the public by fostering and advocating excellence in the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine worldwide, according to Danielle Blaine, director of marketing at Hill and Dales.

"During the CAP accreditation process, designed to ensure the highest standard of care for all laboratory patients, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years," Blaine explained.

"CAP inspectors also examine

laboratory staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and record, and overall management. After receiving accreditation, Hills and Dales Laboratory and RT departments join more than 8,000 CAP accredited laboratories worldwide."

Jean Anthony, Hills and Dales president and CEO, commented, "Meeting the stringent CAP standards takes a lot of hard work from every area. It's not just the lab or RT staff; it is all departments that work together on a daily basis," she said.

"The accreditation shows that Hills and Dales General Hospital is making patient safety and quality a priority every single day in every department."



AN EASTERN Box Turtle makes its way – slowly – across Deckerville Road, about three miles west of DeFord, Thursday morning. Fortunately for him, a passerby stopped and offered a helping hand, picking him up and depositing him safely on the other side of the road.

Battel receives scholarship

GreenStone Farm Credit Service officials recently named Addy Stuever Battle, Cass City, as a recipient of one of the organization's scholarships this year.

"GreenStone takes pride in supporting students interested in pursuing agriculture careers, and believes it is extremely significant to the industry's success," said Amber Echlin, public relations specialist for GreenStone.

"Since 2010, GreenStone awards up to \$40,000 in scholarships each year to incoming college freshmen; presenting \$2,000 to each selected student attending a four-year college program, and \$1,000 to each selected student attending a two-year college program," Echlin explained.

"Out of 80 applicants, 21 exceptional students were chosen for a scholarship, and one of those students — who stands out among her community due to her numerous honors and awards, volunteer work experience, impressive grades, and ambitious goals — is...Battel."

Battel was both homeschooled and dual enrolled at Cass City Junior-Senior High School for the past four 4 years. She pursued a well-rounded schedule in high school, including impressive volunteer positions such as teaching workshops for 4-H members nationwide and giving livestock tours at the Huron Community Fair, as well as paid work positions, such as raising livestock and poultry at Battel's Sugar Bush and Heritage Farm.

Battel excelled academically, achieving a 4.01 cumulative grade point average and earning the Sodexo Stop Hunger Scholar award in 2018.

She plans to continue her studies at Michigan State University in the fall, pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainability.

Battel has several goals after graduating from college. She hopes to not only distribute food through animal agriculture to those who cannot easily access grocery stores, but also provide a large amount of food security nationwide.

"I don't know if my passions will lead me to work alongside farmers in the developing world on sustainability practices, or creating policies in Washington, D.C., but as long as I can fight hunger and climate change, I will feel fulfilled," Battel said.

"GreenStone feels honored to support students like Addy in their journey to both achieve their goals and better the agricultural industry as an entity," Echlin said.



Addy Battel

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