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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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.75 CENTS - 12 PAGES

Lyons faces life in prison, no chance for parole in future

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Tuscola County Circuit Court Judge Amy Grace Gierhart sent a clear message to Larry E. Lyons during his sentencing Thursday on multiple charges stemming from the fatal stabbing of the mother of his then-11-month-old daughter and an assault that left the child critically injured late last year.

As expected, Gierhart handed down a mandatory sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole following the 38-year-old Ellington Township man's conviction on a charge of first-degree (premeditated) murder.

She also handed down lengthy concurrent prison terms for his convictions on five other counts, all stemming from the same case and all enhanced by Lyons' criminal history, which includes at least two previous felony convictions.

Gierhart sentenced Lyons to:
*562 months to 100 years for as-

sault with intent to commit murder (related to the assault of the child).

*160 months to 240 months for child abuse, second degree.

*80 to 120 months for domestic violence, third offense.

*80 to 120 months for carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent, and

*32 to 48 months for child abuse, third degree.

Lyons received 333 days credit for time already served.

Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark E. Reese indicated he was pleased with the sentences.

"I think the phrase we would use is, few have deserved it more," he said.

It took a jury comprised of five men and seven women just about 90 minutes to convict Lyons on all counts following a six-day trial in October.

Lyons was initially charged with open murder in the Dec. 15 stabbing death of Brandy Marie Dickson, 36. Prosecutors say the victim was clutching the couple's young daughter as Lyons allegedly attacked her with a knife inside his home at 2900 Gerou Rd.

"Investigators theorized and presented evidence at trial that Ms. Dickson was fleeing the defendant with their...baby in her arms as

Please turn to page 4.



Open for business...

CASS CITY'S grocery store drought is officially over after more than six years. Thumb businessman Jim Zyrowski and his crew opened the doors to Ben's Fresh Market Friday at noon in the former Erla's Food Center on Church Street.

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Getting a new business up and running, especially when it comes to completing extensive renovations in an older existing building, can feel like a never-ending marathon.

Jim Zyrowski will probably tell you the work that went into opening his new Ben's grocery store in Cass City felt more like climbing Mt. Everest.

After more than three years of on-again, off-again work on the project and numerous delays, Zyrowski and his crew of employees opened the doors to Ben's Fresh Market at noon Friday in the former Erla's Food Center building on Church Street in Cass City.

It was a day of celebration not only for Zyrowski, but also the community, which has been without a grocery store for more than six years.

"We're there. We've crossed that finish line. It feels good to get the doors open," Zyrowski com-

mented Friday afternoon.

Zyrowski acknowledged there have been a number of delays in construction due to various circumstances, the latest of which included restrictions stemming from a global pandemic.

"It made it very difficult, (but) we had a lot of great contractors - I've worked with the same (companies) for years - and we certainly appreciate all the effort they've put into it," he said. "Anything that we could do (utilizing local contractors), we did."

Zyrowski also lauded longtime Cass City resident, retired building contractor and Cass City Village Council Trustee Tom Herron for his support.

"Tom has believed in me and believed in Ben's when others didn't. He's been a great advocate," Zyrowski said.

While the store is now open, he noted work is wrapping up on the deli department, which was expected to open in another week.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, Zyrowski's Cass

Covid forces pupils back into virtual class mode

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Cass City Public Schools prompted officials over the weekend to announce a return to all-virtual learning - at least temporarily - as of Monday.

Parents in the district received notification of the decision late Saturday night.

The announcement came just a day before Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Robert Gordon announced a new state epidemic order, establishing temporary restrictions, including prohibiting in-person learning at all public high schools in the state for three weeks (see related story this page).

"What we have right now is five positive - three adults and two students testing positive for COVID-19," Cass City Schools

Please turn to page 9.

State issues orders targeting gatherings

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued a new emergency order Sunday targeting indoor social gatherings and other group activities over the next three weeks in an effort to curb rapidly rising COVID-19 infection rates.

Under the order, indoor residential gatherings are limited to two households at any one time. However, MDHHS strongly urges families to pick a single other household to interact with over the next three weeks.

MDHHS Director Robert Gordon said the order is aimed at limiting residential and non-residential gatherings where COVID-19 spreads rapidly.

"Indoor gatherings are the greatest source of spread, and sharply limiting them is our focus," he said. "The order is targeted and temporary, but a terrible loss of life will be forever unless we act. By coming together today, we can save thousands of lives."

Under the new order - issued under a state law first enacted after the

Please turn to page 9.

Thumb health officials issue local advisory

Health officials representing all three upper Thumb health departments issued a formal advisory Thursday pleading with residents to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The advisory, issued by the Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac county health departments and supported by each of the county's medical communities, comes in the wake of surging new cases of the virus across the region, state and nation.

"COVID-19 cases are rapidly increasing across Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties," said Ann Hepfer, health officer for both the Tuscola and Huron county health departments.

"Illnesses are increasing at a

Please turn to page 6.



CASS CITY ROTARY Club members are pictured above during their 2019 Christmas for Kids campaign. This year's effort is underway, and although there have been some adjustments to ensure safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, the club is determined to make this Christmas a merry one for local families that are struggling financially.

Christmas for Kids

Campaign underway to ensure a merry holiday for youngsters

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

It may be difficult to focus on the quickly approaching Christmas season, with a deadly pandemic and political unrest raging across the nation, but members of the Cass City Rotary Club are keeping their eye on the prize.

And that prize is continuing a long tradition of ensuring a memorable Christmas morning for area youngsters whose families are struggling financially.

Towards that end, the local Rotary Club is gearing up for its 22nd annual Christmas for Kids campaign, a project focused on collecting toys, clothing and books that will be distributed next month to families in need of a helping hand over the holidays.

The annual effort targets families residing in the Cass City

Please turn to page 12.



THE CITY OF Sandusky's Veterans Day celebration included the debut roll-out of an iconic piece of equipment used in foreign wars. City officials acquired a 1989 Humvee, a military vehicle that was used in Operation Desert Storm and Iraq Enduring Freedom, from a neighboring school district that obtained the vehicle through a federal government procurement program.

Kingston District officials on this school year: so far, so good

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

So far, Kingston Community School officials say the 2020-21 school year has been a success story, in spite of the many challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During a recent board of education meeting, Kingston Elementary School Principal Justin Diegel reported the school year started with 47 students participating in virtual learning – a number that has since fallen to 36.

High School Principal Mike Seaman, meanwhile, reported there are 60 students in grades seven through 12 who selected the on-line option.

Although the new school year has been running smoothly, the COVID-19 pandemic could quickly interrupt classes as it did earlier this year when the state abruptly closed schools in mid-March.

In Kingston, not being able to continue with in-person class instruction placed an undue burden on the district because of a lack of Internet service in the area.

Since then, school officials have taken steps to be ready if the state orders schools to close again.

The district placed a Wi-Fi Internet hot spot in the school that can be accessed in the parking lot, and purchased 30 T-Mobile hotspots to provide Internet to students. Students were also given access to Chromebooks to use.

According to school Supt. Matt Drake, the reason for doing all that is to be better prepared if classes have to shift to all-remote learning.

Although the number of COVID-19 cases in schools in the Thumb has been low, the same cannot be said of some districts in Michigan where cases of the virus have rapidly increased by the thousands per day. State health officials have been reporting an additional 4,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 to more than 5,000 cases or more per day over the past several days.

School board Trustee Lane Walker pointed out the district must be prepared for if/when a student or staff member in the district tests positive for the virus.

Aside from being a Kingston Board of Education member, Walker serves as a Huron intermediate School District (HISD) principal. And, as an educator, he's witnessed first-hand how disruptive the closure of schools were in March.

Walker stressed the importance of sticking to policy and protocols in working with local health department officials.

As a precaution to make sure the district can switch to online learning, a virtual test run was conducted on Oct. 23.

"That helped check the infrastructure of our Internet connectivity of our students, and to see if we are prepared if we are forced to go virtual," Drake explained, adding the test went well.

On the use of Chromebooks, school officials say they will no longer require deposits as a way to replace and/or repair broken equipment because there haven't been any significant issues.

In the other business, the board: *Noted the district has purchased three atomizer foggers to assist

with sanitizing buildings and buses.

*Learned a third kindergarten classroom was added in order to comply with social distancing rules. To do that, a storage area was turned into a classroom.

*Discussed plans to prepare for winter weather.

"We need to seek other snow removal plans as we currently do not have anyone to provide this service," said Drake. "The option of buying a one-ton truck with a v-blade snowplow was discussed. That along with our tractor should allow us to be able to take care of our own snow removal as needed."

The board approved spending up to \$52,000 for a one-ton F-350 Truck and Boss V-Plow for the purpose of snow plowing, trailer hauling and other utility needs. The money to do that will come from the district's general fund account (50 percent) and the capital fund account (50 percent).

*Met in executive session for about an hour. After the board returned to open session, it approved extending employment contracts for Diegel, Seaman and Business Manager Shona Venney through June 2021, and to give them a three-percent wage increase.

*Approved paying a \$500 COVID-19 stipend to each employee.

*Accepted "with regret" the resignation of Tip McGuire, head varsity softball coach.

*Changed the name of the district's cheerleading program to "competitive cheer" squad, which will enable the team to participate in competitive cheer events.

Ben's Fresh Market up and running

Continued from page one.

the property on and off. At one point, the work was halted for months due to an issue with Detroit Edison, but Zyrowski eventually came to terms with utility officials, who then gave the project the green light to proceed.

The Cass City Planning Commission subsequently approved Zyrowski's site plan, and he predicted the store would be open in a few months.

However, a lack of heat prevented crews from completing work inside the store for months – the culprit was a gas line that was decommissioned during street work adjacent to the store, requiring contractors to wait for installation of a new gas line from the street to the store.

Zyrowski, owner of the Ben's Supercenter stores in Marlette and Brown City, estimated his invest-

ment in the Cass City store at a minimum \$2 million.

It's an investment village officials say they appreciate and welcome.

"Cass City is very fortunate to have Ben's when both rural and urban areas across the state and country are experiencing food deserts, with limited access to healthy foods," commented Cass City Village Manager Debbie Powell.

"I am thankful and appreciate the great investment that owner Jim Zyrowski has made in the village by opening the Cass City Ben's, (and) I anticipate Ben's will be an economic driver for future development in Cass City."

Zyrowski has many years of business experience under his belt as owner of Ben's Supercenter, which is family owned and operated. Founded in 1965, the company currently has three locations;

Ben's Supercenter in Brown City, Ben's Supercenter in Marlette and Ben's Contractor Center/Ben's Great Outdoors, also in Marlette.

Cass City has been without a grocery store since September 2014, when former Erla's Food Center owner Venu Ganga closed the business after owning and operating the store for about 2 ½ years. Ganga originally purchased the business in February 2011, marking the end of a 57-year business tradition established by the Erla family in town.

Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

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Tasha Dirty Paws

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	9			7				4
5		9		2				
						4		2
2				6				1
1	3		5				2	
					4	5		

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

There's help when Covid stress boils

Mental health experts at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently launched a statewide media campaign urging residents to seek relief from COVID-19-related emotional distress by talking to a trained crisis counselor and learning about other help available.

This is an important resource. The "Be Kind to Your Mind" campaign promotes the use of Michigan's free, confidential Stay Well counseling line, and aims to combat stigma associated with seeking help for feelings of depression, anxiety, anger or loss – all common during a health crisis.

The Stay Well counseling line is staffed with crisis counselors 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Callers can access the line by dialing Michigan's COVID-19 hotline at 888-535-6136 and pressing "8" at the prompt.

"Many of us are having a hard time right now," said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. "There should be zero shame and zero stigma – just honesty that can help each of us find our own inner strength. 'Be Kind to Your Mind' says you can talk about the strain from COVID with trained counselors who are available for free if you call 888-535-6136 and press 8, or visit Michigan.gov/StayWell."

According to a recent online survey of 99,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, more than one-third of American adults have reported symptoms of depressive and/or anxiety disorder – triple the rate reported in 2019.

Another survey conducted in June by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found more than one in 10 U.S. adults had considered suicide in the past 30 days. That rate was more than double what was reported in 2019.

"Stay Well counselors help people understand their feelings and reactions during a disaster like the COVID-19 pandemic," said psychiatrist Dr. Debra Pinals, MDHHS' medical director for behavioral health. "While they are not licensed mental health professionals, they have undergone training provided by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration on how to help people mentally rebound from disasters."

Pinals says Stay Well counselors are taught to listen, not judge, and help callers develop coping strategies, review their options and connect with agencies that may help them. All of this can reduce callers' stress and improve their ability to endure the realities they face, she said.

Callers to the Stay Well line are reporting a range of emotions.

They are anxious about contracting the coronavirus, having a loved one contract the virus and keeping their children and/or parents safe. They are discouraged about continued unemployment, worried about going back to work in an unsafe environment, and lonely due to lack of social interaction.

"COVID-19 has impacted most everyone's mental health in one way or another, and we are here to help," said Allen Jansen, MDHHA Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities Administration senior deputy director.

If you're struggling or know someone who is, take a moment to share this information. There's no shame in seeking help when you need it.

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Lincoln made valid points



Watching COVID-19 cases spiral out of control, the Black Lives Matter Movement, the divide of political parties, and the passing of Veterans Day brings to mind a poem I learned in elementary school, but with some changes.

"Eleven score and four years ago, our forefathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Although Abraham Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address 157 years ago, parts of it still ring true.

We are still engaged in a civil war, but this time it is over politics.

I also cannot help but wonder if such a divide this election has shown will test whether our nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure such a divide.

The hearts and streets in the nation have become a battlefield of that political unrest and has erupted in violence much like war.

Lincoln was right that it is for us, the living, to be dedicated to the unfinished work which our founding fathers and ancestors nobly advanced.

Whether Republican or Democrat or one of the other parties, we are all Americans and members of the greatest country on earth for freedom.

The United States is still a bitterly divided nation after the election.

It is my hope this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and patriotism so that our government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from this earth.

The last time there was such a hard-fought and controversial presidential election was in 1876 between Samuel J. Tilden and Rutherford B. Hayes.

Although that election was controversial, the nation was able to heal after the Civil War and move forward.

Hopefully, we can do that again.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Congratulations to Kingston High School student Ethan Green. He's the winner of the Cass City Chronicle's 2020 Deer Contest and will receive \$50 bucks for sharing his trophy whitetail with our readers.

To see the Thumb Area hunter's prize winning photo – along with other successful hunt photos - please turn to pages 7 and 8.

It's been a fall to remember for Green as he established a new cross country record time for the Cardinals only weeks earlier. And although this year's contest is over – it was limited to opening day success stories – there's plenty of time to send us pictures of your harvest for everyone's enjoyment. Just drop us an email to: Clarke@ccchronicle.net.

Best of luck.

With the regular firearm deer season here, Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent recently made a point of clearing up some misinformation regarding baiting.

"There is a rumor going around that the DNR might allow some baiting for deer next year and that they are not writing tickets now for it," Skrent said. "I contacted our local DNR. They said they ARE issuing tickets for illegal baiting... in our county."

"Both recreational feeding and baiting are still prohibited in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan," the sheriff pointed out. "The conservation officers are issuing citations and fines of which could be from \$50 to \$500 and up to 90 days in jail if you are caught using bait."

"If a person takes a deer using bait, they face much more severe fines, with a mandatory five to 90 days in jail and fines up to \$1,000. In addition, they will have to pay restitution for the deer starting at \$1,000 and potentially going over tens of thousands of dollars. They also lose their hunting privileges for the next four years in Michigan and 48 other states."

Skrent encourages hunters who have questions to contact the DNR directly. Residents can report illegal bait piles by texting or calling 1-800-292-7800.

With Cass City Schools now closed to in-person learning, at least for the next couple weeks, the district's food service director, Shari Bock, is already working to answer families' questions about plans to continue providing meals to students.

Here's what she posted on Facebook Sunday night: Meal kits for all of our children (this is open to all children under 19) will be available during the temporary shutdown. Each meal kit will include seven breakfasts and seven lunches. You may pick them up on Wednesdays at the high school... at 10 to 11 a.m. or 4 to 5 p.m. You must sign up to pick up meal kits and you must wear a mask when picking up food. There will be no exceptions for mask wearing for the safety of our staff at this time.

Due to late notice, we will pack as many as we can for this week. If we cannot fill all the orders, I will contact you and I will make arrangements for Thursday after the next truck comes in with supplies. Be sure to fill out the sheet completely.

Next week we will have meal kits ready on Monday and Tuesday – more details later.

Celebrate this year's holiday season with friends and loved ones while supporting conservation and tree planting with the help of the Arbor Day Foundation.

* Give-A-Tree® cards from the Arbor Day Foundation offer a unique holiday giving opportunity with conservation benefits that will endure for generations. And again this year, Give-A-Tree cards can be purchased individually and with customized text. Cards can be purchased for \$6.95.

* Purchasing the Arbor Day Foundation's coffee helps preserve rain forests in Central and South America. The Foundation's coffee, a part of the Rain Forest Rescue® program, is shade-grown under the canopy of Latin American rain forests. Unlike sun-grown coffee farms, this traditional shade-grown method gives the coffee a rich and delicious flavor. Cost per bag is \$18.94, including shipping.

* Give the gift of membership with the Arbor Day Foundation, and recipients will be sent 10 free trees, which will be shipped at the right time of year for planting. Memberships begin with a \$10 contribution.

"The holidays are a time for thinking about others, and as you do, take a moment to think about what you can do to protect the beauty and splendor of the Earth," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "We encourage everyone to give gifts that will have a lasting impact for generations to come."

To purchase holiday gifts that give back to the planet, visit arborday.org/november.

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Just want to voice your opinion?

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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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News briefs

Covid closes recycling facility

CARO — In response to recent outbreaks of COVID-19 in the region and to combat the spread of the virus as well as the severity of the risk to the public, Tuscola County has closed its recycling facility.

The facility will remain closed until Monday, Nov. 23, and there will be no business pick-ups or weekend township trailer recycling, according to Mike Miller, who serves as the county's recycling director and director of buildings and grounds.

When the recycling center is operational again, it will be open at its new location at 987 Ellington St., (M-24), Caro. Recycling is currently conducted at the site of the former Riverview Auto junk and salvage yard.

The facility started relocating operations in late October and opened at the new center Nov. 9, but closed down over health concerns due to the pandemic.

Christmas attractions at library

CASS CITY — The staff at Rawson Memorial District Library is getting into the Christmas spirit with various special program offerings.

The library is offering a Christmas "take and make" craft for kids, featuring craft kits with all the supplies needed for youngsters to create their own Christmas tree ornament.

Parents can call the library at (989) 872-2856 after Nov. 30 to schedule a time to pick up a craft kit. Supplies are limited.

Also for the kids, a virtual Christmas Story Time program is slated for Saturday, Dec. 5, at 10 a.m., on the library's Facebook page.

In addition, the fascinating real life story of "The Night Before Christmas" will be told by educational entertainer Martina Mathisen, along with the stories of American Traditions during a virtual program scheduled to be launched Tuesday, Dec. 1, on the website www.rawsonlibrary.org (click on The Night Before Christmas" link).

Residents can watch the free program any time, any day over a four-week period.

Stress less with Extension series

CARO — MSU Extension's final "Stress Less with Mindfulness Lunch and Learn" online series will be offered Monday through Friday, Dec. 7-11, from noon to 1 p.m. each day.

This program is FREE and open for registration at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/SLWMonlineDecJK/>. The series will be available over Zoom — instructions and set-up will be sent in a confirmation email.

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

Research has shown that practicing mindfulness is effective in reducing stress-related symptoms such as worry, depression and physical tension, and may be helpful in managing chronic conditions.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

Hepfer addresses commissioners

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

It's not surprising that COVID-19 cases and deaths across the state and Thumb have been on Ann Hepfer's mind 24/7 for months now, but significant increases in both statistics over the past few weeks has her working overtime to get a sobering message across to county officials: this is serious.

Hepfer, who serves as health officer for both the Tuscola and Huron county health departments, shared that message again with Tuscola County Commissioners last week.

"Many of you have followed my COVID-19 messages and stats since the third week in March, which was when the virus was detected in the state," Hepfer told commissioners. "We have had bad weeks and a few pretty good weeks in the summer.

"Right now, the virus level is very serious. We are at risk of going to 'level E', meaning the virus is spreading community wide."

Between Nov. 1 to Nov. 10, state officials reported an additional 45,127 cases of COVID-19 in Michigan.

For the entire month of October, there were 49,693 new cases in the state, and for the entire month of September there were 21,795 cases.

"The rates of infection are very much becoming out of control," Hepfer said.

Although her report focused on the increasing number of cases and deaths, Hepfer also shared some good news; vaccines have been developed — one of them reportedly 90 percent effective — and are expected to be approved in the coming weeks.

"We are gearing up to be ready for COVID-19 vaccinations as early as in December. We were told it (first supplies) will be for healthcare workers and for first responders. A small amount of vaccine will be allocated to those sectors first," she explained.

"The second batch of vaccine will be coming out end of January to the end of February. That vaccine is supposed to be for the vul-

nerable population, (including those) 65 and older. This is what we were told, according to the conference call we had."

The vaccine for the general population isn't expected to be available until next spring/summer.

While that is good news, Hepfer cautioned no vaccine is 100 percent effective, and some vaccines will require more than one dose.

Hepfer also reported the health department canceled immunizations for two weeks because the staff — already short on numbers — is so overwhelmed with issues related to the pandemic. However, they are still giving flu shots.

She reiterated the importance of wearing a mask, social distancing (staying at least six feet apart from other people), washing hands and avoiding large gatherings.

And, she has another major concern.

"Many people will not give their contact (information). So, there

are many people out there that should be in quarantine and are not," Hepfer said. "If you know someone with what seems like a simple cold or allergy symptoms, loss of taste or smell, they should consider self-quarantine and testing."

Tuscola County has relocated its COVID-19 testing site to the Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement facility at 1500 Press Rd., Caro, for the winter months. Testing is available from 9 to 11 a.m. on Thursdays.

More information is available by calling the health department at (989) 673-8114.

COVID-19 testing in Huron County is available from 10 a.m. to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 876 N. Van Dyke, Bad Axe. More information is available by calling (989) 269-0137.

Testing is free, and insurance will be billed for those who have it.

Lyons faces life in prison

Continued from page one.

she was being repeatedly stabbed. The baby suffered a stab wound through the skull and brain and very nearly lost her life," Reese said.

An autopsy performed last December confirmed Dickson's cause of death was multiple stab wounds — 18 in all, including defensive wounds — according to investigators.

Lyons was bound over to circuit court for trial in June, but the proceedings were delayed while Lyons underwent a psychiatric examination at the Michigan Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ypsilanti. He was subsequently deemed both competent to stand trial and criminally responsible for his actions.

Reese has described the attack as being particularly vicious, judging by the wounds inflicted on both the victim and child. The youngster suffered cuts to the top of her head, a stab wound to the side of her head, a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain.

Reese said the youngster has since made tremendous progress in her recovery from extensive injuries.

"It's a miracle she lived — that's a term they (doctors) used," he said. "She'll always have some degree of impairment — the question is, greater or lesser."

Reese said the youngster has been placed with Dickson's ex-husband, "who should be recognized for extraordinarily stepping up" to take over her care and rehabilitation.

Although that is good news, Reese said the memory of the fatal attack remains, making this case unlike many other homicides he's prosecuted over the years.

"You don't see babies with stab wounds," he said. "The jury did a great job paying attention throughout the trial. (But) it's an extremely difficult thing to go through. It's difficult evidence to look at and be exposed to."

"There's something about this case — you saw every witness display the impact it had upon them," he said, noting even veteran police officers, medical first responders and physicians were affected.

"It's a case that haunts everyone involved. It won't be (forgotten)."

According to court records, Lyons has a history of domestic assault, including prior convictions of domestic violence involving "assaulting or assaulting and battering his spouse, former spouse, an individual with whom he had a child in common, or a resident or former resident of his household, or of knowingly assaulting a pregnant individual. Those convictions took place in May 2017 and September 2019.

Following last week's sentencing, Reese recognized what he called "the extraordinary efforts of the first responders who assisted in this case, including members of the Caro Fire Department, Caro Police Department, Flight Care, MMR, Michigan State Police Department, and the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office. Their coordinated, dedicated, and relentless efforts were crucial to saving the life of a...child and getting her transported via helicopter from the crime scene to medical care.

"Emergency medical care was provided to the child at both Covenant Hospital in Saginaw and the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor," he added. "The heroic efforts of medical personnel at both hospitals saved the life of the child and have resulted in her making significant progress toward recovery, despite the horrific injuries suffered."

Reese also lauded the Michigan State Police Crime Lab's assistance along with lead investigator Detective Sgt. Scott Jones of the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office, and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Eric J. Hinojosa for his work in presenting the case.

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Reporter's notebook

Overlooked rituals of Thanksgiving

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



If you've been blessed, you're looking forward to an amazing turkey dinner next week.

Hopefully you'll also have the opportunity to spend time with family, although I'm guessing some gatherings will be delayed, while others will look somewhat different this year, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

So, do your family's Thanksgiving Day rituals have you playing chief cook and bottle washer? Are you the go-to person who is always asked to say grace? Maybe you're just looking forward to an afternoon of football and the blissful intoxication that always seems to come after eating all of that tryptophan-laced white meat.

Actually, while tryptophan helps the body produce important chemicals (hormones), including melatonin — which at high levels tells your brain it's time to go to sleep — some doctors believe it's all the stuffing, mashed potatoes, rolls and pie you eat that are to blame because they're full of sugars, and the chemicals used to digest them make it easier for other chemicals to get to your brain. The result? The tryptophan flows a bit more freely, triggering that irresistible urge to take a nap.

I suppose. I'm no scientist, but I would have guessed the alcohol served at some family gatherings might have something to do with it.

But I digress (one of my own traditions).

Anyway, I couldn't help but notice that the Thanksgiving Day nap, prayer and football were all left out in an article on the website mentalfloss.com, entitled "Seven overlooked Thanksgiving rituals, according to sociologists".

Those rituals, documented by Melanie Wallendorf and Eric J. Arnould in the first major sociological study of Thanksgiving, which appeared in the *Journal of Consumer Research* back in the early 1990s, are:

*Giving job advice — Teenagers are given a ritual status shift to the adult part of the family, not only through the move from the kids' table to the grownup table, but also through the career counseling spontaneously offered by aunts, uncles and anyone else with wisdom to share, the authors observed.

*Forgetting an ingredient — Oh, No! Someone forgot to put the evaporated milk in the pumpkin pie! In the ritual pattern, the forgetting is followed by lamentation, reassurance, acceptance, and the restoration of comfortable stability, according to the study, which notes that said forgetting reinforces the themes of abundance (we've got plenty even if not everything works out) and family togetherness (we can overcome obstacles).

*Telling disaster stories of Thanksgivings past — As in, remember that time we fried a turkey and burned the house down?

*The re-appropriation of store-bought items — Transfer a store-bought pie crust to a bigger pan, filling out the extra space with pieces of another store-bought pie crust, and it's not quite so pre-manufactured anymore. Put pineapple chunks in the Jello, and it becomes something done "our way."

*The pet's meal — The pet is fed special food while everyone looks on and takes photos.

*Putting away the leftovers — In some cultures, feasts are followed by a ritual destruction of the surplus. At Thanksgiving, the Puritan value of frugality is embodied in the wrapping and packing up of all the leftovers. Even in households in which cooking from scratch is rare, the turkey carcass may be saved for soup.

*Taking a walk — After the eating and the groaning and the belly patting, someone will suggest a walk and a group will form to take a stroll (really?). Sometimes the walkers will simply do laps around the house, which might be a good idea this year.

There is usually no destination involved, just a desire to move and feel the satisfied quietness of abundance — and to make some room for dessert.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2015)

Officials at Owen-Gage Schools announce "Senior Student of the Month", Tyler Roemer. Tyler participated in track his sophomore year. He has been a member of the high school band throughout high school and currently serves as the band's president. Tyler was inducted into the Owen-Gage Chapter of the National Honor Society as a sophomore. He served as the chapter's secretary his junior year and currently is the vice-president. Other class offices Tyler has held are: class treasurer as a freshman, secretary as a sophomore, vice-president his junior year, and currently is class president and a member of the Student Council. Tyler has been on the honor roll and a member of the 3.0 Honors Club throughout high school. He plans to attend Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in secondary music education.

10 YEARS AGO (2010)

An Owen-Gage High School graduate recently took first place in the Ophthalmic Photographer's Society Annual Photo Contest in Chicago. Dena McDonald Harris, formerly of Owendale, won first place in the Fundus Photography Print Division. Harris has been working in the retina field for nearly 20 years. This is the second time she has won the award. "She studied at Henry Ford Hospital. After working 8 hours at developing film, she was interviewed for job training in return for her skill at developing the daily eye photos at the hospital," said Harris' mother, Jeannette McDonald of Owendale. "Her reward was becoming a CRA (certified retinal angiographer). Every 2 years she needs to renew her certification, (so) she has traveled extensively to attend the annual ophthalmic society meetings. She has been to Las Vegas, San Francisco, Chicago, Dallas, etc."

25 YEARS AGO (1995)

Dennis and Charlene Hagen and sons, Keith, Clint and Brad, Mary and Ben Maurer, Ellen and Mike Moorman, Jim and Doreen Hagen, Nicholas and Jenny and Ben and Donelda Meske were Thanksgiving dinner guests of Bryce and Betty Hagen, where they also celebrated Ben Meske's birthday.

Two dozen juniors and seniors were inducted into the Cass City High School National Honor Society in an annual ceremony held Nov. 21 in the high school cafeteria. The new inductees are: Class of 1996 - Charity Gaszczyński, Ed Hartwick, Billi Jo Hawley, Dawn Longuski, Aubrey Marshall, Whitney Osentoski, Shivaug Rayl, Jenny Rick, Becky Smith, Kelli VanVliet and Chad Zawilinski. Class of 1997 - Katie Anthony, Collier Bogart, Kurt Iwankovitsch, Joseph Khoury, Marcia Klaus, Matt Klinkman, Josh Lounsbury, Gia Mellendorf, Todd Milligan, Terri Moore, Jaime Parsell, Brent Ruggles and Brad Speirs.

Officers of the Cass City NHS chapter for 1995-96 are Amy Schelke, president; Andrea Cooper, treasurer; and Natalie Ponder and Matt Ramirez, fund raising co-chairpersons. Other current members are Nick Bliss, Cori Britt, Heather Dunn, Eric Hoelzle, Kareem Khoury, Jamie Luana, Crystal McKnight and Kristy Wood. Cheryl Kilbourn is the advisor.

When the Cass City Red Hawk wrestlers open competition at Caro Dec. 7 seeking to earn points in the 130-pound class, one of the competitors will be the team's first female wrestler. The wrestler is Patty Davis, a junior, and her surname is well known among Cass City wrestling fans. Brothers Bob and Tom were outstanding members of the Hawk varsity in previous years. Why did this petite young lady become the lone female ever in the school to compete in what has been regarded as essentially a male sport? It's a new and interesting challenge, Davis smiled, and I got

a taste of it fooling around with my brothers.

35 YEARS AGO (1985)

After 13 years of research, Lawrence Wright of Cass City has been able to trace his ancestry back to George Soule, one of the 61 survivors who came to the "new country" on the Mayflower in 1620.

Receiving a plaque from Dr. D.E. Rawson commemorating 25 years as treasurer of the Rawson Foundation is Fred Auten. Auten has retired from the board and will be replaced by Doug Herringshaw of Cass City. The foundation established by Mr. and Mrs. Audley Rawson has disbursed over \$110,000.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Joseph L. Bollinger, son of the Rev. C. William and Evelyn J. Bollinger of Kingston, has arrived for duty with the 405th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. Bollinger, an aerospace ground equipment technician, was previously assigned to South Korea for 10 months. His wife, Sharon, is the daughter of Vinson Hall of Belpre, Ohio. He is a 1971 graduate of W.Va. Parkersburg High School. They are the parents of two children. Rev. Bollinger is the pastor of the Deford and Kingston United Methodist churches.

40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cooklin of Kentland, Ill., announce the birth of a six-pound daughter, Amy Lynn, Oct. 28. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Loomis went Sunday to Kentland to see their first grandchild and Mrs. Loomis stayed to spend the week.

Theo Hendrick spent from Monday until Wednesday of last week with Mr. and Mrs. Sherwell Kelly at New Boston. Mr. and Mrs. Don Whittenburg took him there when they were en route to Adrian to attend a church conference. Mr. and Mrs. Whittenburg were Tuesday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bolz at Willis.

50 YEARS AGO (1970)

Eldred Lee Kelley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Kelley, Cass City, is enrolled as a student in Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Ky., in a course of study leading to the Master of Divinity degree.

Petty Officer First Class Ralph Leyva, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Leyva of Gagetown, is serving aboard the tank landing ship USS Westchester County, which has returned to her operating base of Yokosuka, Japan, after being deployed to Vietnam.

Miss Vera Sabo was the honored guest at a bridal shower Sunday, Nov. 1, at St. Michael's rectory in Wilmot. After the bride-elect opened her gifts, several door prizes were awarded. Lunch was served by the hostesses. About 75 attended. Miss Sabo will become the bride of Roger Bouck Nov. 28.

Mr. and Mrs. Brent Galloway are the parents of a six-pound, 11-ounce daughter, Heidi Joy, born Oct. 30 at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Hazen Guinther celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary Nov. 9. Evening guests to help celebrate the occasion, which was also Mrs. Guinther's birthday, were Mr. and Mrs. Archie McPhail, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Gruber and Sherry and Dale Renner. The Guinthers received flowers from Hawaii sent by their son David, who is stationed in Vietnam.

75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey O'Dell, returning from Gallatin Gateway, Montana, Saturday from a visit with the former's brother, John O'Dell, brought home a 12-point elk which Harvey O'Dell shot in the Gallatin Canyon. The animal weighed between 550 and 600 pounds. The horns had a 43-inch spread. The head is now on exhi-

bition at the Reed &, Patterson meat market. Mr. O'Dell also brought home a spikehorn buck deer from Montana. His hunting luck did not end there, for he went into northern Michigan since returning from the West and soon made his kill there.

Alger and Bernard Freiburger purchased the Kenney Grocery and Creamery at Cass City the latter part of last week and will continue the business under the name of the Freiburger Grocery and Creamery. They attended the Cass City high school and while students, were employed part time by their sister, Mrs. Irene Freeman, proprietor of the Pleasant Home Hospital. Later Bernard was employed as buttermaker at the Kenney Creamery for four years while Alger worked at the Cass Motor Sales and in later years has been employed in the tool shop of Ash & Co. in Detroit. Bernard was with the Merchant Marines until Nov. 2nd last, for a four-year period. The grocery and creamery business and real estate transaction was completed through the Wm. F. Zemke Real Estate Agency.

Mrs. Chas. McConnell and daughter, Mrs. Arthur Neitz, of Birmingham returned Thursday from a three week visit with relatives in Virginia and North Carolina. Most of the time was spent with Mrs. McConnell's sister, Mrs. Lucinda Mitchell, and daughter, Virginia, at Petersburg, Va. The trip down permitted the travelers to see the Blue Ridge Mountains in all their autumn color. The return trip was made by plane from Richmond, Va., to Detroit and was Mrs. McConnell's first flying experience though she is past 70. The first part of the flight through high winds and rain was exceedingly "bumpy," but after a two-hour stay in Washington, D.C. the weather was much improved and the remainder of the flight, at approximately 7,300 feet, through sunny skies but over heavy cloud banks that permitted only occasional and brief glimpses of the earth, was an enjoyable one for the passengers.

Three hundred fifty children of the Cass City public schools were examined recently by two local dentists. On each child's health card, notations were made regarding the condition of the student's teeth and the recommendations of the dentist were sent to the parents. Several cases were found where every permanent tooth was affected.

100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Sheriff McAulay and deputy Truax made a rich haul Saturday night when they captured three alleged Detroit bootleggers with a new Overland roadster and 30 quarts of perfectly good Canadian whisky. It was 11:30 p.m. and it is said that the three strangers and one Bad Axe man were just about to deliver the booze to three local dealers when they were nabbed just as the Bad Axe man had entered the car and the others were about to get into it. The sheriff had been watching the four men and the places they had entered together for some time. He finally called the local chap aside and asked for information promising that he would not arrest him. "Follow us and you will find the car with the whisky in it," said the local man. In the pockets of the prisoners were found papers containing the names of two of the Bad Axe men alleged were to get the stuff that night. They also had \$175 in cash.

Finishing touches are being put on the fine stucco building which has been erected at the corner of Main and Oak streets for a filling station by the Standard Oil Co. The building will be heated by a hot-air furnace, is well lighted and will provide toilet facilities for the travelling public. The building will probably be completed the middle of December and will be ready to start business at that time, providing the gasoline storage tanks arrive soon for installation. E.W. Keating will be in charge of the station.

Thank You!

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the voters of the village of Cass City who reelected me as trustee on the Village Council

~ Mick Kirn

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Weatherization assistance available to residents in the Thumb through HDC

Michigan officials are working to raise awareness of a weatherization program that reduces household energy costs by an average of \$283 per year – benefiting roughly 1,300 low-income families in the state.

“As the temperatures get colder, the Weatherization Assistance Program will reduce energy costs for low-income families,” Governor Gretchen Whitmer said. “This program will help families across

these families more peace of mind by assisting them in lowering their energy costs. That can remove worries about having their heat shut off and leave more money in the household budget for food, clothing and other needs.”

Trained weatherization professionals known as energy auditors use computerized energy audit software and advanced diagnostic equipment such as blower doors and infrared cameras to create a

condition is weatherization ready.

Anyone interested in applying for the Weatherization Assistance Program can contact their local provider.

In Tuscola County, that provider is the Human Development Commission (HDC) in Caro. Details are available by calling (989) 673-4121.

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As the temperatures get colder, the Weatherization Assistance Program will reduce energy costs for families.

the state who need support this winter as we continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, and it will help us protect our environment by making homes more energy efficient.

“This program is also good for our local economies, as it supports 8,500 jobs nationally for workers who weatherize homes. Moving forward, my administration will continue working around the clock to ensure Michigan families have the support they need as we head into the winter months.”

The U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program is administered at the state level by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity.

MDHHS utilizes Community Action Agencies and non-profit organizations to provide weatherization services at the local level.

“MDHHS is committed to helping Michiganders who are struggling to pay their energy bills,” said Lewis Roubal, the department’s chief deputy director for opportunity. “We want to give

comprehensive energy analysis of the home. This analysis is used to determine the most cost-effective measures to install in each home.

The energy auditor creates a customized work order and trained contractors and crew members install the identified energy-efficient and health and safety measures.

Energy efficiency measures installed in client homes include items such as insulation, blower-door-guided air sealing of key junctures, and installations such as lighting and water saving measures.

Health and safety issues such as carbon monoxide, moisture problems, ventilation needs, and heating systems safety and efficiency are also addressed.

There is growing evidence that the program provides benefits beyond energy savings. Improved indoor air quality and appropriate ventilation strategies lead to healthier living conditions in weatherized homes. These healthier living conditions often lead to reduced asthma triggers and fewer doctor visits.

Eligibility is based on household income and if the home’s current

Thumb health officials issue advisory for region

Continued from page one.

faster rate than at any other time during this pandemic. This is putting nursing homes, adult foster care homes, homes for the aged, and hospitals at risk of being overwhelmed and unable to protect those that they care for,” she added.

“More and more COVID-19 infected people are requiring hospitalization. Schools are being asked to review the data to determine how best to keep the students and staff safe. Due to the rapid spreading of this virus, public health and the other health care providers in our counties are requesting (everyone’s) assistance in stopping the spread of COVID-19 by adhering to the following recommendations:

*If you receive a positive COVID-19 test result, isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the start of your symptom(s) or your positive test date if you didn’t have symptoms. Notify your close contacts that they may have been exposed and encourage them to get tested. If someone is awaiting test results, they must stay home until the results are in.

A close contact is someone who has been within six feet (about two arms’ length) of an infected person for at least 15 minutes in 24 hours including brief encounters (it does not need to be consecutive minutes) with or without a face covering.

Close contacts should quarantine — generally 14 days — since a person can be infectious before showing any symptoms. Isolation and quarantine mean staying home from work, school, gatherings, extracurricular activities and any other public place other than when seeking medical care.

*Identifying positive cases and contact tracing are proven methods to help slow the spread of an epidemic of respiratory disease.

*Due to the overwhelming number of COVID-19 cases across the state, there may be a delay in contacting someone who tests positive for the virus or has been in close contact to someone who has COVID-19. Take the call or return messages if someone contacts you about testing positive or possibly being exposed to COVID-19.

*Stay at least 6 feet away from others, whenever possible.

*Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others.

*Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

*Avoid crowded indoor spaces and ensure indoor spaces are properly ventilated by bringing in outdoor air as much as possible. In general, being outdoors and in spaces with good ventilation reduces the risk of exposure to infectious respiratory droplets.

*Stay home and isolate from others when sick or have symptoms of COVID 19. See full list of symptoms at www.Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.

*Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces. All workplaces, gathering places such as restaurants, places of worship, and schools need to step up their cleaning and disinfectant practices.

*Refrain from attending holiday gatherings and events with people not associated with your household members. This includes bowling leagues, billiard leagues, sports banquets, hosting or attending team dinners, holiday gatherings with friends and family not currently living in your home. Consider more take-out options and less in-person dining experiences at this time.

*Testing is important in helping us understand the scope of community-wide spread and making data-informed decisions on how to best protect the community. If you have COVID-like symptoms and/or have been in close contact with someone infected with the new coronavirus please get tested and self-quarantine for 14 days unless directed otherwise by your healthcare provider or the health department.

*Pandemics can be stressful, especially when you are staying away from others. During this time, it’s important to maintain social connections and care for your mental health.

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Hawks win back-to-back district crowns

by Clarke Haire
 Publisher

The Cass City Red Hawk football season came to sudden halt over the weekend, not because Coach Scott Cuthrell's team suffered a loss during its 2020 Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) playoff run, but rather due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Cass City Athletic Director Justin Ketterer confirmed Monday morning that Governor Whitmer announced last night, all school sports activities (practices and contests) are suspended effective immediately (Wednesday) through at least Dec. 8 or until these new orders are amended.

The order also states the three ongoing fall tournaments, girls swimming & diving, volleyball and football have been suspended. The MHSAA will be exploring all options to complete these three remaining fall

tournaments. At this same time, discussions will take place to revise winter sports plans that will include updated practice and competition calendars. As we have promised since March, the MHSAA will continue to be transparent and flexible while sharing information and updated timelines once those are set. Our goal since June remains unchanged as we will continue to plan for three sports seasons that can all be completed during the 2020-21 school year.

The MHSAA supports the actions needed by our state government and health department leaders. All of us need to do our part now to reverse the concerning COVID numbers in Michigan to give all of our students the chance to participate, practice and compete again as we have been able to do safely since August.

The only allowed coach-player contact for all sports (fall, winter and spring) is vir-

tual communication and meetings through at least Dec. 8 or until these new orders are amended.

The decision is heartbreaking for athletes throughout the state including several Cass City seniors whose dreams of winning a state gridiron championship may never be fulfilled.

Still, it's been a wonderful ride for the Red Hawks. They defeated host Hemlock 36-22 Friday to secure back-to-back Division 7 District crowns. The victory also improved Cass City to 9-0 on the year and after advancing to the Division 7 semifinals last year, spirits were high for the 3-time Greater Thumb West champs as up next on their path to Ford Field was undefeated Ithaca – a marquee matchup for two smash mouth teams. Instead, players, coaches and fans will have to sit and wait.

At Hemlock's Wallace Field – ironically named after Cass City native Bob Wallace – the Red Hawks were able to break open a tight contest at the half with three final-half scores.

Both teams scored a pair of touchdowns in the initial half that ended with the hosts enjoying a narrow 14-12 margin. Robert Knapik, a 5' 8", 165-pound, running back scored the game's maiden points when he sprinted 53-yards to put the hosts up 6-0.

Cass City quickly answered the first quarter marker with one of their own when Jordan Mester found pay dirt from 21 yards out.

Tied 6-6, Hemlock went to the air for the final points of the opening quarter on a 22-yard strike from quarterback Dylan LaGrow.

Both teams' defenses seemed to settle in midway through the second quarter, but with 3:37 showing on the clock, Cass City quarterback Bryce Fernald broke free for an 18-yard touchdown run that reduced the Hemlock edge to 14-12 entering the final 24 minutes.

The lead didn't stand for long. Fernald gave Cass City its first advantage of the night, 20-14, with a long touchdown jaunt from near midfield that was followed by Mester's 2-point conversion run that ended the scoring in the third quarter.

Mester, who ran for 181 yards on 19 carries, extended Cass City's advantage with a 15-yard TD rush early in the final quarter.

To Hemlock's credit, they didn't go away quietly and used a 7-yard pass from LaGrow to narrow the margin to 28-22 with over 7 minutes remaining.

But Mester added his third touchdown of the night and Fernald added his second 2-point conversion run soon after to remove most doubt from the game's outcome.

Cass City accumulated 375 rushing yards in the victory. In addition to Mester's big night, Fernald ran for 84 yards and Noah Zaleski chipped in 73

rushing yards. The Red Hawks attempted just one incomplete pass.

Defensively, Cass City had Jeremy Velasquez with six solo tackles and Fernald with five solo tackles and an interception leading the charge. Connor Herford chipped in four solo tackles and Matt Mihalic had three solo stops.

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DAVE GREEN, Kingston, took this dandy buck around 4:30 p.m. on November 3 while hunting on private property during the archery season. My biggest buck to-date, said Green, adding, it was the first time seeing this deer.

Cass City Red Hawk ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Meet Bryce Fernald, Knights Insurance Agency Cass City Red Hawk Athlete of the Week winner.

The senior quarterback for the Red Hawk football team, Bryce has improved with each game during his final year and often made big plays in big games.

For the season, the second year QB and safety rushed for 538 yards and nine touchdowns, and threw for another 266 yards and three touchdowns. He accounted for nine 2-point conversions – four by rushing and five by passing – for the Red Hawks, who currently sit at 9-0 overall.

Defensively, Bryce recorded 26 solo tackles, assisted on five stops and recorded a team-high three interceptions.

Bryce is the son of Aaron and Kate Fernald.

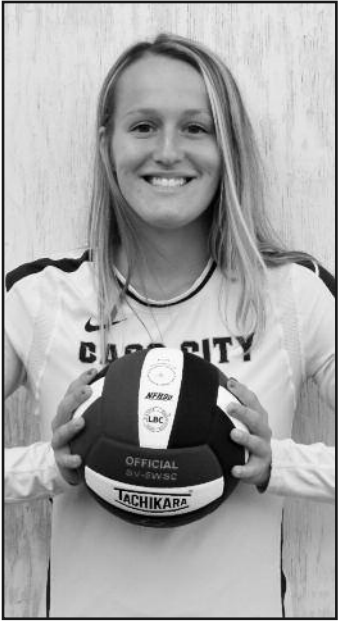


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HAVEN BOUVERETTE

GTW all-conference volleyball picks include four Red Hawks

by Clarke Haire
Publisher

The 2020 Greater Thumb West volleyball all-conference selections include four Lady Red Hawk

spikers highlighted by senior Madison Cumper, named the dream team Libero.

“When the volleyball team started to gather in April outdoors, Madison voiced that she really did not want the Libero position,” said

Cass City Coach Amy Cuthrell.

“Fast forwardshe led our team in digs and was one of the most effective servers. Madison became the most decorated player on our team. She was voted by area coaches as an All Region player. I have had a Cumper on my team for years and one of their greatest attributes is their positive and encouraging personalities.”

Joining Cumper on the GTW all-conference first team are middle hitter Grace Williamson, USA senior; outside hitter Brynn Polega, USA senior; setter Kylie Bohn, USA junior; setter Aydan Dalak, Reese junior; outside hitters Maddi Osantowski, Reese junior and Kate Clancey, Bad Axe junior.

Landing on the GTW all-conference second team are Sierra Spry, Cass City senior middle hitter; Maci Montgomery, USA senior Libero; Josie Johnson, Reese junior Libero; Nicole Yageman, Bad Axe senior setter; Camryn Affer, Bad Axe senior setter, Mackenzie Schmidt, Caro senior Libero and Jasa Ross, Vassar sophomore middle hitter.

“Sierra played with passion and emotion while leading our team in kills and blocks. She had the ability to disrupt a lot of the opposing teams’ defenses,” Cuthrell said.

GTW honorable mention choices in 2020 include junior Kalee Gray and senior Haven Bouverette.

“Kalee would likely be voted the most improved player on the team this year. She really stepped into a very aggressive power hitter. She shined in the middle part of our season offering us a more diverse offense. She was second on the team in both kills and blocks. I am certain she will be an exciting piece to our puzzle next year,” Cuthrell said, adding, “Haven is the underrated athlete in the area. She was a 6 slot player for us due to her effectiveness in all skills. It would not be uncommon for me to receive comments on her from opposing teams as her power makes even the best defensive specialists fearful. Haven was injured in the beginning of the season and upon her return she was determined to make a statement. She will be a memorable force as she com-

pleted her senior season.”

Other GTW honorable mention selections are Carly Koch, USA junior; Emma Stecker, USA senior; Emily Rieman, USA senior; Audrey Nelson, Reese senior; Emily Rupprecht, Reese senior; Madilyn Wojdula, Reese Senior; Katherine Himmel, Bad Axe

sophomore; Alayna Engler, Bad Axe senior; Adelyn Moore, Caro sophomore; Baylee Smith, Caro junior; Sophia Shamel, Vassar senior; Suzette Cerda, Vassar senior; Mandy Arnott, EPBP senior; Leah Truemmer, EBPB senior and Jordyn Wisenbaugh, EPBP senior. #####

GREATER THUMB EAST 2020 all-conference volleyball

FIRST TEAM

Grace Schlaud	Brown City	Senior	OH
Jordan Millsap	Brown City	Junior	MH
Olivia Bovenschen	Brown City	Senior	MH
Lindsey Guza	Ubly	Junior	MH
Samantha Souva	Ubly	Senior	Setter
Josie Gusa	Ubly	Senior	OH
Leandra Wolschleger	Harbor Beach	Senior	OH

SECOND TEAM

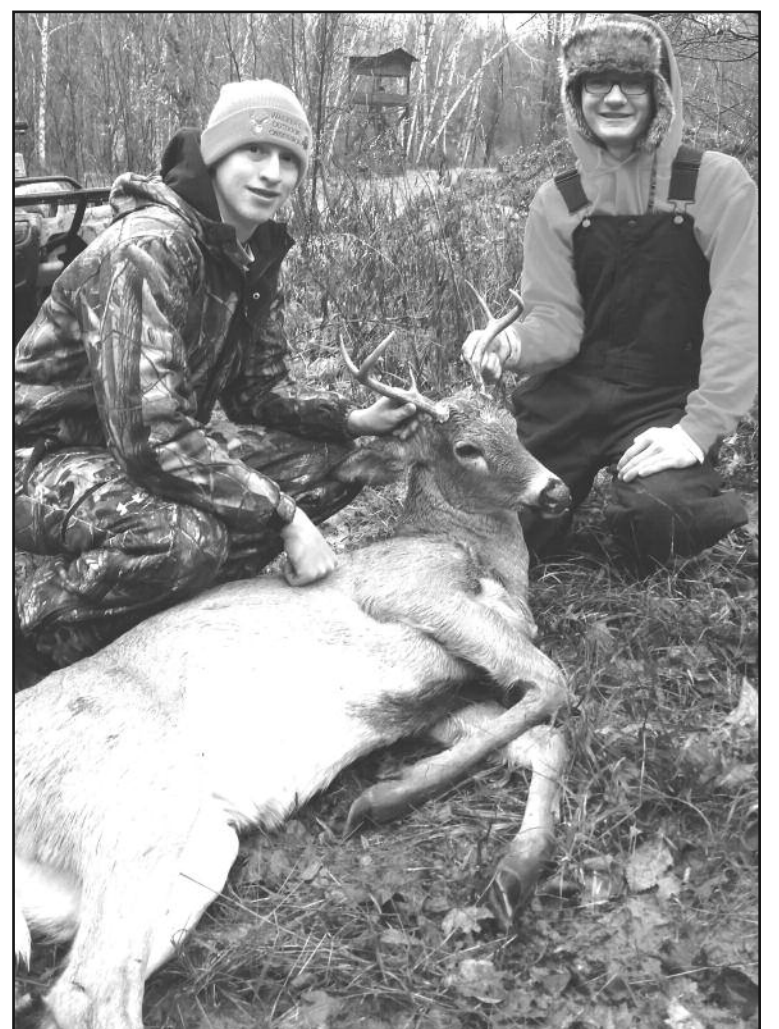
Sam Gammon	Brown City	Junior	Setter
Allison Lautner	Ubly	Senior	MH
Maya Pfaff	Harbor Beach	Senior	MH
Karlee Guza	Harbor Beach	Sophomore	Libero
Hollie Hartwell	Marlette	Sophomore	MH
Gabby Martinez	Marlette	Freshman	MH
Nicole Morgan	Memphis	Senior	Setter
Desiree Bender	Sandusky	Junior	Libero

HONORABLE MENTION

Katelyn Vilas	Brown City	Junior	DS
Juliana Hanson	Brown City	Senior	DS/S
Nora Franzel	Ubly	Junior	Libero
Elizabeth Weber	Ubly	Senior	DS
Brenna Bischer	Harbor Beach	Junior	Of
Taryn Arntz	Harbor Beach	Senior	Sei
Marisa Anderson	Marlette	Junior	OH
Kaylee Rothwell	Memphis	Senior	OH
Gracie Walsh	Memphis	Senior	Lib
Hannah Kaltz	Memphis	Junior	DS
Cerenity Helzer	Capac	Junior	Of
Julia Schaefer	Capac	Sophomore	Se
Alexis Guibord	Sandusky	Senior	Set
Megan Franzel	Sandusky	Senior	Of



LUCKY LADY. Zoey Burnette, age 11, shot her first deer on Nov. 15 while hunting just west of Cass City. She bagged the 3-point buck at 7:30 a.m. Zoey is the daughter of Don and Angie Burnette.



THE CASS CITY CHRONICLE'S 2020 Deer Contest winner is Ethan Green, Kingston High School student. Green, left, harvested his buck on the opening morning of the firearm season around 8:15 a.m. on private property with the help of his cross country teammate Dustin Peters, who accompanied Green on his family's property while filming the hunt as well.

Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

2020
Football
Final
Results



Clarke Haire



Ray Maurer



Geoff Morgan



Doug Hyatt

As should be expected, Ray Maurer is our 2020 forecast football champion. Ray started making predictions in 2018 and since that time has been crowned the Cass City Chronicle's best guesser for three straight years.

"He can't be beat," says Chronicle Publisher Clarke Haire.

"At least not until next year."

LAST WEEK	4-2	4-2	4-2	5-1
SEASON RESULTS	(54-23) 70%	(61-16) 79%	(52-25) 68%	(53-24) 69%

State unveils new app to help citizens track virus contacts

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) recently announced the statewide rollout of the COVID-19 exposure notification app MI COVID Alert.

The anonymous, no cost and voluntary app, piloted in Ingham County and on the campus of Michigan State University last month, lets users know whether they may have recently been exposed to COVID-19.

Users can confidentially submit a positive test result into the app and alert others in recent proximity that they may have also been exposed to the virus.

The app is part of the state's continued efforts to slow the increasing spread of COVID-19, according to Robert Gordon, director of the MDHHS.

"Using MI COVID Alert on your cell phone is a simple, safe step that everyone can take to protect themselves and their loved ones. It's free, it's easy, and it protects your privacy," Gordon said.

Every Michigander is encouraged to download MI COVID Alert. Research from Oxford University found a potential to reduce infections and deaths, even if just 15 percent of a population uses an exposure notification app like MI COVID Alert.

In the initial weeks of the MSU-Ingham County pilot alone, 46,704 people downloaded the app. The number is the equivalent of roughly 23 percent of Ingham County residents ages 18 to 64 years of age and nearly 16 percent of the total Ingham County population.

"This app has the potential to provide the kind of early exposure notification that is critical to preventing the spread of the virus," said Michigan State University Executive Vice President for Health Sciences Dr. Norman J. Beauchamp Jr.

"In addition to wearing a mask, social distancing and getting tested, downloading the app is one of the most important steps we can take to help keep our communities safe."

When a person tests positive for COVID-19, they receive a randomly generated PIN from the local health department or state of Michigan case investigators that allows them to share their test results anonymously on the app.

MI COVID Alert uses randomly generated phone codes and low energy Bluetooth technology instead of GPS location to protect privacy while looking back in time to determine close contact with other phones that have the app.

If someone was in close contact with another person who submitted a positive COVID-19 test result, the close contact will receive a push notification once the positive test result is entered into the system. A notification means the app user was possibly within six feet for at least 15 minutes of someone who tested positive.

Michigan worked with Apple and Google to make MI COVID Alert compatible with similar apps in other states. The app works in conjunction with traditional contact tracing, mask-wearing, hand washing and social distancing, but is not a replacement for these precautions or participation in contact tracing.

People who are exposed to COVID-19 should get tested and consider quarantining, including watching for symptoms for 14 days from the date of possible exposure.

Individuals in need of testing may visit the COVID-19 website to find a testing location near them. They may also contact the Michigan COVID-19 hotline by calling 888-535-6136 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or dialing 211 on their mobile phone to locate and schedule an appointment at a nearby, off-campus testing location.

The exposure notification feature included in recent iOS and Android operating system updates only works with a companion app like MI COVID Alert. The app is available in the Apple and Google app stores.

Other states, including Virginia, Arizona, New York, Alabama and New Jersey, recently launched similar exposure notification apps statewide. Additional states have apps in development.

Information around the COVID-19 outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

Covid impacting schools

Continued from page one.

Supt. Jeff Hartel reported Monday. He added 20 adults who were in close contact with the affected individuals must now also quarantine. And that number doesn't include the roughly 50 students in quarantine because they are in the same classrooms as students who have tested positive.

Hartel noted parents of any child who may have been exposed will be contacted.

"This basically came out of nowhere," Hartel said. One individual was placed in quarantine in accordance with the district's protocols for possible exposure, he added. "Then, Saturday evening, I get the word that (multiple individuals) tested positive.

Hartel said he decided to contact parents late Saturday in order to inform them immediately, and to hopefully give them a little more time to prepare for all-virtual instruction, which is expected to remain in place through at least the end of November.

"(We're) trying to contain the spread by delaying face-to-face instruction until Nov. 30," he said, adding the goal "is to get back in person as soon as safely possible."

In the meantime, teachers and other staff members will be in contact with students to distribute devices needed to begin virtual instruction.

At this point, Hartel said, winter sports are postponed, and local students will not be attending classes at the Tuscola Technology Center in Caro. Cass City's daycare program remains open, and school officials were planning to resume meal distributions to families.

Cass City isn't the only district in the Thumb to return to all virtual learning.

Caro Community Schools Supt. Pete Newman issued a statement Friday, noting he made a recommendation to his board of education the night before to suspend in-person instruction. Officials in the Akron-Fairgrove and Millington Community Schools also announced suspension of in-person classes last week.

"Based on the rapidity of growth in positive COVID-19 cases, especially locally, and our continuing struggle to provide adequate coverage for teachers who are either sick or who have been quarantined, we feel it is in the best interest for the health and safety of our students and staff to make this decision at this time," Newman said in a letter to Caro area parents.

He added the shift was scheduled to take effect this week and will remain in effect until Jan. 19.

"These are very difficult and challenging times," he added, "but it does appear there is a light at the end of the tunnel, with the recently promising news of a vaccine. We need to work together, stay resilient and not give up hope.

"We will eventually get back to normal. We just need to hold on and support one another a little longer."

During the first two weeks of November, the number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in the Cass City zip code increased from 85 to 109, while Caro saw an increase of nearly 80 cases – from 149 to 228.



THE ELKLAND Township Fire Department has continued to spread its Fire Prevention Month safety message with local children, including students in grades kindergarten through five, during their visits to the fire hall in Cass City.

Health department issues new orders

Continued from page one.

Spanish Flu of 1918 – bars and restaurants will be open for outdoor dining, carry-out and delivery only. Gyms will remain open for individual exercise with strict safety measures in place. Casinos, movie theaters and group exercise classes will be closed. With the exception of professional and college sports, organized sports have been put on hold.

State officials have ordered all high schools to shift to virtual instruction only, while K-8 schools may continue with in-person learning if masks are worn.

"In the spring, we listened to public health experts, stomped the curve, and saved thousands of lives together. Now, we must channel that same energy and join forces again to protect our families, frontline workers and small businesses," Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said.

"Right now, there are thousands of cases a day and hundreds of deaths a week in Michigan, and the number is growing. If we don't act now, thousands more will die, and our hospitals will continue to be overwhelmed."

State health officials say the virus is spreading like wildfire throughout Michigan – more than 44,000 new cases and 416 deaths over the past week — with a current positivity test rate of 12.5 percent.

Gordon noted the latest order is not a "blanket stay-home" action like that issued last spring.

The order leaves open work that cannot be performed from home, including for manufacturing, construction and health occupations, he said, and outdoor gatherings, outdoor dining and parks remain open. Individualized activities with distancing and face masks are still allowed: retail shopping; public transit; restaurant takeout; personal-care services such as haircuts, by appointment; and individualized exercise at a gym, with extra spacing between machines.

"The data we are seeing is alarming. COVID-19 is impacting every area of our state. Our healthcare systems are becoming overwhelmed, and our contact tracers cannot keep up," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS.

Sunday's announcement came just a few days after representatives of four mid-Michigan hospitals – all dealing with rising cases of COVID-19 — issued a united message asking residents to take the risk of exposure to the virus seriously.

"All of the hospitals in the Great Lakes Bay Region are feeling the impact of a second surge of COVID-19 patients. Hospitalizations have now surpassed peak levels seen in the spring," stated the message, signed by Ascension St. Mary's, Covenant HealthCare, McLaren Bay Region, and Mid-Michigan Health.

"We are asking for the strong support of our local community and business owners to help slow the spread of the virus. Local hos-

pitals are seeing a rapid surge in hospitalized COVID-19 patients."

The latest numbers

Statewide, Monday's total confirmed cases reached 264,576, with a total of 8,049 deaths – that's an increase of 47,772 cases and 409 more deaths compared to a week ago, when the totals were 216,804 cases and 7,640 deaths. Health officials estimate nearly 138,862 Covid patients have recovered statewide to-date.

In the Thumb, between Monday, Nov. 9, and Monday, Nov. 16, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased by 446 – from 1,505 to 1,951 — with the three counties' combined death toll increasing by four to 59 fatalities.

According to the latest data (Monday afternoon), Tuscola County has now recorded 1,122 confirmed cases, an increase of 272 cases compared to a week before, and 42 deaths (an increase of three).

In Huron County, meanwhile, there are 403 confirmed cases (an increase of 78 from a week earlier), with nine deaths (an increase of one), and Sanilac County has a total of 426 confirmed cases, up from 330 cases a week earlier, and eight deaths (no change).

The latest statistics available in the Chronicle's coverage area revealed 109 confirmed cases, up from 97 cases a week earlier, in the Cass City zip code. The number of deaths attributed to COVID-19 so far is 14 (an increase of one over the past week). State officials are reporting 56 recoveries in this area.

The only county zip codes reporting higher numbers of cases are Caro (228 – an increase of 59 cases over the previous week – and 18 deaths), Vassar (179 cases – an increase of 30 cases – and three deaths), and Millington (130 cases – an increase of 25 — and one death).

Over the same week-long period, there was an increase of 30 cases (for a total of 64) in the Unionville zip code, where there have been 16 recoveries and no deaths to-date; Deford has 14 cases and in-

crease of three), 11 recoveries and no deaths; Gageton, four cases (an increase of one), three recoveries and no deaths; Kingston has 28 cases (up from 24), nine recoveries and no deaths; Ubyly has 16 cases, 12 recoveries and one death; and Owendale, two cases (an increase of one), one recovery and no deaths.

Shifting investigations

At the Tuscola and Huron county health departments, health officer Ann Hepfer last week announced officials are making some changes to address the rising number of infections in the Thumb.

"With COVID-19 cases rapidly increasing across the counties, Huron and Tuscola county health departments have had to shift its case investigation and contact tracing process to meet the increased demand.

"The health departments will continue to prioritize case investigation and contact tracing in nursing homes, hospitals, schools, priority clusters identified in high-risk congregate settings, and assisting businesses with COVID-19 related issues and positive employees," she explained. "We have added additional staff to assist with these efforts.

"Due to the overwhelming number of COVID-19 cases, there may be a delay in contacting someone who tests positive for the virus or has been in close contact to someone who has COVID-19," Hepfer noted. "Please take the call or return messages if someone contacts you about testing positive or possibly being exposed to COVID-19. All case and contact information are protected as confidential to ensure people's privacy."

Anyone who receives a positive COVID-19 test result is urged to isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the start of their symptom(s) or their positive test date if they didn't have symptoms.

"Notify your close contacts that they may have been exposed and encourage them to get tested. If someone is awaiting test results, they must stay home until the results are in," Hepfer said.

**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.

Obituaries

Kenneth Blue

Kenneth Elsworth Blue, 80, of Cass City, died following a brief illness Monday, November 9, 2020 in his home.

He was born July 30, 1940 in Flint to Bernard and Josephine (Hall) Blue. He married Dorothy Limbaugh May 6, 1967 in Flushing.

Ken graduated from Millington High School in 1959. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from LeTourneau College of Longview, TX in 1964. Ken worked for the Tuscola County Road Commission as an engineer until 1978. His goal of entrepreneurship led him to join into a partnership that operated C.R. Hunt Construction of Cass City until he retired.

Ken and Dottie enjoyed their winter home in Florida, which Ken referred to as "Paradise". Although his collection of classic John Deere tractors was treasured, his 1931 Ford Model A Sport Coupe was his pride and joy. Since 1957 this car, which he drove during and since high school, has always been his baby. He was always proud to show off this beloved car, whether it was in the Millington Parade, or in a variety of car shows where he won several ribbons and plaques.

Ken was a longtime member of the Cass City Lions Club, and a member and past Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge of Cass City. He also served on the Elmwood Township Board as a trustee for 25 years. Above all, Ken loved spending time with his grandsons.

Ken is survived by his wife, Dorothy ("My Dottie"); daughters, Deborah Blue and Jeff Decker of Monrovia, IN and Lida Blue and Michael Miner of Caro; grandchildren, Zane Miner and Harrison Miner; sisters, Joyce Perry of Englewood, FL and Ruth (Bob) Bacon of Englewood, FL; sister-in-law, Judy Blue of Lafayette, GA; many nieces and nephews; and his faithful canine companion, Bunny Butt.

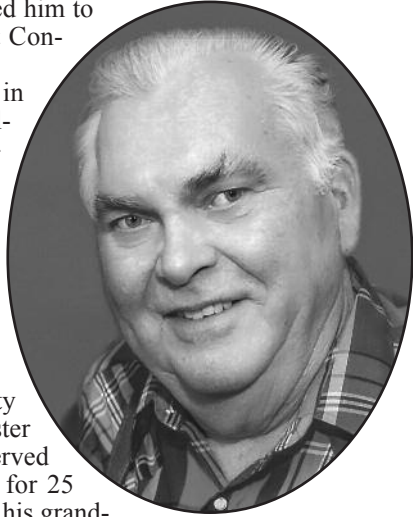
He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Bud Blue.

A funeral service was held Friday, November 13, in Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City with Sam Leppert, funeral celebrant officiating.

Interment was in Hillside Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Cass City Lions Club for the Leader Dog Program. Friends may share memories, prayers and photos with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



Nancy Rabideau

Nancy Louise Rabideau, 87, of Gagetown, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 8, 2020 at her Grand Rapids home.

Born on February 25, 1933 in Pontiac, Nancy was an only child who dreamed of a large family. Her dream became a reality when she married James Edward Rabideau of Gagetown on May 25, 1951 and they started their life together, bearing fifteen children during their 61 years of marriage.

Nancy enjoyed staying at home to raise her family and believed that it was a sense of responsibility that made her job as a mother easy. Outside of the home, Nancy volunteered her time as a catechism teacher, a member of the St. Agatha parish council, and an election poll worker for more than twenty years. Nancy loved gardening, canning, cooking, reading and spending time with her family. She had a strong faith, conviction for democracy, and a belief in the value of a good education and hard work.

Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, Jim, and her daughter-in-law, Nancy.

She is survived by her children, Mike (Deb), Marie Fowler (Bill), Ray (Gingie), David, Bill (Nancy), Jane Payne (Rick), Lena Taylor (Mike), Rita Noland (Craig), John (Miria), Mark (Bonnie), Dennis (Amy), Jim, Chris (Michelle), Matt (Mia) and Renee Cook (Mike); thirty-six grandchildren; and fourteen great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated with immediate family at St. Agatha Church in Gagetown.

In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested memorial contributions to St. Agatha Cemetery Fund made out to OUR LADY OF CONSOLATA PARISH OFFICE, P.O. Box 139 Gagetown, MI 48735, or to your charity of choice.



Colin Connell

Colin Max Connell, 82, long-time resident of Lapeer, passed away suddenly at his winter home in Florida, on Monday, November 9, 2020.

He was born July 1, 1938 in Gagetown, to Max and Pauline (Smith) Connell.

He grew up in Cass City with two younger brothers. He joined the Navy after high school and served on the USS Intrepid for four years.

Following the Navy, Colin married Katherine Louise McLeod, who preceded him in death in 2015.

Over the years, he enjoyed raising his family and mastering many hobbies, such as camping, sailing, experimental aircraft building and flying. He also started many companies, most notably, Hensley Mfg. Inc.

He was an avid reader. In later years, he enjoyed studying history, philosophy and religions.

His family was most important to him. His rendition of "The Night Before Christmas" was a cherished family tradition.

Colin was preceded in death by his wife, Katherine; his son, John; and his brothers, Larry and Brent.

He is survived by his children, Susan Connell, Kathleen Sanders and Kelly (Ron) Estrada; his grandchildren, Hollie Hardy, Amanda Walker, Gordon Marshall, Ross Marshall, Erin (Matt) Hudson, John Marshall, Sydney (Matt) Delong and Andrew Estrada; his great-grandchildren, Montana Atwell, Jimmie Wilson, Nathaniel Scott, Evan Hudson, Elsie Hudson, Logan Marshall, Brynlee Marshall and Micah Delong; his great great-grandchild, Lillyona Atwell; and his beloved dog, Lucy.

A memorial gathering for Colin Connell will take place at Lynch and Sons Funeral Directors - Capstick Chapel in Lapeer on Saturday, November 21, from 1:00-3:00 p.m.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Village Ordinance 137 prohibits parking on any Village street from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. during the winter months, from December 1 to March 31, for snow removal and emergency access. Violators of this ordinance will be cited.

Nanette Walsh
Village Clerk

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Visitors always welcome...
Please join us today!

Anchor Cove Church
Find Hope. Find Love. Find Purpose.
201 E. Sanilac Rd., Caro, MI 48723 • 989-872-2262
Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.
www.anchorcoveoutreachchurch.com

Cass City Missionary Church
4449 Koepfgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-2729
Worship Service 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m.
Pastor: Phil Burkett • www.casscitymc.org
Associate Pastor: Joel Schwendinger

Cass City United Methodist Church
872-3422 - 5100 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726
www.casscityumc.org
Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Summer 9:30 a.m.)
Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m.
Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon)
Pastor: Bob Demyanovich

Community Baptist Church
(Independent Fundamental)
4446 Ale St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 989-872-4088
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
• Afternoon Service 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday - Pray/Bible Study & Youth Group 6:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Nathan Whipple

Deford Community Church
1392 N. Kingston Rd. • 872-4055
(1/4 mile south of Deford on Kingston Rd.)
Sundays - 10 a.m. • Wednesdays - 7 p.m.
Pastor: David Cooper • Assoc. Pastor: Ross Foley
DefordCommunityChurch.org

Evangelical Free Church of Cass City
6430 Chestnut Blvd., Cass City, MI 48726
• 872-5060
• Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
• Worship at 10:30 a.m.
• Midweek Bible Studies
Pastor: Jim Allred - Like us on Facebook!

First Baptist Church
(Independent, Fundamental) Barrier Free
6420 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 989-872-3155
Sunday School All Ages 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
AWANA Clubs 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday - Kids4Truth Clubs & Teen Club
6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Pastor: Christian Wright
Website: www.fbccc.us

First Presbyterian Church
Barrier Free • State & National Historical Registry
6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5400
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Exercise Program: Mon., Wed. & Fri. 9:00 a.m.
After School Adventure (K-6)
Call for winter schedule.

Fraser Presbyterian Church
3006 Huron Line Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5400
• Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
• www.fraserchurch.org

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-2770
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Steve Bagnall
www.goodshepherdlutherancasscity.webs.com

Living Word Worship Center
Pentecostal - Church of God
6536 Houghton Street, Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-4637
Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.
Family Training Hour: Wednesday 7 p.m.
Pastor: Jephtha Bryant

Mizpah Missionary Church
4631 N. Van Dyke, Cass City, MI 48726
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Service: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Group 6:30-8 p.m.
Wednesday Kids' Club 6:30-8 p.m.
Pastor Dale Bullock 989-872-2828

Novest Church of Christ
"the friendly church that cares"
2896 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-3658
Sunday School 9:00 a.m. ~ 1st Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
2nd Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Senior Minister: Brad Speirs,
Associate Minister: Austin Keller at Ugly &
Student Minister: Don Mecomber
Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org

Our Lady Consolata Catholic Church
4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 665-1027
Mass: Saturday 4:00 p.m. Nov. 1 - Mar. 31
Saturday 5:00 p.m. Apr. 1 - Oct. 31
Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Priest: Fr. Theo Nnabugo

Potter's House Christian Fellowship
Pentecostal
• 6455 Sixth St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5186
• We enjoy singing from the Hymnals and Spiritual Preaching From The Word of God
• Find us on Facebook: Potter's House Church of Cass City
• **Sunday: 11:00 a.m.**

List your church here, call (989) 872-2010.

CLASSIFIEDS

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.

General Merchandise
 POLEGA'S PRODUCE - Still open - new hours - Monday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Through November 25th. SALE: On most squash buy 2 get the 3rd one free, potatoes, onions, cabbage, apples, (pumpkins & gourds cheap.) MASK REQUIRED Just east of M-53 at 6480 Bay City Forestville Rd. 989-872-3348 or cell 989-670-2836. 2-11-4-3
 FOR SALE - Excellent burning Ashwood, split & dried ready to burn. \$50/cord call 989-872-3375. 2-11-11-3

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

FOR RENT - Cute little house for 1-2 people in country between Caro and Cass City. Heat, air conditioning, electricity, internet all included \$575, Jim Baughman 989-912-0531. 4-11-4-6

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

Services
 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



SALT FREE iron conditioners and water softeners, 24,000 grain, \$750. In-home service on all brands. Credit cards accepted. Call Paul's Pump Repair, 673-4850 or 800-745-4851 for free analysis. 8-9-25-tf

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

Horizon Overhead Door
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Legal Notices

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, on December 03, 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. MORTGAGE: Mort-

gagor(s): Marianne L. Lampela and Michael A. Lampela, Husband and Wife Original Mortgagee; Green Tree Financial Servicing Corporation Date of mortgage: February 21, 1998 Recorded on March 12, 1998, Liber 732, on Page 400, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1998-3 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Sixty-Six Thousand Fifty-Three and 52/100 Dollars (\$66,053.52) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Tuscola County, and described as: That part of the Southwest quarter of section 5, Township 11 North, Range 11 East, Township of Koylton, County of Tuscola, Michigan described as: Commencing at the Southwest corner of said section 5; thence

North 88 degrees 05 minutes 17 seconds East along the South line of said section, 1328.78 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 01 degrees 51 minutes 49 seconds West, 1321.76 feet to the South 1/8 line of said section; Thence North 88 degrees 06 minutes 53 seconds East along said South 1/8 line 330.00 feet; thence South 01 degrees 51 minutes 49 seconds East, 1321.61 feet to said South Section Line; thence south 88 degrees 05 minutes 17 seconds west, along said south section line 330.00 feet to the point beginning. Commonly known as 5655 Denhoff, Kingston, MI 48741 The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under


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.

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1998-3 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

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 A survey team from CARF International will be visiting TBHS virtually via live video and audio technology from December 14 - December 16, 2020.
 We invited surveyors to evaluate how well we meet international standards for quality. The survey will tell us what we are doing well and ways we might improve. As a result of this survey, we may continue our accreditation.
 As part of the survey, the surveyors will interview people (live video/audio technology) who receive services, their families, our staff, and others. Some questions the survey team members might ask people are:
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 If you would like to talk with one of the survey team members or want to learn more about CARF International, please let one of our staff members know. You may also contact CARF International directly.
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Rotary's Christmas for Kids campaign on tap

Continued from page one.

School District. Most of the referrals are provided by local school officials, but families in need are also encouraged to reach out by contacting Rotary members.

In 2019, the Christmas for Kids program donated toys and clothes to more than 100 families, including an estimated 185 children.

"We're definitely not canceling this year, because we don't want any children to miss out on the holidays," commented Emily Lasceski, who along with fellow Cass City Rotary Club member Colleen Langenburg is again coordinating the annual gift drive.

"We never thought, is this a project we shouldn't do (because of COVID-19)," Lasceski said. "We're doing the masks, we're going to practice social distancing, and we're going to make sure the project gets done," Lasceski said. "We're going to do what it takes to make it happen."

Club members recently launched this year's campaign by placing gift drop boxes at various locations throughout the community, including at all local banks, Dollar General and Rawson Memorial District Library.

Donations of both toys and cash are welcome as Rotary prepares to bring smiles to local children.

As always, the club also welcomes cash donations, which are used to purchase enough age-appropriate gifts for all ages – for both girls and boys.

"Financial donations are always welcome," Lasceski said, adding cash contributions make it possible for club members to purchase items to meet individual family needs. "If they need a coat size six, we can go out and buy a coat size six."

Financial donations should be mailed to: Cass City Rotary Club, 6468 Main St., Cass City, MI 48726, or dropped off at any local bank.

Club members, who are planning an annual shopping trip to purchase needed gifts Monday, Dec. 14, are hoping to have the bulk of donated money, toys and other items in hand by Friday, Dec. 11.

The club will be distributing the gift packages to families Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Hills and Dales Corporate Services Office and Regional Education Center (formerly the Baker College campus building) on Main Street.

While concerns over COVID-19 did not cancel Christmas for Kids, Rotary Club members say they have made some adjustments in how families will be collecting their gift packages.

"We had to approach the pick-up differently. They will not be allowed in the building," said Lasceski, who added volunteers will bring out each family's gifts. Everyone will be asked to wear a mask and maintain recommended social distancing.

While the Rotary Club membership tackles whatever jobs are needed to ensure the campaign is a success, the effort would not be complete without the generosity demonstrated year after year by individuals, businesses and various organizations in the community.

For example, Rawson Memorial District Library officials annually partner with Rotary by collecting dozens of books to donate.

It's another tradition that is continuing this year. Library officials are asking residents to donate new books for children of all ages by Monday, Nov. 30. Donations can be dropped off at the library during regular business hours. More information is available by calling (989) 872-2856.

In addition, Knights Insurance, Cass City, is hosting its first "Toe" member event, which encourages community members to pick up some extra socks when they do their shopping and drop them off at Knights Insurance.

"All sizes are needed, as the Christmas for Kids program helps children from infant through high school," owner Amy Peters noted. "The socks will be given to the kids in the program and Knights Insurance will match all socks donated to make sure that all the kids receive new socks."



KNIGHTS Insurance in Cass City is among the groups partnering with the Cass City Rotary Club during this year's Christmas for Kids campaign. The community is encouraged to purchase and drop off socks to the local business, which will match those donations to ensure all the children benefiting from the campaign receive new socks along with other gifts and clothing items.

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