

# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020

.75 CENTS - 10 PAGES

## A few races, millage requests on primary ballot

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Michigan's primary election is quickly approaching, with residents who haven't voted to go to the polls in less than a week.

The Tuesday, Aug. 4, primary election will be a quiet one for Tuscola County officials, but the

deadline to file nominating petitions did pave the way for a number of local, state and congressional races.

In addition, voters in the Cass City area are being asked to renew a millage that supports local fire department and ambulance services, and all county residents will decide another millage renewal that would continue funding mos-

quito suppression.

Among county candidates, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Prosecutor Mark E. Reene, Clerk Jodi Fetting and Register of Deeds John Bishop are all running unopposed, as are Drain Commissioner Robert Mantey and road commission board members Jack Laurie and David Kennard. All of the candidates filed as Republicans.

Veteran county Treasurer Patricia Donovan-Gray, meanwhile, opted not to seek another term, setting the stage for a race between Republican challengers Ashley Bennett and Rita Papp.

### State Representative

In the 84th District, comprised of Tuscola and Huron counties, first-

term state Rep. Phil Green (R-Millington) filed to seek reelection. Also seeking the two-year term are a pair of Democrats, Douglas P. Marker of Bay Por and Patrick J. Wood of Otisville.

Green won his first term in 2018 by defeating Democrat William Shoop in the general election after emerging the victor in the Repub-

Please turn to page 7.

## Troopers descend on Caseville following a murder in Detroit

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers converged on a Huron County residence Thursday night, arresting a man wanted in connection with the murder of a Detroit woman hours earlier.

According to reports, troopers at the Caro post were contacted by detectives from the Detroit Police Department's Homicide Unit Thursday regarding a subject wanted for questioning in the murder, which took place in the city of Detroit.

"Detroit detectives advised a female was killed in her home late Wednesday evening and, during their investigation, detectives discovered a person wanted for questioning had recently been pulled over by troopers from the MSP Caro Post in Tuscola County," a news release issued Friday stated.

"A subsequent investigation revealed the subject wanted for questioning had been stopped by troopers in Fremont Township of Tuscola County for speeding approximately two hours after the homicide occurred in Detroit. It should be noted that at the time of the traffic stop, troopers were unaware of Detroit's ongoing investigation and, as a result, the 40-year-old subject was cited and released from the scene."

Troopers said a joint investigation involving the Detroit Police De-

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## Village officials eye costly, unavoidable wastewater project

by Clarke Haire  
Publisher

Recent equipment replacements exceeding \$285,000 at the Cass City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) has village officials pouring over a pair of multimillion-dollar options to keep the almost 40-year-old structure safely functioning as opposed to building a new and more costly facility.

Cass City's wastewater plant was constructed in 1993.

"The plant has been well-maintained, but at nearly 40 years old it has surpassed its useful life of 35 years," Cass City Village Manager Debbie Powell said during a monthly village council meeting Monday night.

Addressing concerns surrounding the WWTP were invited guests from Johnson Controls. Presenters Michael Popa, sales manager; Dan Mack, performance infrastructure account executive; and Mandy Sheposh, principal development engineer, used a 50-minute PowerPoint presentation to help educate council members, and the public, on the upgrades needed at the wastewater facility to protect public health.

Mack kicked off the presentation by noting the project goals in addition to public health. They include being proactive in upgrading the plant, retrofitting an existing plant versus building a new one, and minimize the impact of rate payers.

"As we say in the business, you have good bones," Mack said, "(but) your equipment is just aging."

Two options were outlined by Sheposh for upgrades at the WWTP, including a plan that would change how processing waste is done; switch-

Please turn to page 4.

## 4-H livestock auctions this week

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

While the tradition of in-person livestock shows and auctions during the Tuscola County Fair were shelved this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of area 4-Hers have been working hard and staying in the barn just the same, continuing to train their animals for the annual shows.

And their efforts are being rewarded - virtually - this week.

"It's been a different road, definitely. Moving (forward) virtu-

Please turn to page 7.



### Music in the park

THE MUSIC IN Rotary Park summer concert series returned Friday night in Cass City, where a crowd of more than 80 people gathered to hear Celtic and early American music performed by the group, Sonas. Featuring Kelly Sible, Dee Dee Tibbits and Tom Krause.



## School okays plan to start classes

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Cass City School officials continued to define plans for starting the 2020-21 school year by adopting a proposed "preparedness and response" plan during a regular monthly meeting Monday night.

While the district is scheduled to begin the new year Aug. 24, plans for doing so safely continue to evolve, with school officials outlining specific options in accordance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders.

Supt. Jeff Hartel Monday addressed Cass City's plan, noting input was provided by the teaching staff, school nurse, technology director, school board members and administration, with a parent weighing in on the instructional aspects.

Hartel explained students will have two options at this point - five days of in-person instruction or virtual learning only, facilitated by the teaching staff - provided Michigan remains in its current "phase four" of restrictions stem-

ming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hartel said students who enroll in the virtual program will be asked to commit to that format for the first nine weeks, but a student may transition from in-person to virtual learning at any point based on legitimate safety concerns.

The virtual plan will not be same one offered during the last weeks of the 2019-20 school year, he noted.

"The virtual program we offer will be challenging, with high expectations for staff and student. Assignments will be graded with

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## Family argument lands Tuscola Co. man in jail

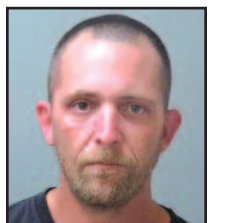
by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

A Tuscola County man was arrested after alleged attempting to fire shots at a group of people gathered at his Millington Township home early last week.

The incident stemmed from a domestic disturbance, according to Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent, who reported the incident unfolded during the afternoon

hours of July 20

"Deputies responded to a residence on Willard Road in Millington Township for a fight," he said. "Investigation has revealed



Victor Carl

Please turn to page 2.



# In spite of state's financial woes, Caro Center construction still on

by Mary Drier  
For the Chronicle

Despite state officials dealing with a projected \$3.6 billion deficit and the COVID-19 pandemic, a major construction project in Tuscola County is still scheduled to be a go.

"After more than three years of wrangling with the state, construction of the long-awaited new state

psychiatric hospital in Caro is scheduled to start this fall," Tuscola County Controller-Administrator Clayette Zechmeister recently reported.

In October 2019, Michigan lawmakers authorized construction of a \$63 million, 100-bed state psychiatric hospital to replace the existing Caro Regional Mental Health Center on the Caro site.

"The new facility is on schedule

with no delays or issues. A fall start for on-site pre-construction activities are still on target," said Zechmeister.

Three years ago, the residential facilities at the center were demolished in preparation for construction of a new hospital, which was halted shortly after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer took office. The project was authorized for funding during then-Gov. Rick Snyder's administration.

"Site demolition bids have been awarded. Building number one and building number 106 are being removed," Zechmeister said. "The demolition of those buildings started and will be completed in 90 days."

Currently, there are 20 uninhabitable and unusable buildings out of 38 buildings on the 650-acre hospital site in Indianfields Township.

The Caro Center houses about 102 patients and has a staff of about 404. The numbers fluctuate slightly month to month.

Despite the recent plan for a new state hospital in Tuscola County, locals remain cautiously optimistic.

There was a groundbreaking in 2017 to build a \$115 million, 200-bed, 225,000-square foot hospital, but just as construction was to start, Whitmer and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon halted the project and hired a consulting firm to review it.

Had that project moved forward, it would have been completed in 2021.

Waffling over the need, size and other issues of a new facility delayed the project and put it in jeopardy because other possible sites were being considered.

Several Tuscola County officials had to prove for a second time the need for a local psychiatric hospital.

State officials agreed in October 2019 to build the hospital in the county and to earmark money for the project in the 2020 budget.

This year's budget, which went into effect last fall, outlined \$63 million to replace the current Caro Regional Mental Health Center, and about \$5 million in one-time funding for demolition of vacant/uninhabitable facilities at the Caro site.

## Michigan Bean Fest organizers cancel event

Although the Michigan Bean Festival Committee was preparing to host the 75th annual festival, village officials decided against it at their last meeting.

Fairgrove Village President Carl Childs made the announcement.

"We are deeply saddened that during this unprecedented uncertainty, this decision is not just a necessary and right step, it is the only step," Childs said. "As we were monitoring the COVID-19 crisis over the last several months, we considered the unpredictability of travel as well as the safety and comfort of our village residents and patrons."

Aside from the COVID-19 pandemic, there was another factor in making that decision.

"It has also become clear that the village cannot shoulder the increased cost of insurance and the legality of hosting the event," Childs explained, noting the ultimate goal is to ensure that the bean festival will continue to be an event in the village's future.

The annual festival takes place in September over the Labor Day weekend. Some activities start on the Thursday before the holiday, and the celebration continues through Monday.

With the canceling of this year's festival, the focus is on preparing for the next one in 2021, said Childs.

More information is available by calling the village at 989-693-6572 or via email at hall@fairgrove@gmail.com.

## Huron County schools move school start date

by Mary Drier  
For the Chronicle

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact schools.

Districts in Huron County had originally set Monday, Aug. 17, as the first day of school, but once again the virus has disrupted those plans.

Huron County superintendents recently met to discuss moving the first day of school to a later date.

From that meeting, it was decided classes in Huron County schools will start after Labor Day, according to Ubyly Community School Supt. Joe Candela.

The decision was, in part, on several districts having difficulty securing computer technology for their students, and multiple districts are having problems obtaining adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and sanitizer, Candela said.

As a result, the Huron County superintendents agreed to reschedule the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Huron Intermediate School District (HISD) officials released a statement announcing the start date will now tentatively be Tuesday, Sept. 8.

"This change will allow more time for our local schools to prepare for students to safely return to school," intermediate school officials said. "The health and safety of students and staff is of the utmost importance in our schools."

"For Ubyly Schools, so far, this (date change) has not been a problem. The district will review and update the calendar," Candela noted. "We will try to keep much of our current calendar, but expect some changes to take place."

As soon as the calendar is complete, it will be posted on the district's website at <https://www.ublyschools.org>.

## Domestic call ends in arrest

Continued from page one.

that after a physical altercation with a family member – brother — the subject is alleged to have produced a shotgun and tried several times to shoot a group of people at the residence, but the firearm jammed."

Skrent identified the suspect as 37-year-old Victor Carl, who was taken into custody and arraigned the day after the incident.

He faces several felony charges, including assault with attempt to murder, carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent, assault with a dangerous weapon, possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony (felony firearm), and domestic violence.

Bond in the case was set at \$500,000. A date for his next court appearance was not available.

### NOTICE FOR GILFORD TOWNSHIP

#### July 9, 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, Public Comment: Will Bradleyville Rd. be paved North of Gilford? No. Only 1 name on Juniata ballot?

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

Treasurers Report: Motion by A. Goss, second by R. Haines to approve Treasurers Report. Motion approved.

Recess from 7:45 P.M. till 7:52 P.M. to convene Election Commission meeting for purpose of appointing Election Inspectors, Chair person, and Receiving Board for August 4, 2020 Primary Election.

#### REPORTS:

Supervisor: Zero Reese fire runs, construction on new Gas Regulator Station near Quality Roasting to start soon. Motion by K. Houghtaling, second by R. Haines to approve PA116 Partial Termination for D. Findlay. Motion approved. Motion by D. Strasz, second by K. Houghtaling to approve Resolution for Partial Termination for D. Findlay. Motion approved. Motion by D. Strasz, second by A. Goss to approve bid for cemetery driveway upgrades. Motion approved. Motion by J. Stockmeyer, second by K. Houghtaling to approve bid for spraying brush at old dump/park. Board of review to be on July 20th at 9:00 A.M. Discussion on scheduling Public Hearing for new Zoning Ordinance.

Treasurer: Tax payments coming in, cleanup of Darbee Rd. house in process, insurance money will be released when site is finished. Clerk: Election report: over 100 Absentee Ballots sent out so far for August election, normally 80 or less. Motion by R. Haines, second by D. Strasz to purchase AV presentation system. Motion approved. Motion by K. Houghtaling, second by D. Strasz to approve propane pre-buy contract for 2020-2021 season. Motion approved. Discussion on Blight Ordinance, R. Haines will submit to Township Attorney for critique/suggestions. Complaint about dirt bike in cemetery and 2 flowerpots were stolen off a grave. Motion by A. Goss, second by K. Houghtaling to pay bills. Motion approved.

Trustees: Parks/Rec meeting, \$33,000 available, want to add 8' to front of pavilion and 5' sidewalk as well as 3' apron, hiring someone to paint concession stand, hope to complete all projects by Fall. Looking for grants, RC (radio controlled) will receive about \$2500.00 to start on RC court.

Ambulance Representative: Gilford had 4 responses, MMR recommends we regularly check AED battery.

Fire Department Representative: Reese fire meeting, outside company to test hoses, Reese Car Show cancelled, trainees advanced to probationary, need more volunteers going on runs.

Zoning Administrator: One Demolition permit issued, one permit for shed, one permit for gas regulator station.

Public Comment: Is there a Blight Ordinance? Motion by J. Stockmeyer, second by A. Goss to adjourn at 9:18 P.M. Motion approved.

Robert L. Haines  
Gilford Township Clerk



Val Peters

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	2				9			

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# In Our OPINION...

**Clarke Haire**  
Publisher

**Tom Montgomery**  
Editor

## Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

A method to madness



### Emergency care still crucial; don't delay

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be an overwhelming challenge for everyone, including many healthcare workers staffing hospitals and other medical facilities across the country.

Unfortunately, fear and uncertainty over being exposed to the virus have prompted some residents to ride out chest pains and other possibly life-threatening symptoms, rather than seeking timely emergency care.

That's according to Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) chief medical executive and chief deputy for health, who is working to combat what she described earlier this month as "an alarming" increase in out-of-hospital medical emergencies and deaths since COVID-19 was first confirmed in the state.

In short, Khaldun is urging residents not to avoid seeking help when they need it.

"It is incredibly important that people not delay care, especially if they are having concerning symptoms like chest pain, difficulty breathing or dizziness," Khaldun said. "Hospitals and EMS providers are working hard to keep patients safe, so please contact them if you are having a medical emergency."

Data from Michigan EMS agencies from March 15 to May 23, compared to the same period a year ago, show:

\*Out-of-hospital cardiac arrests increased 43.3 percent.

\*Out-of-hospital deaths recorded by EMS increased 62 percent.

\*Statewide EMS transports decreased 17 percent.

\*Transports of heart attack (or STEMI) patients decreased nearly 10 percent.

\*Transports of stroke patients decreased 12.1 percent.

Overall, the EMS data represent a surge in out-of-hospital deaths from 1,579 in 2019 to 2,824 for the same two-month period this year, according to the MDHHS. The number of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests for the March 15-May 23 period increased from 3,033 in 2019 to 4,346 in 2020.

During the same time period, EMS transports fell from 224,175 in 2019 to 187,363 this year, MDHHS statistics show.

Michigan's EMS providers are prepared to safely care for patients with additional protective gear and disinfecting protocols in place, according to officials with the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services (MAAS).

"Medical emergencies have not gone away during the pandemic, and Michigan EMS providers are standing by to help Michiganders safely get the lifesaving help they need," said Jack Fisher, MAAS president and executive director of Medic 1 Ambulance in Berrien County.

"Every minute counts in a medical emergency and we hope this alarming trend of people avoiding care and dying needlessly doesn't continue," he added.

Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported emergency department visits declined by 42 percent during the early months of the pandemic, with a 23-percent decrease in emergency visits for heart attacks and a 20 percent decrease for stroke in the 10 weeks following the declaration of a national emergency due to COVID-19.

My grandmother did a lot of mending. With seven sons and one daughter, there was always something that needed to be repaired.

And, my mother made all of her clothes and most of mine until I was in high school.

They each had an ugly little pincushion that looked like a refuge from a radiation test site. The base looked like a red tomato with a flat green leaf on top. Attached to the top of the tomato was kind of a teardrop shape that looked like a strawberry, also with a flat green leaf.

The red and green monstrosity was always within reach when grandma and mom were mending or sewing. The pincushion always had a lot of straight pins stuck in it.

Eventually, I took up the family tradition of mending and sewing, but there is no mutant pincushion near me when I work; I keep my straight pins in a little plastic box.

I'm not sure what happened to my mother's tomato-strawberry pincushion. Knowing me, I probably tossed it because I thought it was ugly and an abomination of nature.

However, I recently learned there was a reason for the mixed vegetable.

This is what I found: according to folklore, putting a tomato on the mantel of a new home guaranteed prosperity and also was supposed to repel evil spirits.

However, there were times when a person got a new house when tomatoes were out of season, so they improvised by using a round ball of red fabric that was filled with either sawdust or sand.

Plus, it had a practical use — it could store pins.

The story goes that later, the tomato was stuffed with wool to prevent rust, and the strawberry was filled with steel wool as an abrasive to clean and sharpen pins.

The tomato-strawberry pincushion is believed to have been introduced during the Victorian Era.

After reading that, I have a new appreciation for the little sewing notion. Apparently, there was a method to their madness after all.

I also found the reason why there was so many red barns when I was growing up; barns were a very important aspect of the farm. They housed animals and equipment, and were often used for social gatherings.

Many a barn was erected during a raising bee when neighboring farmers would get together to help a fellow farmer construct a barn. Because the barn was so important, it was often painted with linseed oil to seal the wood so it wouldn't rot.


And, some rust was mixed into the linseed oil to stop moss and fungi from growing on the wood. The combination created a deep red color.

In fact, many barns, even those with aluminum siding, now are red, carrying on the tradition, and I bet most farmers don't realize that.

### Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)



In early June, Michigan retailers officially began accepting cans and bottles with a deposit for redemption and recycling after an 11-week shutdown. During this time, it is estimated that Michiganders stockpiled 800 million containers, worth \$80 million in deposits. Due to this tremendous backlog, the Department of Treasury established unprecedented measures to limit the amount of containers retailers could redeem in a week in order to avoid breakdown of the system's reverse logistics and processing infrastructure.

Since reopening the system, retailers, distributors and their recycling service providers have been working at maximum capacity to collect and process the extremely high volume of stockpiled containers in addition to peak summer container recycling amounts.

For this reason, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy encourages the public's continued patience while beverage distributors, retailers and deposit system service providers process an unprecedented volume of containers.

It is strongly recommended that consumers check with their local retailer to find out the best time to redeem cans and bottles, as bottle rooms may be closed due to mandatory capacity limits. The Department of Treasury has issued a limit of the number of containers recyclers can redeem per day to 250 (\$25), and retailers are limited to accepting 140 percent of their 2019 volumes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tuscola County law enforcement officials have reminded residents time and time again to be on the lookout for scam artists, and Sheriff Glen Skrent cited another incident over the weekend to share that message again, along with a warning that these criminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their techniques.

"A resident of Caro contacted the Caro Police Department...to report that scammers attempted to impersonate deputies from the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office by telephone. The caller wanted the subject to obtain Ebay cards and Walmart cards and send them, or they would arrest the subject on alleged warrants," Skrent posted on the department's Facebook page. "The caller, in an attempt to verify, tried calling the sheriff's number and dispatch non-emergency, and the call was routed back to the suspects — this time answering they were the state police."

"The sophistication of these scammers knows no bounds," Skrent said. "(Neither) the courts nor law enforcement ask for gift cards to pay fines and costs. period."

\*\*\*\*\*

The consequences of Covid-19 continue to spread throughout the world and the Thumb is no exception. The virus has canceled a pair of long-running fundraising events to the chagrin of volunteers and boosters alike.

Danielle Blaine, the Hills and Dales Foundation Director of Public Relations, Marketing & Foundation, sadly reports the group's 22nd annual golf money-maker planned for Aug. 12 has been canceled.

"After much consideration and discussion, we have decided to cancel our 2020 golf outing, Blaine said, adding, "We appreciate the support of our event through the years and we are looking forward to 2021."

Meanwhile, over in Unionville, Mary Drier writes: The annual ball tournament in Unionville that goes to fund the Little League program has been canceled.

The event supported the USA little league program and the village of Unionville and Sebawaing. It allowed youth to play on some of the nicest fields in the area and have great equipment.

All teams will have their spot reserved for next year and for those who camped during the three-day event their spot will be reserved also.

There are a number of reasons why the event is cancelled.

Insurance is one of the reasons. Not only does the village have to cover an additional policy the Little League also does.

And, the proper safety rules that are required by law that are being imposed because of the COVID-19 virus cannot be met.

Plans are for the event to be back in 2021.

\*\*\*\*\*

The 2020 Cass City Classic Disc Golf Tournament will take place Saturday, Aug. 15 on the local Rotary Disc Golf Course in the recreational park. Entry fee is \$20 and includes 2 rounds of golf, gift bag, disc, water and much more. Cash prizes for top 3 finishers.

To register or for more details call Andrew Klco at 989-553-5998. Registration ends Aug. 7th and all proceeds will be donated back to the Cass City Disc Golf Course.

## Letters to the Editor

### Think before you cast vote

My fellow Americans,

Election time again and I have a request — before you vote, study the issues. Do not vote one party because your parents did.

Some comparisons of the candidates:

President Trump — the economy in the U.S.A. has never been higher, under him, and he cut taxes, too.

Joe Biden wants to increase taxes. He also wants more government. Truth is, the less government in our lives, the better off we are.

Under Obama, our country lost respect. He was afraid to stand up to other nations.

Biden wants Medicare for everyone. Good idea? Heck no. Who will pay for it? Canada has Medicare for everyone. The government decides if you get a surgery and when. Many Canadians come to our country.

Today we are back to being the number one superpower. Our military has been rebuilt by President Trump. He is not afraid to stand up for our country. We are respected again by other countries.

President Trump ended NAFTA. All the jobs went to other countries — our country lost thousands of jobs. Biden was in favor of NAFTA. He is also a huge friend of China and supports them and wants relations with them. Why? China is not a friend of the U.S.A.

Biden has been in government for 47 years. Can you name anything he has been responsible for?

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## CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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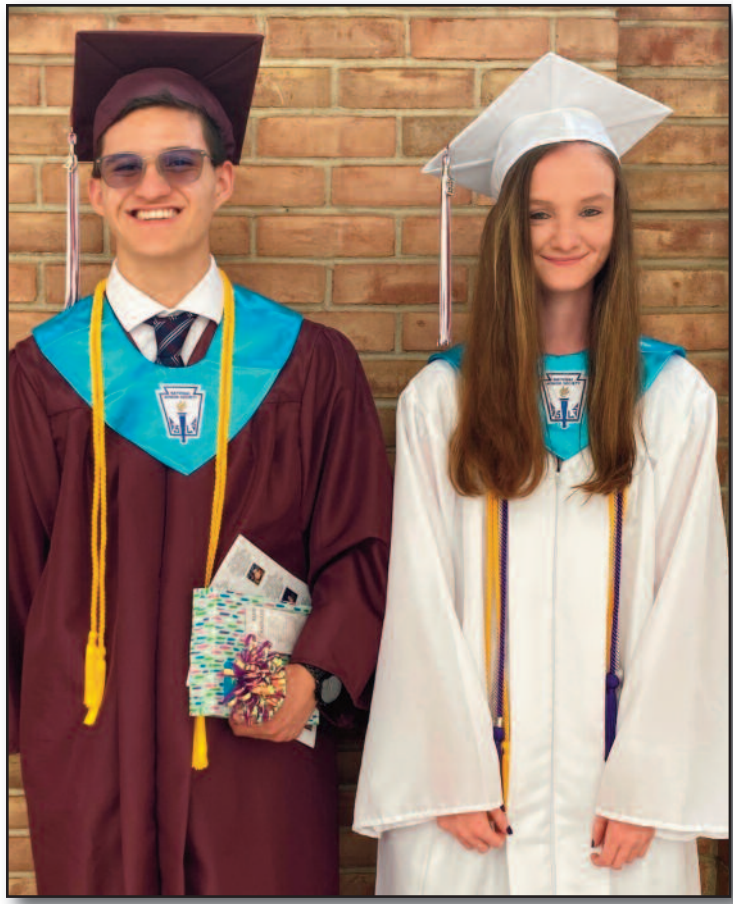
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Columnist


(USPS 092-00)





CASS CITY High School graduates Kevin Estrella and Gracie Williams were named this year's recipients of \$500 scholarships presented by the Knights of Columbus Council 8892, Cass City, for their efforts to serve the church and their community throughout their high school careers. They also received scholarships from the Our Lady Consolata Parish.

Financial matters dominate agenda

by Mary Drier For the Chronicle

The Owendale Village Council focused on a variety of financial issues during a recent meeting.

Council members approved a resolution to contract with Grapp-Lerash, a CPA firm in Saginaw, to conduct the village's annual audit, and they hired Top of the Hill Services of Gagetown to take on bookkeeping duties.

Grapp-Lerash will conduct the audit at a cost of \$6,000, while Top of the Hill Services will hand bookkeeping for the village for \$500, explained village Clerk Randy Howard.

Howard also told the council that an application he submitted for a grant to pay off the water tower bond was denied.

"There is still a \$98,000 principal balance on the water tower," he noted. "It will be paid off in 2032."

Treasurer Manuel Thies, meanwhile, reported there are about 20 customers who are late with their utility bill payments, adding up to a past-due total of roughly \$4,000.

Also, the council was advised that the amount of revenue sharing the village receives from the state is expected to be reduced, although no specific estimates are available yet.

Another money issue before the council involves replacement of a catch basin at the intersection of Fifth and Foster streets as part of the construction project at Vita Plus. The council had agreed to spend \$3,500 on the project.

"(The) concern was that the existing crock was not strong enough to withstand the weight of the large trucks," explained Howard. "However, upon inspection, it was discovered the existing crock is in excellent condition and is stronger than the crock they were going to install, so the village didn't have to do that."

And, there could be a possible increase coming in water and sewer rates.

Howard and village DPW Supt. Steve Sweatland recently spent a day with a representative from the Michigan Rural Water Association, who was in the village to perform a water and sewer rate analysis.

"We should have his findings in time for review at the August council meeting," said Howard. "The last increase was (in) April 2016, from \$5 to \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons."

Village eyes costly wastewater upgrades

Continued from page one.

ing from anaerobic digesters — currently in use at the Cass City WWTP — to aerobic digesters, which are cheaper and require less expensive equipment to process the waste.

By definition, anaerobic wastewater treatment is a biological process in which microorganisms degrade organic contaminants in the absence of oxygen. Conversely, the aerobic process relies on a continuous supply of air to be mixed in with the waste material.

The first option present by Sheposh calls for upgrades to the WWTP, as an "asset management plan" is written, while continuing to use an anaerobic setup. It comes with a price tag of \$15.9 million.

Option two, Sheposh said, includes the switch in processing

from anaerobic digesters to aerobic digesters along with upgrades at the plant, with revisions identified by Johnson Controls. Despite the switch in processing methods, the cost up front is projected at only \$11.2 million.

"Anaerobic Digestion is usually for bigger systems, a larger facility. Aerobic is more in line with the size of your community. Aerobic is less hazardous, less costly and (involves) fewer pieces of equipment," Sheposh explained, noting the costs to run either system would be about the same.

Regardless of which direction the council goes with — basically changing from aerobic digesters or not — the next step in the project, which is expected to cover a period of years with construction starting next summer and completion date of February 2023, is to

conduct a water and sewer rate analysis.

Village staffers have been working with contractors from the Michigan Rural Water Association (MRWA) on a rate study. Primary considerations were to simplify the rate structure and consider future revenue requirements for the WWTP. Those findings are not ready for publication.

"We are close to sharing the information with the village council. A meeting is scheduled in August to review the final draft. Afterwards, our consultant with MRWA plans to meet individually with village trustees to explain the analysis," Powell said.

"Subsequently, this information will be provided to the public and a public hearing will be held before any changes are made to the utility rates," she added.

Advertisement for Hills & Dales General Hospital featuring Dr. Eric Shoemaker, Family Medicine. Includes a photo of Dr. Shoemaker and contact information: 4675 Hill St, Cass City | 989-872-2121.

Cass City Red Hawk ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Knights Insurance salutes 2020 senior Thom Rijshouwer as their Cass City Red Hawk Athlete of the Week.

Rijshouwer, an exchange-student from Netherlands, played important roles on both the football and basketball teams at Cass City during his stay. His long, strong, athletic body was well-suited for track and field, but unfortunately, he will remain untested in the sport because of the pandemic.

Rijshouwer was the Red Hawk kicker and punter and helped Cass City advance to the MHSAA playoffs semifinal round last fall with several booming clutch punts during the season. However, his true love is basketball and Cass City's best dunker collected Greater Thumb West all-conference accolades in the winter. In fact, Rijshouwer and his teammates shocked heavily favored USA in district action — handing the Patriots a rare home defeat. However, with district title hopes in reach, Covid-19 ended the post season tournaments following the win.



THOM RIJSHOUWER

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## Reporter's notebook

Stupid is as stupid does

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor



Person: What's the dumbest thing you've ever done?  
Me: Awfully bold of you to assume I've peaked.

I recently posted that meme on Facebook not only because it's still a fact of life in my life, but because I recently went out of the way to prove it.

And all because I failed to remember six simple words: Leaves of three, let it be (or, in the alternative, Hairy vine, no friend of mine).

I'll explain.

We have a long, winding driveway, and for months I've had my eye on trimming a tree with a couple of large branches — fully tangled in thick vines — hanging over a portion of the drive. The low-hanging canopy has tangled with more than one delivery truck driver over the years.

That's not usually a big problem until my wife, Deb, starts "shopping" for the holidays towards the end of the year, and every other day it seems like we've got a convoy of UPS and Fed Ex trucks pulling in and out of the driveway.

Anyway, I was feeling particularly woody and ambitious recently and decided to bring those limbs down and hack through the massive entanglement of vines. So, I grabbed a saw and some heavy-duty clippers and went to work.

Now, I've never been much of a tree hugger, but considering I was about 18 feet off the ground with only a ladder under me and my right hand busy with a hand saw, I was embracing that tree trunk like it was my first and only love.

An hour later I congratulated myself for a job well done. The limbs were down and disposed of, and I was safe and sound with my feet back on the ground.

And a few hours later I woke up, in the middle of the night, feeling like both of my arms were on fire.

I walked into the bathroom to find red patches with raised blisters scattered across each limb, and an intense itch I haven't felt since I was kid, when I somehow managed to roll around in some poison ivy just before a family vacation to the Smokey Mountains.

I spent the next few days washing my arms, bathing them in topical sprays (which never really seem to work all that well), and remembering my mother's constant reminders not to scratch when I was a youngster.

And being profoundly grateful that the only exposed skin on that day was on my arms.

I also returned to the scene of the crime to see if I could identify the culprit.

It took no time at all, because the tree trunk in question was wrapped in poison oak leaves (actually, the "leaves of three, let it be" thing only really applies to poison ivy, but poison oak also comes in the three-leaf version as well as boasting five or seven leaves along with an ample supply of urushiol, the sticky, long-lasting oil that causes the itchy, blistering rash).

A little research revealed that, upon contact with your body, urushiol immediately forms a chemical bond to the skin and causes an almost unstoppable allergic reaction. Urushiol will stay on clothes, pets, or other materials for months, and its potency lasts — meaning you can even get poison oak without going anywhere near it.

Or, you can simply not pay attention and embrace a tree wrapped in the stuff.

I stopped reading when the snarky author added, "Of course, the best remedy is always prevention."

I'm still wondering how I could have missed seeing those leaves before. On the other hand, how many times have I spotted typos in the Chronicle — only after we've going to press and the hard copies are on the newsstands, with each oops glaring up at me in flashing neon.

When it comes poison oak, you can bet I won't be making the same mistake again.

Unfortunately, I'm guessing it's just a matter of time before I'll up the ante and find something even dumber to do.

# Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



### 5 YEARS AGO (2015)

Another addition to the Thumb Quilt Trail can be found just a few miles north of Cass City at the Andrea and Bill Shagene place along Cemetery Road, where the organization's largest quilt block to-date — measuring a whopping 16 feet — was installed last week.

Husband and wife Eric and Susan Hanby both recently earned master's degrees. Eric received his Master's of Business Administration Degree (MBA) at the University of North Carolina in Pembroke. He was honored with the top MBA of the year award and the Dean's Award for Impactful Scholarly Achievement. Eric is the son of Jim and Rita Hanby and the grandson of Barb Hanby and Wayne and Evelyn Whittaker, all of Cass City. Susan Hanby earned her second master's degree in education administration at the University of North Carolina. Her first master's was in math education.

### 10 YEARS AGO (2010)

Justin Ruggles sold his Grand Champion Beef at this year's Tuscola County 4-H Livestock Sale on July 29. His 1,325-pound steer was purchased for \$4,000. He also won the honors of Reserve Overall Showman. Ruggles is the son of Tim and Julie Ruggles and is part of the 5 Star Livestock Club in Kingstons.

After years in the classroom, Judy Hoelzle will tell you she learned to measure her success as an educator not just by watching her students successfully hone their artistic skills, but also by helping other students realize something about themselves that even they didn't know. "I enjoy students who love art, and students when they don't know they love art, but discover they do," she said. Hoelzle recently walked out of her classroom at Cass City High School for the last time, having made the decision to retire after 23 1/2 years of teaching, including more than 15 years in Cass City.

### 25 YEARS AGO (1995)

The jolt of a head-on crash last spring left Henry LaJoie with neck pain so severe he needed heavy pain medication, but it could have been much worse; he could have been killed. And he probably would have been if he hadn't been wearing a seat belt, according to Jim Jashinske, a Tuscola County Sheriff's deputy who is certified in accident reconstruction. Jashinske, along with Sheriff Tom Kern, met Monday with LaJoie and his wife, Henrietta, to present the Cass City man with a "Saved by the Belt" award.

### 35 YEARS AGO (1985)

Spec. 5 Joseph J. McGrath, son of Ann M. McGrath of Cass City, has been decorated with the Army Achievement Medal in West Germany. The Achievement Medal is awarded to soldiers for meritorious service, acts of courage, or other accomplishments. McGrath is a missile electronics specialist with the 56th Field Artillery Brigade. He is a 1981 graduate of Cass City High School and entered the service in August, 1981. He and his wife Gabe have a year-old son, Daniel.

Betty Pattullo was appointed half-time Extension home economist for Tuscola County, effective Aug. 1. She has a bachelor's degree in family life education from Michigan State University. From 1972 to 1983, Pattullo was manager and salesperson at Pattullo & Sons Sports, Inc. From 1962 to 1969, she was a home economics teacher in the Almont and Caro community schools. As Tuscola's home economist, she will be responsible for planning, organizing and implementing home economics programs relevant to the needs of local families in the areas of food and nutrition, family resource management, human development and leadership/volunteer development.

### 40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Tracy returned home Sunday evening from a week's trip. They visited Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ritter at Alpena, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Millard at Gaylord, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett O'Dell and Mrs. Daisy Kerbyson at Pentwater, where other members of Mrs. Tracy's family joined them for a reunion on Saturday and Sunday. One day of their vacation was spent at Mackinac Island.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Heckroth of Deford announce the engagement of their daughter, Janice Lynn, to Jeffery Allen Tuckey, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Tuckey, of Cass City. Janice is currently interested in direct wholesaling and raising horses. Jeffery attended UEI technical school in Grand Rapids and is employed by Walbro Corp. They are planning an Aug. 23 wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. James Walters of Bay City are the parents of a son, Joshua David, born July 25 in Saginaw General Hospital. He weighed eight pounds, seven ounces. Mrs. Walters is the former Bernadette Zimba. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Walters of Cass City and Mr. and Mrs. William Zimba of Deford. He has a brother, Nathan, two years old.

Mrs. Richard Gaffney, Cass City, had lunch and was an afternoon guest of Mary E. Buehrly, Ubyly, who celebrated her 90th birthday last Thursday. In the evening, Mrs. Buehrly and daughter Alice Elliott were entertained at a beef barbecue at the new home of her grandson, Robert Elliott, wife Nancy, and great-granddaughters Kristi and Kati. A surprise guest was Mrs. Elmer O'Berski, Ubyly.

### 50 YEARS AGO (1970)

Navy Seaman Apprentice Mark R. Strace, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence M. Strace of Decker, was graduated from basic training during ceremonies at the Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes, ILL. Strace is a graduate of Cass City High School.

Marine Lance Corporal Daniel L. Diefenbach of Ubyly was promoted to his present rank while serving with the First Marine Division in Vietnam.

Born Aug. 3 in Hills and Dales Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hartwick, their fifth child, an eight-pound, 10 ounce son, Kevin David. The new baby joins two sisters, Janie and Carol Ann, and two brothers, Scott and Robbie, at home.

### 75 YEARS AGO (1945)

The first annual beef cattle show held at Cass City Friday, Aug. 3, was well attended and the showing of 32 fine types of animals attracted much attention and admiration. "Bill" Zinnecker, 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John

Zinnecker, exhibited the grand champion steer of the show. This animal was also champion in the Angus class. Don Loomis of Gageton was awarded reserve champion of the show on his Hereford steer which was champion in its class. Keith Little's Shorthorn steer was acknowledged the best "home grown" animal of the day. It was champion in the Shorthorn division.

E. A. Livingston returned recently with his daughter, Mrs. Clyde Wilber, of Royal Oak, from a 10-day visit with their daughter and sister, Mrs. Arthur Tracy, at Denver, Colorado. Mr. Tracy is employed at the airport at Lowry Field and here Mr. Livingston said they were impressed with 100' B-29 Superfortresses lined up on the field in rows. One of these large planes lands every two minutes in their practice runs, he reports. Mr. Livingston and daughter were near the summit of Mt. Evans and went to the top of Pike's Peak which has an elevation of 14,110 feet. Another interesting place visited on their trip was Central City, a thriving mining town in by-gone days and now a "ghost city" since mining operations have ceased at that point in Colorado.

David Matthews and Don MacLachlan on Monday bought from Mrs. Arthur Haley the building in which she has been operating a restaurant for some time and will open a plumbing business there shortly. Mrs. Haley will give possession about Aug. 15. The firm will do business under the name of the M & M Plumbing and Heating Co. Messrs. Matthews and MacLachlan, who owned an interest in the Ideal Plumbing Co. here, have sold their interest to Leonard Urquhart who has been operating the business and now is sole owner. Messrs. MacLaelilan and Matthews have been employed by the Dafoe Shipbuilding Co. at Bay City in the past three years.

### 100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Miss Violet Gillies expects to arrive from New York City next week to spend a few weeks with her sister, Mrs. Jas. J. Wallace, in Evergreen township. Miss Gillies has just completed a course of study in the Columbia University and will teach again in the public schools in Detroit.

C. D. Striffler, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Striffler and their guest, Miss Marie Schneider of Boyne City, Mr. and Mrs. L. Bailey and family, and the Misses Emma and Gladys Lenzner spent Sunday with Mrs. C. D. Striffler at Cedar Dell cottage, Caseville. Paul H. Hague returned home Sunday evening from a five-day stay in Bad Axe where he was awaiting the improvement of his wife, who underwent an operation for appendicitis at the Hubbard hospital last Wednesday. Mrs. Hague is getting along very nicely.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Think before you cast your vote

Continued from page three.

President Trump is pro-life, even showed up at the Right to Life rally in Washington – the first president to ever do so. The mayor of New York says there are no Democrats who are pro-life. Hopefully, he is wrong.

Biden is a progressive. Back in the 1960s, the Democrats were more like the communists. Today, Biden is so far left, how do we know what he is for? He is also too old to be president. One interview – he did not know how many grandchildren he has. He was confused when he appeared in one of the states. He was in Iowa and said Idaho, or vice versa.

I am a senior citizen and have been for many years – No, absolutely not am I prejudiced against old people.

Also pro-choice – call it what you want, but killing babies is murder. Biden wants gun control. President Trump supports the 2nd Amendment, the right to bear arms. When guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns.

Under President Trump, the United Nations pays its fair share. Our president has done that with other organizations – either pay up or leave. I am an independent, not a party person. Let's give credit when credit is due. Our president has done a great job. Forget whether you like him or not. Just ask yourself, are you better off today than you were under our last president?

It is about time our politicians get together and do what is good for the U.S.A. They go in as regular people and come out millionaires. They forget they were elected by "We the People" and make a career wheeling and dealing and stay in Washington too long. Nancy Pelosi, 33 years; Maxine Waters, 29 years.

I rest my case and I request you study the issues before you vote.

A concerned citizen,

GINNA GENTNER  
Cass City

## Tuscola educators working to start the school year safely

Dear Tuscola County students, parents/guardians and residents, Coronavirus has changed many aspects of our lives, and perhaps some of the most significant changes have occurred in the world of education. Most schools ended the 2019-20 year using online learning and other methods of virtual education.

Now, the nine public school districts within the Tuscola Intermediate School District (TISD) are ramping up to launch the 2020-21 school year with challenging circumstances, while holding high expectations for learning in the coming year.

We look forward to this challenge and are working to deliver an exciting year for all students.

The governor just recently released the Return to School Roadmap, which provides guidance to school districts in developing plans to ensure effective educational opportunities for all of our children. Superintendents from our nine local school districts have been working collaboratively to create a unified plan that promotes continuity throughout the county.

The Return to School Roadmap plans focus on educational activities, continuity of learning for all children, school sanitation, communication with stakeholders, technology requirements, and addressing the health needs of all those involved in educating our children.

Tuscola Intermediate School District is coordinating efforts throughout the county to serve nearly 8,400 students and their families. We recognize the varying needs of our students and families and will work to develop solutions to each specific need and educational requirement.

The Return to School Roadmaps will be posted on the webpage of each local district by no later than Aug. 15. We encourage you to review these plans to obtain insight on each district's plan for safely returning students and staff to our schools.

Meanwhile, know that educators from across the county commit to studying the "roadmap" and pledge to reopen under safe conditions.

Educationally Yours,

Diane Foster, superintendent, Akron-Fairgrove Schools  
Peter Newman, superintendent, Caro Community Schools  
Jeff Hartel, superintendent, Cass City Public Schools  
Matthew Drake, superintendent, Kingston Community Schools  
Barry Markwart, superintendent, Mayville Community Schools  
Lawrence Kroswek, superintendent, Millington Community Schools  
Keith Wetters, superintendent, Public Schools  
George Rieron, superintendent, Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools  
Dorothy Blackwell, superintendent, Vassar Public Schools  
Gene Pierce, superintendent, Tuscola Intermediate School District

## PROMISE coverage appreciated

To the editor:

We would like to recognize Tom Montgomery, editor, and the Cass City Chronicle for providing a thorough update on the Cass City PROMISE in the July 8 edition.

The Cass City PROMISE Board appreciates the monetary support of local service clubs and individual community members (to be formally recognized in the future) and our partnerships with the Cass City Public Schools, Sanilac County Community Foundation and Thumb Bank and Trust to fulfill our promise of providing savings accounts and post-secondary (after high school) preparation for all students beginning this school year.

A couple of additional items to note:

\*We have expanded our board membership to include Melissa Anderson, director of the Sanilac County Community Foundation; Jeff Leslie, CPA, Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt and Doran, PC; Kevven Dorland, social behavior coach, Cass City Schools; and Frank Stoup, local, regional and national business developer and owner.

\*Additional donations are greatly appreciated at this time, as many fundraising efforts have been curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those interested in supporting the Cass City PROMISE may forward donations to Cass City PROMISE, 4700 Hunt St., Cass City, MI 48726 or the Sanilac County Community Foundation/Cass City PROMISE, 47 Austin St., P.O. Box 307, Sandusky, MI 48471.

Sincerely,

Ben Varney, PROMISE president  
Geraldine Prieskorn, PROMISE vice president  
Jeff Leslie, PROMISE treasurer  
Janet Richards, PROMISE secretary

# Virus cases climbing in Thumb

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Thumb health department officials say they're continuing to monitor an increase in new cases of COVID-19 in the region.

"As of July 22, 2020, Tuscola County Health Department is reporting a total of 242 confirmed cases, 16 probable cases, and 27 deaths. In the past seven days we have added eight additional positive cases," Ann Hepfer, health officer for the Tuscola and Huron county health departments, reported during her latest update last Wednesday.

"In Huron County, we added 19 positive cases this week and no new deaths. In two weeks' time, Huron County jumped up 34 positive cases. We now are at 94 confirmed cases (and) 14 probable cases, she added.

Last Week's report came just a day after Hepfer released the names of four businesses where a group of patrons visited during the evening hours of July 11.

"From this group, several individuals have tested positive for COVID-19," said Hepfer, who noted the group made stops at the Ugly Pub in Ugly, Farmers Tavern in Ruth, Smalley's Bar and Grill in Harbor Beach, and The Gathering Place in Bad Axe.

Anyone who believes they may have been exposed at those locations was urged to self-quarantine themselves for two weeks and monitor themselves for symptoms of the virus.

Hepfer continues to strongly recommend that area residents take a few simple precautions, including wearing masks, social distancing and frequent hand washing.

"Why would anyone want to take a chance on getting sick, or being responsible for getting someone else sick? If everyone just stayed home a little more, avoid crowds of people, don't participate in risky behaviors like crowds of people at parties in close quarters, even outside in tents," she said. "We need to change our socializing habits or else we are going to continue (to see) increases in positive cases.

"Businesses are directly affected when their employees are ill. In some cases, they must close for days at a time due to not having enough well staff to work," Hepfer added.

"Confirmed cases across the state are beginning to increase, (although) hospitals are still able to manage the number of cases they are receiving. We expect to continue to see surges throughout the state over the next few weeks. This would follow the trends we have seen across the U.S.," she said.

"We need our numbers to remain flattened (if) we want our children to be able to return to school safely. Your school leaders are working tirelessly in preparation for your children to return this fall. Public health is working with them and answering questions and providing guidance."

While testing supplies are beginning to diminish, Hepfer said anyone living in rural area can – and should – be tested, regardless of whether or not they are exhibiting symptoms.

Drive-through clinics remain open in Tuscola County (in the health department parking lot in Caro from 8 to 10 a.m. on Thursdays), and in Huron County (Bay Great Lakes Health Care Center in Bad Axe from 10 a.m. to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays).

### Latest virus numbers

Between Monday, July 20, and Monday, July 27, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased by 57 — from 396 to 453 — with the three counties' combined death toll remaining the same at 35 fatalities.

As of Monday afternoon, Tuscola County had recorded 257 confirmed cases, an increase of 18 cases compared to a week before, and 27 deaths (no increase), while Huron County had recorded 114 cases (an increase of 27 cases), with three deaths (no increase).

Sanilac County has a total of 82 confirmed cases, up from 70 cases a week earlier, and five deaths (no change). According to the latest updated map posted by the Sani-

lac County Health Department, most of the county's cases (28) involve residents living in the southeast quarter of the county. In the northwest quarter, which includes Greenleaf, Austin, Evergreen, Argyle, Lamotte and Moore townships, the number of cases totals 14 to-date.

In the Cass City area, the latest statistics show the total number of Tuscola County's confirmed COVID-19 cases includes 49 res-

idents in the Cass City zip code, while 48 have been confirmed in the Caro area, four each in Deford and Unionville, three cases in Silverwood, and two in Kingston. There have been no confirmed cases involving a resident in the Gageton area.

Statewide, Monday's total confirmed cases reached 78,507, with a total of 6,154 deaths, compared to 73,180 cases and 6,117 deaths a week earlier.

## News briefs

### Daley: two bills resolve deficit

LANSING — State Senator Kevin Daley (R-Lum) recently supported supplemental budget bills to resolve a \$2.2 billion deficit through spending cuts, hiring freezes and using a portion of the state's "rainy day fund" while also directing federal funds to education and vital services that were hit hardest by the cost of COVID-19.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically affected our economy and the state's budget," Daley said. "Michigan families, businesses and teachers have faced unique and incredibly difficult challenges because of this health crisis, and this bipartisan agreement addresses many of the unprecedented budget shortfalls we are currently facing."

The bipartisan plan will save \$936 million by reducing state spending and will direct additional federal COVID-19 funds to cover expenses by schools and local governments due to the virus, including \$555 million for schools, \$200 million for universities and community colleges, and \$350 million for local governments.

"We have sent over \$3 billion in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds to businesses, workers and families affected by the pandemic," said Daley, whose 31st District includes Tuscola County. "By working together, we have resolved a \$2.2 billion deficit while directing federal funds to education and vital services that were hit hardest by the cost of COVID-19."

The agreement includes a net increase of \$175 per pupil to help schools address the challenges posed by COVID-19 as the state considers the future of education. Daley specifically applauded Michigan teachers for their ability to quickly adapt to distance learning and allowing students to finish the school year.

"Teachers have shown an incredible dedication to their profession during these difficult times," Daley said. "This budget includes a hard-earned \$500 in one-time hazard pay for the countless hours and resources they put into educating students throughout the pandemic."

### Free help for moms, children

THUMB — Human Development Commission (HDC) officials are encouraging residents in Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac and Lapeer counties to apply for assistance through Early Head Start.

Early Head Start is a free program for infants, toddlers, pregnant women and children ages birth to three. Services available may include home visits, lesson planning, group socializations, parenting education and more.

More information is available by calling (989) 672-1785 in Tuscola County, (989) 269-0011 in Huron County and (810) 648-4497 in Sanilac County.

### Less stress focus of program

THUMB — MSU Extension is offering a free online Stress Less with Mindfulness seminar next month via the Zoom app.

The program is slated for Mondays, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 10 to 11 a.m.

To register for the class, go online at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/OnlineSLWMAugust2020>.

Stress Less with Mindfulness introduces participants to the experience and practice of mindfulness with a goal of reducing stress. Mindfulness can be defined as paying attention in a particular way, on purpose, in the present moment and non-judgmentally.

More information is available by calling Jacqui Rabine at (248) 930-4125 or via email at [rabineja@msu.edu](mailto:rabineja@msu.edu).

### Courthouse doors still closed

CARO — Tuscola County officials reiterated the courthouse continues to be closed to the public except for limited in-person hearings.

All other hearings are being held remotely via the Zoom application online.

To assist the public, there are now two walk-up windows in front of the courthouse that are to be used by appointment.

County officials are also accepting filings by mail, fax or email, according to Tuscola County Clerk Jodi Fetting, who noted payments can be made through county websites.

Circuit Judge Amy Grace Gierhart, the county's chief judge, closed the courthouse April 6 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional information related to county operations can be found on the county's website at [www.tuscolacounty.org](http://www.tuscolacounty.org) or by calling (989) 672-3780.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

### Troopers descend on Caseville home

Continued from page one.

partment and several resources of the MSP from around the state was launched, and the subject's vehicle was located at a residence in Caseville Township.

"Law enforcement conducted lengthy surveillance on the residence and was able to verify the subject wanted by Detroit detectives was still present at the home," the news released stated.

Members of the MSP Emergency Services Team made contact with the subject at about 9:30 p.m. Thursday and, after entering the home, arrested him without incident.

"Detectives from both the Detroit Police Department and the Michigan State Police Caro Post executed a search warrant on the Huron County residence. At the conclusion of the investigation, several items of interest related to the homicide in Detroit were found," MSP officials said.

The 40-year-old subject was lodged in the Tuscola County Jail on unrelated charges. His name was being withheld pending his formal arraignment and release to the Detroit Police Department.



# A few races and millage questions on Aug. 4 primary ballot

**Continued from page one.**

lican primary over two other candidates.

The 84th District seat was previously held for two terms by Dr. Edward "Ned" Canfield (R-Sebewaing).

## Rep in Congress

Races are also set for representative seats in both the Fifth District and 10th District.

## Bennett, Papp battling in race for county treasurer

by Mary Drier  
For the Chronicle

While there is a smattering of contested races throughout Tuscola County that will be decided during the Tuesday, Aug. 4, election, the position of county treasurer has been a hotly contested race.

Republicans Ashley Bennett and Rita Papp will square off for the open position.

This is the first time in 48 years that the job has been wide open. Veteran Treasurer Patricia Donovan-Gray opted not to seek reelection, as she plans to retire at the end of the year.

The race between Bennett and Papp is expected to be a close one, with both candidates boasting experience in county government.

Bennett is the current chief deputy treasurer for Tuscola County. She has worked in that office for the last four years.

She started her career as an account clerk and was promoted to abstract tax clerk and then to chief deputy treasurer.

Papp is presently the Tuscola County deputy clerk and has been since 2013.

Both candidates bring a strong work ethic with as well as education.



Ashley Bennett



Rita Papp

Papp has more over 30 years of experience in accounting, finance and management. She is a 1988 graduate of Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools and a 2009 graduate of Northwood University, where she majored in business management.

"With my vast experience and devotion to superior customer service, I feel confident that I am more than capable of leading the Tuscola County Treasurer's Office in the future and serving the citizens of the county," Papp said.

Papp also serves as treasurer of the Caro Community Schools Board of Education, is past treasurer of Caro Youth Football, and is a 2020 graduate of LEAD Tuscola.

She points to her community involvement as a plus for her to be the next county treasurer.

Papp is a member of the Caro Community Schools Athletic Boosters, McLaren Caro Hospital Auxiliary, Presque Isle Harbor Association, a steward for AFSCME Local #2697, and has volunteered with the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival, the Octagon Barn Fall Family Days and Caro Easter Egg Hunt.

In the Fifth District, incumbent Dan Kildee (D-Flint) is being challenged by Republicans Tim Kelly, Saginaw, and Earl Lackie, Hale.

In the 10th District, a trio of Republicans and two Democrats are vying for the post previously held by two-term incumbent Paul Mitchell (R-Dryden Township), who opted not to seek a third term.

The Republican candidates are Lisa McClain, Clinton Township; Doug Slocum, Macomb; and

Shane Hernandez, Port Huron. The Democratic challengers are Kimberly Bizon, Lexington, and Kelly L. Noland.

## U.S. senator

Democratic incumbent U.S. Senator Gary Peters, Bloomfield Township, is seeking reelection and faces a challenge from Livonia Republican John James.

## Commissioners

Races are set in three of five Tuscola County Board of Commissioner districts, including in District Two, where current board Chairman Thom Bardwell faces a challenge from fellow Republican Richard A. Lipan. District Two is comprised of Almer, Ellington, Kingston and Novesta townships and the city of Caro.

In District Four, meanwhile, Commissioner Mark Jensen opted not to seek reelection, setting the stage for a two-man race, with Republicans Roger A. Bacon Sr. and Douglas DuRussel vying for the two-year term. District Four is comprised of Arbela, Millington, Tuscola and Watertown townships.

Incumbent Commissioner Daniel Grimshaw is being challenged by fellow Republican Dean A. Tomlinson in District Five, which is comprised of Denmark, Juniata and Vassar townships and the city of Vassar.

Running for reelection unopposed are Republicans District One Commissioner Tom Young, who represents Akron, Columbia, Elkland, Elmwood, Fairgrove, Gilford and Wisner townships; and District Three Commissioner Kim Vaughan, who represents Dayton, Fremont and Indianfields townships.

## Townships

Among Cass City area townships, Veteran Elkland Township Board member Terry L. Muntz is seeking the supervisor's post unopposed following longtime Supervisor Dan Erla's decision to retire. Also running unopposed in the township are Heather Severance, clerk; Cindy Kruse, treasurer; and trustees Tavis Osentoski and Steve Wright. All of the candidates filed as Republicans.

Candidates running in other area townships include:

\*Ellington Township – Russell Speirs, supervisor; Suzy Rockwell, clerk; Carmell Pattullo, treasurer; and trustees Laura Boyke-Hawes and Gregg Campbell. All the candidates filed as Republicans.

\*Elmwood Township – Christopher Graff, supervisor; Pam Brinkman, clerk; and trustees Nicholas Bliss and Joan Sattel-

berg, all Republicans.

\*Kingston Township – Wm. Jesse Zimba, Democrat, supervisor; Carrie Gilley, Republican, clerk; Mary Lou Wolak, Democrat, treasurer; and trustees Gary King and Timothy Ruggles, both Republicans.

\*Koylton Township – Doug Kramer, supervisor; Rex Vroman, clerk; Linda Jobson, treasurer; and trustees Justin Boyl and Lawrence Sabin. All of the candidates filed as Republicans.

\*Wells Township – Carmen Stevens, Republican, clerk; Stefanie Bruce, Republican, treasurer; and Albert Pearsall III, Republican, trustee.

Tuscola County Clerk Jodi Fetting said the names of some individuals, including a number of candidates in Novesta and Wells townships, won't be listed until after July 16 – the filing deadline for those planning to run without

a party affiliation and whose names will appear only on the November ballot.

## Millage requests

All county residents will be asked to approve renewal of .6316 of a mill to fund the Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement program for the next six years.

If approved, the tax would raise an estimated \$1,131,904 in the first year. The owner of a home with a market value of \$80,000 pays roughly \$25 a year to fund the service, which includes control and abatement of mosquitos.

Elkland Township voters, meanwhile, will decide the proposed renewal of one mill, also for six years, to fund fire department and ambulance services.

The tax raises about \$97,000 annually and costs the owner of an \$80,000 home \$40 a year.

## Online 4-H livestock sales set

**Continued from page one.**

ally is tough, but we're working through it," commented Katie Cooper, Tuscola County MSU Extension's 4-H program coordinator.

Cooper explained county 4-H youth have been participating in an online livestock show using the MSU Extension 4-H virtual showcase platform FairEntry this year.

"We wish we were showing and selling at the Tuscola County fair (this) week, but the Tuscola County 4-H and FFA virtual showcase and auction has given youth an opportunity to still showcase their projects," Cooper said. On a positive note, she added, participating youth are getting some experience in online marketing.

Cooper noted the local results of the FairEntry show were scheduled to be released this week (Monday).

Each youth was allowed to exhibit as many animals as they wished, but individuals were limited to one animal for the sales, which are taking place this week.

"The large livestock sales is being hosted by Breeders World – bwf-naldrive.com – on July 30 from noon to 8 p.m.," Cooper said. "There will also be an 'add-on' portion of the sale where buyers don't want to purchase the whole animal but would like to support Tuscola County 4-H youth. The add-on will run until Aug. 7."

Area residents and businesses interested in participating are invited to log onto the Breeders World website and register as buyers (the sale is listed on the "upcoming sales" tab).

"The small livestock sale is hosted by Albrechts online auction – https://www.bidnow.us. The auction will run from July 26 through July 31 at midnight," Cooper continued.

While the number of youths participating in the virtual shows and auctions is down significantly compared to typical years at the fair, Cooper indicated the response from 4-H and FFA families has been positive.

"I know a lot of them have been really appreciative that we could work something out so they could participate," she said.

Tuscola County Fair Board officials announced in early May that they had made the decision to cancel the 139th annual fair, joining their counterparts in Huron County, where that county's community fair board made the same difficult decision based on concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Neil Jackson, president of the Tuscola County Fair, made the announcement canceling the 2020 fair.

"The safety and health of the entire community, volunteers, guests, exhibitors and merchants was our top priority in making this decision," he said. "(It) was not taken lightly. Our longstanding tradition of bringing the community a fair that is packed with 4-H animals, crafts and projects, exhibitors, vendors, carnival rides, grandstand entertainment and more is something that we wish to be able to continue for years to come."

## There are many benefits once you join the Lighthouse Rehabilitation Team!



- Starting wage at \$14.25/hr. (Fill-in part time excluded).
- Opportunity for overtime pay at \$21.37/hr.
- Three shifts offered.
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### Traverse City

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(231) 263-1350  
Fax (231) 263-1353

### Caro

P.O. Box 289 - 1655 E. Caro Road, Caro, Michigan 49649  
(989) 673-2500  
Fax (989) 673-3979





# Voters in Sanilac Co. to decide millage questions

by Mary Drier  
For the Chronicle

Sanilac County voters will decide a number of millage questions during the Tuesday, Aug. 4, primary election.

Among them is one countywide request, with county officials asking residents to support the renewal of a senior citizens millage — .25 of a mill for four years.

If approved, the funding would be earmarked for the Sanilac County Council on Aging to maintain and expand services for older citizens.

The millage would generate an estimated \$408,453 the first year and cost the owner of an \$80,000 home about \$10 annually.

Among Sanilac County townships in the Chronicle's coverage area:

**Argyle Township** officials will ask voters to renew one mill for four years for fire service.

If approved, the proposal would generate about \$25,880 and cost the owner of an \$80,000 home about \$40 a year.

In addition, there is a two-mill renewal request on the ballot for roads for four years. The millage would pay for road construction, improvements and maintenance in the unincorporated areas of Argyle Township.

If approved, the proposal would generate about \$51,760 the first year, and cost the owner of an \$80,000 house about \$80 a year.

**Evergreen Township** officials are asking voters to support a road tax of two mills for four years. The millage is being requested for road construction and road maintenance purposes within the unincorporated areas of the township.

If approved, the tax would generate about \$74,881 the first year and cost the owner of an \$80,000 house about \$80 a year.

**Greenleaf Township** officials are asking their residents to approve a renewal and combination of two millages that expire this year (rolled back under the Headlee Amendment).

The township is requesting renewal and combination of .9996 of a mill and renewal of .5 mill — for a proposed millage of 1.4996 mills for four years — to pay for road improvements and maintenance.

If approved, the combined tax would generate about \$35,000 the first year and cost the property owner of an \$80,000 home about \$59 a year.

Also, **Greenleaf Township** officials are asking voters to support a new millage and replace a previous millage of .9996 of a mill and renewal of up to .5 of a mill for fire and emergency services for four years.

The new millage — .4996 of a mill — would generate about \$14,000 the first year and cost the owner of an \$80,000 home roughly \$20 a year.

**Lamotte Township** officials, meanwhile, are asking residents to renew 1.5 mills for four years for road repair, construction, improvements and maintenance.

If approved, it would generate about \$46,438 the first year and cost the owner of an \$80,000 house about \$60 a year.

**Moore Township** officials are also asking voters to support a millage in the form of a two-mill renewal for four years for road upgrades, repairs and maintenance.

If approved, the millage would generate about \$78,218 the first year and cost the owner of an \$80,000 house about \$80.

# Obituaries

## Ronald Kappen

Ronald Lee Kappen, 70, of Cass City died unexpectedly Wednesday, July 22, 2020 in Covenant Medical Center, Saginaw.

He was born May 13, 1950 in Cass City to Wallace and Shirley (Koehler) Kappen.

He married Sue Edna Smith February 14, 1993 in Novesta Church of Christ, Cass City.

Ron attended Cass City High School and worked for his father in his younger years.

Later, he worked for Ajax Paving in Troy as a cement mixer truck driver for forty years.

Ron raised chickens and cows and always had fresh eggs on hand.

He watched old cowboy shows on television, Lone Ranger episodes were his favorite.

Together with Sue, they enjoyed driving the motorhome and camping in state parks.

Ron had a talent for using humorous clichés while speaking and using them in his own backwards way to fit any situation.

His greatest hobby was collecting John Deere tractors, particularly Models A and B.

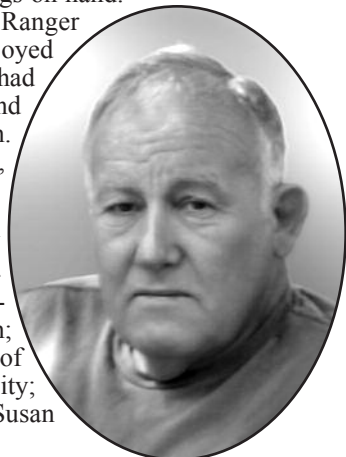
Ron is survived by his wife, Sue; her children: Tammy Rae (Jamie) Lemanski of Mt. Washington, KY and Larry Richard McNeil of Orlando, FL; five grandchildren: Taylor (Marcus) Brown, Carter Lemanski, Britany (Jake) Merchant, Lindsey McNeil, Chelsea Wilson; five great-grandchildren; his mother, Shirley Kappen of Cass City; brother, Robert (Crystal) Kappen of Cass City; sister, Victoria (Ken) Proctor of Akron; sister-in-law, Susan Kappen; many nieces and nephews.

Ron was preceded in death by his father, Wallace Kappen; brothers: Charles Kappen, John "Jack" Kappen; sister, Bonnie Kappen; and niece, Aleigh Kappen.

A private family service was held in Kranz Funeral Home with Brad Speirs of Novesta Church of Christ, Cass City officiating. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Family and friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



# Legal Notices

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, Michigan starting promptly at 10:00 a.m., on August 6, 2020. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Daniel V. Smith Jr. and Kelley A. Smith, husband and wife. Original Mortgagee: Associates Housing Finance, LLC Date of Mortgage: June 1, 1998 Date of Mortgage Recording: June 5, 1998 in Liber 741, Page 865, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, subsequently assigned to Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance Inc. by an assignment of mortgage dated June 15, 2005 and recorded on September 6, 2005 in Liber 1053, Page 1, Tuscola County Records, Michigan. Amount claimed due on date of notice: Fifty-eight thousand four hundred twenty-four and 71/100 Dollars (\$58,424.71), including interest. Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Fremont, Tuscola County, Michigan, and described as: Part of the East 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 6, Town 11 North, Range 9 East, described as beginning at a point on the East line of said Section that is North 330 feet from the East 1/4 corner of said Section 6; thence continuing North 330 feet; thence parallel to the East-West 1/4 line, South 89 degrees 36 minutes 05 seconds West, 264 feet; thence South 330 feet; thence North 89 degrees 36 minutes 05 seconds East, 264 feet to the point of beginning and all fixtures and improvements thereon, including a 1998 Mansion manufactured home bearing serial number MO-30448-1. Common street address: 3670 Chambers Road, Vassar, Michigan 48768. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later, or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judiciary Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. 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. This notice is from a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose. This sale may be rescinded or set aside by the foreclosing mortgagee. In such event, damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return or refund of the bid amount tendered at such sale, together with interest at the rate set forth herein. Dated: June 18, 2020 Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance Inc., Assignee of Mortgagee Richard A. Green, Attorneys, 133 W. Main St., Ste 130 Northville, MI 48167 (248) 924-2354 FIRST PUBLICATION: July 1, 2020

company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

The mortgage was made by JARED SADLER and TAYLOR L. SADLER, husband and wife (collectively, "Mortgagor"), to GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA, a federally chartered corporation, having an office at 3515 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (the "Mortgagee"), dated December 18, 2015, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Tuscola County, Michigan on December 22, 2015, in Liber 1343, Page 372, as partially released by a partial release of mortgage dated September 10, 2019, recorded October 25, 2019, in Liber 1433, Page 1277, Tuscola County Records (the "Mortgage"). By reason of a default under the conditions of the Mortgage, the Mortgagee elects to declare and hereby declares the entire unpaid amount of the Mortgage due and payable forthwith. Mortgagee is the owner of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage.

As of the date of this Notice there is claimed to be due for principal and interest on the Mortgage the sum of Thirty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Four and 21/100 Dollars (\$39,304.21). No suit or proceeding at law has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof.

The premises covered by the Mortgage are situated in the Township of Dayton, County of Tuscola, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:

A parcel of land being in and a part of the Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 33, Town 11 North, Range 10 East, described as: Commencing at the West quarter corner of said Section 33, thence, thence North 01 degrees 55 minutes 32 seconds west along the West line of said Section 33, 581.04 feet to the Point of Beginning, thence North 01 degrees 55 minutes 32 seconds along the West line of said Section 33, 340.76 feet, thence North 87 degrees 41 minutes 27 seconds East parallel with the North 1/8 line of said Section 33, 468.96 feet, thence South 01 degrees 55 minutes 32 seconds East parallel with the West line of said Section 33, 345.31 feet, thence South 87 degrees 12 minutes 16 seconds West 194.0 feet, thence North 01 degrees 55 minutes 32 seconds West parallel with the West line of said Section 33, 8.53 feet, thence South 87 degrees 12 minutes 16 seconds West, 275 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Together with all fixtures, tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances belonging or in any way appertaining to the premises.

Commonly known as: 6691 Pattison Road, Mayville, Michigan 48744  
P.P. #79-005-033-000-0600-03

Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be one (1) year from the date of sale, unless the premises are abandoned. If the premises are abandoned, the redemption period will be the later of thirty (30) days from the date of the sale or upon expiration of fifteen (15) days after the Mortgage is given notice pursuant to MCLA §600.3241a(b) that the premises are considered abandoned and Mortgagor, Mortgagor's heirs, executor, or administrator, or a person lawfully claiming from or under one (1) of them has not given the written notice required by MCLA §600.3241a(c) stating that the premises are not abandoned.

If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA §600.3278 the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the Mortgagee for damaging the premises during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: July 15, 2020 GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA Mortgagee

Timothy Hillegons  
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP  
1500 Warner Building  
150 Ottawa Avenue NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487  
(616) 752-2000  
20379093-2

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose. 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, Michigan, starting promptly at ten o'clock in the forenoon on Thursday, the 20th day of August, 2020. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

	<b>Visitors always welcome... Please join us today!</b>
	<b>Anchor Cove Church</b> <i>Find Hope. Find Love. Find Purpose.</i> 201 E. Sanilac Rd., Caro, MI 48723 • 989-672-2262 Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m. www.anchorcoveoutreachchurch.com
	<b>Cass City Missionary Church</b> 4449 Koepfgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 989-872-2729 Worship Service 8:30 a.m. • Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 10:50 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m. • Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Phil Burkett • Associate Pastor: Joel Schwendinger • www.casscitymc.org
	<b>Cass City United Methodist Church</b> 5100 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-3422 Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Summer 9:30 a.m.) • Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m. Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon) Pastor: Bob Demyanovich • www.casscityumc.org
	<b>Community Baptist Church (Independent Fundamental)</b> 4446 Ale St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 989-872-4088 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Afternoon Service 2:00 p.m. • Wednesday - Pray/Bible Study & Youth Group 6:00 p.m. Pastor: Rev. Nathan Whipple
	<b>Deford Community Church</b> 1392 N. Kingston Rd. • 872-4055 (1/4 mile south of Deford on Kingston Rd.) Sundays - 10 a.m.   Wednesday - 7 p.m. Pastor: David Cooper • Associate Pastor: Ross Foley DefordCommunityChurch.org
	<b>Evangelical Free Church of Cass City</b> 6430 Chestnut Blvd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5060 • Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. • Worship at 10:30 a.m. Midweek Bible Studies Pastor: Jim Allred • Like us on Facebook!
	<b>First Baptist Church (Independent, Fundamental) Barrier Free</b> 6420 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 989-872-3155 Sunday School All Ages 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m. AWANA Clubs 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Wednesday - Kids4Truth Club - Teen Club 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Pastor: Christian Wright • Website: www.fbccc.us
	<b>First Presbyterian Church</b> <i>Barrier Free • State &amp; National Historical Registry</i> 6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5400 • Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Exercise Program: Mon., Wed., & Fri. at 9:00 a.m. After School Adventure (K-6) - Call for winter schedule.
	<b>Fraser Presbyterian Church</b> 3006 Huron Line Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5400 • Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour following worship
	<b>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</b> 6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-2770 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. • Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Steve Bagnall www.goodshepherdlutherancasscity.webs.com
	<b>Living Word Worship Center Church of God Pentecostal</b> 6536 Houghton Street, Cass City, MI 48726 • 989-872-4637 Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. Family Training Hour: Wednesday 7 p.m. Pastor: Jephtha Bryant
	<b>Mizpah Missionary Church</b> 4631 N. Van Dyke, Cass City, MI 48726 Sunday School: 10 a.m. • Sunday Service: 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Group 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. • Wednesday Kids' Club 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Pastor Dale Bullock 989-872-2828
	<b>Novesta Church of Christ "the friendly church that cares"</b> 2896 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-3658 • Sunday School 9:00 a.m. • 1st Worship Service 9:00 a.m. • 2nd Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Senior Minister: Brad Speirs Associate Minister: Austin Keller at Ubyly & Student Minister: Don Mecomber Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org
	<b>Our Lady Consolata Catholic Church</b> 4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 665-1027 Website: www.olconsolata.org Mass Times: Saturday 4:00 p.m. November 1 thru March 31 Saturday 5:00 p.m. April 1 thru October 31 Cass City - Sunday: 8:00 a.m. • Sebewiang Holy Family Site - Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Priest: Fr. Theo Nhabugo
	<b>Potter's House Christian Fellowship</b> Pentecostal • 6455 Sixth St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5186 • We enjoy singing from the Hymnals and Spiritual Preaching From The Word of God • Find us on Facebook: Potter's House Church of Cass City • Sunday: 11:00 a.m.



# CLASSIFIEDS

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**FOR SALE** - Excellent condition, clean, head board and frame, large dresser and night stand, sofa and love seat with floral print. Call 989-977-4490. 2-7-15-3

**BLUEBERRIES** - U-pick at Turner's Blueberry Farm - 201 Albin Rd., Caro. Open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days. Call 989-673-6447. 2-7-22-4

**POLEGA'S PRODUCE** - Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday noon to 5 p.m. tomatoes, potatoes, onions, fresh garlic, zucchini, cukes, some Michigan fresh fruit and more. We accept WIC and Senior Project Fresh coupons. MASK REQUIRED. Just east of M-53 at 6480 Bay City Forestville Rd. 989-872-3348 or Harold's cell: 989-670-2836. 2-7-22-3

**Corn is almost ready!**  
*Hoping for the end of the week*  
**Les's Super Sweet Sweet Corn**  
 2 1/2 miles north of Cass City, 1/4 mile west on Merchant Rd.  
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*"Les corn is the best corn!"*

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 US - STATE - WORLD  
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**Shop Local EVERY THURSDAY 2:30-5:30pm**  
**DOWNTOWN CASS CITY**  
 Fresh Produce - Assorted Baked Goods  
 Jams - Syrups  
 Plants & So Much More!  
**Cass City Farmers MARKET**

**Household Sales**  
**HUGE GARAGE SALE** - Tons of good stuff, wide variety something for everyone. Wednesday, July 29 through Saturday, August 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 6806 Houghton St., Cass City. 14-7-29-1

**LARGE GARAGE SALE** - 2 households lots of stuff including furniture, clothes, Yamaha keyboard with bench & sustain pedal. Mask up please. Thursday & Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 1545 N. Kingston Rd., Deford, 989-872-5057. 14-7-29-1

**LARGE GARAGE SALE** - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. Please wear a mask. 6662 McEldowney Rd., Gagetown. 14-7-29-1

**Estate/Barn Sale 4921 E. Cass City Rd.**  
 Furniture, tools, household items, costume jewelry & more!  
**2 Weekends!**  
 Friday, July 24 & Saturday, July 25 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Sunday, July 26 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 &  
 Friday, July 31 & Saturday, August 1 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Sunday, August 2 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Notices**

**Annual 5K Run & 1 Mile Fun Walk**  
 To benefit **Local Food Pantries**  
**When: Aug. 15, 2020 at 9 a.m.**  
**Where: Our Lady Consolata Parish Cass City (St. Pancratius)**  
**Cost: 5K - \$21 through 8/14; \$25 on race day**  
 To register or sponsor call or text (989) 415-5636 or email centralthumbkofc@gmail.com  
 www.runsignup.com/kofc5krunwalk  
 Event sponsored by **Our Lady Consolata Parish & K of C Council #8892**

**Facilities For Rent**



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

**Services**

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

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**CASS CITY OIL & GAS** is looking for a full time bobtail driver in Cass City. We offer insurance, 401K, vacation & holiday pay. Class B driver's license and hazmat required. Apply at 6392 Main St., Cass City, MI 48726. 11-7-22-3

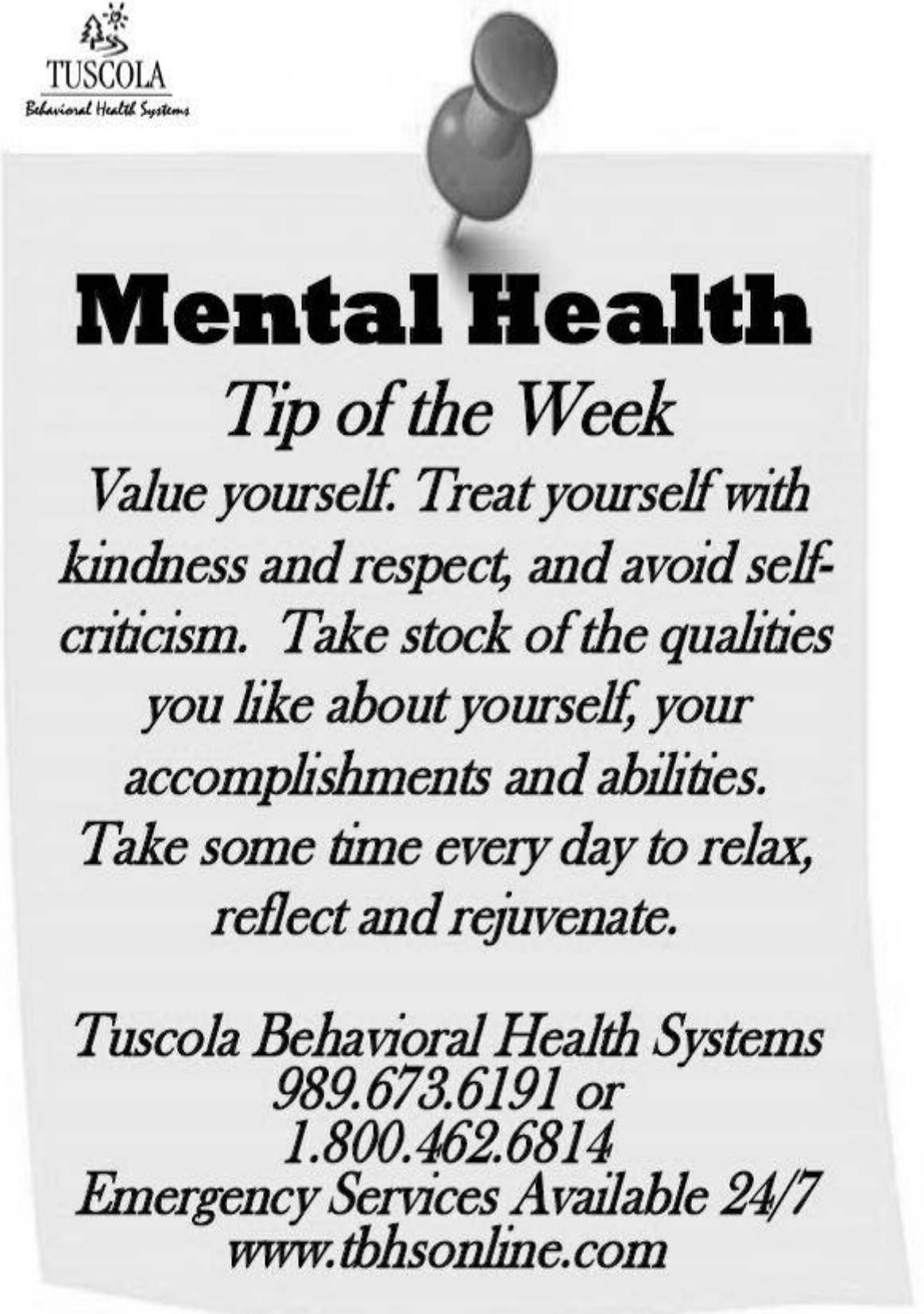
**HELP WANTED:** Bartnik Propane is seeking a residential delivery driver. Full time hours in the colder months and part time hours in the warmer months with full pay year round. This position would also allow the driver to be home every night and work little to no weekend hours. Must be able to work independently. Ideal candidates would have or want to get CETP & X Endorsement. Truck driving experience and a good driving record are required. For more information and all inquiries call Dave at 989-550-9543. 11-7-29-3

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**Mental Health Tip of the Week**  
*Value yourself. Treat yourself with kindness and respect, and avoid self-criticism. Take stock of the qualities you like about yourself, your accomplishments and abilities. Take some time every day to relax, reflect and rejuvenate.*  
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# School prepares to open

Continued from page one.

formative and summative assessments given. Daily attendance will be taken to ensure engagement by all students,” Hartel said, adding every student will have access to technology, whether in-person or via virtual learning.

The plan also calls for:

\*All staff will be required to wear face coverings if medically feasible (those unable to wear a mask must provide medical documentation).

\*Students in grades pre-kindergarten through five will wear face coverings while in hallways or other common areas, but they will not be required to wear one in the classrooms. Older students will be required to wear face coverings, if medically feasible, at all times except at lunch.

\*Students will eat in classrooms or large areas with limited students at a time.

\*A social distance plan is being developed to limit student movement during meals, on playgrounds and other common areas.

\*Rigorous cleaning of buildings during and after school.

\*Sanitation stations located throughout the buildings.

\*Non-essential visitors will be limited.

\*Bus drivers and students riding buses will be required to wear face coverings, hand sanitizer will be given to each student as they board, and buses will be disinfected after each route.

“Our athletic department is working on plans to continue fall sports in a safe manner and in accordance with MHSAA guidelines,” Hartel reported. “One issue is the number of spectators allowed to attend sporting events (the current limit is 100 people). We will need to go with no spectators or two tickets per player. Face coverings and social distancing guidelines would be in effect for all spectators while at a school-sponsored sporting event.”

Hartel said the district also has a specific protocol to follow should a student or adult present with COVID-19 symptoms, including quarantine procedures, contacting health officials, and letting the community know that “an individual” has showed symptoms.

That job will be easier, thanks to a new partnership between the Cass City Public Schools and Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU). School nurse Kathy LaPonsie reported that under the partnership, SVSU will be sending group of student nurses and a clinical instructor to the school district for five-week hands-on training sessions, which will provide school officials assistance with a variety of health-related needs.

Should state officials decide to move Michigan back to phase three, requiring all learning to take place virtually, Cass City students will receive instruction online five days a week, with devices provide to all students with Internet capabilities. Students without Internet access will be provided with hard copies.

The teaching staff will be using devices to record daily lessons, which will then be placed on Google Classroom for students to view.

Hartel pointed out that school officials plan to organize a parent training session sometime in August to assist families with making a choice of learning options, as well as one the use of technology programs the district will be implementing.

Details will be announced on the district’s website and in emails to parents.

In other business during Monday, the board:

\*Awarded the district’s annual school state aid note (loan) to Thumb Bank and Trust, which submitted a low interest bid of .5 percent.

The loan, used to maintain cash flow during the months when schools don’t receive regular state aid payments, totals \$1 million this year, compared to \$700,000 last year.

\*Accepted “with regret” the resignations of Lindsay Bitzer, athletic director/assistant principal, and veteran teacher Linda Bailey, who has served Cass City Schools for more than 40 years.

Bitzer, whose position was eliminated in conjunction with budget cuts stemming from the loss of \$1 million in revenue for the district’s 2020-21 budget, was hired late last summer. She has since accepted an assistant principal’s job with the Caro Community Schools.



CASS CITY photographer Cheryl Viney Osentoski has a knack for capturing amazing wildlife images, and this recent shot certainly fits in that category. Osentoski said she was heading for Caseville when she spotted some Bald Eagles north of Cass City. “There were three of them – a juvenile eagle was flying, being chased by a seagull. I lost sight of the juvenile as I was taking pictures of these two,” she noted. “The bigger eagle — probably female — was calling for the juvenile...and it came around and landed in trees behind where these two were.”

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Wildlife Haven in the Thumb of Michigan. Very private & serene piece of property. Meticulously clean, well kept 3 bedroom home, 2 baths. As you enter the Lanai you access the large 3-car garage, a relaxing patio area with new 6 person hot tub. A stocked pond that's very relaxing just to sit by, or drop a line in for fun. Groomed trails with hunting blinds and food plots.

123-20-0017

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123-20-0029

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