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# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 114, NUMBER 18

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020

.75 CENTS - 10 PAGES

## “Promise” to Cass City students is alive and well

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

A fledgling program designed to help Cass City students pay for their post-high school training/educations has felt its share of impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the area of

planned fundraisers, but organizers are forging ahead with the effort.

Towards that end, representatives of the newly-established Cass City PROMISE Team, Cass City Schools, Thumb Bank and Trust and the Sanilac County Community Foundation gathered last

Wednesday in Cass City to formally cement financial arrangements for the program.

Ben Varney, a member of the Cass City PROMISE Team, explained the meeting was scheduled to sign a memorandum of understanding.

“It just spells out what the part-

nership is and who’s responsible for what,” Varney said. He explained the Cass City PROMISE program will initially provide \$50 in each student’s PROMISE account — \$10 of that amount will be going into an account at Thumb Bank and Trust, and students and families can add to the savings with contributions of their own.

The remaining \$40 will be held and invested by the Sanilac County Community Foundation, Varney said, adding, “The community foundation – they’re already doing a Sanilac County Promise (program), so they’re already really familiar with” how it

works.

The local school district’s role in the partnership, meanwhile, is to introduce and promote the program to students and their parents.

The plan – to lay the groundwork for a program that promises to arm students not only with the habits they’ll need to build bright futures for themselves, but also financial assistance to help turn their career goals into reality – is ambitious, to be sure. But it’s doable, according to the Cass City PROMISE Team, which last fall unveiled its preliminary plan and campaign to establish and build a

Please turn to page 7.



### Fireworks frenzy...

**THIS YEAR’S Freedom Festival in Cass City was canceled due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, but festival organizers came through with the traditional spectacular fireworks show Saturday night, thanks to a host of sponsors.**



## Election 2020

### Tuscola County clerk: “stay in your lane” when you vote

Absentee voter ballots have been mailed out in Tuscola County, and county Clerk Jodi Fetting is working to educate residents who don’t plan to vote in person on how to make sure their absentee vote counts. “This election is an open primary, which means voters are given a ballot with a column listing each qualified party’s candidates as well as any proposals. Voters then decide in private which party to vote for by only voting in the ‘lane’ (column) of their party choice and then moving across to the proposal ‘lane,’” Fetting explained.

Fetting offered the following instructions to residents, whether they will be voting by absentee ballot or in person during the Tuesday, Aug. 4, primary:

- \*Vote both sides of the ballot.
- \*Use a Black marking device.
- \*Fill in the oval completely.
- \*“Stay in your lane” when voting – in this case, “lane one” is for Democratic candidates; “lane two” is for Republican candidates; “lane three” is for Proposals.

“Once you start voting in lane one or two, you must remain in that lane on the front and the back of the ballot. The only lane you can cross the line to vote in is lane three,” Fetting emphasized. “You also have the option to skip lane one and two and only vote in lane three.”

\*Each contest lists the maximum number of candidates that a voter may select – “Vote for no more than one,” for example, Fetting noted, adding, “Be sure not to exceed that number or your vote for that contest will not be tallied, as this is considered an over-voted office.”

What happens if a citizen accidentally “changes lanes” between lanes one and two, or over-votes an office?

“If you are voting by absentee, please contact your local clerk right away,” Fetting said. “You can submit a request in writing up until 4 p.m. the Monday prior to election day to have your ballot spoiled and be issued a new ballot.”

Residents are encouraged to contact their local clerk for assistance and further explanation. For absentee voters, this must be completed prior to election day.

“If you are voting in person on election day, inform the election inspector of the ‘changing of lanes’ or over-voting. The election inspector will work with you to spoil that ballot and get a new ballot issued to you,” Fetting said.

Regardless of whether a voter chooses to travel to their voting site on election day or cast their vote ahead of time via an absentee ballot, she added, “The most important thing is that you vote.”

## Whitmer closes bars in wake of virus spike

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer last week closed indoor service at bars throughout most of lower Michigan in an effort to protect what she called the progress Michigan has made against COVID-19.

The Upper Peninsula and much of northern Michigan were excluded from Whitmer’s latest order, and bars statewide can continue to serve outdoors. She also signed a package of bills allowing cocktails-to-go at bars and restaurants to help these businesses serve more Michiganders during this time.

“We owe it to our front line heroes who have sacrificed so much during this crisis to do everything we can to slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the chance of a resurgence like we are seeing in other states,” Whitmer said.

“Following recent outbreaks tied to bars, I am taking this action today to slow the spread of the virus and keep people safe. If we want to be in a strong position to reopen schools for in-person classroom instruction this fall, then we need to take aggressive action right now to ensure we don’t wipe out all the progress we have made.”

Over the past week, every region in Michigan has seen an uptick in new cases, and daily case counts now exceed 20 cases per million in the Grand Rapids, Lansing and

Kalamazoo regions. Nearly 25 percent of diagnoses in June involved people ages 20 to 29, up from roughly 16 percent in

Please turn to page 8.



**THE MUSIC in Rotary Park summer concert series kicked off Friday night in Cass City with sizzling temperatures and sizzling classic rock, courtesy of the Mysterians, formerly known as Question Mark and the Mysterians, which was propelled to national prominence in the 1960s with its number one hit on the Billboard Hot 100, “96 Tears”. Roughly 80 people braved the heat during Friday night’s concert. (Related photo, page 10)**

## Thumb Gospel convention is a go next month

The 23rd annual Lloyd Severance Thumb Gospel Music Convention will take place Aug. 27-30 at Bay Shore Camp in Sebawaing.

That’s according to the board in charge of organizing the event, which made a formal announcement on the convention’s Facebook page last Wednesday.

“There was a lengthy debate for both sides, as well as prayer. Our decision was not one we take lightly, but with an abundance of caution in mind, we will be going forward as planned with next month’s convention,” the statement read.

“Now, when we gather next month, it will not be anything like you have experienced in our now 23 years. There will be many, many procedures in place to block

Please turn to page 8.

# Obituaries

**Donald Dohn**

Donald Alan Dohn, 66, of Cass City, died unexpectedly in his home February 20, 2020. He was born August 6, 1953 in Detroit, the youngest of five children born to Ernest and Louise (Trebesh) Dohn.

Don was self-employed and owned and operated Revive Carpet Cleaning since 1987. He also worked part time at Auto Zone in Caro and as a groundskeeper for



the Novesta Township Cemetery. Don was the prior caretaker for the Cass City Gun Club for 14 years. He always prided himself in a job well done, no matter what it was. Don enjoyed spending time with friends and family. He was always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. One of his favorite places to be was at the trap or skeet range with his Browning shotgun.

Don is survived by his brother, James (Paula) Dohn of Gould City; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; infant brother, Richard Dohn; brother, Arnold Dohn; sister, Ruth Shelton.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, July 11, in Novesta Township Cemetery. Military honors under the direction of Cass City VFW Post #3644 and the U.S. Army.

Family and friends may share memories, prayers and photos

with the family at [www.kranzfurneralhome.com](http://www.kranzfurneralhome.com).

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.

**Charlotte Kritzman**

Charlotte Mae Kritzman, 73, of Cass City, died peacefully Sunday, June 28, 2020 in Vicinia Gardens Assisted Living of Fenton.

She was born August 10, 1946 in Scheurer Hospital, Pigeon, to Edward John and Alma Caroline (Hoppe) Loeffler.

She was married to James R. Kritzman for twenty-four years.

Charlotte graduated from Sebewaing High School in 1964. Prior to marriage, Charlotte worked at Dow Chemical in Midland. She worked at the IGA store in Cass City for several years prior to Thumb National Bank. Charlotte



retired from Thumb National Bank, where she had many caring friends, with twenty plus years of service as a teller and later rejoined on a part time basis. She loved taking care of her beautiful home and spent countless hours working in her flower gardens. Charlotte was also known for many special dishes that she prepared for holidays, family and work events.

Caring for and raising her children in the Christian faith was her most treasured accomplishment. Charlotte had a strong Lutheran faith and served at New Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church for

many years on the Ladies Aid and in the choir. She was always willing to help others. She was active and served on the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society as Secretary and Treasurer in the recent past.

Charlotte was blessed with many great friends and cherished her sons and their families including five grandchildren. She adored spending time with all of her grandchildren babysitting, playing, singing, reading and praying together. Charlotte was always close to her brothers, their wives and she had many cousins, nieces and nephews that she adored as well as their families. Charlotte's best friend was Lorraine Ricker and she loved spending time with her and other classmates from 1964 in recent years every summer. She touched everyone's life that she met, whether relative or friend, through her kind, gentle, faithful nature. She will be dearly missed by all who have had the pleasure of having her in their lives.

Charlotte is survived by her sons: James (Shelli) Kritzman of Whitmore Lake and John (Kim) Kritzman of Fenton; grandchildren: Mark, Luke, Joey, Zach and Ashley; brothers: Leroy (Sharon) Loeffler of Sebewaing, twin Erwin (Cynthia) Loeffler of Sebewaing; sisters-in-law: Joan Loeffler of Sebewaing, Joyce Loeffler of Gageton; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her brothers: Vernard Loeffler and Gerald Loeffler.

A funeral service was held Thursday, July 2, in New Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 222 E. Grove St., Sebewaing with Pastor William L. Mayhew officiating.

Interment will be in St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Sebewaing.

Memorials may be made to New Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sebewaing.

Family and friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at [www.kranzfurneralhome.com](http://www.kranzfurneralhome.com).

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.

**Dale McIntosh**

Dale James McIntosh, 73, of Cass City, died following a lengthy illness Wednesday, July 1, 2020 in the comfort of his home.

He was born July 10, 1946 in Pontiac to James Arthur and Nor-



maleen Jean (Brown) McIntosh.

He married Lynda Lou Lebioda September 7, 1968 in Cass City.

Dale graduated from Cass City High School with the class of 1964. During his high school years, he played in many sports including: football, basketball and track.

Dale married his school sweetheart, Lynda. Justice of the Peace Brewster Shaw, Sr. officiated their wedding. Dale received an Associate's Degree from Ferris State University and his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Central Michigan University. He taught school for ten years in Cass City and loved the time he spent coaching football, basketball and track.

Dale left teaching and took a job at Thumb Bank where he worked for almost thirty years. He served as president of the United Way for a few years, two terms as a village trustee for Cass City and was a member of the Cass City Gavel Club for over forty years. Dale and Lynda shared time boating and riding their Harley Davidsons with their children and enjoyed many fun outings with their grandchildren. He was a lover of golf and was a long-time member of Verona Hills in Bad Axe and Rolling Hills in Cass City.

Dale is survived by his wife of fifty-one years, Lynda and their children: Bryce (Sheila) McIntosh of Vassar and Shannon Kus of Cass City; grandchildren: Summer McIntosh, Matt Roth and Paige Roth; step-grandson, Nicholas Johnson; nephew, Mike Ware of Cass City; niece, Debbie Abell of Cass City; sister-in-law, Shirley McIntosh of Cass City.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Robert McIntosh.

A graveside service was held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, in Elkland Township Cemetery with Sam Leppert, Funeral Service Celebrant officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Cass City Gavel Club, Cass City V.F.W. Post #3644, Northwood Meadows or Compassus Hospice of Cass City.

Family and friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at [www.kranzfurneralhome.com](http://www.kranzfurneralhome.com).

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.

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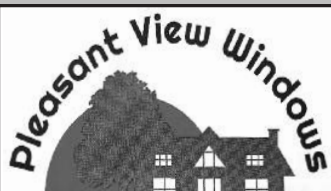
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*Thank you to everyone who donated at the stoplight corner!!!*



# In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire  
Publisher

Tom Montgomery  
Editor

## *OK2SAY program still a success story*

*Michigan's OK2SAY program may have faded from the headlines in recent months, but the effort to reduce senseless deaths among our young people has continued to make a positive impact.*

*Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, in partnership with the Michigan State Police, recently announced the release of the 2019 OK2SAY Annual Report, noting the student safety program received more than 5,700 tips, with the two most reported incidents involving suicide threats and bullying.*

*OK2SAY is an effective prevention-based reporting mechanism tool, logging 25,413 tips from students across Michigan since September 2014.*

*"OK2SAY has done more than save lives, it's prevented violence and has ensured that Michigan students have a safe place to learn and grow," said Nessel. "OK2SAY has played an important role in helping students get the support they need, both in school and out in their communities."*

*In the majority of violent incidents that occur in our schools, someone other than the perpetrator of violence knows of a threat before it's carried out but fails to report it. Often, students choose to keep quiet because they fear retaliation, rejection, or stigmatization by their peers.*

*The result is a culture of silence in which students suffer harm that could have been prevented if another had chosen to speak out.*

*The goal of OK2SAY is to stop harmful behavior before it occurs by encouraging anyone to report threatening behavior to caring adult authorities who can help. OK2SAY encourages Michigan residents to confidentially submit tips 24/7 using the OK2SAY mobile app, online, email, texting, or by calling trained program technicians.*

*Upon receipt of a tip, specially trained OK2SAY technicians address the immediate need and forward the information to the appropriate responding law enforcement agency or organization. Tips go to schools, local law enforcement agencies, community mental health agencies or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.*

*OK2SAY received 5,742 tips in 2019, and those tips were received in 31 categories, including these top five categories:*

- \*1,298 tips on suicide threats.*
- \*1,001 tips on bullying.*
- \*624 tips on drugs.*
- \*401 tips related to "other" (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment).*
- \*368 tips on self-harm.*

*Submitting a tip is easy. You can call 8-555-OK2SAY (855-565-2729, text 652729 (OK2SAY), email OK2SAY or visit the OK2SAY website.*

*Bottom line? OK2SAY saves lives because, ultimately, this is about early intervention and prevention.*

*When students make the courageous decision to break the code of silence and speak out against harmful behavior, they equip authorities with the information needed to respond to threats and avert tragedy. And that's a good thing for Michigan schools, communities and families.*

# Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Rivets broke down walls



I never fully understood the expression that "looking back can move you forward" until one of my columns was on the same page as some other columnists (my column appears in a couple of other areas).

Anyway, the other columns were written by women much younger than myself, so my column was vastly different than the ones they wrote.

I've written my Drier Humor column for about 40 years in a variety of newspapers at one time or another. I did my time in the trenches of motherhood years ago, and I generally don't focus on political issues because my views are my views.

When I first started writing a column, a fellow columnist cautioned me it was sometimes difficult to find material to write about each week. When I first started writing columns, I wrote about my family life, my children, my dogs and even drew inspiration from my friends from time to time.

As the years went by, my marriage ended, my children grew up and my dogs passed away. So now, I draw on my life experiences as a mature person and from my love of history. I think it is important for the young whippersnappers of today to understand how much the world has changed in order to bring perspective of today.

I previously wrote a column about the passing of the woman who was supposed to be the original "Rosie the Riveter". She was the iconic image of a woman with her hair tied up in a handkerchief, flexing her muscle that was popular during World War II, with the words, "We can do it."

My column pointed out just how important that photo and women were to the war effort and to the freedoms that women enjoy today.

Before WW II, a woman was expected to marry and take care of her husband, their home and children. Society looked down on a woman who worked outside of the home. Back then, it simply wasn't done unless you were a young woman just starting out before marriage, or you were a widow. Divorces were few and far between, and those that were divorced were treated like lepers.

Because so many men were away fighting the war, women entered the workforce because of the labor shortage.

Rosie the Riveter was created to change the mindset of the country that it was acceptable and necessary for women to work in factories in order to fill the labor shortage. That Rosie the Riveter campaign was so successful that, by 1945, nearly one out of every four married women worked outside the home.


When the men returned from war, women were expected to return to their former role of homemakers. After having some freedom and earning their own paycheck, it was difficult for some to return to being a housewife, so some didn't.

Those Rosies helped blaze the trail for women

today.

Back during that pre-war era, a few women were journalists, especially young married women and women with children.

So, yes, my columns are different than some other columnists because from time to time I think it is important for everyone to understand just how much things have changed and to appreciate the differences.



## Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) has been working on concepts for the safe return of school sports since March. Three points have guided the organization's planning the past several weeks, and will continue to be their focus in the days ahead.

1. The MHSAA's current plan is to play all scheduled fall sports in the fall.
  2. We will do everything within our control to safely have all three high school sports seasons in 2020-21, even if conditions change that would require creativity to provide those three seasons. We owe it to our kids to plan this way, especially during these uncertain days of the pandemic.
  3. Contingency planning has been ongoing since March, and this continues with the release of the Return to School Road Map on June 30. These contingencies reflect our plan to play fall sports as scheduled and to provide three seasons during the school year while also being prepared to operate creatively should that be necessary. One possible contingency for consideration could be a swap of fall and spring sports as there are concerns with indoor sports (volleyball and girls swimming & diving) being able to be conducted in the fall along with differing views on football.
- Best of luck.

\*\*\*\*\*

Speaking of sports, so far, according to Mary Drier, the annual Thumb Sportswriters Association All-Star Basketball Games that are scheduled for 6 p.m., Friday, July 17, at Sandusky High School are still on. However, the games are contingent on the level of COVID-19 virus in the area, and restrictions that are in place.

According to the roster for the All-Thumb East Girls, those expected to participate from the Cass City Chronicle's coverage area include: Ellie Peruski and Katelyn Sweeney, both from Ubly.

Others from the coverage area included in the All-Thumb West Girls: Abbey Salcido of Cass City, Tiara Anthony of Cass City, Brooke Mooney of Kingston and Payton Kolacz of Kingston.

Included from the Chronicle's area in the All-Thumb East Boys are: Quinn Boucard of Kingston, Aaron Koehler of Kingston, Evan Neff of Kingston, Austin Peruski of Ubly and Casey Sweeney of Ubly.

And, participating in the All Thumb West Boys from the paper's coverage area are: Sandyn Cuthrell of Cass City and Landin Schenk of Cass City.

Also, Coaches Aaron Fernald of Cass City, Jay Riley of Caro, Tristin Pennington of Sandusky and Doug Kirkpatrick of Deckerville will be there. The games feature the best senior players from the Class of 2020. Game goers are asked to social distance and are encouraged to wear a face covering.

Admission is \$5 with the proceeds going to the Thumb Sportswriters Association.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you attend the all-star basketball games in Sandusky, make sure to congratulate long-time Redskins girls' basketball coach Al DeMott. He has been named President-Elect for the coming year of the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan (BCAM) after serving as Regional Director since the group's inception in the summer of 1976.

DeMott has over 750 wins under his belt and, in my opinion, will make an excellent addition to the BCAM board that strives for the betterment of the game.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events for Hills & Dales General Hospital.

First, the local hospital's 22nd annual fundraising golf tournament will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 12th at Ubly Heights Golf & Country Club and Rolling Hills Golf Course - circumstances permitting.

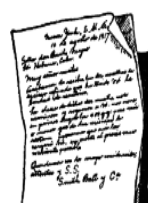
Call Danielle Blaine at 989-912-6401 or e-mail dblaine@hillsanddales.com for more information on sponsorship opportunities.

Next, and just two days later (Aug. 14th), the hospital plans to hold an open house on their front lawn from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. when a light lunch will be served.

Why? It's to celebrate the facility's 60th anniversary. Hills and Dales opened Aug. 15, 1960.

For more information visit [www.hdghmi.org](http://www.hdghmi.org).

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



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

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

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

# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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(USPS 092-00)

# Tastes like chicken?

## Bay Port Fish Company offering gator meat

by Mary Drier  
For the Chronicle

You won't notice any "see you later, alligator" joke signs at the Bay Port Fish Market, but you might be able to get your hands on some "gator" meat.

"We are offering alligator in frozen one-pound packages for \$15.95 a pound. It is something different that people can cook that is actually really good for you because of its high protein," said Lakon Williams, co-owner of the Bay Port Fish Market. "I usually tell customers, it's a sweeter chicken."

"It is similar to chicken's texture, and has white and dark tail meat in the packages."

The unique delicacy is a popular offering.

"We sell close to 200 pounds a year of alligator meat, and we see a lot of repeat customers come for it," Williams noted.

Alligator meat can be prepared in a variety of ways.

According to Williams, the meat can be fried after dipping it in a wet batter, and it can be marinated and grilled.

"The tail meat comes in chunks. I cut them to all the same size and marinate them overnight in Italian dressing," she explained. "The next day I use shish kabobs and alternate gator meat with veggies — mushrooms, peppers, zucchini and onions."

"It is to die for! It is a very lean meat, so it does not take long on the grill," Williams said, adding it can be cooked in about 25 minutes at 350 degrees.

And, that is not the only non-

local offering the market carries. Bay Port Fish Market also offers snow crab and red king crab legs, shrimp and more.

The fish market, located at 1008 First St., also carries fresh, locally caught yellow perch, lake whitefish, catfish, white perch, white bass, buffalo, sheepshead, suckers, crappie, rock bass and carp, as well as smoked fish.

Due to the concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, sales these days are conducted curbside, with orders placed by phone beforehand and delivered to the vehicle.

To place an order or for more information, call (989) 656-2121.

### Fishing since 1895

The Bay Port Fish Company is a family-owned commercial fishery that has been operating on Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron since 1895. It is the oldest continuously operated business on the Great Lakes.

The company operates three boats - the Osprey, the Argo, and the Patsy. The boats set nets that catch between 4,000 and 5,000 pounds on average, and sometimes as much as 10,000 to 20,000 pounds.

The business is owned by the Williams family. Forrest Williams bought the business in 1977 from Henry Engelhard.

Being a commercial fisherman isn't just a career, it's a way of life with long hours. Knowledge of the business is passed from one generation to the next with hands-on experience. The third generation of the family, Mason, 16, and

Brandon, 12, are in the process of learning the ropes.

The fishing season is from ice to ice. When the ice is too thick for the boats to go out, fishing stops, and when the ice melts, the season starts, explained Tyler Williams, who is one of the current co-owners along with Tod and Lakon Williams.

During the winter, repairs are done to the boats, net and equipment.

It was the Williams' fish company that helped create the annual Bay Port Fish Sandwich Festival.

In 1949, Engelhard started selling fish sandwiches in front of his house to help pay for his daughter's college education. The popularity of his sandwiches made with locally-caught fish dipped in a secret batter grew so popular that in 1978, Englehard's fish sandwich spawned the Bay Port Fish Sandwich Festival.

As a result, a sign along the driveway leading to the fish market proudly proclaims "The Bay Port Fish Company, where the fish caught the man."



**THE CAUSE OF a Cass City Oil and Gas semi-tractor fire Thursday night in Cass City was not determined, according to Elkland Township Fire Chief Glenn Guilds, whose department responded to the scene – just southwest of the corner of Garfield Avenue and Vulcan Street. Guilds reported the vehicle was totaled, but did not have an estimate on the dollar value of the loss.**



**YOU WON'T notice any "see you later, alligator" joke signs at the Bay Port Fish Market, but you might be able to get your hands on some "gator" meat, displayed above by business co-owner Lakon Williams, who describes the meat as similar to the texture of chicken, but sweeter.**



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| Carolyn Berry                     | Marla Lefler                 | Eugene Willis                               |
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| Alissa Boulton                    | Crystal Stalnaker Mathis     | Cass City Little Caesar's                   |
| Jeanne Brinkman                   | Carrie Mausolf               | Cass City McDonalds                         |
| Jim & Judy Brown                  | Mary Mausolf                 | Cass City Public Schools                    |
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| Katrina Canter                    | William & Toni McCreedy      | Coverly's Insurance                         |
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| Treva Dressler                    | Dan O'Mara                   | Kohl Farms                                  |
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| Faith Fahrner                     | Laurie Rehkopf               | Oetiker (Marlette)                          |
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## Reporter's notebook

### Overwhelmed? Divide, conquer

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor



This may be remembered as the year of being overwhelmed – by a pandemic, by protests over racial injustice, by a growing division of people and political opinions across our nation.

Personally, and I'm not sure why, I seem to be dealing with it all much better than I anticipated.

After all, in day-to-day life, I have a proven record of feeling so overwhelmed on occasion by a list of tasks, no matter how menial, that I just end up sitting down, thinking it all over (and over) and accomplishing nothing.

I'm sure the experts have assigned a name to this sort of mental paralysis, but I couldn't say for sure. What I am certain of is that just about every time I sit down to write a column – because I have to, not because I'm ready to – it's like pulling teeth; the ideas don't flow and it feels like I'll never get it finished.

My mind wanders all over the place, from the stories I need to wrap up and the photos still not taken for the front page, to whether or not to put the effort into cutting two acres of grass when only an eighth of that is really green thanks to days of dry weather, to figuring out what I want to prepare for dinner (I'm chief cook and bottle washer at home).

Tons of things to keep me occupied and then some, but I just can't seem to get busy on any of them.

It doesn't help that my stellar multi-tasking skills are at war with my OCD tendencies, but that's an entirely different column (which I hope I never get around to writing, and probably won't because I have this thing about procrastinating, too).

Anyway, I've felt this way before, and it always shut me down productivity-wise, especially when it comes to writing. Which makes just about every little stress seem much worse than it really is, because each one is a reminder of all that I need to get done but hadn't yet. It's a pretty vicious circle, you know?

It's the sort of frustration that used to make it easy to pick up a drink – and, of course, that always made me much more productive and creative. Not.

These days I make a more concerted effort to break free of this syndrome by doing the same thing that helped me stay on the straight and narrow back when I was really struggling to hang onto my sobriety: I simply pick a task – any task, but typically a small one – and just get it done. Period.

Okay, so it isn't rocket science. But it does lighten the "list of things to do", gives me a sense of accomplishment and encourages me to move on to the next job at hand. You might also be surprised at how the stress level starts to fade.

Bottom line? It's a simple matter of learning to divide and conquer.

The problem is what Aaron Lynn describes as "analysis paralysis" in an article posted on the website [asianefficiency.com](http://asianefficiency.com).

"No matter how many anti-procrastination tips and tricks you know, or how much mental discipline or self-control you have," Lynn says, "when you're faced with too many projects and tasks...it's hard to tell what's important, and what you're supposed to be working on next."

Lynn says reducing the number of tasks – say to three at a time – is the key, because when you have only a few things to focus on, you pretty much know if you're being productive (by doing it) or making excuses (by not). And, once you've accomplished those three, go to three more.

His other suggestions include avoiding multitasking (okay, so that one will never work for me), wrap up all your small tasks first, and change your work environment.

Change your work environment? Check.

Actually, I suppose it's all sound advice and worth considering. And I will, just as soon as I can get past these other 19 things on my plate.

# Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



## 5 YEARS AGO (2015)

Longtime Owendale Village President Walter Howard was honored as grand marshal of the Owendale Heritage Festival grand parade over the weekend. Dozens of current and former Owendale residents along with many others packed the main drag in Owendale Saturday for the community's first parade in more than three decades.

Cass City's 12u baseball team recently captured the North Branch "Summer in the Sandlot" tournament. They are: Lance Swiderski, Bryce Fernald, Ayden Torres, Matt Roth, Taylor Marshall, Coach Johnny Wiseman, Ryan Pisarek, Ryan DeLong, Noah Zaleski, Dale Kaake, Kenton Wiseman, Alex Perry, Malakii Moore and Coach Dieter Roth.

Cass City senior Mason Erla, a Michigan State University recruit, has collected about every baseball honor possible following his junior season. The Advertiser and Saginaw News Dream Team member and 2-time all-state performer has now caught the attention of several professional teams over the course of the summer. Among the pro teams that have expressed an interest in the kid with a powerful arm – not to mention his bat – are the Tigers, Reds, Rockies, Rangers, Cubs and Blue Jays. Both Toronto and Detroit had Erla on the Stryker gun at 91mph earlier this summer during a 97 pitch outing in Ann Arbor, which included 7 strike outs, zero walks, and 2 hits. Oh, by the way, Erla had one of his team's RBIs in the 2-0 victory.

## 10 YEARS AGO (2010)

Like typical teenagers, Quinn and Clay Daily have a lot on their plates with school, sports and hanging out with friends. But the Kingston area siblings also have a hobby that adds to their plate. Quinn, 16, and Clay, 14, have been involved in 4-H for most of their lives, gaining a daily routine of responsibilities and learning about work ethics. Both siblings are a part of the 5 Star Livestock 4-H Club and will be showcasing their animals at this year's Tuscola County Fair. Quinn will be showing lambs, pigs and a feeder, while Clay will show a steer, a feeder, pigs and lambs.

The Cass City Village Council hopes that the third time will be the charm and that Peter J. Cristiano, who has been offered the job pending background checks, will be the new Cass City village manager. He's ready to start immediately. He was named in a close 4-3 vote after interview meetings were held Saturday morning with 2 of the final 4 candidates. Although Cristiano was offered the job by the narrowest of margins, there did not appear to be a vehement objection to Cristiano. Lambert Althaver and Mick Kim voted no because Rick Mohr, another finalist, had not been interviewed. He was on vacation with his family in the Upper Peninsula

## 25 YEARS AGO (1995)

Mother Nature turned ugly Thursday afternoon with a fierce storm that descended on the Thumb with lightning speed, downing scores of trees, toppling barns and other structures and cutting power to scores of residents. There were a number of reported funnel cloud sightings, but none were confirmed. Locally, winds exceeding 60 miles per hour knocked trees down onto garages and other structures in Cass City. Downed limbs made some streets impassable, but there were no reports of serious injuries.

Kathleen J. Bolton of Cass City has graduated from Grand Valley State University, Allendale, with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She recently moved to Washington, D.C., where she will begin graduate studies at George Washington University. She plans to earn a master's degree in higher education administration. Bolton, a 1991 graduate of Cass City High School, is the daughter of Jim and Sandra Bolton of Cass City.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Nemeth an-

nounce the birth of a great-granddaughter, Aurora Leigh Baudoin, June 27. Aurora and her mother, Francis, are doing well and are at home in San Diego with her father, Brian. Grandparents are Keith and Gail Baudoin of Clifton, Va., who will soon be relocating to Las Vegas.

## 35 YEARS AGO (1985)

Mr. and Mrs. Lester (Donna) Auten, Cass City, announce the birth of a daughter, Laura Elizabeth, July 12 in Hills and Dales General Hospital. She weighed eight pounds and 15 ounces. Grandparents are Lester and Bev Auten and James and Yvonne Burleson.

Small world department: Aaron Asher, son of the John Ashers in Florida, attended a camp recently and the counsellor wore a T-shirt telling about Brewster Shaw, astronaut. Because the Ashers hail from Cass City and Brewster Shaw does, too, Aaron asked if the counsellor came from Cass City. The answer was yes and Aaron said that he used to live in Cass City, too. The counsellor is Mark Shaw, who now lives in Florida and his parents live in Cass City. Further discussion revealed that Mark knew David Asher, the youth's uncle.

## 40 YEARS AGO (1980)

The S T & H service station which had stood at the southeast corner of Main and Seeger Streets since about 1928 was demolished Monday. The Pinney State Bank next door has purchased the property, according to Fred Pinney, but plans for its use are still indefinite. Rooney Contracting Co. of Bad Axe did the demolition.

Mr. and Mrs. Meredith Auten had as guests last week, her daughter, Mrs. Michael Mulligan and children of Arlington Heights, Ill., and Mrs. Auten's son, John Starmann of White Pigeon. Mr. Mulligan joined them on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Root took their grandson, Paul McKee of Lapeer, who had spent the week with them, to Camp Washakee near Burnside on Saturday to join his family who were there from Thursday until Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Stafford returned home July 10 from Brockville, Ont., where they had been guests of friends Mr. and Mrs. Jack Moulson since July 2. The Staffords celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary July 1. While in Brockville, they attended a reunion of students who had attended the Brockville Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, which Mrs. Stafford had attended.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Decker of Cass City announce the engagement of their daughter, Paula Diane, to Douglas J. Koning. He is the son of Harold Koning of Gobies and Mary Koning of Portage. Miss Decker graduated from Cass City High School in 1973 and Ferris State College in 1979. She is employed as medical records director at Three Rivers Hospital, south of Kalamazoo. Her fiancé is a 1979 graduate of Ferris State and is a crew chief for Southwest Survey Co. of Paw Paw. An Oct. 25 wedding is planned at St. Pancratius Catholic church in Cass City.

## 50 YEARS AGO (1970)

In the nine years Clarence and Russ Schneeberger have been in business together in Cass City they have celebrated several openings. The opening coincided with the regular expansion that their business required. This weekend the most recent celebration starts. It marks the completion of an attractive new front and more store floor space at the store. Special prices and free gifts are offered for the opening event.

Miss Phyllis Ewald, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ewald, left Metropolitan Airport Monday en route to Monrovia, Liberia, where she will spend six weeks. Her address is: Mid-Liberia Baptist Mission, Monrovia, Liberia. The local Baptist Sunday School is conducting a campaign during July to help pay Miss Ewald's expenses for the missionary trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Damm had as weekend guests at their cottage at Sand Point, Miss Frances Diebel of Pigeon, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Tropic, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jezewski and Maurice Joos. Other Saturday evening guests there were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Haist of Pigeon and Mr. and Mrs. Grant Ball.

A graduation exercise will be held at Murray Hall, Caro State Home and Training School, July 23, at 8:00 p.m. for 30 attendant nurses. The speaker for the evening will be Dr. Joseph C. Denniston, Superintendent at Caro State Home. Among the persons from the Cass City area completing the Michigan Department of Mental Health Approved Course of Instruction for Attendant Nurses under the direction of Mrs. Fred Campbell, R. N. were: Sharon Alien, Sharon Delong, Marion O'Dell, Opal Turner and Richard Turner and Sharon Daudel of Deford.

## 75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Dudley C. Mosure, who resigned as pastor of the Cass City Methodist church and entered the army as a chaplain a year ago, was promoted from the rank of First Lieutenant to that of Captain on June 16th last. He is now stationed at Camp Philadelphia near Reims, France. Mrs. Mosure and little daughter, Elizabeth, are making their home at Onondaga, Mich.

Pfc. Cecil J. Whittaker, 22, of Cass City has returned from service outside the continental United States and is now being processed through the Army Ground and Service Forces Redistribution station in Miami Beach, where his next assignment will be determined. Pfc. Whittaker served for three months as a rifleman in the European theatre of operations. While there he was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat against the enemy, and the European campaign ribbon with one battle star. He became a member of the armed forces on Dec. 16, 1943.

Edward Baker, acting scoutmaster, Otto Prieskorn and Carl Reed took ten boys, members of the local Boy Scout troop, to Camp Rotary near Clare, Sunday where they will spend the week. July 22, the remainder of the troop members and some of the boys who went Sunday to Camp Rotary, will go there to spend a week. The boys who left Sunday are Jack Ryland, Jerry Prieskorn, Jim Baker, Dale Reed, Chas. Kercher, Elwyn Raisin, Jack Douglas and Dean Karr from Cass City and Donald Loomis and Wm. Burrows of Gagetown.

Lt. Mary Barnes, who has been stationed as an army nurse for some time in England, is spending a 30-day leave with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Asa Wilcox, in Detroit, and visited her parents-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Barnes, here, last week. She arrived in New York on the Queen Elizabeth. Following her leave she will go into the Pacific for duty.

## 100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Fifty cents for the kids to spend on fireworks make up a grand and glorious Fourth of July, and it was believed that the hours which make up the national holiday should begin and end the use of fireworks for the year. Much water has flowed under the bridge since those old-fashioned days, however and today fireworks are used not alone on the great fete day of the United States of America, but on every other notable patriotic occasion, and at many public celebrations. Only little Johnnie and his sister Sue no longer burn their tiny fingers on firecrackers, squibs, pinwheels and Roman candles.

While many of the smaller towns of Michigan have shown a decrease of population in late years through loss of citizens who have moved to the large cities of the state, Cass City's population for the 1920 census shows an increase of 102 people, or 9.1 per cent over the figures of the previous census. The 1920 census gives Cass City's population as 1,228. These figures were obtained from the Census Bureau through the kindness of Louis C. Cramton, congressman of the 7th district.



**TUSCOLA COUNTY Sheriff Glen Skrent Thursday posted a "thank you" on Facebook, recognizing Team One Credit Union for the gift certificates the business presented to every sheriff's department employee to be used at Club 24, so they support a local business in the county. Pictured above are (from left) Martin Hall of Team One, Lt. Ted Hull, Lt. Brian Harris and Kelsey Connors-Brown, also of Team One. "In this day and age, it's nice to know we have public support. It is appreciated," Skrent said.**

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## News briefs

### Green is chair of national panel

THUMB — State Rep. Phil Green (R-Millington) was recently appointed as chair of a panel within a national organization that will enable him to help shape proposals designed to benefit Michigan's farm families.

Green, who represents the 84th District (Tuscola and Huron counties) was appointed to lead the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) agricultural subcommittee, which is part of the organization's Energy, Environment and Agriculture Task Force.

ALEC is a membership organization for state legislators dedicated to limited government and free markets. The organization is designed to help legislators exchange ideas on public policy.

"Agriculture is the backbone of Huron and Tuscola counties — and it has been for generations," Green said. "This appointment is a perfect fit, and I am confident it will help us develop ideas to help keep farming strong for generations to come."

ALEC officials say their Energy, Environment and Agriculture Task Force helps "promote the mutually beneficial link between a robust economy and a healthy environment."

The task force works to develop model policy related to agricultural technology, regulatory reform, air and water quality, rural development and several other areas.

### Dual enrollment info night set

CARO — Thanks to a special program available in the Thumb, it's not unusual for area students to graduate high school with several college credits already under their belts.

Under dual enrollment programs, high school students take college classes along with their high school studies.

For those who would like to learn more about that program, Mid Michigan College will host a Dual Enrollment Parents Night Tuesday, July 28, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Tuscola Technology Center, 1401 Cleaver Rd., Caro.

On that night, representatives from Mid Michigan College will be on hand to talk to high school students and their parents about the benefits of dual enrollment at the Tuscola Technology Center during the 2020-21 school year, said Todd Laventure, tech center principal and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center Director.

### Senate okays Daley election bill

LANSING — The Michigan Senate recently approved legislation introduced by Senator Kevin Daley that is designed to protect the integrity of elections in the state.

"The people of Michigan need to have confidence that their elections are being conducted honestly, and that they can trust the results — win or lose," said Daley (R-Lum), whose 31st District includes Tuscola County. "With the secretary of state's recent decision to mail absentee ballot request forms to every name on their lists, we need to increase efforts that ensure our elections are not compromised."

"There is a lot of concern about election integrity within our system right now," Daley added.

Daley's legislation would make it a felony for someone to knowingly submit another person's name or personal identity information on a ballot application or knowingly submit an absent voter ballot application with the intent to attempt to obtain multiple ballots.

"Elections are an important part of our form of government and we need to take them seriously. Our government is based off the idea that the people choose their elected voices," Daley said. "This is a good step toward decreasing illegal activity and protecting the integrity and security of our votes. This legislation makes it clear that anyone who tries to rig our elections will have to pay the price for their actions."

### Sanilac commissioners up wages

SANILAC COUNTY — Sanilac County Commissioners approved wage increases during a recent meeting. The board authorized a pay hike of 1.75 percent for elected officials, effective July 1.

Those increases affect the following wages: the treasurer will receive \$60,953, while the drain commissioner will be paid \$55,590; the prosecutor, \$100,056; the register of deeds, \$58,407; the clerk, \$61,862; and the sheriff, \$76,905.

In other money matters, the commissioners authorized updating the county's 911 recording system by accepting a bid from Word system Inc., for \$8,717.00. The upgrade will be funded by the 911 millage fund account.

The board also approved purchasing from Pro Comm Inc. four sets of vehicle equipment to outfit the 2020 Ford Police Interceptor vehicles at a cost of \$9,295 per vehicle for a total cost not to exceed \$37,181.

Funds for the purchase will come out of the sheriff department's vehicle equipment fund.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

### Daley bill offers support for state's disabled citizens

The Michigan Senate Health Policy and Human Services Committee last week heard testimony on legislation sponsored by 31st District state Senator Kevin Daley that is designed to help disabled individuals get the products and services they need.

"This legislation will create stronger safeguards and help those with severe disabilities throughout the state," said Daley (R-Lum), whose district is comprised of Bay, Lapeer and Tuscola counties. "The goal is to help individuals who need specifically configured medical equipment... get the items they need to go about their daily lives."

Daley was joined by Barry Cargill, president and CEO of the Michigan HomeCare and Hospice Association, during the testimony.

"Senator Daley's legislation ensures access to critical complex rehabilitation technology services to improve health and quality of life for children and adults with significant disabilities," Cargill said.

Senate Bill 855 would require the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to establish policies and rules for complex rehabilitation technology (CRT) products and services. The legislation would create a separate recognition for CRT within the Medicaid program to improve access to these critical products and related services for children and adults with significant disabilities.

The bill includes equipment such as complex rehabilitation manual and power wheelchairs and options or accessories, and other specialized equipment.

"For those with severe physical disabilities, access to high quality specialized equipment is so important for improving their quality of life and minimizing health care costs," Daley said.

The committee is expected to continue taking testimony on Daley's legislation in the coming weeks.

## Cass City officials keeping a close eye on pandemic funding impact

by Mary Drier  
For the Chronicle

After months of being at odds over pretty much everything, Michigan lawmakers and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced a bipartisan budget agreement last week.

Local governments, including officials in the village of Cass City, meanwhile, are continuing to get a handle on how state finances and the COVID-19 pandemic will impact local finances.

The state budget agreement includes some reductions this year, allocation of COVID-19 Relief Fund (CRF) dollars, and outlines provisions for CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act funding for Michigan schools and educators, universities and community colleges, and local governments to address the significant costs stemming from the pandemic.

"COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on our state budget," Whitmer said. "This agreement provides crucial funding for Michigan families, schools, and communities grappling with costs incurred as a result of the virus."

The agreement outlines that \$3.1 billion of the CRF is being allocated to support Michigan's businesses, workers and residents to offset the costs incurred from the pandemic.

Even with those funds, there are still needs.

"We are committed to working together to address the remaining shortfalls in next year's budget, and we are looking to our partners in Congress for support to help maintain the essential services relied upon by our families and small businesses," said Whitmer.

Of the \$3.1 billion, \$375 million will go for hazard pay for public safety employees, health care workers, and teachers; \$530 mil-

lion to support schools; \$200 million to support universities and colleges; \$153 million to support businesses; and \$256 million for childcare, rental and other individual assistance programs.

In addition, the budget includes \$648 million for public health emergency response and \$475 for state public health safety. Another \$94 million has not been allocated yet.

In an effort to address the \$2.2 billion combined general fund and school aid shortfall funds, state officials plan to allocate \$350 million from the state's rainy day fund, and \$490 million in savings that was achieved through the state's hiring and discretionary spending freezes, layoffs and other identified savings in state government.

The state reported reductions of \$256 million in state aid to schools as well as a \$97 million reduction in state funds funneled to local governments.

The latter is an issue Cass City Village Clerk-Treasurer Nanette Walsh has been closely monitoring and addressed during last week's monthly village council meeting.

Walsh outlined what she has noticed so far: April's revenue sharing for Cass City totaled \$43,699, which is \$1,035 less than what was expected, and June's revenue sharing will be \$39,133 (\$3,511 less). August's revenue sharing check is also expected to be less than expected.

Walsh's financial report noted village taxes have been printed and mailed. About 30 percent of the tax bills are sent directly to escrow companies that collect enough money along with mortgage payments to pay the property taxes.

According to the financial report, industrial facilities tax abatement certificates will decrease by \$4,059 from the 2019 tax year, stemming from the parcels' depre-

ciation without current or future ones to replace them.

Also, Walsh reported taxable receivables will be about \$4,724 less compared to the \$893,847 recorded in 2019.

In other business last week, the council:

\*Approved the purchase of a Ford Police Interceptor Unity AWD from Signature Ford for \$36,499.

\*Approved a bid of \$38,300 from AJ Rehms and Son Inc., Bay City, for the M-81 sidewalk project. The 660 feet of sidewalk will be installed along M-81 from the video store to the Forward Corporation's west parking lot, as well as some sidewalk work along the post office.

\*Authorized a payment of \$5,000 to the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation.

\*Approved a three-year contract with Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt and Doran to conduct the village's audit at a cost of \$13,900 for the first year, \$14,000 the second year, and \$14,000 for the third year, along with a yearly fee of \$800 for the Michigan Department of Treasury Report F-16, and \$500 for the GASB#75 report.

\*Noted Townley Engineering was paid \$11,000 to map all of the village's pipes, manholes, pump stations, force mains and treatment facilities.

\*Noted Jeff Hook has joined the village's police department. He replaces an officer who resigned to accept a position with the Port Austin Police Department.

\*Noted some new laws have been in the works for ordinance codes, and an updated draft ordinance will be presented by the planning commission Wednesday, July 15, at 7 p.m. at the municipal building. Among the items being addressed are ordinances to regulate golf carts, ATVs and ORV use in the village.

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This will be ExcelDance Studio's first outdoor recital but we are certainly grateful to our dedicated dance families, our community & staff for allowing us to have positive finish to our Dance season. Especially, in these ever changing times. We are always so grateful for this community and its continued support.

**Thank you to our incredible Dance families, students, staff, community, Cass city Rotary, Cass City Village & Cass City Schools for allowing us to use the Football Field. Matt Prieskorn for making sure the facilities are ready for use & Reed Keyser for doing our sound & tech.**

## Promise to students alive, well

**Continued from page one.**

college/trade school savings account for every Cass City student.

The team's mission is two-fold; first to promote a community-wide culture in which local students and their families focus on, prepare and save for post-secondary (high school) education — whether that involves a college degree, certificate or specialized career training — and secondly to provide some financial support for every student.

In the process, backers say, the Cass City PROMISE program will expand opportunities for students, increase local enrollment, and enhance economic growth and development in the community by attracting business and increasing the number of well-trained workers.

"It's not just about students; it's about revitalizing the whole community," Cass City PROMISE Team member Janet Richards commented in the fall. Unlike many scholarship programs, she added, participation in the local "promise" program will be offered to every Cass City student, including new students enrolled in subsequent years.

Organizers plan to have the program in place starting with the 2020-21 school year.

Richards was quick to say the effort was the brainchild of two longtime Cass City residents who have remained active in and worked to better the community for decades.

"During the spring of 2019, Geraldine Prieskorn and Ben Varney...rekindled a conversation they had shared over the past several years...a desire for the establishment of a Cass City PROMISE," she said. "Knowing that (it) would stimulate a positive community transformation and provide a post-secondary culture and financial support for all Cass City graduates, Geraldine and Ben believed that hard work on a 'promise' would yield life-enhancing dividends."

Since the introduction of the Kalamazoo Public School District's Promise Scholarship Program in 2005, public school districts across the country have announced similar initiatives, offering college scholarships for students who attend their public schools for a set period of time.

Promise programs seek to transform communities by making a long-term investment in education through scholarships for local students. They work to expand access to and ensure success in higher education, deepen the college-going culture in both the K-12 system and community as a whole, and support local community economic development.

Currently there are 80-plus promise programs across the country, including about 20 in Michigan. And while a number of those programs have been established in urban areas, there are also successful examples in smaller communities. One of them was established in the Baldwin Community Schools, a district with an enrollment of roughly 435 students in northern lower Michigan.

Today, the Kalamazoo Promise program — created by anonymous donors to provide every Kalamazoo High School graduate of the district with a scholarship (full tuition for students who have attended the district for their entire K-12 education) — has paid out \$117 million, sending roughly 7,000 students to four-year universities or community colleges.

### Cass City program

The Cass City PROMISE program is modeled loosely on the Kalamazoo program, although on a much smaller scale to start.

In a nutshell, the Cass City PROMISE program will incorporate two funding mechanisms, with the first being a savings account called the Red Hawk Nest Egg.

"We're aiming for a \$50 donation (for each student) initially. It's a little under \$4,000 per grade, or \$50,000," explained Prieskorn, who said the planning team has already received some informal commitments in its effort to raise that \$50,000. Team members will also be launching a campaign aimed at local service clubs and other organizations and businesses

in hopes that groups will commit to sponsoring individual grades for one or more years.

Richards said it's hoped sponsors will not only financially support students, but also take an active role by participating in activities such as mentoring.

"There's been a good reception to it," commented Jeff Hartel, another Cass City PROMISE Team member and superintendent of the Cass City Public Schools.

Team members say fundraisers will be an integral part of the effort.

Students, meanwhile, will take an active role in the program by participating in fundraisers. However, rather than focusing on selling products, those activities will emphasize service projects within the community, according to Richards, who said the motivation for students will be earning incentive donations that will grow their accounts.

Students are also expected to qualify for incentive funding by donating to their own deposit-only promise savings accounts.

Richards, a retired veteran Huron Intermediate School District administrator and current member of the Cass City Board of Education, acknowledged a start-up \$50 education savings account doesn't sound significant. But she cited studies showing that children with just \$500 or less saved for college are three times more likely to go to college or enter other specialized training, and four times more likely to graduate than those without savings. Parents and children with early savings also have greater expectations for post-secondary education plans, she noted.

The second component of the Cass City PROMISE is a scholarship fund to be shared by all Cass City graduates. Named the Red Hawk Flight program, details of the scholarship component will be ironed out in the future as the fund is established and grows to the point of awarding grants, but team members say they have high hopes the fund will eventually provide local graduates with sizeable scholarships.

The team behind the Cass City PROMISE is 11 members strong, with each teammate bringing their own expertise and experience to the table.

In addition to Prieskorn, Varney, Richards and Hartel, the committee consists of local attorney Michelle Biddinger, retired school employee and longtime AAUW member Judy Brown, Cass City Village President Dan Delamarter, Cass City Schools guidance Counselor Christin Hempton, local businessman Jim Kranz, Cindy Kruse of Thumb Bank and Trust, and Cass City teacher Ryan Walker.



**MEETING LAST week at Cass City High School to sign the memorandum of understanding for the Cass City PROMISE program were (from left) Melissa Anderson, executive director of the Sanilac County Community Foundation; Ben Varney, PROMISE team member; Cindy Kruse, senior vice president, Thumb Bank and Trust; Geraldine Prieskorn, PROMISE team member; and Jeff Hartel, superintendent, Cass City Public Schools.**

## McLaren touts new mammography unit

McLaren Caro Region officials recently announced they are now offering 3D tomosynthesis mammography, a revolutionary screening and diagnostic tool designed for early detection of breast cancer.

Until recently, the best mammogram was a digital mammogram, officials said.

Featuring next generation technology, tomosynthesis 3D imaging acquires a series of images of the compressed breast at different angles. The system produces images that represent thin slices of the breast, allowing radiologists to view slices one millimeter at a time with clarity never before possible.

Now, when combined with conventional 2D digital mammography, breast cancer screening with tomosynthesis has a higher cancer detection rate than conventional 2D digital mammography alone.

"We are proud to bring the latest technology to our community," said Marc Augsburger, CEO of McLaren Caro Region. "As is the case with all cancers, the earlier breast cancer is detected, the greater the chances of survival are. With 3D mammography, changes in breast tissue can be identified at times even years before they are noticeable by a patient or a provider."

Leading-edge 3D mammography technology is particularly beneficial to women with dense breast tissue, which can potentially hide

tumors within its fibro-glandular structures. The clarity provided by 3D mammography also decreases the occurrences of false positives, eliminating the anxiety of follow-

up mammograms.

Individuals may schedule their 3D mammography screening by contacting McLaren Caro Region at (989) 672-5111.

## Two festivals still planned

by Mary Drier  
For the Chronicle

While many of the summer festivals have been canceled, plans are moving forward for two events in Fairgrove.

The first is a "food truck rally" slated for Friday, July 17, from 4 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, July 18, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, July 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The weekend will also feature crafters and vendors at Mulberry Park, 1933 Liberty St., Fairgrove.

Also this summer, organizers say the annual Michigan Bean Festival along with the crowning of the next Michigan Bean Queen will go on as planned.

The Michigan Bean Festival Committee and the Michigan Bean Commission are seeking applicants for the 72nd Michigan Bean Queen contest. Applications for the next queen will be accepted until Aug. 1.

The selection committee will review all the applications and narrow the competition down to the most qualified candidates. Applicants must be a high school graduate, between the ages of 17 and 25 years of age, and be a single female. An agricultural background is not required.

The festival is held over Labor Day weekend.

The woman who is crowned as the 2020 Michigan Bean Queen will receive a \$1,250 scholarship for college, a plaque, crown, sash and official photograph.

As the bean queen, she will be required to attend a minimum of ten events throughout the year, representing the Michigan Dry Bean Industry.

The first runner-up, meanwhile, will receive a \$750 scholarship for college and the same gifts as the queen.

More information and applications are available by emailing [mbeanfestival@gmail.com](mailto:mbeanfestival@gmail.com), or by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (989) 259-0595.

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**GARAGE SALE** - Scrub tops, Christmas, a lot of everything. July 9th & 10th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 6378 Argyle Rd. 14-7-8-1

**ESTATE SALE** - 6427 Chestnut Blvd. - Northwood Estates, Cass City. Joyce Cameron Home. Thursday, July 16 & Friday, July 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. & Saturday, July 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Like new lift chair, double glider, mid century sofa & matching chair, end tables and coffee table, mid century lamps, dining room table with 4 chairs, china hutch, antique oak bed and dresser, misc. dressers, wall unit, kitchenware, costume jewelry, over 200 Barbies (1970s-present) strawberry shortcake, large selection of goofus glass, depression glass, entire set of amber, lots of nice Christmas including a 9 foot tree. The house is packed! Sale by Aunt Netty's Nook 989-550-8484. 14-7-8-1

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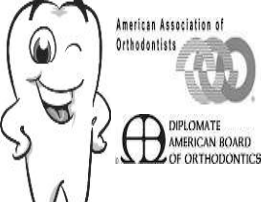
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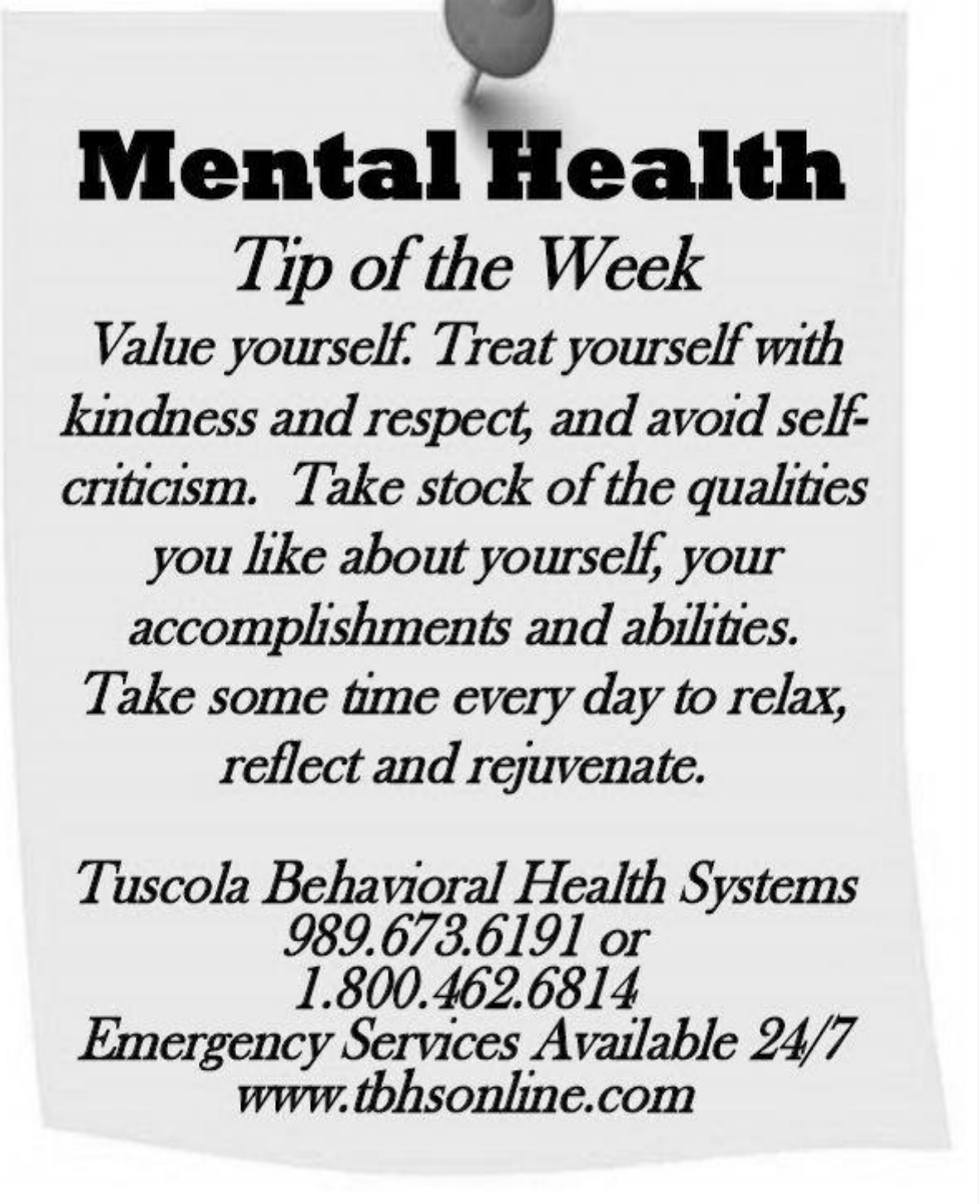
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**THE CASS City Rotary Club hosted the Mysterians (above) Friday night as part of its annual Music in Rotary Park summer concerts, which will feature a variety of music acts over the next few weeks. A schedule and more information are available on the Rotary Club's Facebook page.**

## Scholarship winners named

Seven area students have recently been selected by the Anthony L. Rapas Memorial/Huron County Dairy Promotions Board of Trustees to be added to the elite list of Anthony L. Rapas Memorial Scholarship winners.

Students receiving the 2020 scholarships are: Addy Battel, Robby Iseler, Hannah Schroeder, Sierra Schumacher, Emily Sheldon, Kaylynn Stanton and Joshua Wehner.

Battel is the daughter of Sue Stuever-Battel and Bob Battel of Cass City. She will be attending Michigan State University, majoring in animal science and environmental studies and sustainability. Battel is home schooled and is actively involved in the Boots and Bling 4-H and Cows-N-Clovers 4-H clubs, and the FFA program.

Iseler is the son of Robby and Ticia Iseler of Port Hope. He will be attending the University of Northwestern Ohio, majoring in diesel and ag technology. He attends North Huron High School.

Schroeder is the daughter of David and Amy Schroeder. She will be attending Michigan State University, majoring in livestock industries. Schroeder attends Uby Community High School and is actively involved in the Country Corners 4-H Club and the Uby FFA program.

Schumacher is the daughter of Matt and Jacquetta Schipinski of Bad Axe. She plans to attend University of Findlay, majoring in western training and riding. Schumacher attends North Huron High School, where she is actively involved in both the Rebel Riders 4-H and North Huron 4-H clubs, as well as the North Huron FFA program.

Sheldon is the daughter of Marshall and DeLilah Sheldon of Gagetown. She plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University, majoring in veterinary medicine. Sheldon attends Bad Axe High School and is actively involved in the 4-Leaf Clovers 4-H Club and the Bad Axe FFA program.

Stanton is the daughter of Charles and Danielle Stanton of Kinde. She plans to attend the University of Findlay, majoring in equine business and management. Stanton attends North Huron High School, where she is actively involved in the North Huron FFA program.

Wehner is the son of Mike and Amy Wehner of Pigeon. He plans to attend Central Michigan University, majoring in environmental economics and management. He attends Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker High School and is actively involved in the Laker FFA program.

The Anthony L. Rapas/Huron County Dairy Promotions Board of Trustees selects scholarship recipients who are outstanding individuals planning to continue their educations in an agricultural area.

Anthony L. "Tony" Rapas was an agricultural agent in Huron County with Michigan State University Extension for 15 years until the time of his death in 1980.

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