



Man rescued in tractor mishap

Photo, page 2

EDC: airport remains vital economic tool

Page 4

Local FFAers earn recognition

Page 6



CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 114, NUMBER 29

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

.75 CENTS - 12 PAGES

MSP: be on lookout for unsolicited gifts in mail

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

“Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth” is a well-known piece of advice handed down from generation to generation, but Michigan State Police (MSP) officials are encouraging Thumb residents to do just that if they receive an unsolicited package in the mail.

In fact, the MSP post in Caro has noted an increase in what officials describe as unsolicited and suspicious packages being delivered to homes throughout Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties.

“The packages are coming from overseas, most China, and are showing up in the mailboxes of residents who have not ordered these items,” said Sgt. Donald Pisha of the Caro post.

This isn’t the first time residents have reported mysterious deliveries this year; Michigan and more than two dozen other states reported citizens getting unsolicited packages of seeds from China in the mail earlier this summer, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) issued warnings to people who receive the packages not to open, discard or plant the seeds.

At the time, MDARD officials suggested it could be part of a “brushing” fraud — an exploit by a vendor used to bolster product ratings and increase visibility on-

Please turn to page 5.

DNR says deer herd in Thumb, state plentiful

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has released its annual deer hunting preview, offering good news in a report citing excellent conditions for the upcoming seasons.

In general, hunters can expect conditions that meet or exceed 2019, according to Chad Stewart, the DNR’s deer and elk program leader, who noted those who have seen the 2020 Hunting Digest may have noticed quite a few regulation changes reflecting the evolution of deer hunting in Michigan.

“The last 20 years have resulted in dramatic and sustained declines in hunter numbers,” Stewart said. “When combined with an abundant and resilient deer herd that continues to grow, and the added challenge of managing deer diseases, that shifting dynamic required some significant changes.”

The updated regulations take those three factors into consideration and are aimed at giving hunters rules that are designed to be easier to understand, improve flexibility in how deer licenses can be used, and provide more value for their time and money, Stewart said.

The upcoming seasons include the annual independence hunt, Oct. 15-18, for hunters with disabilities; archery season, Oct. 1-Nov. 14 and Dec. 1-Jan. 1; the regular firearm season, Nov. 15-30; muzzleloading season, Dec. 4-13 in zones one, two and three; and late antlerless firearm season, Dec. 21-Jan. 1.

Stewart said hunters planning to

Please turn to page 2.



FLAMES ENGULFED a Seeger Street residence in Cass City Sunday night, gutting the structure belonging to Don and Amanda Mecomber. No one was home when the fire broke about, according to Elkland Township Fire Chief Glenn Guilds, who reported nearly three dozen fire fighters from four different departments battle the blaze. The cause remains under investigation. (See story, page 2)

Stressful but successful More than 124,000 meals served to local students

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

You might not hear their job title among those typically associated with frontline heroes, but since the COVID-19 pandemic turned nearly everyone’s life upside down last spring, school “lunch ladies” have earned a reputation for being essential workers.

They certainly have in the Cass City community, and for good reason.

Between mid-March – when state officials shut down schools across the state due to the pandemic – and Aug. 24, when schools were allowed to open their doors for the start of the 2020-21 school year, the local food service staff, assisted by a group of faithful volunteers, prepared, packaged and delivered more than 124,000 summer meals to local students.

That statistic – in a school district with an en-

rollment of about 956 kids – surprised even Cass City Schools Food Service Director Shari Bock.

“We’ve never seen numbers like this before, but we were able to do it and not lose any money, and we were able to keep the staff working,” she said.

“They’re extraordinary numbers. My staff, they worked really hard. I can’t say enough good things about them,” Bock added, noting one of two food service staff members who was laid off after schools shut down continued to come to work every day to help out with food preparation and distribution, while the other was a frequent volunteer.

“Yes, (it was) definitely a labor of love,” Bock added. “My staff did not take a break – no spring break, no summer break – but nobody was forced to; they wanted to work.”

And they weren’t alone. Volunteers came from

Please turn to page 10.

Some Tuscola County offices are reopening

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Some Tuscola County offices were rescheduled to reopen to the public last week, but most county offices remain closed due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

County commissioners supported county Controller-Administrator Clayette Zechmeister’s recommendation to open certain offices during a regular meeting Thursday.

“There have been complaints from people wanting to access the treasurer’s office to pay their taxes,” Zechmeister told commissioners. “We have a plan in place with safety protocols, so I would like to open the Purdy Building on a trial basis.”

“This is a good time to do a trial run in the Purdy Building to see our protocols in action and how they control situations.”

Besides the treasurer’s office, the Purdy Building at 125 W. Lincoln St., Caro, also houses the offices of the drain commissioner, register of deeds, equalization, the controller-administrator’s office, and the commissioners’ meeting room.

However, the treasurer’s office is the only one that is not blocked off by a lockable door and has plexiglass walk-up window services across the entire service area. The plexiglass barrier was installed several years ago as a safety precaution.

The county’s building and grounds department will mark out six-foot distancing spots in the hallway and mark an in-and-out traffic flow route in the hallways.

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

The other departments that are in the building can continue to keep their doors locked so there isn’t a lot of traffic flow, and can still conduct meetings by appointment, Zechmeister noted, adding there is also a drop box at the entrance.

There will be a COVID-19 form to fill at the entrance, and the information technology department

Please turn to page 5.

Greenleaf Township’s Powell knows a thing or two about pumpkins

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Pumpkin-growing experts can spend thousands of dollars for all of the supplies they figure they’ll need to produce a state or world record pumpkin.

Fred Powell doesn’t have thousands of dollars to throw at his garden, but the lifelong Sanilac County man knows a thing or two about growing big – really big – pumpkins, a fact that folks who pass by his Greenleaf Township residence can attest in the fall.

Well, not in every year; Powell took a couple years off from his hobby, in 2018 and 2019, but returned to his garden early this spring and proved he still has a green (orange) thumb. In fact, he currently has five large pumpkins on the vine – four of them in the 600-pound class, and a fifth weighing in at 923.

Combined, Powell has roughly 3,500 pounds of pumpkin in the patch.

That’s a personal best for Powell, who says its possible the giant could reach 1,000 pounds by the time he transports it to St. John’s later this month for the official Michigan Giant Pumpkin Growers Association weigh-in.

While pumpkins can grow as much as 19 pounds a day during the hotter part of summer, the growth slows as cooler weather sets in. “Right now, this one is still growing 10 pounds a day,” Powell noted.

Please turn to page 12.



SANILAC COUNTY native Fred Powell leans against a 923-pound pumpkin – a personal best for the veteran gardener and the largest of five he’s growing at his Greenleaf Township residence this year.

Fire destroys home in village

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Fire ripped through a two-story Cass City home early Sunday night, gutting the structure as nearly three dozen fire fighters from four area fire departments battled the blaze.

No one was injured, but the nearly 4,000-square-foot house was a total loss, according to Elkland Township Fire Chief Glenn Guilds, who estimated the loss at \$220,000 plus another \$100,000 to \$120,000 for contents. The family was insured.

Guilds said the fire appears to have started in the kitchen area, but the specific cause remains under investigation.

The home belonged to Don and Amanda Mecomber, who have four children ranging in age from two to 14. Don Mecomber serves as student minister at the Novesta

Church of Christ. Guilds noted the family had left the residence around 5 p.m. to attend Sunday evening services.

About an hour later, Elkland Township firemen were dispatched to the home, located at 4705 Seeger St., across from the Cass City Playscape. Guilds said it took just minutes for the blaze to engulf the house after blowing out the windows.

The fire chief lauded the efforts of his crew along with their peers from three other departments.

"They did an amazing job. I don't know if Cass City realizes what it has. I had 18 to 21 guys out there, (and) these guys are trained — They know what to do," he said. "All four departments worked together very, very well."

Brad Speirs, senior minister at the Novesta Church of Christ, said Sunday night that the offers of support for the Mecomber family

were pouring in non-stop. His post on Facebook, confirming the family was safe and has a place to stay, drew offers of prayer, support and donations from dozens of area residents.

Speirs said anyone wishing to donate to the family can contact the church via email at novestachurch@yahoo.com. Financial donations can be mailed to the church at 2896 N. Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 (specify that the gift is for the Mecombers).

Seeing residents rally around the family didn't surprise Guilds.

"It's a great community," he said. "We're truly blessed with a community that supports each other."

Elkland Township fire fighters remained at the scene for about five hours. They were assisted by the Caro, Elmwood Township-Gagetown and Kingston fire departments as well as the Cass City Police Department.



A 911 CALL Saturday afternoon led first responders in Sanilac County to the 3000 block of Ubyly Road in Argyle Township, where they found a 51-year-old man from Sandusky pinned under a Kubota L3830D tractor in a drainage ditch. "Quick action by Sanilac County Central Dispatch, Thumb Towing, Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies, Argyle Fire (Department) and Sanilac EMS helped extract the man," reported Sgt. Shelly Park, who said the man was transported by FlightCare Helicopter to St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw for treatment of his injuries.

2020 census deadline approaching quickly

The deadline to be counted during the 2020 U.S. census is fast approaching.

All residents are encouraged to be sure they are counted by responding to the census by Wednesday, Sept. 30. The quickest way is to complete the task is online at my2020census.gov.

The 2020 Census counts the population in the United States and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each home received an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire — online, by phone, or by mail — last March.

Residents are asked to respond to a few basic questions related to income, the number and age of children in families, and health insurance status, to help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them. Income data determines eligibility and funding in programs like Medicaid, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Head Start.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for residents and their communities. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to

hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other resources based on census data.

Each person counted amounts to \$1,800 in revenue for their local community for each of the next 10 years.

The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

A census is conducted once every 10 years. The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790.

Plentiful deer herd in Michigan, DNR officials say

Continued from page one.

bag their deer in the Upper Peninsula this year will find that the deer herd appears to have fared well last winter. "This, coupled with a good spring and excellent summer growing season, has most areas reporting more deer sightings than last year. Field staff is anticipating a slightly better hunting season," he added. During the archery season, hunters now can take an antlerless deer with either a deer or deer combo license, except in deer management units 027, 031, 036, 042, 066, 127 and 131.

In the northern Lower Peninsula, Stewart reported, "Last winter had little to no impact on deer abundance...with numbers high across much of the region. Antler development and body size look exceptionally good this year, likely due to mild winter conditions and good natural food sources available in the spring and summer."

He noted soft mast appears

spotty, but acorn production seems quite good throughout the region in areas with oak trees. "Hunters can anticipate an even better hunting season this year, weather permitting."

Under the new regulations, the early and late antlerless firearm seasons are open on private lands only in all mainland Lower Peninsula deer management units. Additionally, hunters in all deer management units may take an antlerless deer with a single deer license or deer combo license during the early and late antlerless seasons and the archery, firearm and muzzleloading seasons.

In the southern Lower Peninsula, Stewart noted, "The winter...was very mild and likely had no impact on the deer herd. Deer numbers appear to be quite high, and large bachelor groups have already been seen across much of the region. Field staff anticipate more hunter success this season."

"Hard mast appears spotty in the south, but soft mast production of

apple and pear seems very good. Staff recommends seeking out areas with wild apple and pear trees. Also, deer in this region are showing strong antler development and body size, and overall fawn numbers are very high."

In the southern Lower Peninsula, hunters may take an antlerless deer with a deer or deer combo license during the early and late antlerless seasons and the archery, firearm and muzzleloading seasons. Also, the muzzleloading season will be open to all legal firearms in Zone Three in Bay, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Newaygo, Oceana and all remaining counties in southern Michigan.

Finally, muzzleloaders can be used on public lands in Zone Three in Bay, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Newaygo, Oceana and all remaining counties in southern Michigan during the late antlerless firearm season to take any deer with a valid tag.



Val Peters

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In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire
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Tom Montgomery
Editor

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

History and life teach lessons



Alcohol, pregnancy a risky combination

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding Michigan women about the importance of avoiding alcohol while pregnant in recognition of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are a group of conditions that can occur in a person whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. These effects can include physical problems as well as problems with behavior and learning.

Often, a person with an FASD has a mix of these problems. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is the most severe of these disorders.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "to prevent FASDs, a woman should not drink alcohol while she is pregnant, or when she might get pregnant. This is because a woman could get pregnant and not know for up to four to six weeks.

"In the United States, nearly half of pregnancies are unplanned. If a woman is drinking alcohol during pregnancy, it is never too late to stop drinking. Because brain growth takes place throughout pregnancy, the sooner a woman stops drinking the safer it will be for her and her baby."

"FASDs are completely preventable. It is important that all women and men of reproductive age are aware that they or their partner should not drink alcohol while pregnant," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. "There is no 'safe' amount of alcohol while pregnant."

In 2018, an estimated 56.3 percent of women of reproductive age in Michigan, aged 18-44 years, reported one or more drinks of alcohol during the last 30 days, and 18.4 percent reported binge drinking four or more drinks of alcohol on any one occasion during the last 30 days, according to the Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Survey.

Recent studies show that between two and five percent of elementary school children have been prenatally exposed to alcohol and up to 70 percent of children in foster care have a FASD.

Six diagnostic clinics and four FASD community-based projects are available across the state to provide prevention, intervention, training and referral services. Also, a web-based training, Alcohol Free Baby and Me, has been made available by MDHHS for professionals and paraprofessionals.

Michiganders interested in learning more about the hazards of consuming alcohol at any time during pregnancy, as well as the benefits of early screening and intervention, can visit the MDHHS website Michigan.gov/fas.

To locate treatment for an individual who struggles with alcohol, visit the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Treatment Services locator.

Additional information is also available from the Michigan Coalition for Fetal Alcohol Resources, Education and Support at Mcfares.org and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it," according to writer and philosopher George Santayana.

At nearly 70 years old, I've lived through and seen a lot of historical events. And, as a journalist of almost 40 years I've written about a lot of them.

Although my specialty is governmental reporting on local municipalities, I have also written about state government from time to time. I normally shy away from political issues in my columns; but in this one, I'm not.

For over a year, I've watched state government, federal government and world happenings. Doing that has given me a whole new appreciation for the expressions: "Damned if you do, damned if you don't", and "between a rock and a hard place".

I thought the 1960s and 1970s were turbulent times, but 2020 has those years beat hands down.

I foolishly thought most of the issues had been settled and the hurts healed years ago.

My biggest concern is the latest movement of erasing history.

I find it rather hard to believe that statues that were erected decades ago are causing emotional anguish. In my opinion and experience, something that is seen every day becomes part of the scenery and basically is not given much of a second thought.

There was a war between the states. Thousands of lives were lost on both sides from April 12, 1861, to April 9, 1865. That is a fact. That is history.

And, yes, there were statues erected to those who were involved in that war. But what does taking them down really accomplish? There was still a Civil War that pitted not only northern residents against southern residents as well as family members against each other.


If some are so incensed by the statues, shouldn't that be a reminder of all of the tragic events that caused the statues to be made and erected in the first place?

Some of those same issues from that war are back in the forefront today.

A statue is a statue. Removing them is like trying to rewrite history.

A statue stands for something — whether right or wrong. It is a reminder of past events.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." I hope not.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Sanilac County Sheriff Garry Biniecki wants the public to be aware that his staff is once again participating in "No-Shave October and November" as a fun way to raise funds to donate to a charity.

Deputies will be collecting money for P-CUPS (Prostate Cancer Understanding Prevention Screenings) in an effort to further awareness of men's health and wellness.

The donations are being collected throughout the month of September for members that volunteer to participate, and everyone is invited to donate in support of the cause, according to Biniecki.

"I just wanted to alert the public again in advance that they will be seeing unshaven sheriff's office staff during the months of October and November. It is for a worthy cause and I am happy that my staff wanted to use this fun opportunity to give back to the community and make a positive difference," he said.



Youth hunter Nolan Medere bagged this impressive 9-point buck pictured above during the 2020 early season. The 14-year-old Cass City student was hunting family property in the Thumb.

The chronicle encourages all successful hunters to share their prize with our readers. It's easy to do, just email us a photo (chronicle@ccchronicle.net) and we'll do the rest.

We wish deer hunters the best of luck throughout the state and beyond. Please be safe.

Kathleen Lavey, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, writes:

There is only one thing to do as Michigan's air grows crisp, temperatures fall and trees turn from green to glorious shades of yellow, orange and red: revel in it.

Michigan's 19.3 million acres of forest land are ready to put on their annual show for leaf peepers, beginning now in the Upper Peninsula and spreading southward through October.

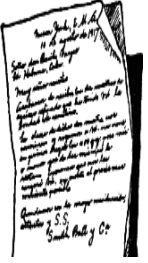
Enjoying fall color may be the perfect pastime for 2020, given the coronavirus pandemic. Take an outdoor hike or climb on bikes and hit the trails with appropriate social distancing, or just stay in the bubble of your own vehicle as you enjoy fall color from a drive along winding country roads.

"Fall color season is an incredible time to enjoy what Michigan's forests have to offer," said Jeff Stampfly, acting chief of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Forest Resources Division, which manages 4 million acres of state forest lands. "From U.P. waterfalls to the forests of the northern Lower Peninsula, there's something everyone can enjoy."

Leaf colors vary by tree species — for example, oaks turn red or brown, aspen turn golden yellow and dogwood, purplish red. Maples turn scarlet, orange-red or yellow, depending on species.

I was in Boyne City over the weekend and the colors there are in the very, very early stages - plenty of time to plan a road trip.

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.

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CASS CITY sixth grade students in Ron Woloshen's class recently accepted a donation of hand sanitizer from Emily Boynton (far left), general manager of Poet Biorefining in Caro. Plant officials donated 25 gallons of the product to the Cass City Public Schools.

Grimshaw disputes county controller's financial reports during board meeting

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The majority of Tuscola County Commissioners' three-hour committee of the whole meeting last week was spent arguing over finances.

As Tuscola County controller-administrator, it is Clayette Zechmeister's job to put together next year's budget. She explained about the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act payments to deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that it is different from the standard revenue sharing funds the state funnels to counties. Specifically, she said, the CARES money can only be used for expenses directly related to dealing with the pandemic; counties cannot use CARES funds to replace the revenue sharing, as was initially indicated.

She also reported that, according to the Michigan Department of Treasury, sales revenue is bouncing back beyond projections, and state officials plan to use that money to help fill the hole in the 2021 budget.

"Where did you get that information? Who said there would be increased revenue? I've done research," said Commissioner Dan Grimshaw. "That's not true." Zechmeister attempted to respond, but Grimshaw spoke over her.

"During the consensus report meeting on Aug. 24, it was announced a \$936 million loss for this year. For next year, for 2021-22, the state is looking at a combined hole of \$4.2 billion," he said. "Whatever person at the treasury tried to claim increased revenue is untrue."

Zechmeister started to respond, saying, "There is a surplus of revenue," when Grimshaw cut her answer off.

"There is not a surplus. They are taking money out of fund balances. They took \$2.7 billion of CARES money to fill the state budget, and they still have an estimated \$936 million loss for this year," Grimshaw said. "That is what is in the consensus report. I read it from three different sources."

"So whatever numbers someone is giving you, are not accurate at all."

Zechmeister said she received the information from the economic director of the office of revenue and tax analyst with the Michigan Department of Treasury, which is part of the revenue consensus.

"There are a lot of rainy-day funds left," she started to explain before she was cut off.

"No. There is not. If there was,

they would have back-filled all of this a long time ago. They are projecting a general fund decline of \$384 million for next year, and a school aid deficit of \$12.4 million," he said. "Do you really believe they will cut schools' money to fund revenue sharing that isn't even mandated or required by law?"

"You're dreaming."

Grimshaw noted that revenue sharing comes from sales tax, so there could not be an increase in revenue when about 50 percent of businesses are shut down.

"Mr. Grimshaw, I'm basing what I'm saying on what I'm seeing in front of me from the Michigan Economic Update that consumer spending is up 5.43 percent, where..."

Grimshaw interrupted again, questioning the percentage increase.

"Up on the average of spending," said Zechmeister before she was interrupted.

Commissioner Mark Jensen asked Grimshaw to give the controller-administrator a chance to talk.

"I am not denying the state budget will have a hole to fill for

2021, but the state projections are looking better than what they originally thought," she was able to say after the meeting was over.

Although Zechmeister served as the county's controller-administrator for just a year, she worked for 20 years in the controller-administrator's office and was previously the county's chief accountant since 2004 before changing positions.

"Mr. Grimshaw brings a lot of outside information, but she has to go by what she is given and has to proceed with what the state says," said Commissioner Tom Young.

"She has to figure the budget on information she gets from Lansing."

Zechmeister also tried to address how she is developing the county's 2021 budget while incorporating the commissioners' directive related to having departments cut three percent of their budgets. In the confusion, it was not made clear what was said about not denying pay increases, but yet cutting the three percent.

That is a quandary because the largest part of budgets involve wages and benefits.

State: prepare to vote now

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson are calling on Michigan citizens and the state Legislature to take action ahead of the Tuesday, Nov. 3, general election by preparing to make sure their vote counts.

Whitmer and Benson urged voters to request and cast their absentee ballots as soon as possible, and state legislators to pass laws to prevent delayed election results and voter disenfranchisement.

"It's crucial that all Michiganders know how to safely exercise their right to vote and make a plan ahead of the November election. Right now, Michigan citizens can register to vote and request an absentee ballot online at Michigan.gov/Vote," Whitmer said.

"They also have a number of options to vote safely and securely, including from home, early at their clerk's office, and in person at the polls, and I encourage them to make their voting plan now."

Whitmer encouraged those who choose to vote from home to avoid possible U.S. Postal Service delays by mailing their ballots back as soon as possible, or hand delivering them to their local election clerk's office or ballot drop box.

Starting Thursday, local election clerk offices will be sending ab-

sentee ballots to voters and have them available for early in-person voting. Michigan citizens who are not registered and do not have a state ID or driver's license can register at their local election clerk's office.

"Already we've had three successful elections this year which saw record turnouts, record numbers of citizens voting by mail, and little to no crowding on Election Day. We are on track to replicate this success in November," Benson said.

"Our clerks are doing their part, working tirelessly as they have all year to juggle unprecedented challenges while embracing record turnout. But they and voters need support from the federal government and our state Legislature."

Benson noted that while other states provide days for pre-processing of absentee ballots, Senate Bill 757, passed last week by the Michigan Senate, would allow only a few more hours, and only limited pre-processing, which is not enough to make a significant difference.

Benson also pointed out that thousands of voters were disenfranchised in the August primary because their ballots arrived late or without a signature matching the one on their voter registration. The Legislature has not advanced the bills that have been introduced to prevent such disenfranchisement in November.

"I encourage all voters to turn to trusted sources of information, like our printed voter guides distributed this week and our award winning online voter guide Vote411.org, as well as the information shared by the Department of State and local election clerks," said Michigan League of Women Voters President Christina Schlitt. "And if you see election information that is untrue or suspicious, report it immediately to the Department of State by emailing Misinformation@Michigan.gov."

County EDC: Tuscola airport remains a vital local economic tool

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) officials say the latest assessment of the Tuscola Area Airport confirms the value of having a local airport to support existing businesses as well as to lure prospective companies to the region.

The TEDC recently received an annual "community benefits assessment" of the airport in Caro, released by the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Michigan Aeronautics Commission.

"The report is compiled once a year to show the critical role that Michigan airports continue to play as an economic development tool," said TEDC Executive Director Steve Erickson.

"For the operating year of 2019, the report shows an economic output from airport activities of more than \$3.6 million at the local level and more than \$4.8 million at the state level," Erickson said. "At the same time, the impact from income generated from the airport is more than \$1.3 million at the local level and more than \$1.7 million at the state level."

According to the assessment, there were 14,000 operations – defined by the state aeronautics commission as take-offs and landings – at the Tuscola Area Airport last year.

"A large number of businesses benefit (from) and use the airport – some of them, like United Parcel Service in Cass City on a weekly basis," Erickson noted. "The airport is also used by many customers and suppliers of manufacturing and agricultural processing plants located in Tuscola County. Many companies like POET Biorefining want to locate their plants as close as possible to an airport."

"This type of location provides for an economic value to management and employees, especially in a rural area with no interstate highways."

Mike Pattullo, senior engineering manager at Walbro in Cass City, agreed.

"For many years, Walbro has considered the Tuscola Area Airport to be a vital asset to the company and to the future growth of Walbro," Pattullo said.

Midwest Sky Sports owners Megan Bartolowits and Henry Rise added, "The Tuscola Area Airport not only allows us to educate new aviators through the use of our flight school, but also helps us build the dreams of our customers across the country and help continue...the growth of the aviation field. This is a valuable asset to our community, and we are grateful for the location and usage of our local airport."

The Tuscola Area Airport is publicly owned by the Tuscola Area Airport Authority and is the only general aviation airport in the county.

While the village of Cass City was a financial contributor to the airport authority and maintained a presence on the authority board for years, the village council severed those ties in March 2019 after months of on-again, off-again debate.

The decision came just 12 weeks after the community welcomed a new village president and two new trustees.

Previous discussions had ended in the council's rejection of a proposal, on a split vote, to leave the authority. However, last year the council voted 6-1 in favor of resigning from the organization after multiple discussions focusing on the value of membership versus cost, which for Cass City totaled just over \$9,000 in 2019.

The village of Cass City was a founding member of the airport authority, established in 1993, along with the then-village of Caro, village of Kingston and the townships of Elkland and Almer. At the time of the local village council vote, Cass City, the city of Caro and Almer Township were the only remaining members.

The council rejected a motion to resign from the authority in 2018 on a vote of 5-2, but the measure easily passed in the spring of 2019, with all three new council members – village President Dan Delamarter and trustees Don Ball and Joe Leeson supporting the plan along with trustees Tom Herron and Rob Piaskowski.

Trustee Jenny Zawilinski cast the lone "no" vote, saying she had mixed emotions about the decision.

"We've paid into it (authority) for 20-some odd years. It's time for somebody else to pay," Piaskowski commented at the time.

Delamarter said he believed the village would be getting a "bigger bang for its buck" by spending airport authority membership dues directly on revitalization projects within the community.

NOTICE FOR GILFORD TOWNSHIP September 10, 2020 - MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: D. Strasz, Treasurer; R. Haines, Clerk; J. Stockmeyer, Supervisor; A. Goss, Trustee K. Houghtaling, Trustee. Order of agenda approved. Observed a minute of silence for 911

Public Comment: What happened to Bradleyville road?? Chip and seal, then a fogging: suppose to be paved at future date. Resident not happy with the existing condition.

Minutes of previous meeting: Motion by D. Strasz, second by A. Goss, to approve minutes. Minutes approved.

Treasurers Report: Motion by R. Haines, second by K. Houghtaling to approve treasure report. Motion approved.

REPORTS

Supervisor: No fire runs Discussion on bids for Quanicassee Rd, still working on ditch construction details, K. Houghtaling made a motion to accept Gentner Excavating bid for Quanicassee Rd. project, B. Haines second. Motion approved. Cemetery road is sprayed, grading is next. Hall repairs are completed; Public hearing for zoning ordinance is Sept 22 at 7:30 at Gilford Township Hall. Discussion on party store residency, will remain commercial.

Treasurer: Discussion on CDs and low interest rates, will talk with Northstar Bank: Taxes are due Monday September 15, no word from accountant about the audit.

Clerk: FOIA request for election data was retracted. Explained the voided checks, trouble with new printer. Motion to pay bills: motion by A. Goss, second by D. Strasz. Motion approved.

Trustees: Parks and rec meeting: requested picnic tables, discuss moving tennis courts, requested new benches, sidewalk completed. Reminder of public hearing for zoning on September 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Ambulance Representative: Gilford had 4 medical responses in July, Average response time 10min 14 sec.

Fire Department Representative: Reese: hose testing September 9, extrication training, ladder testing, regional training coming.

Zoning Administrator: One inquiry for a zoning permit for a prefabricated shed.

Public Comment: None
Motion by J. Stockmeyer, second by R. Haines, to adjourn at 9:13 P.M. Motion approved.

Robert L. Haines
Gilford Township Clerk

Pair injured in Friday collision

Sanilac County Sheriff's Department investigators say two teens were injured in a traffic crash Friday morning in Sanilac County's Moore Township.

Deputies were dispatched the scene – the intersection of Uibly and Sanilac roads – at about 9:10 a.m.

According to Sheriff Garry Biniacki, a 19-year-old female from Sandusky, driving a 1998 Ford, stopped at the intersection and then pulled into the path of a 2000 Dodge driven by a 56-year-old Snover man.

The teen and her 16-year-old passenger were both hurt in the collision and were transported by Sanilac EMS to McKenzie Memorial Hospital for treatment. The Snover man was not injured.

The names were withheld pending completion of the investigation. No other information was available.

Biniacki noted the Moore Township Fire Department and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) assisted deputies at the scene.

Reporter's notebook

Proceed to
the route...

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



These are tense times we're living in, aren't they? Even our electronics don't seem nearly as friendly as they used to be.

That was my thought recently as my wife and I were wandering around northern Michigan for a weekend getaway, and we were using our cellphones' maps app to guide us to various destinations.

Sure is a far cry from the "old days" when wives would share stories of their frustration over husbands refusing to stop and ask for directions, in spite of being hopelessly lost out in the middle of nowhere. Of course, what those wives didn't realize is that their husbands knew they were just one turn away from getting back on track. Besides, nagging (from some wives – not mine, of course) has a way of prompting some husbands (some, not me) of digging their heels in.

Throw the long-gone era of paper maps into the mix, and I don't have to tell you what a loud, confusing mess that used to be for some folks.

But I digress.

Anyway, this GPS technology is pretty convenient, allowing the user to simply type in an address or destination, which results in a map or maps appearing on the screen and a gal's voice guiding you every step of the way, telling you when and where to turn or merge or whatever.

But I've noticed "she" isn't nearly as flexible – well, at least when it comes to driver error — as the nice lady whose voice we became accustomed to when we first experimented with this technology while using one of the older Garmin GPS units many years ago now.

Back then, when we occasionally missed a turn, "she" would gently demonstrate a certain understanding of our simple and understandable error and respond by saying, "Recalculating..." which meant "she" would quickly tell us how to get where we wanted to go by providing us with revised directions based on our having missed a turn or taking a turn we shouldn't have.

But today's cellphone app? Not the same story.

My wife was driving and, after taking a wrong turn, the voice emanating from the phone let us know, in no uncertain terms, that there would be no alternative directions.

"Proceed to the route..." is all "she" said.

We continued traveling in the wrong direction for a quarter mile or so while we looked for a place to turn around.

But "she" is rather impatient.

"Proceed to the route..."

"Proceed to the route..."

"Proceed to the route..."

Frankly, I half expected "her" to start getting a bit snotty if we didn't turn around. Something like, "Am I speaking Chinese? French? I said, 'PROCEED TO THE FLIPPIN' ROUTE, YOU MORON!'"

We did turn around and we did arrive at our destination, thanks to the voice of Miss Perfect guiding us there with what I could swear was a smug tone, which prompted me to mutter under my breath, Geesh! Lighten up already, lady.

It's enough to make a husband want to stop for directions, you know?

Some county offices reopening

Continued from page one.

is designing an application that can be downloaded and submitted beforehand.

When the COVID-19 questionnaire application is complete, it will be posted on the county's website tuscolacounty.org.

As Zechmeister explained the form and the application program, Commissioner Dan Grimshaw asked if there is a section that requests a phone number and an email address.

Zechmeister said there is, but that the information would be used only for contact tracing in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 exposure.

Grimshaw indicated he has an issue with contact information being given, saying he had never and would never provide that information.

Grimshaw also pushed to have all of the county buildings opened.

Zechmeister countered that the other departments – such as the jail and prosecutor's office – should be contacted first before ordering them to reopen.

"They have their own protocols for their buildings in place, and there is also the matter of safety from the COVID-19 virus for county employees and the public," she said.

As for the courthouse, the state court administrator's office will be the one to make the decision to reopen that building.

"There is no date set to fully open the courthouse to the general public. We are holding limited in-person hearings, and all other matters are being held via appointment at the walk-up window," explained county Clerk Jodi Fetting.

The county's courts are gearing up to resume holding trials, with district court proceedings remaining in the courthouse and circuit court trials scheduled to take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Caro.

MSP: beware of gifts in mail

Continued from page one.

line by shipping an inexpensive product to an unwitting receiver and then submitting positive reviews on the receiver's behalf under the guise of a verified owner.

The more recent deliveries, however, have not involved seeds, Pisha said.

"The packages have so far contained harmless items; most consisting of home goods, cleaning supplies, small electronics and even personal accessories," he explained. "However, MSP wants to remind residents to be extremely cautious and to avoid opening any packages originating from overseas, especially if you have not placed any recent online orders from sellers outside the United States.

"These packages can be difficult to trace and typically have Chinese or other foreign languages on them, making it very difficult to decipher the contents. If you receive package from another country, and suspect you may have received something you did not order, please call 911."

Pisha noted troopers and local law enforcement agencies are trained to handle potentially dangerous packages and have resources available to help them determine if they are safe to open.

"MSP has also discovered some of these incidents can be the result of hackers accessing (residents') online retail accounts and ordering items directly, using a victim's own profile and financial information," he said. "If you receive items in the mail under suspicious circumstances, the state police recommends checking all of your online retail and financial accounts to check for unauthorized activity."

Of course, if residents discover suspicious activity, they should immediately contact the affected institutions and close those accounts. But they should also remain vigilant.

"With the upcoming holiday seasons, criminals will be in full force and, with the rapid increase of online fraud and identity theft cases, MSP also recommends utilizing a reputable credit monitoring service to help protect your accounts and identity," Pisha said.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2015)

Schneeberger's Athlete of the Week honors goes to Cass City volleyball player Baylee Murphy. The Lady Red Hawk sophomore turned in a spectacular week for Coach Bill Potter as his team improved to 23-9-2 on the season. Murphy had 37 digs and 9 aces to aide her team in capturing the USA tournament over the weekend, which followed solid showings in GTW action against Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port and Bad Axe. Against the Lakers, Murphy's stats included 10 digs and 4 aces, while against the Hatchets she came off the bench to shine at the service line. "Baylee's serving is very consistent and accurate and she had the third highest number of aces (against Bad Axe). She has really improved lately and I like what I see," said Potter. Baylee is the daughter of Scott and Michelle Murphy.

10 YEARS AGO (2010)

THE CASS CITY 2010 Homecoming royal couple is King Joe Doerr and Queen Krista Guinther. The seniors were crowned during halftime festivities of the Red Hawk's gridiron contest with Reese. Owen-Gage also crowned its homecoming royalty Friday night seniors Mitchel LaPratt and Lauren Mandich highlighted the school's homecoming celebration Friday when the pair were announced the Bulldog 2010 King and Queen.

Gia Mellendorf knew she wanted to be a funeral director the day she met Debra Kranz, owner of Kranz Funeral Homes in Cass City and Kingston. The Cass City native was a local high school junior at the time, and Kranz visited her psychology class one day. "She talked about death and dying and the stages of grief," Mellendorf recalled. "I had never met a female funeral director. I hadn't even thought of it." Mellendorf never looked back. The 1997 Cass City High School graduate recently purchased the Dinkel-Juengel Funeral Home — now the Juengel and Mellendorf Funeral Home Inc., in Sebawaing — and today is ready to carry on Sebawaing native Warren Juengel's 32-year legacy of providing a full line of funeral home services to families in the Thumb. "I have to give a lot of credit to Deb Kranz," Mellendorf commented Saturday as she prepared to host an open house at the funeral home. "She gave me a lot of direction, kept me interested."

25 YEARS AGO (1995)

Chad Tate set a new school record, firing a 32 at Rolling Hills Golf Course, and the Hawks posted the low team round of the year to defeat Bad Axe, 163-178, Monday, Sept. 25. Other Hawks scorers were Chad Zawilinski, 41, Josh Male, 44, and Andy Green, 46. BadAxe was led by Steve Kyzak, 42, and Chris Hanson, 45. Thursday Cass City lost the match 168-170 to Harbor Beach, but gained a split in the points, winning the match point while losing the stroke point. Tate was again the medalist, with a 35. Zawilinski and Drew Kelly each shot 44 and Male, 47. John Zang-Boms shot 40 to lead the Pirates. Jeff Winkle shot 42 and Greg Mascarrow, 43.

CHARLES TUNIS of Deford received a plaque from the Tuscola County Fire Instructors Association at the September Tuscola County Fire Fighters Association meeting held at the Cass City Department of Natural Resources Field Office. The plaque was for many years of service to Tunis for being an instructor.

35 YEARS AGO (1985)

Keith Clark of Williamston, formerly Cass City, received a BBA degree in accounting at Saginaw Valley State College. His wife Cindy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Schneeberger of Cass City. The couple have a son, Adam. He was one of 18 students to graduate with summa cum laude honors.

Scott Krueger has been accepted into a 2-year Exotic Animal Training and Management program in Moorpark, Calif. This year there were approximately 1,000 applications sent to the board of directors, and only 50 were chosen. Scott is the son of Rod and Colleen Krueger of Cass City.

Marty Daniel, who is qualified as an athletic trainer, certified (ATC) envisions that his new job will start in the morning and many days continue into the evening hours. What the new director of rehabilitation and physical fitness hopes to do is help Walbro employees and others to faster injury recovery and direct a physical fitness program in the evenings. He is well qualified to do both. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Ball State University. He was a member of the student trainer program with over 1,100 clinical hours in Ball State's athletic training rooms. Before accepting the position at Walbro, he was at Blackford High School, where he taught health education classes. He also was head athletic trainer, varsity assistant football coach, women's basketball coach and junior varsity baseball coach.

40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Mrs. Paul Craig and Mrs. Lucile Miller entertained relatives at dinner Saturday evening when the birthday of Mrs. Harold Craig was celebrated. Guests, besides Mr. and Mrs. Harold Craig, were Mr. and Mrs. Ron Decker of Big Rapids, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Craig and Barbara and Mrs. Hazel Barnes.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Shaw of Decker, an eight-pound, four-ounce son, Mark Stephen, in Huron Memorial Hospital, Bad Axe, Aug. 21. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Guc of Cass City and Mr. and Mrs. Alan Shaw of Decker.

50 YEARS AGO (1970)

Gordon Spencer of Deford was discharged from the U. S. Army July 31. He took basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., and AIT at Fort Ord, Calif. He spent about two months in Germany while serving in the infantry.

Krista Anne, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Iseler, was baptized during the morning service Sunday in the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Sponsors were Miss Janet Hartman of St. Johns and Charles Iseler of Muskegon. The dress worn by the baby, which had previously been worn by her two sisters, Tamara Elizabeth and Heidi Kay, was handmade by the mother of Mrs. Fred Iseler and has been worn by three generations on baptismal occasions. Following the church service a dinner was served in the Dale Iseler home which was attended by the Iseler and Zinnecker

families and Pastor and Mrs. Van-Dellen and family.

75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Cass City's "B" squad has been working hard the past few weeks under the tutelage of Rev. Arnold Olsen, in preparation of their six-game schedule which opens with the Caro freshmen at Caro on Oct. 1. Boys making a bid for the "regulars" on the "B" team are as follows: Brooks, Cooklin, Dickinson, Fritz, Hill, Holcomb, Howell, Jeffery, Kettlewell, Little, Lessman, Martin, McWilliams, Melzer, Otulakowski, Parsch, Peddie, Prieskorn, Rabideau, Silvernail, Sherman, Wallace, Willard, Tuckey, Bullis and Ziemba.

The Kim family was a bit excited when they read in the Free Press of the U.S. Seventh Fleet being in the waters of the Whangpoo River, on their way to Shanghai, China. Their son Stanley Jr. is a member of that fleet, on the USS Nashville, which was mentioned in the dispatch.

100 YEARS AGO (1920)

The first regular meeting of the current school year of the Parent Teachers' association held at the high school Monday evening was well attended by an enthusiastic crowd of members and school patrons. After the election of officers, spirited discussions followed on community needs that can be carried on by the association the coming year. The officers elected were: President, F. A. Bigelow. Vice president, Mrs. G. A. Tindale, Second vice president, Mrs. Dora Fritz, Secretary, Miss King, Treasurer, G. W. Landon, Reporter, Mrs. J. C. Farrell. Some discussion of the cigarette habit followed. The use of this weed has been discovered among several pupils especially in the lower grades. All members of the association are very emphatically cooperating with the teachers to stop its use among minors. The law is very strict concerning the selling, and giving of cigarettes to minors and for the benefit of the public it is here quoted in full.

"I wonder if you know who I am," asked a young lady of P.S. Rice as she stepped up to the counter in Benkelman's store Saturday. Mr. Rice had to admit that he did not, though the lady's face looked somewhat familiar to him. He was considerably nonplussed when the questioner informed him that she was his daughter-in-law, Mrs. R. Rice, of Oakland, Calif. Mrs. Rice and daughter, Arlene, spent Saturday at the Rice home and are now visiting in Caro. They expect to spend several days with Mr. and Mrs. Rice before starting on their return trip to Oakland.

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LOADING UP — Autumn is an important season for deer in the Thumb and across the state as it provides a last opportunity to store energy for the coming winter. The rut and avoiding hunters also take their toll, making it even more important to store up fat reserves, which are metabolized by deer to help offset the impacts of reduced food supply and poorer quality diets once the cold and snow arrive. Deer can lose up to 30 percent of their body mass during winter and still survive.

Local FFA members earn national, state, regional recognition

A trio of Cass City FFA members were recently recognized at the national, state and regional levels.

Dori Battel, 14, the daughter of Bob and Sue Stuever Battel, Cass City, was recently named a national finalist in the National FFA Agriscience Fair.

During her eighth grade year, the now-freshman surveyed farmers regarding their attitudes about climate change. She analyzed the data, created graphs of her findings, wrote a research paper and created a scientific poster.

In March, Dori was named the junior high individual state winner in the social science category of the Michigan FFA Arthur Berkey Agriscience Fair after giving a presentation and being interviewed by judges. From there, her paper was considered by a panel of judges at the national level. She is one of 12 students to be selected as national finalists.

Battel was scheduled to submit a five-minute video about her project to judges to determine the national winner and gold and silver awards. Placings will be announced during the virtual National FFA Convention and Expo, slated for Oct. 27-29.

Last year she was state winner in the junior high individual animal science category and earned a national silver award and national sixth-place ranking.

Adity Stuever Battel, 18, also recently garnered national recognition. In March she was named state winner in the Agricultural Processing Proficiency area for her work with County Line Kids Pure Maple Syrup, which she runs with her sister, Dori. The state title allowed her application to be considered by National FFA judges, who granted her a gold award.

Last year, Adity earned a national silver in the Agricultural Communication Proficiency area after being named state winner. Now a Michigan State University freshman majoring in environmental studies and sustainability in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, she currently serving as a Michigan FFA State Officer.

The third Cass City FFA member, Marissa Petiprin-Ball, 17, is joining the 2020-21 Region III FFA Officer Team. The Cass City

High School senior was nominated for regional secretary after an application and interview process, and will run against an FFA member from another chapter. The member not elected to secretary will fill the regional treasurer role.

The election will take place Saturday, Sept. 26, during the virtual Region III FFA Leadership Camp.

Michigan FFA is broken into six regions. Region III covers six counties in the Bay and upper Thumb area.

Petiprin-Ball served as the 2019-20 Cass City FFA Chapter president. The chapter will soon elect new officers for this school year under the guidance of their FFA chapter advisor, Heather Middleton.



Adity Battel



Dori Battel

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REAL ESTATE AUCTION SALE

Osentoski Auction Service has been commissioned to sell at public auction the following Real Estate Auction, from Cass City, 7 1/8 East to 4921 Cass City Rd.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15th, 2020
11:00AM
AUCTION HELD ON SITE**

Sanilac County, Greenleaf Twps., Section 26 & 35
159 +or-Acres total, 123 tillable.
on paved road. Parcel A: Section 35, 80 Acres,
65 1/2 tillable +or-, consisting of 1 1/2 story,
4 bedroom, 1.5 bath country home.
Very clean and spacious, apx 1300 sq. ft. 30x40
pole building. Possession of home at closing.
Parcel B: Section 26,79 Acres,
58 tillable, balance woods
Parcel: C, All of the above.



4 Bedroom home, 1.5 bath,
30x40 pole building

Immediate occupancy on home.



159 +or- Acres



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THE 2020 CASS CITY Red Hawk football team is ready to defend their conference crown. They are: (front row, l-r) Matt Mihalic, Cameron Kaake, Kyle Jordan, Dustin Naegele, Justin Miller, Jordan Mester, Ayden Torres (middle row, l-r) Coach Scott Cuthrell, Ryan Delong, Jeremy Velasquez, Alex Perry, Lance Swiderski, Noah Zaleski, Bryce Fernald (back row, l-r) Asst. Coach Brett Ross, Jacob Shantz, Connor Herford, Ethan Kampo, Joseph Zietz and Asst. Coach Tavis Osentoski.

Cass City returns to gridiron in splendid style against Vassar

by Clarke Haire
 Publisher

Alex Perry and Jordan Mester each rushed for over 100 yards Friday as Cass City whipped host Vassar in Greater Thumb West action that served as the season opener for both schools.

Perry struck pay dirt twice in the opening quarter as Cass City

grabbed a 12-0 advantage after one quarter that the visitors stretched into a 28-0 gap after two.

Perry, who rushed for 129 yards on 13 attempts, actually scored on a 15-yard pass play from quarterback Bryce Fernald to start the touchdown parade. Perry score again in the first quarter with a 3-yard run with 1:34 showing on the clock. Please turn to page 9.

Lady Red Hawk spikers working on chemistry

by Clarke Haire
 Publisher

Cass City bounced backed nicely from Thursday defeat at Unionville-Sebewaing Area (USA) High School with easy

wins over the weekend against victims Port Huron and host Ubly.

Originally, the weekend quad tournament was slated in Brown City. It was moved to Ubly on Saturday due to COVID-19 concerns. Please turn to page 9.



THE 2020 CASS CITY Red Hawk volleyball team members are: (front row, l-r) Abby Phillips, Abbey Halabis, Madison Cumper, Saylar Cuthrell, Olivia Graff (back row, l-r) Anne Gingras, Abbey Essex, Haven Bouverette, Sierra Spry, Macey White, Laci Anthony and Kalee Gray. The team is coached by Amy Cuthrell.

Cass City Red Hawk ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Knight Insurance Agency proudly presents Kalee Gray as their Cass City Red Hawk Athlete of the Week.

Gray, a junior, is a first year varsity volleyball player for Coach Amy Cuthrell. You won't know that by the way she has opened her volleyball career for the Red Hawks.

In her first start, Gray recorded 8 winners and 4 blocks against Vassar and then followed that performance with 23 kills over the weekend in wins over Port Huron and Ubly.

Kalee is the daughter of Andy and Kim Gray.



KALEE GRAY

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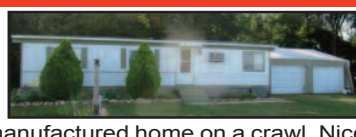
SOLD!!!

This Tri-Level, 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home is waiting for you to move in. Located on a half acre corner lot, has a nice manicured lawn, front porch, patio off the back. A small shed for outdoor storage. Living room has large picture window. 123-20-0026



NEW!!!

Moving to the country on a paved road? This is it for you. 3 bedroom 1 bath manufactured home on a crawl. Nice backyard with some woods. Have a 2 car detached garage for your vehicles/storage. Open kitchen. Nice place. 038-20-0098



SOLD!!!

This 3 Bedroom 1 Bath home boasts hardwood floors, cove ceilings and Old World Charm! Master bedroom and laundry are on main floor. Lots of updates including windows, newer roof, updated bath. Basement could be finished to your liking. Very neat, clean and ready for you to move in! 038-20-0089



NEW!!!

Beautiful secluded 10.5+/- acres of property. The 3 bedroom, 2 bath home sets on the back corner of the property. The rest is all wooded with plenty of wildlife. There's room to make plenty of trails for walking, riding your 4 wheeler, ect., large concrete patio and a large rear deck. 123-20-0032



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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 Back On

Varsity Football

Date	Opponent
9/18	CC 56; Vassar 0
9/25	Reese
10/2	Harbor Beach Homecoming
10/9	USA
10/16	Caro
10/23	Beaverton

All games begin at 7 p.m.



JV Football

Date	Opponent
9/21	Vassar
9/28	Reese
10/5	Harbor Beach
10/12	USA
10/19	Caro
10/23	Beaverton @ 4 p.m.

All games begin at 6:30 p.m. unless noted

Volleyball (FRESHMAN, JV & VARSITY)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/12	Yale (JV)	8:30 a.m.
9/15	Vassar (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
9/17	USA (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
9/19	Brown City Quad (V)	8:30 a.m.
9/19	Cass City Quad (JV)	8:30 a.m.
9/24	Caro (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
9/26	Cros-Lex Quad (F)	8:30 a.m.
9/29	Reese (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/1	EPB Lakers (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/3	Cass City Quad (JV & V)	8:30 a.m.
10/6	Bad Axe (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/8	Vassar (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/10	Almont Quad (V)	8:30 a.m.
10/10	Yale Quad (F)	8:30 a.m.
10/13	USA (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/15	Harbor Beach (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/17	Yale Quad (V)	8:30 a.m.
10/17	Marlette Quad (JV)	8:30 a.m.
10/20	Caro (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/22	Reese (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/24	Cass City Quad (F)	8:30 a.m.
10/27	EPBP Lakers (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/29	Bad Axe (F, JV & V)	6:00 p.m.
10/31	Armada Quad (V)	8:30 a.m.
10/31	BC Central Quad (V)	10:00 a.m.
11/2-7	Districts (V)	TBA

Varsity Girls Swim co-op @ Caro

Date	Location	Time
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
9/12	Bad Axe	9:00 a.m.
9/22	Cass City Quad	4:00 p.m.
9/26	Lakers	9:00 a.m.
10/1	Kingston	4:30 p.m.
10/10	Cass City	9:00 a.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
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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Perry scores 4 TDs in Cass City win

Continued from page 7.

game clock.

Perry scored his third touchdown midway thru the second quarter and Fernald connected with Noah Zaleski for the points after, putting Cass City in control. Zaleski closed out the scoring in the opening half with a 2-yard run, followed by his run for points after that removed most doubt for the game's outcome as the defending GTW champs established a 28-0

cushion entering the closing half before settling for a 56-0 final score.

"Off to a good start and really proud of our defensive effort. Getting a shut-out is important to these guys. The defense is very experienced and leading the way was Jeremy Velasquez leading with 8 tackles. We are happy with the physical condition we are in," said Cass City Coach Scott Cuthrell.

Perry added his fourth and final touchdown with a 44 yard bust in

the third quarter that was followed by markers from Fernald, Mester - he had 109 rushing yards - and Dustin Naegele.

Fernald scored on a 9-yard run and Mester on a 34-yard jaunt in the third quarter while Naegele crossed the goal line from the one-yard line in the closing seconds.

"I felt we moved the ball well offensively," said Cuthrell. "Bryce Fernald did an outstanding job leading our offense. He has worked very hard and it showed." #####

USA spikers defeat Cass City in GTW play

Continued from page 7.

"This was a tri tournament as Brown City was in quarantine," explained Cass City Coach Amy Cuthrell who noted Cass City took out Ubyly 3-1 and Port Huron 3-0 giving us two wins on the day.

Cuthrell praised the Lady Red Hawks effort at the event, despite needing to fill the shoes of Greater Thumb West (GTW) all-conference performers Hailey Beckrow and Abbey Salcido in 2020.

In the pair's final Red Hawk volleyball season, in league play, Beckrow recorded 208 kills, 55 digs, 16 service receptions and nine aces, while Salcido's numbers included 314 digs, 234 service receptions and seven aces. Last year, Cass City finished runner-up in the GTW standing with a 9-3 record in 2019.

In early season play it was been Sierra Spry and Kalee Gray leading the Red Hawks near the net.

"(I) was happy with how the team played coming off a disappointing loss to USA. The girls

are finding their chemistry and will continue to make gains each week," Cuthrell said.

Individually, for Cass City, Spry had 29 kills and 13 blocks and Gray added 23 kills to pace the offense while Saylor Cuthrell added 36 assists and Abby Phillips 18 assists. Defensively, Cass City had Haven Bouverette with 48 digs, Macey White with 42 digs and Madison Cumper with 40 digs.

GTW GAMES

Cass City had no trouble finishing off visiting Vassar to kick off conference play last Tuesday, but couldn't close the door Thursday at USA as the defending GTW champs dropped the opening set, but rallied with three straight wins to cap the night.

Against the Vulcan, Cass city sent their guests home after suffering defeats of 25-12, 25-11 and 26-24.

"It was nice to finally get our first matches in. The girls worked hard preparing and will continue

to improve now that we have transitioned back to the gym," said Cuthrell.

Spry with 13 kills and Gray with 8 kills looked strong at the net - both girls' added 4 blocks - in the Red Hawks' opener while Phillips and Cuthrell had 18 and 10 assists respectfully. White had a team high 10 digs and Cumper chipped in 8 digs.

At USA, Cass City rolled to an easy game one victory 25-12, but never seriously challenged their hosts afterwards, falling by the scores of 25-18, 25-13 and 25-9.

"We started out very disciplined and followed the game plan as designed. The energy was exciting and things looked promising," said Cuthrell, adding, "We need to however maintain the energy and stick to the game plan. I was encouraged with all the players contribution and with a few tweaks we will continue to improve as the season progresses."

Team leaders for Cass City saw Spry with 13 kills, Phillips with 18 assists and Cumper with 31 digs.



Photo by Shari Ahern.

THE 2020 Kingston Cardinals spikers are: (front row, l-r) Misty Dawn Smith, Delaney St. George, Kali Norris, Katelyn Ensign, Mariea Haag (back row, l-r) Isabel Hurd, Brooklyn Walker, Ella Retan, Hannah James, Olivia Ulewicz, Kristen Ensign and Madison Coyer. The Lady Cardinals are coached by Beth Hunter.

Lady Cardinals off to good start

The Kingston Cardinal spikers defeated Mayville in straight sets last week to remain undefeated in early season play. The scores Thursday were 25-16, 25-13 and 25-19. The contest however, was closer than the final scores subject.

"Kingston defeated a feisty Mayville Thursday night for their first division win of the 2020 season. The Wildcats jumped out to early leads in all three sets before the Cardinals made a push and came out on top," said Kingston Coach Beth Hunter.

As expected, Hannah James came up big for Kingston with 19 assists, 4 service points, 3 kills, and a pair of aces. But she'll need help for Kingston to be successful on the year as graduates Anna Ahern, Payton Kolacz and Brooke Mooney are gone from a team that posted 15-13 overall and 6-4 NCTL Stars records in 2019.

Likely replacements to pick up the workload for the tri of graduates included Ella Retan, Brooklyn Walker, Isabel Hurd and

Delaney St. George.

Against the Wildcats, Retan recorded 8 kills, 4 service points, 3 digs and one ace; Walker had 15 service points, 2 kills and one ace; Hurd had 5 kills, 5 service points and one ace; St George had 4 kills, 4 service points and 2 aces.

Earlier in the week, Kingston opened its season defeating North Huron in non-conference action. The scores were 25-18, 22-25, 26-24 and 28-26.

"Kingston notched a win in their season opener Tuesday night in a very competitive match against North Huron. Lots of momentum shifts each set with Kingston finding a way to close out the match down the stretch," said Hunter. "I was really happy to see the effort and resilience. I wasn't sure what to expect after all of the

chaos to start the season but my crew delivered in big moments. It was a great way to start the season and hopefully we are able to build on it going forward. Even though things looked a little different tonight with the new health measures, it was great to see the girls back doing what they love."

Individually, James recorded 23 assists, 20 service points, 6 digs, 2 blocks, 2 aces and 2 kills in a rounded showing while Retan added 12 kills, 10 service points, 4 blocks and 4 digs; Hurd had 10 kills, 8 service points, 2 digs and Walker had 6 service points, 5 digs and 2 Kills for the winners.

The Cardinals (2-0 Overall, 1-0 NCTL Stars) were to have traveled to face Deckerville Tuesday to take on the Eagles in another divisional contest. #####

Obituaries

Chrisinda Bean

Chrisinda Mary Bean, age 36, of Cass City, passed away suddenly, Thursday, September 3, 2020 at her residence. She was born September 30, 1983 to the late Steven and Lisa (Grammatico) Bean. She worked as a cashier in retail stores and was an animal lover.

Enjoyed photography and movies, but most of all, loved time with her family, especially her daughters.

Chrisinda is survived by her 3 daughters, Kelli Rhein, Jazmin Bean and Anna Bean, her mother, Lisa of Cass City, brothers, Steven Lee Bean of Cass City and Joseph (Ashley) Bean of Cass City and a nephew, Joey. She was predeceased by her father, Steven Bean and a sister, Patricia Bean.

A private family service took place, followed by cremation at Sunset Valley Crematory.

Please share condolences at www.thabetfuneralhome.com Arrangements were made by Thabet Funeral Home of Cass City.



Dean Hoag

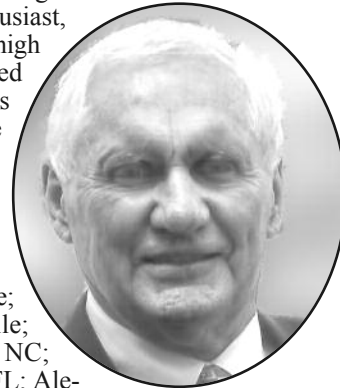
Dean Robert Hoag, 84, of Cass City died unexpectedly Saturday September 12, 2020 in Hills and Dales General Hospital of Cass City. He was born June 13, 1936 in Cass City to Andrew and Eva (Travis) Hoag. He married Diane (Draschil) Hayes June 28, 2008 in Caro United Methodist Church.

Dean attended Cass City High School in 1954. He served in the U.S. Army, where he played on their baseball team for two years. Following his military service, Dean went to work for General Cable as a shipping and receiving manager, retiring after thirty-two years. A local sports enthusiast, he was an official and referee for area high school sporting events. Dean coached Little League baseball for fifteen years and Babe Ruth for five years. He played fast pitch softball for twenty-five years. Dean served on the Cass City Board of Education for eleven years. He attended Novesta Church of Christ, Cass City.

Dean is survived by his wife, Diane; children: Rick Hoag of Hudsonville; Terry (David) Graham of Pinehurst, NC; Rusty (Jessica) Hoag of Bradenton, FL; Aleisia (Randy) Ferris of Fowlerville; Darryl (Adrienne) Hoag of Glendale, AZ; twelve grandchildren: Karen, Ellen, Tyler, Jillian, Leann, Amanda, Cody, Jeremy, Jordan, Anthony, Landon, Eli; four great grandchildren; Diane's children: Linda (Geoff) Gibor of Caro; Susan Harms of Brooklyn, MI; six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by parents; brother, Merle Hoag.

Funeral service was held Thursday, September 17, 2020 in Novesta Church of Christ, Cass City with Brad Speirs officiating. Interment will be in Elkland Township Cemetery. Military honors conducted by Cass City V.F.W. Post # 3466 and the U.S. Army. Memorials may be made to Revive Ministries, Samaritan's Purse, Wounded Warriors or Positive Alternatives. Friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



Donald McConnell

Donald Vernon McConnell, 90, of Cass City died unexpectedly Saturday September 12, 2020 in Hills and Dales General Hospital of Cass City. He was born December 5, 1929 in Tuscola County to Vernon and Verna (Keilitz) McConnell. He married Arlene A. Lane in 1953 in the First Baptist Church of Bad Axe.

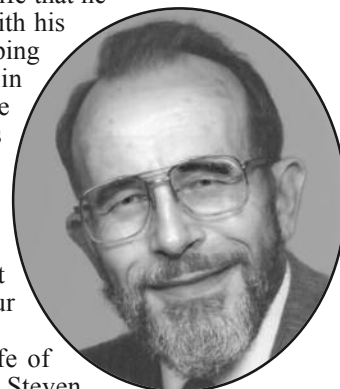
Don graduated from Cass City High School in 1947. He was drafted in service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War era and was stationed in France. He returned home, completed a business degree, and worked for 37 1/2 years as an engineer for Chrysler in Highland Park. He then retired from Chrysler in 1994 and moved back to Cass City.

Don was known for his respect for the truth in all things and at all times. He spent years studying God's Word and lovingly sharing the good news of God's offer of eternal life that he found there with others. Together with his family, Don loved the outdoors; camping at Sleepers State Park, backpacking in the Porcupine Mountains, and canoe packing in Canada. He was always ready for a game of Euchre. He was a quiet, intelligent, dignified and thoroughly 'manly' man, with a tender and loving heart. Over his workshop a sign says "The Best Way to Defeat your Enemies... is to make them your Friends."

Don is survived by his loving wife of sixty-seven years, Arlene; their son, Steven (Nancy) McConnell of Belleville, IL; grandchildren: Dr. Michael (Kaylee) McConnell of Vail, AZ; Daniel McConnell of Rolla, MO; great grandson, Tucker; brother, Chuck (Wanda) McConnell; sisters: Melva Gunther of Ohio; Peggy Norquist of Cass City; many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother, Leigh McConnell; sisters: Norma Speirs, Patricia Blue.

Graveside service was held Wednesday, September 16, 2020 in Elkland Township Cemetery with Pastor Bryce Hager of Bible Truth Baptist Church of Marlette officiating. Memorials may be made to Bible Truth Baptist Church of Marlette or Samaritan's Purse. Friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com. In accordance with the current state executive order, social distancing and limitations on numbers gathered will be observed. Attendees are also kindly reminded to wear a mask or other facial covering.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



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Please turn to page 11.



CASS CITY Schools Food Service staffers (from left) Karla Felix, Sally Pergande, Brenda Stover and Barb McComb pack lunches at the elementary school. It's a job they repeat for each grade level now that school is back in session and operating with restrictions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo courtesy of Shari Bock)

More than 124,000 meals served this summer

Continued from page one.

the school staff, including teachers and administrators, as well as a few from the community. "They all helped with a portion of it at some time this year," Bock said.

Aside from meals prepared every week for students, the food service staff and volunteers distributed about 10,500 cases of USDA food boxes — dairy boxes, cheese boxes, fruit boxes, produce boxes — which were given away to families on Wednesdays at the junior-senior high school.

The USDA food box program, which sought to utilize milk and produce going to waste as a result of massive business closures across the state, has since ended. However, Bock said, "We may start that up again, and this time

they would add a meat box. Apparently, they're (USDA) trying to keep it going for another six weeks."

Looking back, Bock acknowledged the state-issued executive orders that closed schools in March and limited gatherings to 10 people proved to be a challenge for the school food service program, but she and her staff didn't miss a beat as they quickly organized, preparing meals and forming partnerships with Revive Ministries in Cass City and the Novesta Church of Christ to set up pick-up locations for area families.

In a nutshell, the program initially involved preparing enough meals so that families could pick up seven breakfasts and seven lunches for each child on a weekly

basis. The staff also utilized some school buses to deliver to families unable to travel to one of the pick-up sites.

Deliveries were eliminated in June, largely because it marked the end of the official school year, but also because warm weather made it difficult to keep the food safely cool for hours at a time.

These days, the food service staff is back to a "new normal" when it comes to keeping students fed on school days.

Bock says they're preparing 500 to 550 lunches a day plus another 150 or so breakfasts. "We're probably doing 80 percent of what we did last year," she said, adding the numbers don't include the meals going out to 40 families whose children have opted to continue their education virtually at home.

Among the challenges is maintaining supplies of serving gloves and packaging materials, according to Bock, who said a number of food items — pepperoni and peanut butter and jelly, for example — can be difficult to come by these days.

"With every school all wanting the same products, individually wrapped items and such, manufacturers have not been able to keep up with the new demand," she said. "There are many products that we have trouble getting — just not as much variety as usual. Right now, I only do a menu for two weeks at a time."

Bock recalled telling her staff months ago to forget about how they had done their jobs in the past, because COVID-19 had ensured that the face of school food service would be changed for a long time to come.

Today, she describes the transition as "stressful but successful."

"It was just a huge help to families — the need was there," she said. "It was very satisfying. I don't know if it's more difficult or not, (but) everything is completely different."

Bock added one of the things she misses the most is the personal contact she and her staff have always enjoyed with students each school day.

"We miss seeing the faces," she said.

News briefs

Opioid town hall meet Friday

LANSING — The Michigan Opioids Task Force and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) have announced the details of the first virtual opioids town hall meetings, including one planned Friday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. for the Flint and Thumb Region.

Residents can learn more about how to participate in the virtual session by visiting the website [Michigan.gov/opioids](https://www.michigan.gov/opioids).

During the events, state officials will seek to learn more about how the opioid epidemic has impacted different regions of the state. To ensure information gathered reflects the experience of the local communities, residents are asked to only participate in the virtual town hall for the area in which they reside.

"We encourage members of the community and stakeholders to participate in these virtual town halls," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health for MDHHS. "We need to hear how the opioid epidemic has impacted each region of the state so we can develop solutions that resonate with all Michiganders. Local input is critical to us being able to turn the tide on this public health crisis."

MDHHS and the Michigan Opioids Task Force officials will share the 2020 strategy to turn the tide on the crisis, seek feedback from the public, and host a question-and-answer session focusing on the crisis response.

Officials say they plan to use the information gathered during the town halls to develop a crisis response that is flexible, effective to fit the needs of communities from Detroit to Grand Rapids to Marquette; and informed by the experiences of Michiganders affected by the crisis.

MAFE scholarships are available

MICHIGAN — A scholarship opportunity is being provided by the Michigan Associations of Fairs and Exhibitions (MAFE). This year there will be six \$1,000 scholarships awarded to high school seniors or individuals currently enrolled in an institution of advance learning, such as a college, university or trade school.

While the majority of fairs and festivals in Michigan did not take place in the traditional sense this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, applicants will still be eligible for scholarships if they were involved — exhibiting, volunteering, etc. — in a MAFE member fair or festival during the previous three years.

Applications must be received by Thursday, Oct. 1, and they must be typed and submitted as a word, PDF or Google Doc file (If submitting via Google Docs, be sure to grant permission to view to michigan-fairs@gmail.com). Applications can be found on the MAFE website at [mifairs.com](https://www.michigan-fairs.com). Applications can also be mailed to: Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, P.O. Box 554, Manchester, MI 48158.

Adulting 101 fall series scheduled

LANSING — MSU Extension officials are inviting area high school youth to participate in their Adulting 101 Fall series next month.

The series includes information and tips to prepare young people to be independent, including interview skills, household tasks and developing a spending plan. Bring questions and learn important skills for life.

The series starts Monday, Oct. 12, at 4 p.m., with subsequent sessions on Monday, Oct. 19, and Monday, Oct. 26.

Participants can register online at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Adult101Fall/>.

Apply now for heating credits

MICHIGAN — Although the weather is still fairly nice, it is time to start thinking about winter and heating bills.

Time is running short for qualified homeowners and renters to apply for Michigan's Home Heating Credit, according to Michigan Department of Treasury officials, who say home heating credit applications must be received by Sept. 30.

The Home Heating Credit helps cover utility expenses, leaving more money available for other critical needs. It is designed to aid senior citizens, low income, deaf, disabled or blind persons, and disabled veterans.

"If you're eligible for the Home Heating Credit and haven't yet applied, please submit your application today," State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks said. "This beneficial tax credit is a way for the state of Michigan to provide some financial assistance for heating expenses, especially as winter approaches."

Eligible individuals typically file a Home Heating Credit application when completing their individual income tax return. But applicants do not need to file a state income tax return to receive this assistance and may submit the application only.

Application forms can be obtained online at www.michigan.gov/taxes.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

Tuscola County records two more Covid deaths

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

COVID-19 has claimed two more victims from Tuscola County over the past week, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) reported.

Between Monday, Sept. 14, and Monday, Sept. 21, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased by 32 — from 722 to 754 — with the three counties' combined death toll increasing by two fatalities to 42.

According to the latest data, Tuscola County has recorded 433 confirmed cases, an increase of 14 cases compared to a week before, and 31 deaths (an increase of two fatalities), with about 348 individuals having recovered from the virus countywide as of Sept. 18.

The total includes 61 cases and 10 deaths within in the Cass City zip code, where the number of individuals who have recovered from the virus is estimated at 50.

In other area communities defined by zip code, Caro has had 114 cases, 82 recoveries and 15 deaths; there have been 11 cases and eight recoveries in Unionville; nine cases and nine recoveries in Deford; six cases and six recoveries in Kingston; and three cases and two recoveries to-date confirmed in Gageton.

In Huron County, meanwhile, there are 182 confirmed cases (an increase of eight from a week earlier), with five deaths (no change), and Sanilac County has a total of 139 confirmed cases, up from 129 cases a week earlier, and six deaths (no change).

Statewide, Monday's total confirmed cases reached 117,406, with a total of 6,665 deaths, compared to 112,612 cases and 6,601 deaths a week earlier. Health officials are reporting that an estimated 90,216 Covid patients have recovered statewide.

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FOR SALE - 140 silo blocks 6 & 8 ft.; 8 gates 10-16 ft.; wire mesh gate 52" x 42"; "FORMOST" a-25 Cattle Chute with head gate; dehorning clamps, 2 sets; castrator clamps; "Med-A-Dart" cross bow; ear tags & syringes; 5 rubber & steel water tanks 20-150 gal.; 3 cattle prods; hay & straw in 4'x5' new wrapped bales, stored inside. Call 1-989-550-1254. 2-9-16-3

Squash Available - 3 kinds NO CORN THIS WEEK. CHECK BACK NEXT WEEK!
Les's Super Sweet Sweet Corn
 2 1/2 miles north of Cass City, 1/4 mile west on Merchant Rd.
872-4563
 "Les corn is the best corn!"

EHRlich's FLAGS AMERICAN MADE
 US - STATE - WORLD MILITARY - POW
 Bill Ehrlich, Jr. 989-977-1231
 2-1-24-tf

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

Household Sales
 MOVING SALE - September 23-25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cash only, mask up. 4895 Northwood Crl, Cass City Condos. 14-9-16-2

GARAGE/ESTATE SALE - 6473 Church St. Cass City, September 24 & 25, Thursday 9-5 p.m. & Friday, 9-1 p.m. Sport enthusiasts - fishing, hunting, mounted horns & heads, top quality camouflage clothing, assorted boots, fishing lures & equipment, hats, assorted household items, lots of tools. No early sales - mask required! 14-9-23-1

2 FAMILY Garage Sale Sep 24-26, Thu-Fri-Sat 10am-6pm. New Born baby cloths through size 6. Baby items, baby swing, baby car seat, baby shoes-toddler, toys. Adults clothing Ladies 4-6 dresses, & casual & Coats, Men's dockers 34, Shirts L. Decorations, Compound Bow & case, Ice Chest & many misc items. 6797 Pine St. Cass City. 14-9-23-1

Real Estate For Rent

CASS CITY Apartments, an elderly community (elderly being defined as 62 years of age or older; disabled regardless of age) located in Cass City, MI is currently accepting applications for 1 Apartments. Units of barrier free design may also be available. Rent based on income, starting at \$499. For affordable housing call (989) 872-2009. Free Heat & Water! Pet Friendly! "This institution is an equal opportunity provider" TDD/TTY #711" 4-9-9-tf

Facilities For Rent

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


Services

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

KIRBY VACUUM - Do you want your carpets to be clean & free of dirt and dust? Try our new 100 year anniversary vacuum sweeper. Manufactured in Cleveland, Ohio. This carpet sweeper is made and built in the USA ensuring quality, reliability and performance. Used Vacuums - Kirby, Eureka, wet & dry, Sears, tank, Oreck etc. Warranty 90 days. KIRBY VACUUM OF BAD AXE (located across from the Franklin Inn on the East end of Bad Axe) or call 989-269-7562, 989-551-7562 for repairs, parts or service. 8-12-17-tf

Ken Martin Electric, Inc.
 Homes - Farms Commercial Industrial
 STATE LICENSED
Phone 872-4114
 4180 Hurds Corner Rd.
 8-8-10-tf

Pro Temp
Heating & Cooling
 • Central A/C
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HEATING and AIR CONDITIONING
Paul L. Brown
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 State Licensed
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 8-5-3-tf

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Scott M. Behnan, DDS, MS
 118 North Hanselman St.
 Bad Axe, MI 48413

989.269.6811
 www.badaxeorthodontics.com
 8-6-11-52

Services

PAUL'S PUMP REPAIR - Water pump and water tank sales. In-home service. Credit cards accepted. Call 673-4850 or 800-745-4851 anytime. 8-9-25-tf

Dave Nye Builder
 * New Construction
 * Additions
 * Remodeling
 * Pole Buildings
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 8-8-10-tf

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 A garage door that isn't working properly can be a big inconvenience, & we are here to take care of that problem for you. We are committed to getting you back up & running quickly, with the best customer service possible serving your residential, commercial, & industrial needs.
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 Horizonoverheaddoor@gmail.com

de Beaubien Lawn Service
CALL Blaine
(989) 670-6700
 8-12-19-tf

Help Wanted

LIGHT PRODUCTION WORKER - We have a position available at competitive wages with excellent benefits. Qualifications: High school diploma, excellent work attendance record, good math, reading and writing skills, Excellent manual dexterity. For consideration please send resume with references to Anrod Screen Cylinder Co., Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 117, Cass City, MI 48726. 11-9-2-4

Card of Thanks

THANK YOU to all who sent cards, flowers, gifts and phone calls to make my 80th birthday a day I will never forget. ~ MaryAnn Hirn 13-9-23-1

Automotive

FLANNERY AUTO MALL
Don Ouvry
 New & Used Cars
2019 BUICK ENCLAVE
 2 to choose from
 Starting at \$28,490
 CALL DON FOR DETAILS
 "I can find you exactly what you're looking for!"
 Call Don for lease specials on NEW vehicles & more details on USED vehicles at (989) 269-6401.

Transit (nonbusiness) rates, 10 words or less, \$5.00 each insertion; additional words 15 cents each. Three weeks for the price of 2-cash rate. Save money by enclosing cash with mail orders. Rates for display want ads on application.

Legal Notices

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Tuscola County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, October 1, 2020. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Raymond H. Foshee, Jr, a single man aka Raymond Foshee to BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Mortgagee, dated March 27, 2002, and recorded on April 16, 2002, in Liber 874, Page 347, Tuscola County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust V-E by an Assignment of Mortgage dated May 29, 2020 and recorded July 16, 2020 in Liber 1452, Page 1151, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-One and 82/100 (\$69,841.82) including interest at the rate of 6.87500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Vassar, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at a point that is North 230.1 feet from the Southeast corner of Section 12, Town 11 North, Range 8 East, Vassar Township, Tuscola County, Michigan,

thence North 410.87 feet; thence North 82 degrees 49 minutes 46 seconds West 169.77 feet; thence South 00 degrees 11 minutes 50 seconds West 410.7 feet; thence South 82 degrees 49 minutes 46 seconds East 171.00 feet to the point of beginning. Right of way for Washburn Road over the Easterly side thereof. Commonly known as: 4950 WASHBURN RD, VASSAR, MI 48768 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) 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. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the amount of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: September 2, 2020 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust V-E 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 18MI00628-2 9-2-4

ing the circuit court in Tuscola County, starting promptly at 10am, on Thursday, October 22, 2020. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The foreclosure sale is pursuant to the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by SANDRA SOUTHERS, Mortgagee, to First National Bank of America, Mortgagee, dated January 27, 2006, and recorded July 31, 2006, in Liber 1089, Page 756, of Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due as of the date of this notice \$16,061.82, including interest at 11.5% per annum. Said premises are situated in Dayton Township, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 778, Shay Lake Heights Subdivision No. 6, being a part of the SW 1/4, Section 12, T11N, R10E, c/k/a 4538 North Rd, Silverwood, MI 48760. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of the sale, unless the premises are determined to be abandoned pursuant to MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be one month, or until the time to provide the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later. The redemption period further may be shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3238(10) if the property is not adequately maintained, or if the purchaser is denied the opportunity to inspect the property. Please be advised that if the mortgaged property is sold at a foreclosure sale by advertisement, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale, or to the mortgage holder, for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: September 23, 2020 Randall T. LeVasseur P41712 LeVasseur Dyer & Associates, PC Attorneys for Mortgagee 3233 Coolidge Hwy Berkley, MI 48072 (248) 236-1765. 9-23-4

Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

2020 Football Season WEEK TWO



Clarke Haire



Ray Maurer



Geoff Morgan



Doug Hyatt

	Clarke Haire	Ray Maurer	Geoff Morgan	Doug Hyatt
<i>Sept. 25th Weekend</i> (11-player games)				
Cass City -vs- Reese	Cass City	Cass City	Cass City	Cass City
EPBP -vs- Vassar	EPBP	EPBP	EPBP	EPBP
USA -vs- Brown City	USA	USA	USA	USA
Ubly -vs- Memphis	Ubly	Ubly	Ubly	Ubly
Bad Axe -vs- Caro	Caro	Bad Axe	Bad Axe	Caro
Harbor Beach -vs- Sandusky	Harbor Beach	Sandusky	Sandusky	Sandusky
(8-man games)				
Kingston -vs- Mayville	Mayville	Kingston	Kingston	Kingston
Deckerville -vs- International	Deckerville	Deckerville	Deckerville	Deckerville
(Pro game)				
Detroit at Arizona	Arizona	Detroit	Arizona	Arizona
LAST WEEK	7-1	8-0	5-3	6-2
SEASON RESULTS	88 %	100%	63%	75%

Powell knows a thing or 2 about pumpkins

Continued from page one.

He named his largest pumpkin this year “Whirlpool” because the seeds, given to him by his son, Jeremy, accidentally went through the laundry.

“He (Jeremy) helps me out a lot,” said Powell, who described his son as having a supervisory role of sorts. “I do all the work.”

Powell’s previous heaviest pumpkin tipped the scales at just shy of 910 pounds, good enough for second place the Berville Lions Club Giant Pumpkin Contest in 2017. The finish brought a \$200 cash prize, and Powell sold his pumpkin for another \$300.

After that, he decided he needed a break.

“I kind of got burned out,” he recalled, adding this past spring was a good reminder of just how much work goes into growing the giants.

“I forgot a few things, and I learned a lot,” he said.

Powell found plenty of spare time to get back into the hobby in

mid-May after the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in his being laid off from Thumb Tool and Engineering, Bad Axe, where he’s worked for the past 32 years.

Understandably, Powell takes a certain amount of pride in his pumpkin growing savvy, which he’ll tell you came over the course of years of experience, not to mention plenty of trial and error.

There are several keys to growing giants, starting with the right seed, which Powell generally purchases from other growers with proven records of their own. Space is also important – he gives each plant about 400 square feet of space.

Soil preparation for the season actually begins during the previous fall with applications of manure and compost.

“Normally, we start in them (seedlings) in the house early, the third week of April,” explained Powell, who also pays close attention to his garden soil, testing it to ensure the right balance of nutri-

ents is available, and adjusting them as needed. He transplants the young plants early, usually during the first couple weeks of May. In Michigan, that means sheltering the plants in a cold frame – a makeshift greenhouse that warms the soil and, once the plants are in the ground, maintains a warm temperature during cool spring days.

After several weeks, Powell removes most of the female blossoms (the bulb-shaped flowers that eventually grow into pumpkins) from each vine, leaving one that he hopes will eventually weigh several hundred pounds.

Reducing the number of blossoms encourages the plants to focus all of their energy into one pumpkin. Powell boosts that energy by burying sections of vine, encouraging them to set down additional roots, and applying a granular inoculant that enables those roots to take in even more nutrients.

Aside from regular watering – a must – Powell maintains a strict feeding program, applying specific fertilizer combinations that vary during the growing season. “And after a while, you have to deal with the bugs. You have to have a program for insects and diseases, too,” he said.

Staying on top of all of those ingredients to success takes time – Powell estimates he spends an extra 20 to 30 hours in his garden every week.

In spite of all the effort required to produce big pumpkins, Powell doesn’t figure on breaking any records – other than his own – in part because of the big investments many contenders put into their supplies, specialized shelters, heating, high-tech support, etc.

He points to his pumpkin patch and notes it would take the combined weight of three of his pumpkins to come close to the state record, which was broken last year by LaSalle’s Don Barron — his winner weighed in at a whopping 2,118 pounds, but was still ranked as the 12th largest pumpkin in the world.

Just the same, Powell looks forward to the next growing season as much – if not more – than his fellow gardeners and giant pumpkin enthusiasts.

There’s a certain anticipation each spring of maybe topping the weights of last year’s pumpkins, he says. And, of course, he has a passion for gardening – a love sparked by his first attempts at growing vegetables as a youngster – which still prompts him to roll up his sleeves in the spring.

“(It’s) growing plants,” said Powell, who grinned and added, “It’s one of the few things I’m good at.”



POWELL FIGURES the five large pumpkins he’s nurtured this year weigh a combined 3,500 pounds. It isn’t unusual to see passersby slow down when they spot the impressive patch off Bay City-Forestville Road.

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Looking for a place to call home, look no more, here in Cass City at The Pointe is a manufactured home that is pretty as a picture. Nicely decorated with new paint and some new flooring. Has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Great deck on back with a awning. Lot Rent is \$318 per month. Application for park available.

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194-20-0023

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194-20-0021

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