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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 114, NUMBER 25

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

.75 CENTS - 10 PAGES

School chief on the first day of school: a success

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

After months of planning, Cass City School officials faced the first day of a new school year Monday morning with confidence laced with a helping of uncertainty and a little anxiety.

In the end, however, all the discussion and preparation paid off.

That was Cass City School Supt. Jeff Hartel's assessment.

"It's been a successful day," Hartel commented. "I'm very pleased.

Overall, it went very smoothly."

Hartel credited that success to district employees across the board, from custodians and bus drivers, to the food service staff, to the teachers and support personnel.

"It's been a total team effort; everybody really stepped up, everybody's done their job," he added. "It (preparing for school in the midst of a pandemic) has been exhausting. It's been mentally tough, but it's been worth it.

"I want to commend the kids for

obeying the rules (and) coming to school with masks. And the staff prepared themselves well. They put in a lot of extra work to learn how to teach virtually," Hartel continued.

Towards that end, Hartel updated

the Cass City Board of Education on student numbers during a regular monthly virtual meeting Monday night, saying roughly 18 percent (175 kids) of the district's 956 students opted to attend school virtually online, while the

remaining students – about 782 – are physically attending classes as of this week.

Hartel noted this week's enrollment represents a loss of 40 students compared to last fall.

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Clerk: mail general election ballots early

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

When it comes to mailing in ballots for the Tuesday, Nov. 4, general election, area residents would be wise to heed the saying, "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late."

That's according to Tuscola County Clerk Jodi Fetting, who says she's encouraging voters to get their ballots in as early as possible in order to avoid delays in mail delivery left in the wake of U.S. Postal Service (USPS) cuts in recent weeks.

Those cuts were ordered by new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, an appointee of President Donald Trump.

DeJoy's administration has been criticized for significantly slowing mail delivery across the country via a number of cost-cutting measures, including taking some high-speed letter sorters (machines that can sort about 270,000 pieces of mail per hour) out of commission, reducing post office operating hours across several states, cutting overtime for postal workers and removing a number of the service's iconic blue letter collection boxes, all in the name of restructuring. DeJoy also told election officials that mail-in ballots would no longer automatically be moved as priority mail.

Democrats alleged the new policies were intended to impede mail-in balloting, while DeJoy has denied the accusation, saying the changes are designed to address a dire financial situation with the postal service, which issued a warning to nearly every state indicating slowdowns in delivery could cause ballots to show up late and not be counted.

Last week, DeJoy announced the postal service cost-cutting measures have now been halted until after the general election in November.

The abrupt turnaround came in the wake of widespread criticism, with at least 20 Democratic state attorneys general announcing plans to sue DeJoy, the USPS and President Donald Trump in an effort to halt the changes.

In the wake of mail service cuts already implemented, however, voters who plan to mail-in their ballots may have some concerns about making sure their votes are counted.

"We usually have a large (amount of) mail Monday, even during COVID, and the last two weeks (it's) been about half. So, yes, that does make me nervous," Fetting acknowledged.

"I would encourage people to give two weeks lead time to mail (ballots) back to the Clerk," she said. "That is not anything in law; it is just

Please turn to page 7.



CASS CITY Elementary School second grade teacher Emily Baur welcomes students and helps them make lunch choices Monday morning as the local school district opened its doors for the first day of the 2020-21 school year.

Foundation distributes spring grants

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Tuscola County Community Foundation (TCCF) officials last week announced the recipients of thousands of dollars in grants across the county in conjunction with the foundation's annual spring funding distribution.

"We were sorry that we could not host an awards ceremony due to the pandemic conditions, but a total of \$102,379 has been awarded to...various nonprofit

projects," said TCCF Executive Director John Hunter.

"Additionally, 113 scholarships totaling \$158,176 has been awarded to high school students in Tuscola County attending Akron-Fairgrove, Caro, Cass City, Kingston, Mayville, Millington, Reese, USA and Vassar schools," Hunter added. "Our congratulations and best wishes to all 2020 graduates."

The following grants were approved for spring 2020:

*Janks (William A. and Ruth)

Fund — \$2,500 to the Tuscola Homeless Coalition (housing assistance paid directly to landlords); \$3,750 to St. Christopher Parish Food Pantry (to provide emergency food); \$5,000 to the Good Samaritan Fund of Tuscola County churches (to provide emergency food, utility, transportation, housing and medical assistance); \$4,000 to the Millington Community Center (building repairs); \$5,000 to the Tuscola Intermediate School District (ISD)

Please turn to page 8.

Sebewaing teen loses life in crash

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A Sebewaing teen lost his life in a motorcycle accident last Wednesday night in Huron County's Sebewaing Township.

Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson reported the officers responded to the scene – a field driveway off of Gettel Road, about a half-mile south of Rescue Road – at about 8:15 p.m.

"With life-saving efforts in progress, the 16-year-old young man (driver) from Sebewaing was taken to Scheurer Hospital for emergency treatment," Hanson said. "Sadly, he did not survive the accident.

"From witness accounts and investigation, it was determined that he was riding his Enduro motorcycle on Gettel Road when he turned into a field driveway and lost control. He then separated from the motorcycle and impacted with a signpost," said the sheriff, who noted the victim was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.



VETERAN CASS City teacher Linda Bailey made the difficult decision to retire this year following a career in education spanning 45 years. Bailey says she felt cheated after the COVID-19 pandemic ended the 2019-20 school year prematurely, robbing her of the opportunity to say goodbye to her sixth grade students.

Veteran educator Linda Bailey ready for a busy retirement in Cass City

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

When it comes to teaching, you could say Linda Bailey was "old school" in the classroom. She had specific expectations of her students, had no qualms about calling out bullying and other unacceptable behavior in a hallway, and always made a point of reminding the kids that respect works both ways.

But Bailey also proved herself to be an innovator during her 40-year career in the Cass City Public Schools by getting in on the ground floor of helping to design some aspects of the floor plan during construction of a new middle school, now known as Cass City Elementary School. She also played a key role in organizing the district's annual eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C.

These days, Bailey is getting ready to taste retirement after submitting her resignation to the local school board.

It's a bittersweet decision that came after much deliberation, she said.

"I truly love teaching and seeing that 'lightbulb' go off – not without frustration and regulation, but at the end of the day, it's about the kids. Well, staff, too, all of them. They are special people and have been the strength I needed and was able to lean on during the 40 years here in Cass City," Bailey commented as she wrapped up some tasks in her classroom last week.

"It goes without saying I am feeling a bit broken about leaving," she added. "Saying goodbye to my family is sad. I will miss the kids,

Please turn to page 8.

Owendale citizens may be facing utility rate increases in the future

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Owendale Village residents may be in for a rate increase related to municipal utilities in the future.

Last month, Owendale Village Clerk Randall Howard and DPW Supt. Steven Sweatland met with Michigan Rural Water Association representative John Monsees to conduct a water and sewer rate analysis of village rates.

During the August village meeting, Howard reported on that meeting and distributed a copy of the analysis report to the council.

"The analysis revealed the need to increase both water and sewer rates in order to provide the fund-

ing necessary to maintain the systems properly," Howard told the council, noting there are some recommendations in the report.

Council members decided they needed time to review and consider the Michigan Rural Water Association's recommendations before making a decision.

According to Howard, the council could take action on the proposed recommendations at the next village meeting.

"The last increase was in April 2016, with an increase from \$5 to \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons," Howard said. Because a recent request for a grant to help pay off the water tower was denied, he added, the village still owes \$98,000 on the

principal balance. That debt isn't scheduled to be paid off until 2032.

In other business, a request was presented to the council from the DPW superintendent to purchase a set of cordless power tools for the village at a cost of \$875. The council took no action on the request, opting instead to wait until Sweatland returned from vacation to ask him questions on the proposed purchase.

Also, Owendale Police Chief Anthony Wood reported he had six complaints last month — all ordinance related. Wood said he sent a letter to the owner of the former tile plant, instructing him to cut down weeds on his property.

Bader bound over on charges

A former Cass City man accused of attempting to meet with an individual he believed was a 14-year-old boy in Bay City early this year returned to Tuscola County District Court last week for a rescheduled preliminary examination.

Jeffery L. Bader, 47, of Caro, was subsequently bound over to Tuscola County Circuit Court Friday on felony charges of using a computer to commit a crime and accosting a child for immoral purposes. His next court appearance will be a pre-trial hearing, which is yet to be scheduled.

Using a computer to commit a crime is punishable by up to seven years in prison, while accosting a child for immoral purposes carries a maximum four-year prison term.

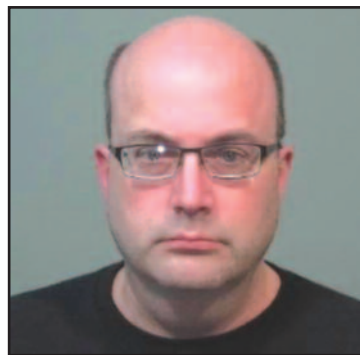
Bader remains free on bond, which was set at \$20,000 (10 per-

cent). Conditions placed on his bond include orders that he have no contact with minor children in any manner. He is also prohibited from accessing the Internet.

The charges followed an investigation launched by Caro police after the department along with the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department received numerous contacts from alarmed citizens who had viewed a YouTube video posted on Facebook Feb. 1.

The video starts out with the depiction of online conversations, allegedly between the suspect and an individual identifying themselves as a 14-year-old boy. Later in the video, after the two allegedly make arrangements to meet in the parking lot of the YMCA in Bay City, the adult who posted the clip approaches the suspect's vehicle and confronts him.

Bader is perhaps best known in the Cass City area for his longtime affiliation with the Youth For Christ organization as a Campus Life director for the Cass City and Kingston areas. He also served as a youth camp counselor and as a youth leader for Christian clubs organized in area school districts, including Cass City.



Jeffery Bader



Join us at the Parks and Recreation Community Meeting!

Who: Community members & organizations, parents, students, etc.

What: Public meeting to share input about the parks and our future goals

When: Wednesday, August 26th at 7 p.m.

Where: Cass City Lions Pavilion in Municipal Park

Why: To create Parks & Rec Plan for the next 5 years

Cut out and return to the Municipal Building

Village of Cass City Parks and Recreation Survey

Please return to the Municipal Building by Friday, September 4, 2020

As part of the Village of Cass City's 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan due to expire in December 2020, we are seeking community input on our Parks and Recreation facilities. We value your opinion and look forward to hearing from you. Thank you!

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Do you use the Pool Facilities, Pavillions, Park amenities, etc.? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Should playground equipment in the park be updated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Would you like to see camping in the park? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Would you like to see WiFi in the park? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Should the lighting in the park be improved? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Would you like to see the tennis courts renovated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Would you like to see a pickleball court in the park? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Would you like to see an outdoor winter ice rink constructed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Do you value the Helen Stevens Memorial Pool? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Do you value the Splash Park? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Do you value the Disc Golf Course? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Would you like to see the Day Camp Building updated and available all year for multipurpose use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Should Scotty McCullough Drive become a paved roadway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. Would you like to see better access to the Cass River created? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Comments: _____

Return to:
 Village of Cass City
 6506 Main St.
 Cass City, MI 48726
 Email: cvillage@casscity.org
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We value your input!


Cut out and return to the Municipal Building





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Through Mindfulness in Nature with:

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 From: True North Consulting in Traverse City, MI


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 Calm your Mind

Release your Stress

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 At: The Brentwood in Caro, MI
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FREE presentation for Adults only – snacks & sweets provided

10 person limit (at this time)
 Social Distanced Seating
 MASKS required



Not up for going out?
 Join Eric via Livestream
 On Facebook @TCHD.us

Register by Sept. 1st via email or phone
sluedtke@tchd.us or 989-673-1723 OR kpitts@hchd.us or 989-269-3319

*Hosted by the Empowering Youth Today Program with the Tuscola and Huron County Health Departments.

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In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Stop! Avoid a ticket and a traffic crash

Tuscola County law enforcement is ratcheting up its enforcement at intersections in an effort to reduce the number of traffic crashes resulting from drivers who run red lights.

It's a campaign well worth the cost in man hours, even if it saves just one life.

Officials at the Michigan State Police (MSP) post in Caro last week announced they are teaming up with local law enforcement agencies to address vehicles running red lights.

The enforcement effort follows numerous traffic complaints, according to troopers, who will be working alongside the Caro Police Department and deputies from the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department through the end of the year.

Running a red light is a civil infraction punishable by a \$110 fine plus three points assessed on your driving record.

But that isn't the most important reason to remain alert and especially cautious when approaching an intersection.

There were 6,018 crashes involving red-light-running during 2019 in Michigan, accounting for 1.9 percent of the total crashes but resulting in 25 people losing their lives and leaving another 4,037 people injured.

In the five-year period from 2015 to 2019, the number of red-light-running crashes increased 7.2 percent.

The recently-announced program increasing enforcement at intersections has the full support of Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent.

"We get complaints every beet season of large trucks going through the red lights," Skrent said. "They are only part of the problem; the number of cars running red lights seems to be increasing. Most likely the large trucks are more noticeable because of their size.

"I would like our agencies to also collaborate on our stop sign issue, which it also seems the number of injury crashes is increasing at intersections with stop signs," Skrent added. "Just last week a person I know was struck by two carloads of young persons playing chicken with their vehicles, coming from Caserville and (running) the stop sign at M-81 and Bradleyville Road. His vehicle was struck and rolled into the field.

"A friend of mine's mother was killed a little over a year ago at Gilford and Hinson roads by a subject running the stop sign."

Skrent recalled his days as a road officer, saying the worst intersection crashes occurred not on slippery, dark roadways, but under sunny skies with no weather conditions that would impact driving conditions.

"I think with the cell phone and all that entails, it takes drivers 'out of the moment' so to speak," he said. "When you're talking on the phone, even with hands free, your mind is focusing on responding to who you are talking to on the phone. And then there is the increase in alcohol and drug-related crashes."

While a special enforcement campaign may not prevent all accidents, it's a good way to remind drivers of the importance of avoiding distractions and remaining alert behind the wheel.

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Dogs = loving. Beware of cats



I'm a dog lover. Always have been and will always be. With so many people working from home because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the stay-at-home orders, people have been posting items about their dog's antics as well as adorable photos of them on social media.

It breaks my heart when I see posts about lost dogs and found dogs who lost their owners.

And, I enjoy reading Facebook postings about how dogs and cats view having people around the house all day because of the COVID-19 quarantine.

The Facebook posts say that dogs love having their owners home. They figure their owner must really love them because they quit their job to spend more time with them.

Cats, on the other hand, have a totally different take on the situation in the Facebook posts.

Cats being cats, would never refer to the furless human in their domain as their owner. That is beneath them.

Because they are cats, they feel having humans around all day is annoying. The Facebook posts have them searching for ways to re-home the human so they can have the house to themselves.

I have found that dogs are the most faithful and loving companions. They didn't care when I gained weight. They didn't care when gray hair started replacing the black hair on my head. And, they just slowed their pace to match mine when I had to start using a walker to get around.

Over the years I have had several dogs. My last two dogs, Brandy and Sergeant, were very special.

Brandy loved sitting in front of me when I was driving my motorcycle. She loved going on the boat with me, going camping with me, and going swimming with me. She just loved being near me no matter what I was doing.

Then, there was Sergeant. He had his own personality. He was a big dog. He weighed about 130 pounds and wasn't overweight. The one time when he was sick, he wanted to be held. He put his head on my shoulder to lay next to me. His body went to my knees. I'm five feet, six inches tall. Like I said, he was a big dog, and yet so very gentle.

He passed away two years ago. I still miss him very much.

There is still a dog in the house. It is my son's dog in every sense of the word. The only time I exist is when I'm eating. The rest of the time, he is glued to my son's side.

There is also now a cat in the house. "Bob The Cat" just showed up one day, refused to leave, and took over.

Over the last few months, Bob has decided he is my boss. In the mornings, when I'm writing articles on my laptop, sitting in my recliner, Bob insists on resting his chin on my hand when I'm typing and watching the computer screen.

Because of that, I started password protecting access to my computer. I have never done that before. I have a sinking feeling Bob is trying to learn how to do a Facebook posting to re-home me so he can have the house to himself.

Obituaries

Robert Tuckey

Bob Lee Tuckey, 80, of Cass City died peacefully, Monday, August 17, 2020 in his home.

He was born April 18, 1940, at home in Cass City, the seventh child born to Charles Luke and Evelyn D. (Doerr) Tuckey.

He married Barbara Lee VanDam February 6, 1965 in Chicago.

Bob learned to work at a very young age. Being one of eight children, work was mandatory, and his father worked six days a week. They raised most of the food they ate and therefore they did not go hungry. Sharing was expected, including clothing and Christmas gifts.

Bob attended Cass City High School and won the coveted Paul Smarks award for outstanding athlete in 1959. He held the 880-yard track record for thirteen years.

Bob earned a B.S. degree from Central Michigan University and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. After college, Bob moved back home to help run the family concrete business. Five years later, he began his accounting career and formed Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran CPA's with offices in Cass City, Caro and Marlette.

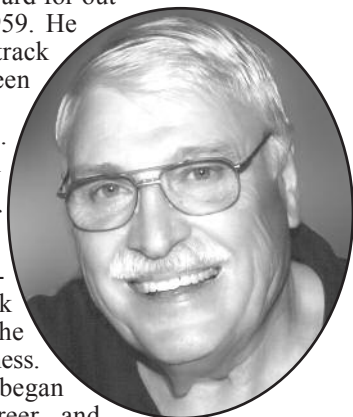
In the fall of 1964, he met Barb and they married four months later. Bob was named Cass City Citizen of the Year in 1994. He helped organize the Cass City Booster Club and the Tuscola County Community Foundation. Bob was an active member of the Cass City Lions Club, Cass City United Methodist Church, Elkland Township Zoning Review Board, Cass City Development Board, Cass City Chamber of Commerce and the Rawson Foundation Board of Directors. Following retirement, he served on the board of Gulf Waters Resort in Florida.

Bob is survived by his wife, Barb; daughter, Christine (Ramon) Urdiales of Dorado, Puerto Rico and son, Steven (Cassie) Tuckey of Vale, NC; grandchildren: Jeffrey (Erin) Tuckey and Faith Tuckey; great-grandchildren: Emmitt and Isaac; sisters: Dorothy Mantey of Cass City and Eunice Kaufman of Cass City; brothers: Charles (Iris) Tuckey of Cass City, Dr. Donald (Kathlyn) Tuckey of Frankenmuth, William (Sylvia) Tuckey of Cass City and Roy (Kathleen) Tuckey of Cass City; sisters-in-law, Delores Tuckey of Cass City and Patricia (Martin) McKinley of Telluride, CO; and brother-in-law, Richard VanDam of Cary, NC.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, JD Tuckey; brothers-in-law: Carl Mantey and Donald Kaufman; and sister-in-law, Marion VanDam.

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

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Small world department.

A car pulls into my sister BJ's driveway in Plymouth last week and asked her husband if he is from Cass City?

My sister replies no, but I am and I'm BJ Haire. Evidently, her Chronicle was delivered to an address in another subdivision and that person took the time to see that the paper made it to the address on the label.

That person was Cass City High School graduate, Greg Decker.

"How crazy," said BJ, noting that Greg still visits Cass City as he has a garden in the area. Continuing, Greg told my sister he keeps in touch with Johnny Ballard, knew that Meb Esau was in Cincinnati, and also enjoyed hearing about Ron Crandall, all three are friends of my sister who graduated in 1972.

"Greg is 3 years younger than me and looks good," said BJ.

An e-mail from Terry Weiler, brother of Cass City resident Dave Weiler, has peaked my interest. Terry wrote: As I think about retirement, it's time to expand my fishing charter business. For fall/winter 2020 and winter/spring 2021 steelhead fishing, I will start doing weekday trips along with weekends. Same scenario for fall salmon/winter steelhead 2021.

Salmon dates always fill up early, according to the older Weiler, but will have another 15 full day trips available for Aug/Sept/Oct 2021.

Terry operates 5-19 At Ease River Charters on the west side of the state. You can visit his website at www.519atease.com for more information.

If you have a driver's license, a vehicle and some time to spare, Human Development Commission (HDC) officials in the Thumb would love to hear from you.

HDC is seeking volunteers to drive home delivered meal routes in Huron County. Daily and substitute options are available, as is mileage reimbursement.

Prospective volunteers must first undergo a background check.

To learn more and/or apply, call 1-800-843-6394.

Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent is again reminding area senior citizens that avoiding becoming the victim of a scam may be just a phone call away.

"We have gotten several calls from residents saying someone is calling them, saying their Social Security number is compromised and they can help," said Skrent, who added the calls are a scam, plain and simple.

"We are seeing a big increase in telemarketer and spam calls on our own phones. I have not heard why this is happening. Guess it will never end, (but) remember we have this program available to assist seniors with scam calls," he said, referring to the Free Elder Fraud Hotline (989-550-3654).

The Human Development Commission (HDC) established the hotline in collaboration with the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department and Tuscola County TRIAD in an effort to protect older adults with questions and concerns regarding efforts to steal from them via telephone, mail or Internet. Callers can speak to an elder advocate who will provide free and confidential help, information and personal support.

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(USPS 092-00)

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6550 MAIN STREET, CASS CITY, MICHIGAN, by Clarke Haire, publisher.

Periodical postage paid at Cass City, Michigan 48726.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CASS CITY CHRONICLE, P.O. BOX 115, CASS CITY, MI 48726.

National Advertising Representative, Michigan Weekly Newspapers, Inc., 257 Michigan Avenue, East Lansing, Michigan.

For information regarding newspaper advertising and commercial and job printing, telephone: (989) 872-2010.

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Final hurdle is cleared in state hospital project

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The passage of a proposal on the Indianfields Township ballot during the August election should be the last hurdle for construction of a new psychiatric hospital in Tuscola County.

The ballot issue asked township voters to grant a 30-year irrevocable limited franchise from the city of Caro to provide water to the Caro Center.

A proposed deal was crafted last spring under terms specified by Michigan Public Act 425, which permits an intergovernmental transfer of property by contract to take effect in a much speedier time frame than annexation.

Voter approval sealed the deal to extend a municipal water line 1.9 miles from the city of Caro to the Caro Center state psychiatric hospital located in Wahjamega.

The municipal water will replace the existing system of wells, pumps and a water tower that has been used since the original Caro Farm Colony for Epileptics opened in 1914.

After more than three years of wrangling with the state, construction of a new state hospital is expected to start this fall.

The state agreed in October 2019 to build the hospital in the county and earmarked funding for the project in the 2020 budget. Lawmakers authorized construction of a \$63 million, 100-bed state psychiatric hospital to replace the current Caro Regional Mental Health Center on the Caro site.

The budget also provided \$5 million to demolish two of the 38 buildings on the 650-acre hospital site. Of those buildings, 20 are uninhabitable and unusable.

Some Tuscola officials are cautiously optimistic construction of the new hospital will be a go because the state's next fiscal year starts Oct. 1 and the \$63 million is still in the state's bank.

They are concerned because state officials have changed their mind before.

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

33 citations in three hours

TROOPERS FROM the Michigan State Police post in Caro along with the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department and Caro police launched a new enforcement campaign Thursday targeting motorists who run red lights at county intersections. "From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m...over 50 vehicles were stopped, which led to 33 people being cited for disobeying a red light," First Lt. Brian McComb, commander of the Caro post, reported. "Seventeen verbal warnings were (also) issued, and one person was arrested for a misdemeanor traffic offense."

FEMA okays unemployment boost

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Friday approved the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency's (UIA) application for funding that will provide an additional \$300 per week payment to Michiganders receiving unemployment benefits.

"This is good news for the thousands of Michiganders who are still without work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it's still a short-term band aid that falls

short of what's needed," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "We need the president, Mitch McConnell, and Congress to put partisanship aside and pass a bipartisan recovery package that will help us save lives and get people back on their feet.


"Michigan families, frontline workers, and small business owners are counting on the federal government to do the right thing and work together on their behalf."

The UIA estimates that under the program, about 910,000 residents will receive at least \$300 per week in supplemental benefits.

The program allows for existing Unemployment Trust Fund payments delivered by Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency to count as 25 percent matching funds required for participation. Eligible claimants will be paid benefits retroactive to Aug. 1. It is unclear at this time how long funding for the program will last.

At this time, officials said, claimants do not have to take any action to receive the additional benefit amount provided by the program - the extra benefits will be added automatically for all those who are eligible to receive at least \$100 in weekly unemployment benefit payments, including residents receiving any type of regular unemployment insurance benefits and those receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits.

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Reporter's notebook

Treatment of postal service is the fraud

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



The U.S. House of Representatives was scheduled to return to work over the weekend to vote on a bill that would boost the financially strapped U.S. Postal Service with \$25 billion in funding.

The bill was also expected to put the kibosh on recent postal service operational changes the Trump administration has made, resulting in slowed mail service around the country.

As it turns out, the nation's new postmaster general, Louis DeJoy, announced last week that recent USPS cost-cutting moves have now been halted until after the general election in November.

The abrupt turnaround came in the wake of widespread criticism, with at least 20 Democratic state attorneys general announcing plans to sue DeJoy, the USPS and President Donald Trump in an effort to halt the changes.

The timing is interesting but not surprising, even though the president has admitted (on camera) that he opposed additional funding for the postal service in order to make it more difficult to deliver mail-in ballots.

Here in the Thumb, I know I'm not the only one who has noticed the mail coming (and going) at a snail's pace these days, but that's only a minor inconvenience.

I'm more concerned about friends and neighbors who rely on the postal service for delivery of prescription medications, Social Security checks, bill payment, on-line purchases and other important services month in and month out. Those services have become even more important in the midst of a pandemic.

Attacks on the postal service, warranted or not, fail to take into account poll after poll that have revealed what most of us already know; that a majority of Americans of all political persuasions, especially the elderly and those living in rural areas, value the postal service.

So what happened? President Trump in May appointed DeJoy — a North Carolina businessman who has given millions of dollars to the Republican Party, including the Trump campaign — to serve as postmaster general.

DeJoy's administration has since slowed delivery through various cost-cutting measures, taken high-speed letter sorters (machines that can sort about 270,000 pieces of mail per hour) out of commission, and issued a stark warning to election officials that mail-in ballots will no longer automatically be moved as priority mail.

The postal service also started reducing post office operating hours across several states, cut overtime for postal workers and removed some of their iconic blue letter collection boxes, all in the name of restructuring.

Democrats allege the new policies are intended to impede mail-in balloting, while DeJoy has denied the accusation, saying the changes are designed to address a dire financial situation with the postal service.

Now, I'm not saying a restructuring isn't a good or bad idea. But the timing is suspect at best. I mean, why now, in the midst of a pandemic and just weeks before the November general election?

Postal service officials have repeatedly tried to reassure voters they can handle the influx of mail-in ballots, but they have also sent warnings to nearly every state that slowdowns in delivery could cause ballots to show up late and not be counted.

That's just wrong.

Failing to promptly address a service that Americans want — and depend on — for the sake of political aspirations ranks, falls into the same category as claiming (without the evidence to back it up) mail-in voting is tantamount to widespread fraud and an affront to this nation's election process simply because you're concerned that not enough voters are going to cast their ballots for you.

That's not leadership. It's a reflection of a sad reality that, for example, prompts so many people to reject the science behind wearing a mask because of how it affects them, rather than how it might affect someone else.

It's time for more of us to start caring about others and focusing our energies on making sure their needs are met.

And those elected to serve the people need to put themselves at the head of the line when it comes to making that happen.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2015)

Schneeberger's first "Athlete of the Week" award of the 2015-16 school year goes to Cass City senior Bransen Stimpfel. The four-year Red Hawk cross county standout started his final campaign with a promising showing last week, recording medalist honors at the 17-school Birch Run Invitational. Bransen recorded an impressive early season time of 16:28, best among the 200-plus member field. Last year, Stimpfel posted a time of 15:56 to finish fourth individually at the MHSAA Division 3 State Final meet, earning all-state honors in the process. Bransen, a high-honor student, is the son of Tom and Sloane Stimpfel.

10 YEARS AGO (2010)

Payton Adam Romstad announces the birth of his sister, Abby Rose Romstad. Abby was born Aug. 8, 2010 at Huron Medical Center, Bad Axe. She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Her parents are Kurt and Cynthia Romstad of Unionville. Grandparents are Bruce and Ronna Romstad of Bowling Green, Ohio, and Jim and the late Rose Anderson of Cass City.

25 YEARS AGO (1995)

Former astronaut Brewster Shaw, Jr. recently announced his retirement. The Cass City native left his job as director of space shuttle operations in Houston last Wednesday, with plans to leave NASA in November. "After that, I don't know what I'll be doing," Shaw said in a recent interview with the Detroit News, published Aug. 30. "But I've got 2 kids in college. I guess I'll be looking for work. You can only do this kind of work for so long. I'm the type of person who gets very emotionally and personally involved in my work. But it's put a lot of stress on my family, an incredible amount of stress."

35 YEARS AGO (1985)

Several Tuscola County 4-H'ers received awards at the Michigan 4-H Horse Show Aug. 20 at Michigan State University. Krista Iseler, of Cass City, was awarded second place in fitting and showmanship, seventh place in stock seat equitation and fourth place in trail class for horses. Gene Oryszczak, Jr., of Flint was awarded fourth place in pole bending, seventh place in the flag race and fifth place in the speed and action class for 15 and 16-year-olds.

40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Navy Seaman Recruit Michael F. Thorp, son of Frederick E. and Jennie P. Thorp of E. Sebewaing Road, Owendale, has completed recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL. During the eight-week training cycle, he studied general military subjects designed to prepare him for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 basic occupational fields. Included were seamanship, close-order drill, Naval history and first aid. A 1980 graduate of Cass City High School, he joined the Navy in June.

50 YEARS AGO (1970)

The junior high girls' class of the Baptist Sunday School made a trip to Cedar Point, Ohio, Thursday. Accompanying the girls were their instructor, Miss Rona Rayl, Mr. and Mrs. Veron Gingrich, Miss Mary Hanby and Ruth Rayl and Jan Kretzschmer as relief drivers. Girls who went were: Diane Gingrich, Maxine and Kathy Smith, Carol Tuxey, Sharon Hanby, Susan Bond, Lynn Rayl, Karen Hillaker, Wanda Hacker, Sandy Wells, Kay Kendall and Melody Thompson. Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Rutkoski

and Mr. and Mrs. Ron Rutkoski had dinner Sunday at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth. They celebrated Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Rutkoski's wedding anniversary and Mrs. Ron Rutkoski's birthday

75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Pfc. Valentine J. Temrowski was recently awarded the Bronze Star for heroic action against the enemy by Maj. Gen. Willard G. Wyman, commanding general of the 71st Infantry division. The commendation for Pfc. Temrowski, son of Dr. and Mrs. Leo A. Temrowski, 6948 Ritchie Rd., Gagetown, said: "For gallantry in action against the enemy in Zips, Germany, when Pvt. Temrowski volunteered, after a long day of marching and combat against the enemy, to join a reconnaissance patrol to advance to Troshenreuth, Germany, and attempt to gain pertinent information of the enemy, also if possible, to capture any prisoners who might be used to reveal additional information by interrogation. The patrol advanced through enemy territory

to the city, and returned with captured enemy machine guns and an enemy prisoner who divulged important information concerning the enemy's strength and position. As a result of Pvt. Temrowski's heroic action, large numbers of the enemy were captured. Serving in the Army since September, 1943, he went overseas in January of this year, and is currently assigned to the 14th Infantry Regiment of the 71st Division in Europe. He attended Grosse Pointe high school before entering the Army.

100 YEARS AGO (1920)

The Gagetown Public School opened with the following teachers: Miss B. Koepfgen, Miss H. McGregory and Miss Barnes of Cass City, Miss M. North of Vassar and Miss F. Smith from Gagetown.

William Courliss of Cass City has bought the Neeper property on the hill on the south side of the town in Deford. Mr. and Mrs. C. once lived here, sold and went to Cass City, now they return like the sweet birds of spring.

Legal Notices

FORECLOSURE NOTICE (Tuscola County) 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 (at the front entrance of the Courthouse in the City of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan), starting promptly at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on Thursday, October 1, 2020. Default has been made in the terms and conditions of the mortgage made by Barry W. Popp, a single man and Judith E. Cole, a single woman, as original mortgagor, to Chemical Bank, a Michigan banking corporation, as original mortgagee, dated September 2, 2016, and recorded on September 9, 2016, at the Tuscola County, Michigan Register of Deeds, in Liber 1358, commencing on Page 1145, which mortgage is now held by Chemical Bank, a Division of TCF National Bank, successor in interest by merger to Chemical Bank, a Michigan banking corporation. The amount claimed to be due on this mortgage, on the date of this notice, was \$13,289.01. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The description of the mortgaged premises is all that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Novesta, in the County of Tuscola and State of Michigan further described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 9, Town 13 North, Range 11 East, thence running North to the Northwest corner of said Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; thence East to the Right of

Way of the Pontiac, Oxford and Northern Railroad, thence along the Westerly line of said railroad in a Southwesterly direction to the section line between Sections 9 and 16, thence West along said section line to the place of beginning. Except for a parcel described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 9, Town 13 North, Range 11 East, thence East 100 feet, thence North 436 feet, thence West 100 feet, thence South 436 feet to the point of beginning. Also including that certain mobile/manufactured home located thereon. Commonly known as: 6139 Delong Rd., Deford, MI 48729 Tax ID Number: 018-09-000-1800-01 (covers more land) The redemption period shall be Twelve (12) months from the date of such sale, unless the redemption period is shortened in accordance with MCLA 600.3238. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA 600.3278, the borrower and mortgagor 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. Attention Purchasers: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Shaheen, Jacobs & Ross, P.C. is a debt collector attempting to collect this debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose Dated: August 19, 2020 Chemical Bank, a Division of TCF National Bank Mortgagee SHAHEEN, JACOBS & ROSS, P.C. By: Michael J. Thomas, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee 615 Griswold Street, Suite 1425 Detroit, Michigan 48226-3993 (313) 963-1301 8-26-4

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FALL 2020 | Cass City Jr./Sr. High School Sports Schedule

Support your favorite athletes all season long with this guide to Cass City High School's big games!

Football Season Postponed

The Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) recently made the difficult decision to postpone football until the spring of 2021. This decision was based on feedback and input from the Governor's office, state health department officials, member schools, collegiate conferences and individuals on both sides of the issue.

Please note that all other fall sports in the low and moderate risk categories are moving forward

Mark Uyl, Executive Director of the MHSAA, wrote in an email: At the end of the day, we did everything we could to find a path forward for football this fall. With all input received, along with school feedback from the first week of practice, there was just too much uncertainty and too many unknowns to safely play football this fall. While there is disappointment today that we could not play football this fall, we are encouraged and motivated to find the best possible plan to fit football in with existing seasons to give all of our kids the best experience possible.

Volleyball (FRESHMAN, JV & VARSITY)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/10	Bad Axe (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
9/12	Birch Run Inv. (V)	TBA
9/15	Vassar (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
9/17	USA (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
9/19	Frankenmuth Inv. (V)	TBA
9/19	USA Inv. (F)	TBA
9/24	Caro (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
9/26	Bay City Central Inv. (JV)	TBA
9/29	Reese (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/1	EPB Lakers (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/3	Ogemaw Heights Inv. (JV)	TBA
10/6	Bad Axe (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/8	Vassar (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/10	Cros-Lex Inv. (F, JV)	TBA
10/13	USA (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/15	Harbor Beach (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/17	New Lothrop Inv. (V)	TBA
10/17	North Branch Inv. (JV)	TBA
10/20	Caro (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/22	Reese (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/24	Marysville Inv. (V)	TBA
10/24	Caro Inv. (F)	TBA
10/27	EPBP Lakers (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
11/2-7	Districts (V)	TBA

Varsity Girls Swim co-op @ Caro

Date	Location	Time
8/27	Garber	6:00 p.m.
9/1	Ogemaw	5:00 p.m.
9/12	Ogemaw Inv.	9:00 a.m.
9/22	Gaylord	6:00 p.m.
9/29	Ogemaw	6:00 p.m.
10/6	John Glenn	6:00 p.m.
10/13	Oscoda	6:00 p.m.
10/20	Standish/Sterling	6:00 p.m.
10/27	Garber	6:00 p.m.
11/6	ISC Prelims	TBA
11/7	ISC Prelims	TBA
11/12	Dive Regionals	TBA

~ Home meets are located in Caro ~

Cross Country

Date	Location	Time
8/25	Bad Axe	5:00 p.m.
9/2	Mayville	4:00 p.m.
9/3	Brown City	5:30 p.m.
9/12	Bad Axe	9:00 a.m.
9/17	Reese	4:00 p.m.
9/19	Holly	8:00 a.m.
9/24	Frankenmuth	4:15 p.m.
9/26	Lakers	9:00 a.m.
10/3	Wagener Park	9:00 a.m.
10/10	Cass City	9:00 a.m.
10/14	Ubyly	4:30 p.m.
10/20	GTC League @ Reese	4:00 p.m.
10/24	Thumb Meet @ Caro	10:00 a.m.
10/31	Regionals @ Delta	TBA
11/7	State Finals @ Brooklyn	TBA

Varsity Boys Soccer co-op @ USA

Date	Opponent	Time
8/26	Bad Axe	5:30 p.m.
9/2	Harbor Beach	5:30 p.m.
9/7	Caro	5:30 p.m.
9/9	EPB Lakers	5:30 p.m.
9/12	Clare Quad	TBA
9/14	Capac	5:30 p.m.
9/16	Memphis	5:30 p.m.
9/21	Marlette	5:30 p.m.
9/23	Bad Axe	5:30 p.m.
9/28	Harbor Beach	5:30 p.m.
9/30	Caro	5:30 p.m.
10/5	EPB Lakers	5:00 p.m.
10/7	Capac	5:00 p.m.
10/14-16	Districts	TBA
10/19-24	Districts	TBA

~ Home games are located at USA ~

Home games in bold.

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Historical road plan has ties to area

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Decades after it was built, Woodward Avenue is making history again.

The roadway in Wayne County could become the most famous in the world because of a proposal to

create a dedicated lane for autonomous vehicles with Wi-Fi and sensors.

The recently-announced project would involve dedicating a 40-mile stretch of highway between Detroit and Ann Arbor exclusively for autonomous vehicles.

Building the world's most so-

phisticated roadway would be part of a foundation for Michigan's economic recovery from COVID-19, according to Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Woodward Avenue's history is connected to Tuscola County and specifically Elkland Township.

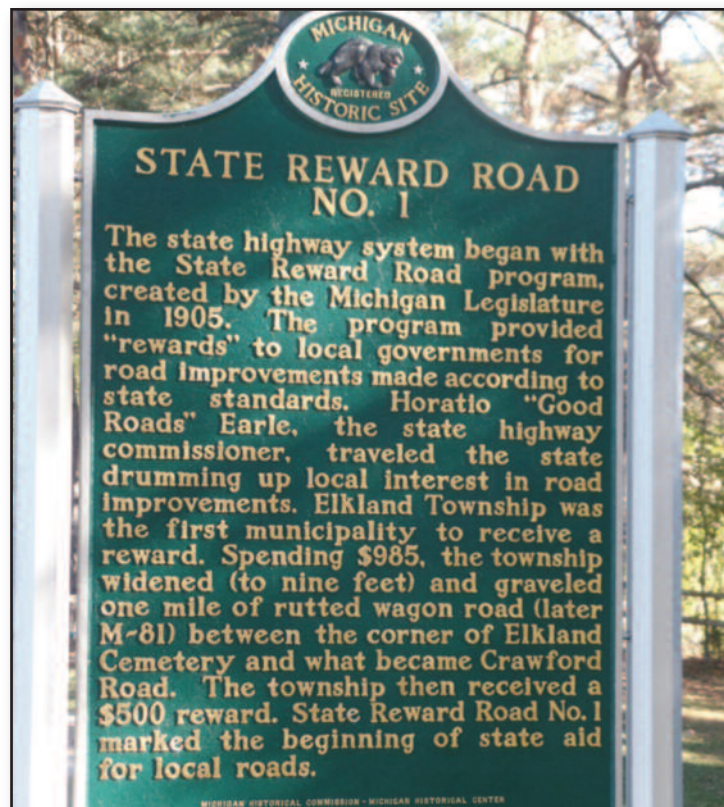
Then-Senator Horatio Earle introduced a senate resolution, which became the "State Reward Highway" law. It called for a joint committee appointed by the governor to investigate highway improvements in the state. That committee sponsored the building of "sample roads" at different points in the state.

In 1905, Cass City was the first to build a "State Reward Highway." That roadway later became M-81. There is a State Historic Marker honoring that roadway and Earle at the intersection of M-81 and Schweigler Road in Elkland Township.

Another of Earle's road projects was Woodward Avenue, which was constructed with bricks. Engineers who tackled that project "thought him a fool" and said the hard brick highway wouldn't last a year.

It did last. It is still used today and is the foundation of the annual Back to the Bricks celebration.

Earle is credited with being the founder of the state's department of transportation. His zeal for highway improvements brought him national prominence as well as focused attention on the need for better roads, earning him the nickname, Horatio "Good Roads" Earle.



WOODWARD Avenue in Wayne County was the first to use bricks and was part of the "State Reward Highway" program spearheaded by Horatio Earle. A proposal for that roadway could have it making history again. Locally, there is a state historic marker (pictured above) honoring Earle at the intersection of M-81 and Schweigler Road in Elkland Township.

Cass City Red Hawk ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Knights Insurance Agency proudly introduces senior Jeremy Velasquez as their Cass City Red Hawk Athlete of the Week.

Velasquez made his name known throughout the Thumb last year as a standout on the championship Red Hawk football team that advanced to the Michigan High School Athletic Association playoff semifinal round. Velasquez earned Greater Thumb West All-Conference first team honors in 2019 on both offense and defense. His named should be in the conversation for Thumb Player of the Year this spring.

According to his coaches, "Jeremy is the best tackler in the Thumb. He has a nose for the ball and was a great guard for us a well."

Velasquez also was a member on the Cass City basketball team and is expected to play a bigger role on this year's team during his final season.

Velasquez is the son of Sechenia Britt and stepson of Greg Brown.



JEREMY VELASQUEZ

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Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

Tuscola clerk: mail in ballots early

Continued from page one.

my reality.

"By law, a ballot can be mailed by the clerk on the Friday prior to the election. Tuscola clerks are still encouraging voters to stop into their office to pick it up at that point rather than mail," Fetting said. "Local clerks now have office hours, eight hours on the weekend, prior to an election to allow voters the opportunity to pick-up and drop-off."

"Some jurisdictions already have drop boxes and some ordered drop boxes through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act grant, but have not received them yet. Once that happens, I will be trying to get that information out to voters as well," Fetting noted.

"The Caro Post Office was good in August and called me after 4 p.m. to let me know they had received ballots back on election day. The other local postmasters were good about holding the ballots in house and not sending them to the metroplex. That is helpful on the outgoing ballots but not helpful on the incoming ballots always."

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Foundation distributes spring grants

Continued from page one.

“Mix in Math” (purchase materials to promote math knowledge for three-year-olds prior to entering school); \$2,000 to Friends Old, New and Social “U” (purchase storage closets, games, movies and supplies to support adults with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities); \$3,467 to the Caro Exchange Club (replace aging tree identification signs at the Exchange Club Forest Trail, as well as chairs); \$3,500 to McLaren Care Region (purchase two ER stretchers); \$7,500 to Revive Ministries (building upgrades and repairs); \$3,085 to Tuscola Technology Center (purchase tables and chairs); \$4,000 to Great Start Tuscola Imagination Library (to purchase books distributed free to children); \$1,836 to The Fowler Center (purchase an insulated food pan carrier); \$3,991 to the Tuscola County Fair Association (safety/security upgrade for midway); and \$4,000 to the Mayville Firefighters Association (purchase bleachers, chain-link safety fence and lighting for Ohmer Park).

*Andrews (Claude and Etta Fund — \$5,000 to the Good Samaritan Fund of Tuscola County churches (emergency food, utility, transportation, housing and medical expense assistance); \$300 to the Tuscola Transition Network (support for students with special needs meet their transition plans); and \$5,000 to the Tuscola ISD “Mix in Math” (purchase materials).

*Future Youth Involvement (FYI) Fund — \$1,400 to the Tuscola ISD/Tuscola Transition Network); \$9,500 to the Barb Smith Suicide Resource and Response Network (support ongoing efforts to remove financial barriers to county residents seeking training

in suicide prevention); \$5,200 to Kingston Community Schools (repair and replace athletic field surfaces and improve drainage); \$500 to the village of Cass City (two new drinking fountain/water bottle filling stations at the village pool and day camp building); \$5,750 to Millington Junior-Senior High School (funding for classroom set of Chromebooks); and \$3,400 to Vassar High School (support robotics team).

*Greater Millington Area Fund — \$1,500 to Millington Community Center (building repair); \$1,500 to Millington Helping Handz/Kids Ministry (purchase socks and underwear to distribute to school children in need); and \$2,000 to Millington Police Department (replace obsolete police radios and other equipment).

*Healthy Youth/Healthy Senior Fund — \$3,045 to Hills and Dales General Hospital (in support of new healing garden project); and \$955 to The Fowler Center (purchase new mobile sinks for rustic campsite areas).

*Homelessness Fund — \$950 to Tuscola Homeless Coalition; \$500 to St. Christopher Parish Food Pantry; and \$750 to the Human Development Commission (HDC) (provide bed frames and mattresses for 10 individuals in need).

*Anne S. Laethem Fund — \$600 to the Tuscola County Fair Association (to explore restoring windows in a building constructed in the 1920s).

*Don List Fund for Special Needs Children — \$100 to Friends Old, New and Social “U”; and \$800 to the village of Cass City (purchase a zero-g chair for the village park for children with special needs).

The Tuscola County Community Foundation was formed in 1996 when nine community-minded

volunteers met to determine requirements to establish a community foundation.

“Committee members were from the Caro and Cass City areas — Richard Ransford, Robert Tuckey, Susan Walker, Sue Ransford, Harry Schubel, Richard Donahue, Linda Marshall, Richard Kern and L. James White,” Hunter noted.

“Part of their motivation was a challenge grant issued by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to match \$1 — up to \$1 million — for every \$2 raised by a community foundation,” Hunter said. “To meet the grant requirements, they also had to form a youth advisory council (YAC). TCCF’s YAC is Future Youth Involvement (FYI).” The TCCF met the Kellogg challenge and received the grant money in two installments — \$900,000 in November 1998 and \$100,000 in August 1999.

Hunter estimated TCCF’s total assets at just over \$14 million in a combined 108 funds at the end of 2019. “Total grants provided to date now total \$5,844,808,” he said. “Future Youth Involvement, the youth advisory council, has now awarded \$765,980.

“Recently, the Tuscola County Emergency Needs Fund was established to address unexpected needs in the community. Currently, the priority area considered for grant requests would be from non-profit organizations addressing emergency food, clothing and shelter needs of residents in Tuscola County,” added Hunter, who noted Revive Ministries of Cass City received a \$500 grant from the fund last spring.

Anyone interested in donating to the TCCF may do so by sending a check to: TCCF, P.O. Box 534, Caro, MI 48723, or by donating online via PayPal’s secure network on the foundation’s website at www.tuscolaccf.org.

Appeals court ruling in favor of Whitmer

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Michigan Court of Appeals dealt the state’s Republican-controlled Legislature another defeat Friday, upholding a lower court ruling that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has not exceeded her authority under the Emergency Powers of Governor Act (EPGA) during the coronavirus pandemic.

The court also stated in its 2-1 opinion that the EPGA is “constitutionally sound.”

Lawmakers say they will now take their case to the Michigan Supreme Court.

Whitmer’s press secretary, Tiffany Brown, said the Court of Appeals, in upholding the governor’s emergency powers related to the COVID-19 pandemic, handed Whitmer “a complete and decisive win in her efforts to protect the people of Michigan from this once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic.

“This decision recognizes that the governor’s actions to save lives are lawful and her orders remain in place,” Brown added. “As the court concluded: ‘(The) governor’s declaration of a statement of emergency, her extensions of the state of emergency, and her issuance of related EOs (executive orders) clearly fell within the scope of the governor’s authority under the EPGA.’

Michigan Court of Claims Judge Cynthia Stephens previously ruled that Michigan’s current state of emergency is lawful under the EPGA of 1945, which sets out no time limit for an emergency or any requirements for approval from the Legislature.

However, Stephens also stated Whitmer overstepped her authority in late April when she extended states of emergency and disaster under the Emergency Management Act of 1976 without legislative approval.

The Legislature has argued the governor does not have the power to declare an indefinite statewide emergency without input from lawmakers, but the Court of Appeals state the EPGA “does not provide any active role for the Legislature during a public emergency.”

Thumb area lawmakers briefly addressed the Court of Appeals decision on their Facebook pages, with 31st District Senator Kevin Daley (R-Lum) posting: “This ruling does not diminish the Senate’s belief that the governor is abusing the law. We hold sacred our American system of checks and balances. We will appeal the decision to the Michigan Supreme Court.”

Also last week, Whitmer signed bipartisan “Return to Learn” bills outlining new, more flexible instructional requirements for the 2020-21 school year. The legislation, she said, also provides significant financial stability to districts by primarily using last year’s pupil count to determine this year’s funding levels.

“Over the past week, we have taken crucial steps to help Michigan schools and families navigate the new school year. Alongside this bipartisan agreement, I announced nearly \$65 million in federal funding to help give students, parents, educators, and support staff the resources they need to provide the best and most safe education possible,” Whitmer said.

Under the legislation, which was supported by Thumb lawmakers, including Daley and state Rep. Phil Green (R-Millington), schools are provided flexibility related to the number of school days, instructional hours, student count and attendance.

The bills also outline the new COVID-19 learning plan, which is intended to provide school districts with the maximum flexibility to adapt their programs to safely respond to the pandemic.

Latest virus numbers

Between Monday, Aug. 17, and Monday, Aug. 24, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased by 56 — from 604 to 660 — with the three counties’ combined death toll remaining the same at 38 fatalities.

As of Monday afternoon, Tuscola County had recorded 380 confirmed cases, an increase of 36 cases compared to a week before, and 29 deaths (no change), Huron County had recorded 166 cases (an increase of 17 cases), with four deaths (no change), and Sanilac County, 114 confirmed cases, up from 111 cases a week earlier, and five deaths (no change).

Statewide, Monday’s total confirmed cases reached 97,660, with a total of 6,397 deaths, compared to 93,185 cases and 6,325 deaths a week earlier.

First day of school success

Continued from page one.

As of Monday, student numbers totaled 487 in the elementary grades, compared to 523 a year ago, with another 469 students in the junior-senior high school, compared to 473 in the fall of 2019. Currently, 80 elementary students are learning from home, while 90 junior-senior high pupils are relying on the district’s online program.

Hartel indicated the loss of 40 students wasn’t a surprise, given the challenges school officials have faced since schools were shut down across the state in March — before the end of the 2019-20 school year — due to fears surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We did expect to see that (dip in enrollment). It’s nothing shocking,” he said, adding the state’s decision to allow districts to use 75 percent of last year’s enrollment to determine this year’s funding, should go a long way towards stabilizing schools’ immediate financial concerns, although state officials have not yet finalized per-pupil funding amounts. “The loss of kids right now isn’t going to hurt us too badly.”

Turning to other matters, Hartel highlighted the third and latest “return to learn” plan recently approved by the Michigan House and Senate and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. The document was designed to fine tune how districts teach and assess student performance during the coming school year.

The board also heard from a host of staff members — custodial staff director, school nurse, technology director, athletic director and administrators — who outlined their programs along with specific protocols involving procedures for sanitation, handling any possible COVID infections should they occur, busing and technology access for both students participating in virtual and in-person instruction.

In other business Monday, the board addressed staffing issues, including accepting “with regret” the resignation of elementary teacher Cori Cotton. The board approved filling the vacancy with the hiring of Kyle Pine, a first-year teacher recommended for the fourth-grade position from a field of eight applicants.

The board also hired Robin Keine to fill the sixth-grade vacancy left by the resignation of veteran teacher Linda Bailey, who has retired after 40 years of service in Cass City. Keine, who previously worked for the Cass City Schools, comes to the district from Mayville Schools, where she taught sixth grade English/language arts.

Bailey looking forward to busy retirement

Continued from page one.

staff and the ability to create a lesson.”

A Cass City native, Bailey’s career in education — which has included stints teaching just about every subject except physical education, chemistry and foreign languages — spans 45 years.

But teaching wasn’t the first career choice for the 1965 Cass City High School graduate, in spite of the fact that her mother — the late Jackie Freiburger — was a life-long educator, including many years as an elementary school administrator in Cass City.

Bailey recalled discussing career opportunities with her high school counselor, who offered typically-limited options for that time period — beautician, secretary, nurse, housewife and mother.

“You might as well be a teacher. Your mother’s a teacher,” was the counselor’s suggestion, according to Bailey, who responded, “I want to build things.

“I wanted to go into graphic design and engineering design,” she noted. “So, education was a ‘non-choice’ at first, but after that, I really liked (it). I liked the kids.”

After graduating from high school, Bailey started attending Central Michigan University in September 1965 and graduated 3 ½ years later with her secondary bachelor’s degree in fine arts and family management.

“I taught two art classes at Mount Pleasant High School before I even graduated,” she said. “(I) went through graduation and began teaching at Morley Stanwood Junior-Senior High School.”

Bailey taught seventh and eighth grade English, eighth grade history, ninth grade home economics, art and a mixed study hall of about 90 students. “After two years, (I) moved the family to Cass City and, after having my second child, subbed long term in third grade.

Bailey would leave her hometown again, though, first to West Fargo, N.D., for a couple years, then back to Michigan, to Hillsdale.

“After a year I moved to Mayville, where I taught at Mayville Sunshine Nursery,” she recalled, noting she designed the program and “loved every minute of it.”

When it came to pursuing another teaching position, Bailey said Cass City was her first choice. She interviewed with then-principal Bob Stickle and was hired along with about 14

other teachers.

“I taught seventh/eighth grade math, fifth/sixth grade computers and art. There were five sections in each grade,” she said. “While at the junior high, there were many various schedules and classes — I had six preps that serviced four grades on three different floors of the old school.”

Bailey was among a group of teachers that formed a program called CLAMP (computers, library, art, music and physical education) in which teachers of different subjects all contributed to a shared study unit in their classrooms.

“When I first began here, murals were created by the students, and then, when we moved to the ‘new’ school, that continued and the hawk in the gym was created by Larry Galloway and my art class,” she said.

“During this time, many classes changed for me as I went into the literature class for the eighth grade,” she continued. “Kally Maharg and I combined history and literature, and this is where the eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C., was born.”

Bailey also added to her resume, earning a master’s degree in secondary administration along with elementary, computer, and gifted and talented certifications.

“I was lucky enough to be on a planning committee for the new (middle) school,” she said. “I redid the hallway to the social worker’s office and teacher workroom, the design for the hallway, floor tile and brick configuration to the gym outside corner.”

Once the school was completed, Bailey taught art to grades five through eight, as well as fifth and sixth grade technology. She was subsequently moved to the high school, where she taught a variety of art classes, and later was named the Title I reading teacher and then Title I director for several years, heading up the federally-funded program designed to provide additional resources and instruction to students who are behind academically.

Bailey’s final assignment was a self-contained sixth grade class-

room. “I loved having the same students from morning to afternoon,” she noted.

“My school ‘family’ has really changed from August 1979,” she said. “I designed my classroom in 1997, and leaving it in 2020 is a real heartbreaker.

“So many students have come through the halls in that time. I loved seeing the faces of students during that time period — I have to admit I can’t always remember the name or the year they were here, but I’ve been fortunate enough to have taught a second and some third-generation students.”

Among Bailey’s regrets is that her last sixth grade class wasn’t able to complete an annual assignment in which they are asked to write a letter to themselves. It’s a tradition that has involved Bailey collecting and storing the letters, and then returning them to the students when they reach their senior year at the high school.

Looking back, Bailey said she enjoyed the challenge of teaching kids who wanted to learn — even the youngsters who weren’t interested in learning. And she plans to continue pursuing challenges in retirement, such as doing some online tutoring and offering private art lessons. She also enjoys a variety of hobbies, including making porcelain dolls and ornaments, china painting, oil and watercolor art, and weaving.

Bailey’s departure from those classrooms and hallways won’t go unnoticed, according to Cass City School Supt. Jeff Hartel.

“We’re going to miss Linda. She’s done a lot of different things, from beautiful artwork to classroom instruction to the D.C. trip. So, she’s been a mainstay in the Cass City Public Schools,” said Hartel, who worked as a teacher alongside Bailey in the years leading up to his accepting his first administrative post.

“I always enjoyed working with her. She was always thorough... always had a plan and executed it. She was a friend,” he added, noting Bailey was first and foremost a teacher who cared about the students in her charge.

“She always had the kids’ best interest at heart,” he said.

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News briefs

Battel scholarship recipient

CASS CITY – Great Lakes Coca-Cola Bottling officials recently named Addy Battel the winner of a \$20,000 college scholarship.

Battel, the daughter of Bob and Sue Stuever Battel, recently completed homeschooling through the high school level in Cass City and plans to attend Michigan State University in the fall.

“As a member of the 32nd class of Coca-Cola scholars, Addy not only exemplifies superior leadership, service and academics, Addy is a change agent, positively affecting others in the community,” said Patrick Schweska, director, Government Relations and Public Affairs, Great Lakes Coca-Cola Bottling.

Battel is one of 150 scholars selected from an initial pool of more than 93,000 applicants across the country, according to Schweska.

With the addition of the 2020 class, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation will have provided more than 6,300 scholars nationwide with over \$72 million in scholarships over the course of 32 years.

Ubyly says “no” to pull event

UBLY — Since its July meeting, the Ubyly Village Council has been considering a request to allow a pulling contest in the village.

The council met again recently and formally denied the request submitted by Brad Klebba, who represents the MT Pocket Pullers.

The village’s insurance company recommended against allowing the activity because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the risks associated with large gatherings, and council members agreed to follow the insurance company’s recommendation.

Drug disposal is available locally

CASS CITY - Cass City Village officials are reminding area residents that they offer a safe and local opportunity to dispose of old and unused prescription drugs.

The village has participated in the prescription drug collection/disposal take-back program since November 2017.

“We have collected a total of 380 pounds to-date,” village Manager Debbie Powell said, adding an estimated 50 pounds of medications have been collected to-date this year.

Unused prescription drugs can be taken to the municipal building for proper disposal from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Huron Co. seeking 4-H volunteers

HURON COUNTY — The Huron County 4-H Leaders’ Association is now accepting nominations of 4-H adult volunteers and 4-H youth members to serve on the 4-H council.

Applications and more information are available by contacting Patti Error Huron County MSU Extension 4-H program coordinator, at (989) 269-9949 (ext. 609). Applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 7.

Extension office hours return

BAD AXE – The MSU Extension Office in Huron County has resumed its regular hours of operation, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (open during the noon hour).

Additional information is available by calling the office at (989) 269-9949.

Virtual 4-H book club launching

MICHIGAN — Youth ages 9 to 12 years are invited to explore the Wizarding World of Harry Potter through a virtual 4-H book club. Participants will read Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, the first book in the Harry Potter series. The club will be meeting on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. from Sept. 1 through Nov. 17.

For more information and to register, visit the website <https://events.anr.msu.edu/wizard4h/>

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

State confirms second EEE case

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) State Veterinarian Dr. Nora Wineland last week confirmed the state’s second case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) for 2020.

The latest case involves a 12-year-old mare from Montcalm County, according to Dr. Wineland, who said the discovery of this second case intensifies the need for both horse owners and Michigan residents to take precautions.

EEE is a zoonotic, viral disease, transmitted by mosquitoes to both animals and people. It’s also one of the most dangerous mosquito-borne diseases in the United States and is typically seen in late summer to early fall each year in Michigan.

While horses are highly affected by the disease, people can also be infected with EEE from the bite of a mosquito carrying the virus.

In humans, signs of EEE include the sudden onset of fever, chills,

and body and joint aches. EEE infection can develop into severe encephalitis, resulting in headache, disorientation, tremors, seizures, and paralysis. Permanent brain damage, coma, and death may also occur in some cases.

“This second confirmed case of EEE in a horse reminds Michiganders of the strong need to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. “It only takes one bite from a mosquito to transmit the virus, which can lead to severe neurologic illness, permanent disability, and sometimes death.”

In 2019, Michigan experienced the worst outbreak of EEE ever documented in the state, with 10 human cases, including six deaths, and 50 cases in animals from 20 counties.

To protect your animals, recommended measures include:

*Talking to a veterinarian about vaccinating horses against EEE.

*Using an insect repellent on the animals that is approved for the species.

*Eliminating standing water on your property (fill in puddles, repair eaves, and change the water in buckets and bowls at least once a day, etc.).

*Contacting a veterinarian if a horse shows signs of the illness, such as mild fever and stumbling, which can progress to being down and struggling to stand.

Health officials recommend that residents protect themselves by:

*Applying insect repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET, or other U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved products to exposed skin or clothing, and always follow the manufacturer’s directions for use.

For more information about mosquito-borne diseases, visit Michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.

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LOOKING FOR A DEAL?

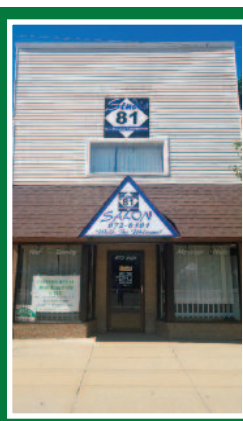
A “HUD” owned home might be the best option for you. Great affordable housing opportunities. Call our offices for more information.

Kelly & Co. Realty is now representing “HUD” homes

Find us on **facebook.**

Equal Housing Opportunity
RMLS

This commercial building has had many updates over the past few years including a new roof in 2018. Main floor has had new floors, bathroom, water heater, furnace, central air, drywall, electrical and plumbing. Was formerly a hair salon. Upstairs, the bonus is there is a newly renovated studio apartment upstairs, and a 2 bedroom apartment. The apartment rentals are bringing in \$850 per month of extra income. This building has endless possibilities. Call today to take a look!



Looking for plenty of land and privacy? well you've found it in this beautifully maintained 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home that sits on over 145 acres of incredible hunting land, home to many deer and pheasants! Sit on the charming front porch as you enjoy the views and gaze out at all the wildlife surrounding you. Outside of the home has been beautifully landscaped and boasts a large vinyl deck off the back, perfect for enjoying Michigan's spring and summer evenings.

