

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

VOLUME 114, NUMBER 17

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

.75 CENTS - 10 PAGES

Village president addresses delays in store opening

by Mary Drier For the Chronicle

During Monday's first face-to-face meeting since March, Cass City Village President Dan Delamarter took the opportunity to set the record straight regarding the planned Ben's grocery store in the community.

"There has been some misinformation and rumors about the issue that I have seen and heard, and believe this letter may clarify some points. The village council, both past and present, has done everything within its power to help Ben's Supercenter be successful and come online without delay," Delamarter stated in a letter to the council.

"The village staff has done everything it could do to help Ben's as the project ran into any issue they could assist with. The village planning commission did not hinder or delay the project in any way shape or form.

Over the past five years, several opening dates for the proposed new grocery store in the former Erla's Food Center have been announced - but not met - resulting in frustration for village residents and council members alike.

"Any frustration about the delay of the project should be directed to the source, which is Ben's Supercenter," Delamarter stated. "The bottom line is we still don't have a grocery store."

Delamarter added, "Ben's Supercenter in Cass City must be open and

Please turn to page 8.

Uptick in virus cases delays reopening of buildings in county

by Mary Drier For the Chronicle

Tuscola Commissioners were expecting to approve the reopening of county buildings Thursday. Instead, they heeded the recommendation



CASS CITY Rotary Club President Kevven Dorland (top photo, far right) along with Ted Lind (far left) and Trevor Edmonds, both from the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, prepare to install the new Cass **City Woodland Trails and Cass City Rotary Disc Golf Course at Cass City Recre**ational Park last week. At right, Dave Milligan (from left), Craig Bellew and Ruth Steele were among the Cass City Rotarians on hand during last week's final work day.



of local health department officials and delayed action.

Ann Hepfer, health officer for both the Tuscola and Huron county health departments, urged the board against reopening following an uptick in the number of COVID-19 cases in the Thumb and in the state. Friday marked five straight days of increased of new confirmed cases of the virus in Michigan.

Statewide, the number of daily confirmed cases topped 300 last Wednesday for the first time since June 3, with 323 cases reported, followed by 353 new cases Thursday, 389 new cases Friday and an 314 additional cases Saturday.

Hepfer voiced her concern over that data along with a mild increase in cases reported in the Thumb, and the potential risk of exposure from travelers to the region.

The annual influx of migrant workers in the state and Thumb area from Texas, Arizona and Florida are contributing to the uptick in confirmed cases, as are those residents who are not following recommendations to maintain social distancing of six feet and wear a mask, Hepfer noted.

"My concern is that our rates had been flat, but we have not been to zero yet. I'm concerned about the populations that we are just now testing," added Hepfer, who pointed out that migrant workers are necessary for the farming industry.

Please turn to page 8.

Veteran Officer Mattlin closing books on career

by Tom Montgomery Editor

A highly-decorated and respected member of the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department is closing



the books on a 28-year career in law enforcement.

"Michael Mattlin, following in his father's footsteps, started working at the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office in 1992 as a parttime corrections officer and, on Jan. 9, 1993, he became a fulltime corrections officer. He officially became a certified officer in 1993," said Sheriff Glen Skrent, who said June 22 was Mattlin's last workday, although he won't be officially retired until the end of July

blemished. He is a shining example of all an outstanding deputy sheriff could achieve," Skrent said. "He will be greatly missed, but his retirement is well deserved.

"The job did run in the family. I thought it would be an exciting

Mike Mattlin

"His disciplinary record was un-

Please turn topage 6.

Many hands, light work

Local Rotary Club, partners wrap up park upgrades

by Tom Montgomery Editor

Completion of a nearly two-year effort to upgrade walking trails and double the size of Cass City's disc golf course - from nine to 18 holes was the focus of a celebration last week at Cass City Recreational Park, where volunteers gathered to put the finishing touches on the project.

'Many hands make light work', and our disc golf renovation/expansion project was a great example of this true saying," Carolyn Sorenson said of the upgraded Cass City Woodland Trails and Cass City Rotary Disc Golf Course.

The success of the project, spearheaded by the Cass City Rotary Club, was made possible by a host of generous sponsors as well as a strong partnership involving a number of adult and student organizations, noted Sorenson, a member of the local Rotary Club.

"In 2019 and 2020, the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy (SBLC), village of Cass City, Cass City Rotary Club and the Cass City Homeschoolers Envirothon teams collaborated to restore the woodland trails and expand the Rotary disc golf course from nine to 18 holes at the north end (of the village park)," she explained. The effort, which began with an initial meeting and conversations in the fall of 2018, saw roughly five dozen volunteers rolling up their sleeves and going to work over the past year.

"We are all so thankful for all who helped, supported and donated funds and time to see our project through. Eighteen beautiful disc golf baskets and signs have been installed and trails have been expanded and raked. Thank you to all who helped with this worthy project," Sorenson said.

The volunteers included a number of young people who are members of the Cass City Homeschoolers along with the newly-established Cass City Rotary Interact Club.

Cass City Rotary President Kevven Dorland noted the local Rotary Club formed the Cass

City Interact Club in January in cooperation with Cass City High School.

Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12 to 18. The clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are selfgoverning and self-supporting.

Interact clubs tackle community service projects that are designed to encourage development of a network of friendships with local and overseas clubs and teach the importance of developing leadership skills and personal integrity, demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others, understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work, and advancing international understanding and goodwill.

Please turn to page 7.

Local homeschoolers looking to contribute more upgrades to park

by Tom Montgomery Editor

The Cass City Homeschools played a key role in the upgrades to Cass City's walking trails at Cass City Recreational Park, incorporating hands-on volunteer work as part of a community service component of the group's participation in the Envirothon competition last year.

While the Cass City Woodland Trails and Cass City Rotary Disc Golf Course project is now complete, the students aren't finished making their own contributions to the community.

Sue Stuever Battel, whose daughters, Addy and

Please turn to page 8.

Sanilac deputies foil long-distance scam artist, save victim thousands

Thumb law enforcement officials handle dozens of fraud complaints, but they're rarely able to recover lost money or property.

That wasn't the case during a recent Sanilac County Sheriff's Department investigation.

Quick action by officers recently foiled an Internet scam targeting a Sanilac County resident, according to Sheriff Garry Biniecki, who reported his office was contacted by a local business and alerted that one of its customers was possibly a victim of an online scam.

According to Sgt. Shelly Park, a citizen was contacted through social media and was misled by an individual about their identity.

"The suspect convinced the citizen that they would be helping underprivileged teens. (They) claimed to be a famous individual that didn't want to take credit for their generous charitable actions, and asked the citizen to send thousands of dollars' worth of electronics through the mail," explained Park, who noted the would-be victim was promised reimbursement on their credit card.

"Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies were assisted by Sandusky police and the U.S. Postal Service, Sandusky branch," Park said of the investigation. "Sandusky police were able to assist in quickly (learning) where the package was sent. Sheriff's deputies were able to work directly with the Annapolis, Md., police and quickly obtained a search warrant and recovered the scammed items totaling over \$7,000 dollars."

"This is a rare occurrence that items from Internet scams are recovered," Biniecki acknowledged. "The sheriff's office wants to remind everyone that the community needs to be on the lookout for online scammers. Have conversations with relatives and friends about these scams so they do not fall victim."

Sign of the times...

Huron Co. Sheriff's Department using new speed detector

The Huron County Sheriff's Department has launched a new tool to encourage motorists to lighten up on their accelerators. "This (Wednesday) morning, our office officially began using a new speed deterrent device. The first assignment for our brand new SpeedAlert Radar Trailer is in Hume Township, and its objective will be to alert motorists of their speed," Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson announced last week.

"Basically, if a vehicle is approaching (the unit) going too fast, red and blue lights will accompany the actual speed being displayed on the sign," Hanson explained. "It also has many other options on it, too, which includes remote still picture surveillance, tamper notification and vehicle data such as recording each vehicle's time of passing and its highest speed.

"In order to get familiar with it, we had it stationed on South Hanselman Street in Bad Axe for the last day and a half, and it was noted nearly 700 vehicles went by it in a 24-hour period.

"We're hoping it will slow drivers down who are pushing the limits in areas commonly complained about for speeding or careless driving," the sheriff added, noting the nearly \$10,000 purchase was made possible through a Secondary Road Patrol Grant.

Hanson said the plan calls for the speed trailer to be rotated through different areas of traffic concern in the county throughout the summer and fall months.





THE HURON County Sheriff's Department recently has launched a new tool to encourage motorists to lighten up on their accelerators – the department's new SpeedAlert Radar Trailer, which will be placed in various areas of the county where

Happy 62nd Wedding Anniversary

speed and other traffic safety concerns exist.

Join us for an outdoor concert before the fireworks



Evangelical Free Church will be hosting a free concert featuring **Justified Quartet**

beginning at 7 p.m. on July 4, 2020

Evangelical Free Church 6430 Chestnut Blvd, Cass City

Bring your blankets or lawn chairs & join us for an evening of Music & Fellowship & stay for the Cass City Fireworks) to J.D. Evans & Lillian Gibbard on June 21st, 2020 Congratulations to another milestone of your lives from your loving family!



Theresa & the late Richard Keith Welby Daniel & Christina Gibbard Christine & Greg Moore Sandra & Dan Taylor Kimberly & Kevin Thiel The late Thomas Gibbard

Grandchildren: The late Rebecca Waggoner, Cheryl Laming, Tory & Cyrus Healy, Wesley & Amanda Gibbard, Gregory & Sherry Moore, Mike & Erin Moore, Katie Moore, Heather Moore, Brian & Lauren Taylor.

Great-Grandchildren Jordon, Timothy, Thomas & Jacob Waggoner, Gabrielle Laming, Liam & Zander Healy, Olivia Gibbard, Ashton, Amelia & Avery Moore, Ryleigh, Adalynn & Malorie Moore, Brayden & Benjamin Pine, Cali Lester, Haeven & Easton Moore & Nash Taylor.



How firewood came to be hot topic here

With restrictions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic beginning to lift, a host of area residents are once again pursuing their love of camping.

And while social distancing is still important, Michigan Department of Natural Resources are urging campers to also exercise caution when it comes to their choice of firewood.

Years ago, most people wouldn't give a moment's thought to tossing an armload of firewood into the trunk before heading out on a weekend getaway. But nowadays, that bundle of wood from home might create an issue if your destination is a park or campground," said DNR staffer Joanne Foreman.

In Michigan and across the nation, state and national parks and even private campgrounds are telling visitors to leave firewood at home and buy it locally – or better yet, buy U.S. Department of Agriculture-certified, heattreated wood – due to concerns about invasive tree pests and diseases.

Invasive species are those that are not native to Michigan and whose introduction can cause harm to the environment, the economy or human health.

Why did firewood become such a problem?

Some would say the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect that destroyed tens of millions of ash trees in Michigan, raised the issue of firewood as a carrier of tree pests and diseases.

Some experts point to an earlier culprit – the gypsy moth – and the federal quarantine it inspired. According to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, invasive gypsy moths, in their caterpillar life stages, defoliate close to a million forested acres each year.

In the early 1980s, it became apparent that this species, introduced to Massachusetts in 1869, was spreading more rapidly than natural movement could account for. The moths and their fuzzy brown egg masses were hitching rides on forest products, nursery stock and even recreational equipment to establish new populations, sometimes hundreds of miles away.

To slow the spread of gypsy moths, the USDA expanded a quarantine to infested states, including Michigan, regulating the movement of items including Christmas trees, live plants and firewood.

Likewise, when the emerald ash borer was discovered in Michigan in 2002, its movement was linked to transporting firewood cut from ash trees killed by the invasive beetle. Live emerald ash borer larvae can survive and hatch from under the bark of cut ash trees, emerging to infest new locations. A federal external quarantine restricting ash wood movement from Michigan to other states, as well as a state internal quarantine regulating ash transportation between specific zones in Michigan, went into effect in 2002.



Canes, Cadillacs and attitude

Happiness is a state of mind.

I have written columns about how attitude can be a catalyst for finding something positive.

However, there was an issue I had a difficult time developing a positive attitude towards. That was back when I started having mobility issues. For a long time, I fought having to use a cane to get around. I didn't like having to use one even though it started out as just an occasional use. Then, it went from there to having to use one all of the time. Cane use went to full time because of some health

Cane use went to full time because of some health issues. Yet, I hated having to use it.

I had always been pretty active going to meetings, going out with friends, and going dancing whenever there was an opportunity. When there was music, I was the first one out on the dance floor and the last one off at the end of the night.

I grudgingly even used a cane to be able to keep on dancing.

I started out with an attractive wooded cane, and then moved on to a pretty metal cane. It was downhill from there.

The next cane had a four-prong base for better balance. That isn't enough now.

I really hated making the transition to a quad cane. My sister-in-law, Sara, took pity on my efforts and bought me that cane. Although I did appreciate it and it worked out very well, that doesn't mean that I had to like it!

Other health issues have developed over the last few years that required I start using a walker. And, that doesn't mean that I had to like it! Having to rely on a device not to fall and admitting that I'm getting older is a big slap in the face to me.

My main worry is falling in public. Besides hurting my body, my pride would be hurt worse from having to get back up again. Let's just say, it would not be a pretty sight.

And, then I came across a device that was kind of like a walker-wheelchair combination. The walker had a seat attached to it and a storage area. I started talking with the owner of the device. She explained how it worked, and how I could put my camera, notebook and other stuff I have to carry as a reporter in the storage area.

She referred to her walker as the "Cadillac" of mobility devices.

I loved her attitude and how she took to using her Cadillac walker in stride. Shortly after that I bought a wheel walker for \$20 at a garage sale. I have had to use that for several years now.

However, there are times when I now have to use a wheelchair, and I'm not exactly excited about having to have and use it.

My main worry is still falling in public and wounding my body and pride. While my body would recover, pride is another matter...

Over the years, I've learned to look at things dif-



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recently signed an executive order that outlines guidelines for the safe return of professional sports, without a live audience. The order follows Major League Baseball's announcement that a shortened 60-game season would begin on July 24, with players reporting for spring training at their home ballparks by July 1.

ferently. I've learned to look at my wheel walker

as my mobile assistant. And, I refer to my wheel-

chair as my "Ferrari" because it moves faster

Happiness is a state of mind because it is all

Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can

get to help)

than I can walk.

about attitude.

"Good news, sports fans," Whitmer said. "We are now ready to gradually and safely allow professional sports to resume in Michigan. While this is an encouraging step in the reopening of our economy, it is critical for athletes to continue social distancing and taking precautions to stay safe. We want to keep our momentum going and keep moving forward, so it's incumbent on everyone doing their part to slow the spread of COVID-19."

Under the executive order, professional sports training and competitions can resume as long as the activities are conducted pursuant to a COVID-19 safety plan that is consistent with any guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Participants must also maintain six feet of distance from one another to the extent compatible with the sport.

Warmer weather is calling, but things look a little different this year due to COVID-19. Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials are providing information to keep all residents and the state's natural resources safe, along with options for staying local and socially distant, while enjoying your favorite outdoor spaces over the July Fourth weekend.

The DNR is committed to providing visitors with safe, clean outdoor spaces and memorymaking experiences. Just this past Monday, officials reopened state park campgrounds with new health and safety protocols in place. While officials are doing their best behind the scenes, they ask that residents do their part to protect themselves and others while enjoying the out-

Both quarantines allowed the movement of firewood if it was USDA-certified.

To meet USDA standards for certification, firewood must be heat-treated to a core temperature of 140 degrees for 60 minutes. This effectively kills organisms including insects, larvae and fungal pathogens that cause tree diseases, reducing the risk of spreading invasive species.

Certified firewood that has met USDA heat treatment and inspection standards bears a compliance stamp along with the producer's name and address.

Quarantines have not grown. What has grown is the list of invasive insects and tree diseases that can be transported by firewood, including oak wilt and beech bark disease.

All area residents can do their part to prevent the spread of invasive pests and diseases by purchasing firewood where they plan to burn it.

(USPS 092-00)

A message worth repeating

When the last hot dog is eaten, the last event is over and this year's 4th of July is history, let's remember why we celebrate.

We need to be reminded that freedom still prevails and our individual freedom is the envy of people everywhere.

A free press zealously guards that freedom. We strive to uphold that tradition every week by publishing the most concise, accurate and unbiased news of Cass City and the area.

Clarke Haire -Publisher Krysta Boyce - Sales Executive Tom Montgomery -Editor Deb Severance - Composition

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doors:

* Go out only if you're feeling healthy.

* Stay at least six feet from people who aren't from your household, and wear a face covering when in enclosed indoor spaces.

* Follow operational and sanitation guidelines. Some processes, like checking in and using bathroom facilities at DNR-managed sites, may vary by location. For example, visitors are encouraged to pay by debit or credit card to decrease the exchange of money.

Also, some amenities at a handful of DNR locations remain closed due to delayed construction projects. Get the latest closure updates from the DNR's COVID-19 response page.

Here is some additional information to ensure a fantastic Fourth:

* Be mindful of beach and boating safety warnings.

* Know the rules for smoother trail treks.

* Do your part to prevent wildfires.

* Take easy steps to protect woods, water and wildlife.

* Map your next fishing, hiking or boating adventure.

* Things to know before you go.

Record-high water levels are causing increased river flows, submerged docks and piers, swimming and boating hazards and other concerns. Learn more about the effects of high water and how to stay safe at Michigan.gov/HighWater-Safety.

The Great Lakes are large, powerful bodies of water that demand respect and caution from boaters, swimmers and paddlers. Have a great time in the Great Lakes, but visit Michigan.gov/BeachSafety for safety tips before heading out.

Be aware, too, that DNR conservation officers will have a larger presence on the water now until after the July Fourth holiday; it's all part of Operation Dry Water, a national campaign to promote sober boating.

Know the rules for smoother trail treks whether hiking, biking, on horseback or riding an ORV, trail courtesy and etiquette are easy if you know what to do. Here are some tips:

* Don't create your own trails or shortcuts; this can cause erosion and damage habitat.

* And please throw away any trash that you bring in with you.



WHITE PINE Library Cooperative Director Kate Van Auken stands in front of the new headquarters of the cooperative, the Rolka Building, 429 North State Street, Caro.

Ubly officials okay business sign

by Mary Drier For the Chronicle

The addition of a sign will help a new Ubly business owner as he prepares to open his doors in the community.

During the last virtual meeting of the Ubly Village Council, Mike Delpiere attended online and introduced himself to the council as the owner of the new Ubly Pharmacy, located near the village park.

He explained he is hoping to be open by mid-July or early August, but that he must first have a designated handicap parking space at the business.

The council unanimously approved a handicap parking sign, but Delpiere will have to pay the cost of the sign along with painting of a handicap space and labor associated with the work.

In other business, the Bingham Township Fire Department will have a new way to access water when needed.

Fire department officials asked the council if they could access well no. five to fill their trucks. Because the village no longer uses that well, approval was given for the fire department to connect to the well at its expense.

In addition, Ubly Police Chief Dave Rothe noted the community's parks can now be opened, and the council approved a formal motion opening the local recreational areas.

White Pine Library Cooperative is settling into new headquarters

by Mary Drier For the Chronicle

After being housed in Saginaw for about 30 years, the White Pine Library Cooperative has a new home.

The cooperative recently relocated to the Thumb — specifically Suite 207 of the Rolka Building at 429 North State St. in Caro.

"The building where we were at was sold," said White Pine Cooperative Director Kate Van Auken, who coordinated the move. As a result, she began the search for a new location to house the cooperative's headquarters and operations that would meet its needs and was also affordable.

Van Auken found an office in

downtown Caro that offered both. As an added bonus, Van Auken, who lives in Cass City, will only have to commute to Caro instead of Saginaw.

"I'm happy about that, especially in the winter," she said.

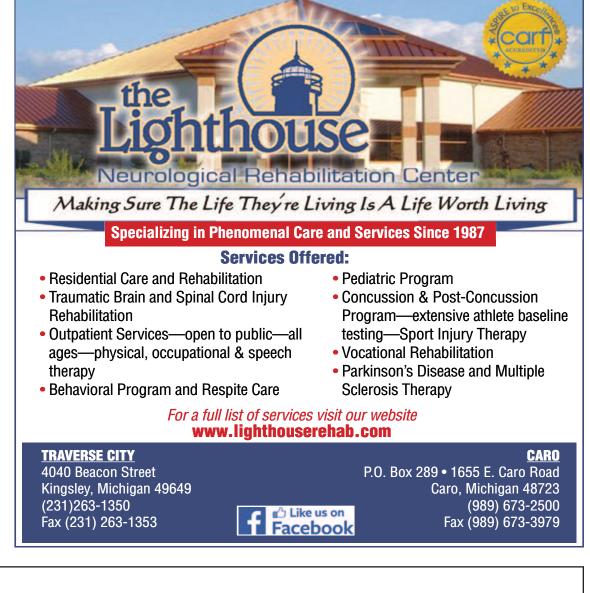
Along with packing and unpacking, Van Auken has also been helping the cooperative's member libraries prepare to reopen after having been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions that accompanied efforts to slow the spread of the virus.

"I have been so busy preparing for the move, and trying to be available for members who have opened or who are doing curbside (service)," Van Auken explained. "Not everyone is doing the same thing. Some are doing a virtual summer reading program and a few have decided not to."

The White Pine Cooperative covers 13 counties. There are members in Arenac, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Iosco, Isabella, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola counties.

"Not all libraries in each county belong to White Pine, as there are 11 cooperatives in the state, and libraries are free to join any cooperative they would like," Van Auken noted.

Before taking the position as director of the cooperative, Van Auken served as director of Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City for 17 years.



Reggie Ignash covers Michigan



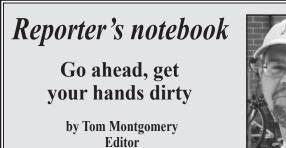
Auto, Home, Life, Business, Farm and more

Have a safe and Happy 4th of July!

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Most folks don't blink an eye when I tell them I love to fish and hunt, but when I share my passion for gardening, some people look at me like I have horns growing out of my head.

I'm not sure why. Maybe it's because gardeners get their hands dirty - at least that's why my information technology savvy son has never wanted anything to do with the hobby. Perhaps some folks just can't understand why someone would want to till, plant, weed and harvest under the summer sun, when you can generally pick up fresh vegetables at a grocery store without all the hassle.

Well, if you have a grocery store, but that's another column altogether.

Bottom line? If you understand, no explanation is necessary. If you don't, no explanation is possible.

Of course, those who can't understand why anyone would want to waste time on a garden are the same people who don't truly appreciate the difference between tomatoes, cucumbers, etc., that were picked days ago and the ones harvested 10 seconds ago.

There's just no comparing the two in flavor.

I learned that as a youngster, watching my mom labor on her garden. I guess her enthusiasm rubbed off on me, as did an appreciation for the simple pleasure of taking a salt shaker out to the garden, picking a red, vine fresh tomato, and making an amazing snack out of it.

Aside from the satisfaction of growing my own food, I enjoy the challenges a garden brings – no two years are exactly the same, thanks to Mother Nature, pests and my level of determination (in any given year) to stay ahead of the weeds that flourish regardless of Mother Nature or the pests.

Most years, gardening is like a box of chocolates.

Gardening is also an ongoing learning experience. For example, did you know: *Watermelons are actually vegetables and are related to squash, cucumbers, and pumpkins.

*Sir Francis Bacon described gardens as the "purest of human pleasures."

*The scientific name for the tomato is Lycopersicon lycopersicum, which means "wolf peach". There are at least 10,000 varieties of tomatoes, and more than 60 million tons of tomatoes are produced each year, making it the world's most popular fruit. The second most popular fruit is the banana.

*Dandelions were used as a food source and as a medicine for at least 1,000 years. European immigrants purposely carried seeds to America, where greens were used for salads and teas. Dandelion roots were served as a vegetable course, or were dried and used as a coffee substitute. The flowers were used to make dandelion wine and to make a yellow dye for wool.

*An herb is from the leaf of a plant. A spice is from the seed, bark, root, berry, or bulb.

*There are more than 20,000 species of edible plants in the world. However, just 20 species provide 90 percent of human food.

*The secret to a great garden is the soil, not necessarily the plant. Adding large amounts of organic materials, such as aged manure, crushed leaves, grass clippings, or homemade compost will help feed and nourish a garden.

*There are more microorganisms in one teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth

I've read that some folks with green thumbs and little modesty actually participate in an event called World Naked Gardening Day each year. I believe the "celebration" takes place in early May. I've never personally participated in the observance, but I'm told the day aims to promote harmony and peace with nature.

And frostbite, in some years, if you live in Michigan.



Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Tuscola County, 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 twentyfour 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

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas

100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Earl Gowen, who is recovering

from an attack of typhoid fever,

was up town last Thursday for the

first time in several weeks. The

tussle with the disease left the vic-

tim 22 pounds lighter in weight.



tion, came Sunday to spend until has been enhanced in beauty by Wednesday afternoon of this week some excellent free hand work. At with his family here. Just before the top of the wall panels have leaving for home, Alex was probeen painted clusters of fruit, each moted from S 2/c to S 1-c. panel being devoted to one vari-

ety. James McKenzie is the artist. Mrs. I.B. Auten and Mrs. C.W. McKenzie gave a porch party Thursday afternoon in honor of Mrs. M.B. Auten. Those in attendance from out of town were Mrs.

John F. Seeley, Miss Alice Seeley,

Alene Wilsey and the Misses

Ruby and Mabel Taggett, all of

5 YEARS AGO (2015) Area youngsters Noelle Klaus-

Tiny Miss Sparkler, Graham Klaus - Terrific Toddler Boy, and Abigail VanderElzen - Young Miss Firecracker, were among the winners in this year's Freedom Festival Pageant

10 YEARS AGO (2010)

There are not too many candidates around that have the qualifications to fill the teaching position at Cass City High School vacated by Teresa Trisch, who retired at the end of the current school year. The job requires a degree in social studies and in language. Even more rare is a language teacher who could not speak English when she arrived in the United States after marrying Robert, who she met when he visited Italy.

25 YEARS AGO (1995)

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Milligan, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Milligan and Michael and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Karr were dinner guests of Mrs. Harold Oatley of Allen Park June 29. Mrs. Oatley's daughter and family, Jim and Ellen Wallace, Ella and Caroline of Seattle, Wash., were spending 2 weeks at the Oatley home and with other relatives.

Bob and Margie Morley of Cass City announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly, to Matthew Braun, son of Gerry and Lois Braun of Vassar. Kimberly is also the daughter of the late Helen Morley. The bride-elect is a purchasing secretary at Walbro Engine Management Corporation in Cass City. The prospective groom is a project engineer at Walbro Engine Management Corporation in Cass City. Wedding plans are made for Nov. 4.

35 YEARS AGO (1985)

The new president of the Cass City Rotary is Karl Carter. He accepts the gavel from Rich Ypma, retiring president. Master of ceremonies was Ken Jensen.

No earth-shaking quotes came from her mouth afterwards, but Julie Sugden certainly experienced the same kind of joy that comes with most pageant winners. "It feels great ... I don't know," said Sugden, 1985 Queen's Pageant winner, who was at a loss for words after her crowning. Sugden, along with seven other contestants, competed in the pageant Tuesday night at Cass City High School. A group dance routine, a Fourth of July speech and an evening gown competition highlighted the program.

The dining room of Harry Young Caro. Obituaries

Trenna Somers

Trenna Marie (Clark) Somers, 59, of Cass City, formerly of Flint, passed away June 18, 2020.

Trenna was born November 20, 1960 in Flint, the daughter of Delbert and Beverly (Harrington) Clark.

Trenna loved spending time with her grandchildren and making jewelry. She especially enjoyed hosting family gatherings.

She is survived by: husband, Matt Somers; sons, Allan W. Clark and Mark A. (Lyndsey) Taylor; grandchildren, Trae Taylor, Nathanial Taylor and Riley Taylor; siblings, Dennis (Kellie) Clark, Christine Mosack, Della (Robert) White, Uraina (Harry) Mosack, Delbert Clark Jr., Sonya Mont, Tammy Mont and Michael Mont; and several nieces and nephews.



Trenna was preceded in death by her parents, Delbert and Beverly Clark; biological father, Jorge Mont; and brother, Adam Clark.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Tuesday, August 4, at Sharp Funeral Homes, Miller Road Chapel, 8138 Miller Rd. Swartz Creek. Online tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com. Arrangements were made by Sharp Funeral Homes of Linden, Mich.

Carol June Watson

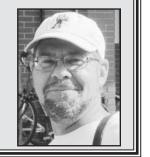
So many people are feeling the loss of Carol June Watson, 86, of Traverse City, who passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at Samaritas Senior Living in Williamsburg, MI.

She was incredibly generous and thoughtful, finding the best in everyone while staying true to her own values. Kind, loving and full of joy, Carol gave her whole heart to her family, friends and all that she did. Carol was born June 21, 1933 in Greenleaf Township, to the late Car-

roll and Mary Malvina (Gilbert) Howarth. She remained devoted friends with her older sister, Barbara (Howarth)

Bird, all of their lives. She attended Cass City schools where she met the love of her life,

'harles "Chuck" James Watson, Carol and Chuck were n



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 Judicature 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

7-1-5



En Marse

40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Karl R. Hagen, son of Fred Hagen, 1282 Atwater Road, Ubly, was among 3,010 students to graduate May 10 from Central Michigan University. Hagen received a bachelor of science degree in business administration. While at CMU, he majored in accounting. Although presently living at home, he is seeking employment in the corporate accounting area.

50 YEARS AGO (1970)

Born July 5 to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bradley of Third St., Cass City, their fourth child, a sevenpound, 14-ounce son, Bradford James, in Hills and Dales General Hospital. The new baby joins a brother, Gary Lee, and two sisters, Juanita Marie and Dawn Elizabeth, at home.

Ten Jet Cadet girls and leaders attended a slumber party at the home of Karen Perry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Perry, Friday night. The girls' plans for a campout were changed due to the rain. Attending were Miss Perry, Sandra Guinther, Cindy and Wendy Ware, Laurie and Sally Ware, Kathy McArthur, Carol Tuckey, Mary Hanby and Diane Gingrich.

75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Harold McComb, who is serving in the Navy and who has been at Hawaii for some time, is now stationed at Great Lakes, Ill., and with Mrs. McComb and their two children of Detroit spent the week end with relatives here. Harold reported back to Great Lakes, Ill., early Monday.

Alex Tyo of the Navy, who is stationed at Bunker Hill, Ind., near Peru, serving at a Naval Air sta23, 1956 in Cass City.

She received a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Michigan State University and a Master's Degree from the University of Washington. Although she lived in many places including Redmond WA, Cass City, Birmingham and Traverse City, Carol remained a dedicated Spartan the rest of her life.

She taught art and elementary grades at private and public schools, and improved the lives of countless students. Carol served as a union representative, taking on the role of secretary for her union for the last six years before retirement. She finally retired from the Farmington Public School District in 1995.

She and her husband Chuck had a great retirement, moving to Traverse City, traveling, attending special events in their family's lives, and enjoying time with friends. Throughout her life she volunteered by read-

ing to students, helping with her church, as well as working with the Sail and Power Squadron, retiree groups, local government, and others. She was a tireless champion of children and anyone in need. She embodied unconditional love. Those of us lucky to be in her family (including extended family) and her large circle of friends knew we could always count on her for a smile, encouragement and genuine caring.

Carol is survived by her older daughter Wendy Watson and Wendy's husband, Eric Otting, younger daughter Rebecca Watson and her husband, Alan Morris, and son Daniel Watson and his wife Victoria (Carter) Watson. Also surviving

are seven grandchildren; Grace and Clare Otting, Morgan and Aidan Watson-Morris, Clark "Jonah", Elijah, and Kai Watson; brother-in-law Jack Bird; and sister-in-law Charlotte Sangster; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her sister Barbara, and beloved husband Chuck after more than 60 years of marriage.

All of her children and grandchildren were lucky enough to have the chance to say goodbye in the last month of her life. Right to the end she was bright, funny, optimistic, and loving, and believed her death was just the start of a new journey. Carol was one of the friendliest, most upbeat, and least judgmental people you could meet, she made the world a better place, and she will be deeply missed by so many.

Friends are welcome to tune into RJFHTV.COM on Friday, July 3, 2020 at 4 p.m. to attend Carol's virtual service. Pastor Dale Ostema will officiate. Burial has taken place at Yuba Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider a memorial donation to: Smile Train, American Cancer Society, Democratic Unity Fund.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Carol's family on her tribute page at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

News briefs

Kingston officials consider DDA

KINGSTON - Although downtown Kingston isn't very big, village officials want to help the community's businesses be the best that they can be.

Towards that end, village President Cory Skinner is looking into creating a downtown Development Authority (DDA). He is collecting information in order to be able to do a presentation to business owners.

The DDA Act was passed by the State of Michigan in 1975 to give municipalities an economic development tool they could use to rebuild their downtowns, increase taxable values and encourage private investment

A DDA is designed to be a catalyst in the development of a community's downtown district. Its creation provides for a variety of funding options, including millage and tax increment financing, and for public improvements in the downtown district.

In a related matter, officials have hired Rowe PSC to draft Kingston's master plan

A master plan serves as a blueprint for the future expansion of a community and guides core business goals and planning. It also identifies economic and other factors such as utility infrastructure development, planning, and helps a community qualify for grant funds.

In other business, the council approved seeking bids for a new village hall sign and for some concrete work after it was noted the sign in front of the hall at 3655 Ross St. needs to be replaced. Aside from housing village government, the building also serves as the hall for Koylton Township.

Junk drawer robotics camp set

THUMB - Organizers of the 4-H Virtual Junk Drawer Robotics Camp, set for July 20-23, are inviting area youth to participate in this year's event, but they must act quickly and register online by Thursday, July 2, at https://events.anr.msu.edu/virtualjunkdrawer.

The camp is open to youth ages eight to 19, and the cost is \$20.

Youth who register for the program will receive a kit full of supplies in the mail

The group will be meeting via Zoom from 3 to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with youth discovering a new engineering skill each day. Participants will then use items in their kit, as well as items they may have at home, to complete a daily challenge (building a catapult, a moving arm, etc.).

Free diabetes workshop on tap

THUMB — The free Diabetes PATH (Personal Action Towards Health) Program, a six-week, self-management online workshop designed for people living with diabetes is being offered this month.

Family members, friends and caregivers are also encouraged to attend the workshop, which is being offered by Michigan State University Extension and will take place live online via Zoom from Thursday, July 9, through Thursday, Aug. 13, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The program is comprised of six sessions that helps participants learn strategies to:

- *Prevent diabetes symptoms and hyper/hypoglycemia.
- *Develop a healthy eating and exercise plan.
- *Deal with difficult emotions.
- *Set personal goals.
- *Problem solve.

*Use a variety of other self-management tools to manage diabetes.

Participants can join with a cell phone, computer, tablet or other device using Zoom and will receive the Zoom link and password after registration

To register for Diabetes PATH, visit the Michigan State University Extension website at https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/online-diabetespath-series-thursday-july-9th or contact Lauryn Lin at lrlin@msu.edu or (734) 727-7407 (please leave a voicemail message).

"Meet up, eat up" set to begin

Library gearing up to launch virtual summer reading event

Like many other summer activities, Rawson Memorial District Library's annual summer reading program will look different this vear due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, local library officials have been working hard to ensure a fun time for all ages just the same.

"For the health and safety of our patrons, staff and the community, the summer reading program will be digital," explained Jesika Struve, assistant library director.

She noted children who do not have digital access may still participate using a paper reading log available through the library. "You may choose either the online program or the paper version, but must use whatever version you choose for the remainder of the summer program.'

"Imagine Your Story" is the theme of this year's program for area youngsters, which officially kicks off Monday, July 6, and will end Friday, Aug. 14. No paper or online entries will be accepted after 5:30 p.m. Aug. 14. The drawing for a "family fun grand prize" will take place Friday, Aug. 21, with the winners announced via Facebook

"We are (also) working on a teen and adult program that will begin at the same time as the kids' program," Struve noted. "The links will be posted on our website as well as our Facebook page on Monday, July 6.

In order to run this year's reading program, Rawson Memorial District Library will be utilizing a program called Wandoo Reader, according to Struve. "Wandoo Reader is a virtual platform provided by the Library of Michigan to libraries across the state."

"The kids' program is designed for kindergarten through the eighth grade," she explained. "This year you can log minutes spent reading and complete challenges to earn entries in a grand prize at the end of the summer.

"Since it's everyone's first time using Wandoo Reader - patrons as well as staff - we are keeping things pretty simple," Struve said. "First, you should decide if you want to create an account for each child or register for a 'family management portal' account to handle all your family and group registrations under one account. When you log in, you will be directed to the program's home page. Here you can log your reading by entering the title of what you are reading and the number of minutes you have read. You can enter any number of minutes at a time, and the program will take care of keeping the total count.

"Along the top of the kids' program website, you will see four tabs labeled home, books, challenges and awards," she continued. "If you click on books, you will find another place to log minutes and you will see the running log of what you have read so far and for how long. If you click on challenges, you will find some special tasks you can do to earn more entries into the family fun grand prize drawing, and this is also where you log completed

challenges.

"If you click on awards, you will find the awards that you have earned, your first being for registering for the summer reading program. You will also receive an award every time you read a total of 75 minutes.'

Virtual programming

Aside from the traditional reading program, Struve said, "We have also decided to add some virtual programming through our Facebook page, including Virtual Storytime for kids.

"On Tuesdays at 1:30, I will post several videos of my reading books — with permission from the publishing company — and demonstrating how to do a craft. We will have craft kits available to pick up via our curbside by appointment service," she explained.

"The second program is called First Chapter Fridays. These will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Friday afternoons. I will read the first chapter of a Young Adult book in each video," Struve continued.

"We hope that these first chapter readings might pique the interest of some of our patrons and spur them on to check out the book or find a new favorite author. Each of these programs will be kicking off the week of July 6 as well."

More information will be available by logging onto the library's website www.rawsonlibrary.org, checking the library's Facebook page, or by calling (989) 872-2856.

Mattlin retiring from sheriff's department

Continued from page one.

job and a chance to help others," commented Mattlin, a Caro native who graduated from Caro High School in 1988 and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Ferris State University in 1992. "I also was attracted to being outside, rather than cooped up in an office or factory somewhere.

After being hired full time at the sheriff's department in 1993, Mat-tlin said, "I began in the jail and transferred to the road patrol three years later. I worked various assignments as a deputy and was promoted to Sergeant in 2009.

"I was honored to work for and serve the citizens that I grew up

outdoors and enjoy home improvement projects and camping. Without her support, my career would have been much more difficult."

According to Skrent, Mattlin's career with the sheriff's department included a stint with the Thumb Narcotics Unit (TNU) in 1995. Along with his promotion to sergeant in 2009, Skrent said, "He became a team leader in the sheriff's office accident reconstruction unit, for which his performance there received many accolades."

The sheriff cited a number of honors presented to Mattlin dur-

ing his career, including a meritorious service award in 2000, Officer of the Year award in 2002, and professional excellence commendations in 2002, 2005, 2006, 2011 and 2017. He received two more meritorious service awards — in 2018 and this year – along with a lifesaving award in 2019.

"I'd like to thank all of my family and friends for their prayers and support over the years, (and) thanks to all the local agencies that I was able to work with." Mattlin said. "I'm looking forward to life after police work and can't wait to see what else is out there."

Strunz accepted into pastoral

SANDUSKY - The "Meet up - Eat Up" program will be starting this month in Sanilac County.

The program will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting Thursday and continuing through July 30 at Sandusky Junior-Senior High School, 1919 E. Pine Tree Lane, Sandusky.

There will be pick-up service on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and bulk lunches for multiple days will be provided also.

More information is available by calling Billie Duvall at (810) 648-5202.

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Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

with," Mattlin said. "In fact, some of the most rewarding experiences that I had were when I was able to assist those people in their time of need. I've always tried to respect people and treat them like I want to be treated.

"Hopefully, I was able to make a difference for some of those people.'

Mattlin's wife, Cheryl, also worked at the sheriff's department for many years. She retired in 2010.

"In retirement, I'm looking forward to spending more time with her," Mattlin said. "We like the

residency program at Bronson

Ordination Candidate Kim C. Strunz of Caro has been accepted into the 2020-21 Clinical Pastoral Education Residency Program at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo beginning in August. Strunz is a 2017 graduate of

Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, where she received her Master of Divinity Degree.

She has completed internships as a chaplain at Compassus Hospice

and Palliative Care in Cass City and at Saginaw Covenant Healthcare System.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Strunz volunteered as a chaplain at Northwood Meadows Assisted Living in Cass City and at the Tuscola County Medical Care Community in Caro. In addition, she has served as pulpit supply (a ministry that helps churches temporarily fill their pulpits in times of need), preaching at various Presbyterian churches in the Thumb area.

Currently she is a member of Fraser Presbyterian Church, Cass City, and a former member of the First Presbyterian Church of Caro. Strunz is a graduate of Caro High School. In addition to a seminary degree, she has earned academic degrees from Delta College, Alma College and the University of Oklahoma.

She served 28 years on active duty in the U.S. Army and retired as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Medical Service Corps.



Kim Strunz

Cass City Rotary and partners finish project

Continued from page one.

The Cass City Homeschoolers, meanwhile, have been actively involved in the project for many months in conjunction with the organization's participation in Envirothon competitions.

Envirothon is a national contest in which participants learn about environmental topics and are tested on their knowledge in various subjects, and one of the Cass City Homeschoolers teams claimed the state championship last spring.

As part of the competition, the local students were required to develop their own community outreach project, and they opted to partner with Cass City Rotary, village officials and the SBLC in the effort to improve the community's nature trails and the disc golf course.

The youth not only helped clear and spruce up the walking paths, they also mapped the trails, conducting a flora and fauna survey, and developed educational and wayfinding signs that have since been installed along the trails.

Project officials estimated the initial cost of the improvements at about \$10,000, including the signs, new disc golf baskets, posts, concrete, hardware and SBLC time to help manage and implement the project.

"It might actually be beyond that total overall cost if you factor in the village's labor and materials to redo the culverts in the woods along the trail network as well," said Trevor Edmonds of the SBLC.

Cass City Village Manager Debbie Powell, who pitched in last week along with Cass City Parks and Recreation Committee members Dan Delamarter and Robert Piaskowski, acknowledged the village's in-kind contributions, with village crews spending several days removing logs and trees and assisting with digging holes for the signs.

Financial support for the project came from a number of sources, according to Sorenson.

"Our club donated, we got a Rotary district grant from Rotary District 6310, and the Pinney Foundation donated," she said, adding key financial contributions were also provided by the Ruth Janks Fund, Founder's Fund and Future Youth Involvement (FYI) Fund, all through the Tuscola County Community Foundation.

The park and 13-acre forest property were previously owned by the Robert George Orr family. An Irish immigrant born in 1844, Orr came to Cass City about 1865 and was one of the village's earliest pioneers. In the 1880s through the mid-1900s, the land was home to the Cass City Fair as well as the Cass City Driving Park, which included a quartermile track used for horse racing.



VOLUNTEERS helping to put the final touches on



THE CASS City Rotary Club, Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, village of Cass City and Cass City Homeschoolers and Cass City Rotary Interact Club were all represented during last week's final day of work on the upgraded Cass City Rotary Disc Golf Course at the village park. Organizers say the donation of thousands of dollars and many hours of volunteer work went into the yearlong project.

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the project included a group of teens representing the newly-established Cass City Rotary Interact Club, a youth organization organized under the auspices of Rotary.



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ROTARIANS Ruth Steele and Greg Biddinger, Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy member Trevor Edmonds, Dori Battel of the Cass City Homeschoolers, and a Cass City Parks and Rec volunteer are pictured above clearing trails.

Students eye additional trail upgrades

Continued from page one.

Dori, have both been active with the Cass City Homeschoolers, explained the organization formed its own Envirothon team in the fall of 2018.

"It's (Envirothon) a program for teens to learn about conservation and agriculture organized by the National Association of Conservation Districts, with the Michigan program run by the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts," she explained. "Staff members from the Tuscola Conservation District told us about the opportunity and helped us every step of the way, particularly Steve Schaub, who works out of Caro.

"That fall we held a class for homeschooled teens where we got outdoors and really got our hands dirty as we learned about natural resources and agriculture. We got right into the Cass River and sampled for aquatic invertebrates, we tracked coyote and squirrels, we studied the forest at the Cass City Recreational Park with a professional forester, we sampled soil and learned how soil relates to land and agricultural use, and lots more," she said.

"We had guests come in to help us with these hands-on learning experience from Tuscola Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service - Huron County, Michigan State University Extension, and Michigan Sea Grant. A local trapper came in and showed us pelts as he taught us about mammals of the area. Some of our group toured the village water treatment plant with Dennis McCabe."

In the spring of 2019, the homeschoolers set their sights on the Envirothon competition, which has two parts.

'One part is a community outreach project, which is where the nature trails came in. The other part was competition where students visited stations and demonstrated their knowledge of agriculture and natural resources topics in teams — we had two teams," Battel noted. "Both teams made it past the regional level to the state competition. Our team of older students surprised us by winning the state competition, earning a spot at the international event held in North Carolina last summer (and) attended by teams throughout the United States plus some from Canada and China," she said, adding the local team finished in the middle of the pack. "As far as the nature trails, the students brainstormed in the fall of 2018 some ways to engage local people in protecting our natural resources through a hands-on

project," Battel continued.

The students decided to focus on renovating Cass City's nature trails.

"As luck would have it, when the students reached out to the village council, they learned that the village also wanted to work on the trails as well as the disc golf course and had already been in contact with the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy (SBLC) on it. We met together to formulate plans."

The homeschoolers participated in three aspects of the project, starting with conducting inventories of the forest at the back of the park where the trails are located.

"They worked with conservationists, a wildlife biologist and a forester to learn about the type of habitats, geology, and what kinds of animal and plant life call the forest home," she said.

The second part involved students taking on research and developing wording for the nature trail signs.

"They used what they learned through the forest inventories and decided on the most important features to write about and where to place them. Then they wrote and had professionals fact-check informational signs. They took photos that appear on most of the signs, which were designed and printed by SBLC."

The third aspect involved mapping the local walking trails.

"When visitors go to the trails and disc golf course now, they'll see trail maps that SBLC created using the students' map data," Battel said. "Students also participated in workdays to clear debris out of the stream and so on.

"The students really weren't involved in the disc golf portion, but are excited that the two projects come together in the same space for people to use," Battel commented.

"I'm excited that our teens were

disc golf course run together makes it an even better opportunity for everyone to use the outdoors. Disc golf is great recreation that's especially popular among teens and young adults around Cass City."

Spending time in a natural recreational area has other benefits, according to Battel's daughter, Dori, 14, who was a member of the Cass City Homeschools Envirothon program.

"Getting people outdoors makes them want to take care of our natural resources," she said. "I really think this is important because I like being in nature and I want to have a good place for people who live in town to get outside."

Unfortunately, all Envirothon activities were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the local students had already started on their plans for this year and expect to tackle those projects in 2021, according to Battel. "They worked with two of the

"They worked with two of the Cass City Elementary School fourth grade teachers on a plan to create a lesson about animal habitats that our teens will teach in a fourth grade classroom, then they would invite the children out to the Cass City Woodland Trails for a scavenger hunt and other handson activities to extend the learning," she said.

"If funding were available, the students have lots of big ideas they are still ready and willing to implement, including the additional trail signage, bench and picnic table, and some simple interactive structures for children, such as a four-foot-high log cabin climbing structure — like one at Darbee Farm Park in Caro, a lifesize bald eagle nest model for children to climb in, and stepping logs for some low and safe climbing and exploration.

County delays reopening

Continued from page one.

"We need them healthy. All of us need to remain healthy." Hepfer is working with an organization that has migrant programs in place and is helping with COVID-19 testing.

"If we have more than a hand full of positive cases, that means the numbers are going up again. We cannot afford for that to happen. The virus spreads rapidly," she said, noting there are also concerns about the virus among those who are traveling to the state, and the Amish communities in the Thumb.

"Right now I'm kind of nervous, and I've been watching the national news. If we are going to see an increase in infection, we are going to see it in the next 10 to 14 days. My recommendation would be to hold off opening just a little longer before opening doors," she said.

"And when doors are opened, we need to be cautious about letting people in who do not wear masks. I know that is not popular. You can serve people from a window, but when they come into buildings, they should wear a mask."

Commissioner Dan Grimshaw questioned why Huron County was allowed to reopen and the recommendation for Tuscola is not to.

Hepfer responded, saying Huron County has recorded only 56 cases, and the county was able to go seven days without an increase before four more cases were added. Tuscola County, meanwhile, has racked up nearly 230 confirmed cases.

"Our new cases are community acquired. We have a minimum number of new cases and want to keep it there. We are going in the right direction and we need to maintain that. The goal is to get to zero and keep it there," she said. "We are also learning from what is happening in the southern states."

Because cases are increasing in those areas, necessary personal protective equipment (PPEs) items are going there, resulting in a short supply. "Getting PPEs is still and issue."

While county employees have returned to work, have face masks, and protective shields, access to county services will continue by appointment, email or via drop boxes. More information is available by calling (989) 672-3890.

Court backs Whitmer

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit last week backed Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's decision to delay the opening of gyms and other indoor fitness centers in lower Michigan. The appeals court reversed a lower court that previously ruled those facilities should be allowed to re-open June 25.

"The governor did not reopen anything else (last) week, as she is following the data closely," Hepfer said.

"We see what happens across the U.S. when you reopen too fast. We had our first bar/restaurant close (last) week in Lansing due to the virus outbreak that was linked back to their establishment," she added.

"We know how to stop the spread of this virus, (and) it takes all of us, not just a few of us, to make this happen," Hepfer said. "Wear your masks, social distance, and wash your hands for 20 seconds before you eat or touch your face. These are easy steps that do not cost us anything and will reduce the spread of infection to yourself and to your loved ones. We need to protect those who cannot protect themselves from this virus — those who have cancer, chronic illness and those that are in long term care and assisted living settings."

Latest virus numbers

Between Monday, June 22, and Monday, June 29, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased by 18 — from 312 to 330 — with the three counties' combined death toll remaining at same at 34 fatalities.

As of Monday afternoon, Tuscola County had recorded 229 confirmed cases, an increase of 14 compared a week before, and 26 deaths (no increase); Huron County had recorded 57 cases, up from 55 cases a week earlier, with three deaths (no increase); and Sanilac County, 44 confirmed cases, up from 42 cases a week earlier, and five deaths (no change).

Statewide, Monday's total confirmed cases reached 63,497, with a total of 5,915 deaths, compared to 61,409 cases and 5,853 deaths a week earlier.

Editor Tom Montgomery contributed to this story.

able to be part of a tangible and meaningful project that Cass City residents and visitors will get to enjoy for years to come. They learned how to work alongside partners to complete a project that benefits the whole community, and they got to attend some village meetings to learn more about how local government works.

She added, "The Cass City Woodland Trails are a great place for families and individuals to visit and read the signs while exploring nature, runners and walkers to exercise, and everyone to enjoy some good fresh air. I hope more and more people start to use them and venture back to the trails when they're in the park for a ball game or to swim.

"That the woodland trails and

Delamarter addresses grocery delays

Continued from page one.

operational to sell goods to the public no later than the seventh of September 2020. If the seventh of September 2020 date is not met, I will not be voting in favor of any Commercial Facilities Exemption Certificate if one is asked for in the future.

"This statement is mine alone and does not represent the council."

Turning to other matters during the regular monthly meeting, the recognized employees who have been putting their health on the line during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of the village's personnel and public safety committee recently discussed the staff who worked during the peak time of the pandemic while others remained at home under in isolation in an effort to slow the spread of the virus.

It was noted union and hourly employees were performing only "essential business" and either working reduced hours or not at all, but still receiving their full pay.

The committee recognized the village's police department risked possible-life threatening viral contact as they continued to deal with the public and respond to calls without additional compensation. As a result, the committee recommended rewarding those employees.

The council approved a resolution to compensate the police officers for their dedication between March 24 and June 8 by awarding them additional paid time off (PTO) to be used before the end of the year. Full-time officers will receive 40 additional hours of paid time off, and part-time officers will receive 20 additional hours of paid time off.

"The estimated cost is \$5,479," said village Manager Debbie Powell, noting the cost will come from the fringe benefit fund, "which realized a savings from Blue Cross-Blue Shield of \$11,405 from the recent resignation of an officer."

Because of the pandemic, Powell's last manager's report was submitted in February, just before the COVID-19 emergency declaration in Michigan.

"Since that time, much of the plans for 2020 have been delayed, changed or canceled," she said. "These are challenging times to manage operations...while considering health, safety and welfare of our employees and residents has been of paramount concern and necessitate changing priorities temporarily."

Although all village employees are back to work during their regular hours, access to the municipal building is still limited. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Phone calls will be answered from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Powell told the council she has also been dealing with requests from several sports leagues and teams to use village park facilities.

"They lost out on their spring season and are looking to hold a limited season, scrimmages, tournaments and such," she explained. "It has been hectic to make this happen, but it is working out. Our parks and recreation department is excellent."

Aside from handling virus related issues, Powell reported she has devoted a considerable about of time to strategic planning for municipal park improvements. The new free-standing playground equipment has been received and will be installed near the tennis courts some time over the next few weeks, she said. And, the addition of nine new disc-golf stands for the village's 18-hole course makes the course eligible for tournaments now.

Splash park progress

In other business, in spite of having to work with social distancing and other COVID-19 regulations imposed by the state, the village has been able to move forward on some special projects.

Construction of the new splash park next to the Helen Stevens Memorial Pool is progressing, with village Trustee Tom Herron serving as project manager. The plan is to be able to use it yet this summer.

Powell noted the splash park needs a concrete pad of about 40 yards with a fiber/mesh base.

The council approved having the concrete supplied by Sebewaing Concrete, Tuckey Concrete, and R and R Ready Mix, Inc., at a cost of \$111 per cubic yard, with a water proof agent that the companies will provide at their cost not to exceed a total cost of \$6,000.

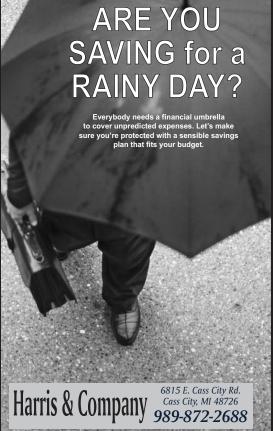
To protect, the splash pad, there will be a five-foot-high vinyl fence and gates, and concrete bollards, and the council approved a quote from the Halfway Fence Company, Bad Axe, for \$6,771 for the work.

The money for the project, \$15,000 if necessary, will be transferred from the community promotion fund to the general fund.



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