



Inside this week:

Meet the latest students of month

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Kingston trademarks new logo

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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 114, NUMBER 36

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020

.75 CENTS - 14 PAGES



CASS CITY Village officials were forced to close the municipal building last week after an employee's COVID-19 test came back positive. The three affected administrative staff members will be in quarantine for 14 days, and each will be tested for the virus. Officials anticipate the municipal building will reopen Monday, Nov. 16.

Covid cases soar in state, Thumb

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Michigan continues to soar, prompting Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to urge lawmakers to enact a state law requiring masks or face coverings.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

the positive test rate stayed above 10 percent for the third consecutive day, compared to just under two percent in June.

On Friday, Michigan added another 3,763 cases, surpassing 200,000 cases and 7,500 deaths across the state. State officials reported 6,225 new cases Saturday.

Hospitalizations across the state have increased steadily for the last four weeks, including more criti-

Christmas here in Michigan. That's a devastating thought," Khalidun said during a news conference Thursday, noting hospitalizations were at 2,280 statewide for confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19, up 62 from Wednesday and up 650 in a week. "That's why we are really urging people to double-down on the protocols that we know will keep people safe."

With the holidays approaching, Khalidun warned about the dangers of bringing different generations together; the disease has been far more deadly for elderly patients. "That's the exact kind of moment that we worry we'll see additional spread," she said.

Local health department officials are echoing those concerns.

"If you haven't cared about COVID-19, you need to care about COVID-19," Ann Hepfer, health officer for the Tuscola and Huron county health departments, said Monday. "The rates of infection are skyrocketing, and the healthcare system in mid-Michigan cannot support this level of infection for much longer.

"The virus has once again become widespread in our community," Hepfer noted. "This is a

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Covid shuts down municipal building

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Cass City Village officials were forced to close the municipal building last week after an employee's COVID-19 test came back positive.

The news came Tuesday, according to village Manager Debbie Powell, who said officials immediately made the decision to shut the doors temporarily in accordance with local and state health department recommendations.

While the public will not be able to access the building, the village police department remains open and is continuing normal operations.

"There was an employee who works at the municipal building who tested positive for Covid, and the remaining employees were exposed," said Powell, who noted the exposure involved three administrative employees in all.

The affected employees in Cass City were sent home Tuesday afternoon and are scheduled to quarantine at home for two weeks, and they must be tested for COVID-19.

Powell noted Cass City is not unique in having to deal with the virus, as a number of small communities in the state have experienced similar situations.

Closure of Cass City's government offices has resulted in cancellation of all meetings this week. This month's utility billing is expected to be delayed, according to Powell, who said residents can still deliver payments at the municipal building's drop box. In addition, she said, phone calls from citizens will be routed to the Cass City Police Department's non-emergency number, and officers will refer any questions or concerns to the appropriate department.

Powell indicated the closure will result in only a minor, temporary inconvenience.

"My concern is the health and welfare of the employees, always, and the community," she said.

Powell anticipates officials will be able to reopen the municipal building Monday, Nov. 16.

In the meantime, the building will undergo what she described as a "deep cleaning" to help ensure the safety of village employees when they return to work.

Pandemic's impact has domestic violence advocates concerned.

Story, page 6

officials have already issued a statewide order requiring masks under the state's 1978 Public Health Code. But Whitmer is now asking lawmakers to take that order a step further with a bipartisan state law, saying she believes that would encourage more residents to comply.

Michigan's seven-day average for daily cases was a record 3,798 as of Thursday, which saw another daily record of 5,710 new cases as

cal care and ventilator use. The numbers include those reported by mid-Michigan hospitals, which are now at 80 to 90 percent capacity for Covid in-patients.

The stunning rise in cases has alarmed both local and state health officials, including Dr. Joneigh Khalidun, MDHHS chief medical executive.

"There's a model that shows if this trend continues, we could be losing 100 people a day around

Hills and Dales officials revise rules for visitors

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Hills and Dales General Hospital officials say they're seeing an uptick in positive cases of COVID-19, a trend seen as new cases continue to soar across the Thumb, state and nation.

In Tuscola County alone, the number of new confirmed cases of the virus increased by 64 — 670 to 734 cases — between Monday and Thursday last week, health department officials reported.

In response, the Cass City hospital has adjusted its visitation rules. "The main difference is for our inpatient floor and ER. On the inpatient floor, we are requesting two designated visitors that will be the only people allowed to visit for the duration of a patient's stay," explained Danielle Blaine, Hills and Dales marketing director.

"In the ER (emergency room) department, we are requesting one designated visitor. We also changed our ER policy to say that when deemed necessary, visitors for those in the ER department can be asked to wait in another area for their safety," she said. "And we are really encouraging those coming in for outpatient services — lab, x-ray, etc. — to come by themselves."

Hills and Dales has been performing an increased number of tests and seen its positivity rate increase, according to hospital President and CEO

Please turn to page 10.

Hold the phone

Local chamber officials decide Christmas fest too risky after all

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Just days after announcing plans for a downsized Christmas in the Village celebration in Cass City this year, local chamber of commerce officials last week canceled most of its plans for the 2020 festival.

"I guess with the rise (of COVID-19) cases in Tuscola County, we didn't want to continue to make plans and then have to shut it down," Cass City Chamber of Commerce Administrator Judy Keller said of the chamber board's decision.

"If the numbers hadn't been on the rise, we might have been able to go ahead, but we felt we better do what's right."

The decision came during a week in which Michigan continued setting records for the number of newly-confirmed cases of COVID-19.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) reported a record daily count of 5,710 new cases Thursday, boosting the state's total cases to 197,806 and breaking the previous single-day record increase of 4,101 cases set the day before.

Please turn to page 11.



DID SOMEONE say Thanksgiving? There's no shortage of turkeys in the Thumb, and the birds have been on the move, fattening up for the holidays — er — winter months. This group of hens was spotted near Deckerville Road, just west of Deford last week.

Cass City Schools announce Nov. Students of the Month

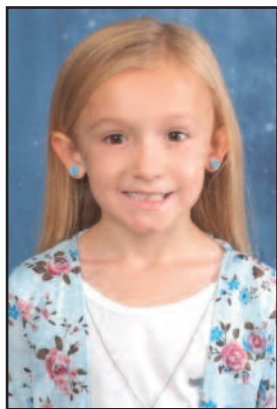


Kindergarten Student of the Month is Hayden Pergande
Hayden is the son of Ryan & Christina Pergande

Nominated by:
Mrs. Gruber

Characteristics he displays:
Hayden is such a kind student! He is very respectful and is a good friend. Hayden works hard every day and has learned so much in kindergarten. Hayden is a leader of outstanding behavior in our classroom.

Some of his favorite things:
Going hunting with his 3 big brothers, playing with his toys and doing math stations at school.



First Grade Student of the Month is Brooklyn Polega
Brooklyn is the daughter of Sara Rayl & Ryan Polega

Nominated by:
Mrs. Peruski

Characteristics she displays:
Brooklyn is an outstanding 1st grade student. She works hard all day, does her best with anything she works on, and always has a positive attitude. Brooklyn has very good manners and is kind to everyone. Whether working independently or with a partner, Brooklyn is always on task.

Some of her favorite things:
Her dog, Sophie and her kitty, Boots; Mom & Dad, Oranges, Twix and Twizzlers.



Second Grade Student of the Month is Jaxon Mausolf
Jaxon is the son of Jason & Carrie Mausolf

Nominated by:
Mrs. Baur

Characteristics he displays:
Jaxon is an outstanding student. Jaxon is respectful, hardworking and polite. He is careful, neat and on time with his work. Jaxon has a great attitude at school.

Some of his favorite things:
Spaghetti, playing with his cousin Blake, playing soccer and camping.



Third Grade Student of the Month is Maleia Laurie
Maleia is the daughter of Guthry & Amanda Laurie.

Nominated by:
Mrs. Murdoch

Characteristics she displays:
Maleia is an excellent student! She is kind, caring, helpful, hard working and respectful. She comes in each day with a smile on her face. She enjoys learning and participates during class lessons. It is a pleasure to have her in class!

Some of her favorite things:
Going to her cousins' house to ride horses, playing with her baby brother, her cat, Winston & chocolate cake.



Fourth Grade Student of the Month is Cadin Shippey
Cadin is the son of Heidi & Jeffery Shippey

Nominated by:
4th Grade Teachers

Characteristics he displays:
Cadin is a great student. Cadin is rocking it with doing virtual learning. He does an excellent job of getting his work turned in on time and will also check in with his teachers every day. We can count on Cadin to do a great job on his work. He also has great school spirit and dressed up for Homecoming spirit week. Kudos to you Cadin and all your hard work. We are all very proud of you!

Some of his favorite things:
Color blue, fishing, video games, playing with friends, spending time with family and playing board games. In spare time he likes to eat, sleep, watch YouTube, and play with his dog.



Fifth Grade Student of the Month is Preston Dorland
Preston is the son of Adam & Stacey Dorland.

Nominated by:
5th Grade Teachers

Characteristics he displays:
Preston is one of the hardest working students you will ever meet! He is polite, kind and always on task. He completes his assignments in a timely manner, which is very much appreciated by his teachers. Don't let Preston's quiet demeanor fool you! He has a wonderful sense of humor and a competitive heart that drives him to do his best at everything he sets out to do. You will accomplish great things Preston! We are proud of you!

Some of his favorite things:
Watching Tom Brady play football, spending time with family & friends and going to South Carolina in the summer.



Sixth Grade Student of the Month is Milo Schwendinger
Milo is the son of Joel & Ruth Schwendinger.

Nominated by:
6th Grade Teachers

Characteristics he displays:
Milo is a dedicated student who always gives his best effort on every assignment. His work is thorough and well-done. He makes every effort to do his best, and to ask questions if he does not understand anything. Milo works well by himself, and is always on track. His grades reflect his efforts. He also works well in any group and is an effective and focused group member, as well as a good leader. He always does what he can to be sure no one is left out. Milo is responsible and respectful to adults and to other students. He is always cheerful and pleasant. He treats everyone with respect, and is well-liked by all of his classmates. He has a great sense of humor. Milo truly exemplifies what it means to earn "Student of the Month" and demonstrates that in both his words and his actions.

Some of his favorite things:
Eating pizza, playing soccer & making dinner.

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Some of her favorite things:
Hobbies: Playing volleyball and basketball, hanging with family and friends, watching Netflix & golfing.

Favorite staff & why:
I have too many favorites, they make me laugh, they encourage me and are very enthusiastic.

Favorite Subject & why:
Any history class, I've always found it to be very interesting and I like to learn about all countries as much as possible.

Make a comment about Cass City Jr./Sr. High School:
I think Cass City HS has made such a big impact on me. It has taught me so many life lessons throughout my life, like how to stay focused, good ways to study, how to make strong relationships with staff and students, better communication skills, and most importantly how to be myself. I feel very encouraged and supported when I'm at school, and this is why I set goals and strive to getting what I want to achieve. I really appreciate all that Cass City has done for me.



11th Grade Student of the Month is Kalee Gray

Kalee is a student who is engaged during class and always is cheering on her classmates. She is kind and respectful to staff and peers every day. Kalee's focus on academics and athletics is admirable. She is a great role model here at Cass City Schools.
Tessa Campbell LMSW SSW - Cass City Jr/Sr High School Social Worker

Kalee is committed to doing her best in class every day, and works really hard to accomplish her goals. She is very kind and respectful to everyone in the classroom and is always supportive.
Chris Kimble - Biology, Anatomy, Forensics and Physical Science

Kalee is extremely hard-working in and out of school and always strives to do her best! She is very involved in community activities and volunteers a great deal of her time. She is a great role model for others. Kalee always comes to class with a positive attitude and always laughs at my jokes!
Amy Tamlyn - Pre-Calculus

I am delighted to present Kalee Gray as Cass City Jr./Sr. High School's student of the month for October. Kalee is a motivated, hard worker both in the classroom and around the school. She has taken on a strong leadership position in Peer Mentoring class, and serves as a valuable mentor and role model to younger students in our building. Kalee also demonstrates the pillars of PRIDE: personal responsibility, respect, integrity, discipline and enthusiasm on a daily basis to fully epitomize what it means to be a Red Hawk.
Ryan Walker - Peer Mentoring

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

		7	3					
		4			6		3	9
	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

Veterans Day still means something

“To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation.”

—U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, proclaiming Armistice Day (later to become known as Veterans Day) for Nov. 11, 1919.

The obligation we all have to honor those who have served and defended the United States of America hasn’t diminished since President Wilson uttered those words.

Which is why we’re pleased to see Cass City School officials continuing to instill in our young citizens the importance of demonstrating respect for our servicemen and women and their sacrifices for the greater good of this nation.

Even in the midst of a pandemic.

In past years, students and staff have welcome area veterans during an annual Veterans Day Honorary Celebration at Cass City Junior-Senior High School, starting with a flag-raising ceremony, followed by a breakfast and a program honoring veterans.

This year, however, COVID-19 has changed the face of most activities, including school assemblies, which are not being held due to the risk of spreading the virus.

Cass City Schools Supt. Jeff Hartel says students will still be honoring veterans this year, but the recognition will come in the form of a virtual program that will be shared with the community’s servicemen and women.

“It’s (Veterans Day) an important day and we want to thank them for their service. It’s just going to be a little different this year,” Hartel said.

Veterans Day is observed each year on Nov. 11, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I (major hostilities of the war were formally ended on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice).

After President Wilson first proclaimed Armistice Day, Congress passed a concurrent resolution seven years later on June 4, 1926, requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue another proclamation to observe Nov. 11 with appropriate ceremonies.

In 1953, in Emporia, Kan., a man named Stephen Riod, the owner of a shoe repair shop, had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died during World War I. Riod had been actively involved with the American War Dads during World War II, and he began a campaign to turn the federal holiday into “All” Veterans Day.

The Emporia Chamber of Commerce took up the cause after determining that 90 percent of Emporia merchants as well as the local board of education supported closing their doors Nov. 11 to honor all veterans. With the help of U.S. Rep. John Salper, also from Emporia, a bill for the holiday was pushed through Congress, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it into law May 26, 1954.

Congress amended the act June 1, 1954, replacing “Armistice” with “Veterans”. The observance has been known as Veterans Day since then.

We’re proud to say that in Cass City, that day still means something.

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Food for thought and fashion?



Because I trip over some interesting facts or issues while I’m working and doing research, I either cut out or make a copy of it to read later.

There are times when “to read later” is much, much later. While trying to clean up my “to read later” stuff, I came across an article I saved from 2012.

I’ve written a weekly column on and off for almost 40 years for one newspaper or another. In writing my column, I try to keep them on the humorous side, or impart knowledge, or on little known facts that I find interesting, or on just a different way of looking at life.

The Internet is a warehouse of infinite knowledge – some valuable, some not, and some just plain bizarre. This column is going to be one of those bizarre things I came across.

I have never been a dedicated follower of fashion and march to the beat of my own drum. I dress for comfort, and when I can get away with it, dress to match my personality.

That is why a photo with a brief caption got my attention a couple of years ago. There was a photograph of a really bright, pretty evening gown. It was very attractive. The story said the dress could satisfy anyone’s wish for high fashion as well as a “sweet tooth.”

Say, what? That got my attention. Who isn’t up for something sweet?

The story said the dress was made out of 50,000 gummy bear candies. That’s a lot of candy! The article said the dress was handmade for TWELV Magazine’s debut issue. The dress weighed 220 pounds, and took three people to help the model put it on and to be able to move.

According to the article, the dress was made by using a steel wire twisted to create the shape of the dress. The mold was then covered with a sheet of vinyl, and finally each gummy bear was glued on in a chevron rainbow pattern. It took three weeks to put together that elaborate gown.

I wonder just how many gummy bears didn’t make it onto the gown because they were eaten? And, what about the willpower not to snack on the gown when wearing it?


The dress was beautiful in the photo, and without reading the story, there was no way to tell it was made with gummy bears.

As a reporter, I asked myself why a dress made with candy? I guess with fashion, it’s a matter of why not? And, truly a matter of taste. If fashion is about getting attention, then I guess the dress’ mission was accomplished.

I can’t help but wonder what happened to all those orphan gummy bears after the photographs for the

magazine were taken.

It’s amazing how fashion can be more like bon appetit.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Don’t forget to enter the Chronicle’s 2020 Deer Contest, it’s simple to do.

Just e-mail us a photo from your opening day success – either a buck or doe will work – and we’ll enter your name into a drawing for \$50. Look here for the winner next week.

In the meantime, here are some hunting violations to avoid courtesy of the DNR.

Using the wrong tag or improperly filling out a tag
Conservation officers often see the wrong kill tag on game – such as fish or turkey licenses on a deer. Often, this is a simple mistake made in the dark and can easily be corrected by re-tagging the deer as soon as you notice the error.

Solution: Before field-dressing or moving the deer, kill tags should be filled out (including the month and date the deer was taken and the deer’s gender and number of antler points) and properly placed on the deer.

Not wearing orange

Some hunters remove their orange clothing once they get into deer stands or blinds. In the excitement of getting a deer, hunters may forget to put their orange clothing back on.

Solution: Commit to wearing hunter orange to keep yourself and others safe. Hunters are required by law to wear hunter orange as the outermost layer of clothing at all times. The DNR recommends wearing as much hunter orange as possible to increase visibility to other hunters. Orange and other bright colors do not affect a deer’s behavior.

Being unfamiliar with a firearm and how it functions
Semi-automatic, lever, bolt and pump-action firearms are common choices among hunters, but each firearm functions very differently.

Solution: Take the time to familiarize yourself with your firearm and make sure it is properly sighted and functioning before you go hunting. Being able to safely handle your firearm is an important part of being a responsible hunter.

Committing safety zone violations

Each year conservation officers investigate property damage caused by firearms.

Solution: Rifle rounds travel long distances – hunters are responsible for where their bullets end up. Know the area you’ll be hunting, including nearby buildings and properties. No one may hunt with a firearm within 450 feet of an occupied structure (including buildings, dwellings, homes, residences, cabins, barns or structures used for farm operations) unless they have permission from the landowner.

Trespassing

If a deer runs onto private property, the hunter cannot retrieve it without the landowner’s permission. Conservation officers are usually contacted when trespass disagreements escalate and a resolution cannot be reached.

Solution: Respect landowner rights and posted trespassing signs. If you’ll be hunting near someone else’s property, contact the landowner ahead of time; don’t wait until you’re tracking game. Most of the time, a friendly call or visit to your neighbor will remedy the situation.

Staking claims to public land hunting blinds

Confrontations over hunting spots, or the illegal posting (trespassing or hunting signs) of state-managed public land, happen every year. Conservation officers are asked to help resolve such disputes, and say the main reason for these situations is usually last-minute hunters who randomly pick a spot.

Solution: Hunters should research and scout the land they plan to hunt – before hunting day. Brush, constructed blinds and tree stands on public land are just that – public. Regardless of who constructed, purchased or tends to these blinds, when they’re on state-managed public land, they are available on a first come, first served basis. Public land cannot be posted or reserved.

Tree stands used on public land must be portable and have the hunter’s name, address and Michigan driver’s license number or DNR sportcard number affixed in legible English that can easily be read from the ground. Hunting platforms cannot be affixed or attached to any tree by nails, screws or bolts.

Refer to page 24 of the Hunting Digest for more information about hunting from tree stands on public property.

Baiting/attracting deer

Conservation officers stay busy responding to calls about illegal baiting in Michigan’s Lower Peninsula and portions of the Upper Peninsula.

Solution: Know the law. Baiting and feeding are banned in the entire Lower Peninsula.

Hunting out of hours or off-season

One of the most common complaints to the DNR’s Report All Poaching Hotline is about shots fired after dark. Often, these complaints are reported days later.

Solution: A hunter may legally shoot game 30 minutes before sunrise or until 30 minutes after sunset. Anyone who witnesses or suspects hunting outside of legal hours should immediately call or text the DNR’s Report All Poaching hotline at 800-292-7800. Fast reporting makes it more likely that a conservation officer will identify the suspect.

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

The Cass City Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor.

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

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

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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Email: chronicle@ccchronicle.net
Website: www.ccchronicle.net

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

Periodical postage paid at Cass City,
Michigan 48726.

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

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

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

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(USPS 092-00)

News briefs

Wrathell new circuit court judge

SANDUSKY — There was a hotly contested race for Sanilac County Circuit Court Judge Nov. 3, and the winner was Timothy C. Wrathell, who received 10,796 votes, defeating Mark E. Davidson, who received 7,826 votes.

Wrathell is an attorney who practices in Applegate. Davidson is a retired FBI special agent and attorney, also from Applegate.

Wrathell will replace veteran Sanilac County Judge Donald Teeple on the bench. Teeple did not seek reelection.

Kingston robotics gets a boost

KINGSTON - The Kingston Community School District's robotics program recently received a financial boost.

Robotics sponsors Marcia Schwarck and Gerhardt Schuette worked together to write a DTE Sponsorship Grant for Robotics, and Kingston's RoboCards Team 4994 was selected to receive a \$4,000 award.

Block wins Sanilac board seat

SANDUSKY — There was only one contested seat on the Sanilac County Board of Commissioners.

The race was in commission District One, where the winner was Republican Jon Block, who posted decisive win over Democratic challenger Greg Allen Berger, 3,136 votes to 959 votes.

The district is comprised of Argyle, Austin, Delaware, Evergreen, Forester, Greenleaf, Lamotte, Marion, Minden and Wheatland townships.

“Preserving your harvest” on tap

BAD AXE – MSU Extension officials in Huron County are inviting area residents to participate in a series of virtual “preserving your harvest” classes available via Zoom in the coming weeks.

The scheduled classes are:

*Thursday, Nov. 12 — Holiday Season. Let's Make Pie Filling.

*Thursday, Nov. 19 — What Can You Do With Cranberries?

*Thursday, Dec. 3 — Gift Ideas for Home Food Preservers.

Anyone interested in participating should register online at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/PreserveHarvest/>.

More information is available by contacting Laurie Messing, MSU Extension educator, at (989) 269-9949.

Create homemade spa treatments

MICHIGAN – Area 4-Hers are invited to learn how to create spa items from common household ingredients during an upcoming series, “Pamper Yourself from the Pantry SPIN Club – Holiday Edition.”

This club will start Monday, Nov. 16, and meet virtually every Monday and Wednesday through Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 5 p.m.

The free six-session virtual SPIN club is open to 4-H members and non-4-H youth ages 5 and up.

To receive club access and a small supply list of items needed, register at <https://v2.4honline.com>. Participants will receive a confirmation email with a link and password for entrance to the Zoom event, and a small grocery list of items needed for their creations.

The registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 13.

Time to vote, 4-Hers and adults

BAD AXE — It's that time of year to vote for Huron County 4-H Council members. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the election will be handled via paper ballots this year.

All 4-H volunteers and youth members are voting members, with one ballot per adult 4-H volunteer and youth member in each household. Ballots are available at the Huron County MSU Extension Office (note the new location — directly behind the health department). Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ballots, which are due by 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16., 2020, before 4:00 p.m. Ballots can be sent by mail to the MSU Extension office at 1142 S. Van Dyke, Suite 200, Bad Axe, MI 48413; via email to verelle7@msu.edu; or hand-delivered to the MSU Extension office.

According to the bylaws, the 4-H council consists of up to nine 4-H adult volunteers and up to nine 4-H youth members.

Adult 4-H volunteers are elected for term of three years, with one-third of the seats being filled each year. 4-H youth member terms are for one year, but they may run for consecutive years.

The 4-H council meets the second Tuesday of each month currently via zoom. The business meetings deal with 4-H scholarships, council policy, and annual programming such as 4-H Projects Galore, 4-H Ambassador Program, 4-H Fall Achievement Awards, 4-H Fall Family Social, various fundraising events and other matters.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

Election 2020

Hartzell unseats Cass City Village trustee, Zdrojewski defeats Peters in Novesta Twp

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Thumb voters confirmed the region's reputation as a traditional Republican stronghold during a Nov. 3 general election that saw record turnouts across Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties.

All three counties overwhelmingly supported reelection of President Donald Trump over Democratic challenger and former Vice President Joe Biden and his running mate, Kamala Harris, although Biden won the state by a slim margin.

The vote was 12,501 to 4,678 in favor of Trump in Tuscola County, where a record turnout of nearly 70 percent of the county's 42,756 registered voters cast ballots. Huron County voters, meanwhile, supported Trump over Biden, 11,949 votes to 5,349 votes, and Sanilac County residents cast 16,194 votes for Trump and 5,966 for Biden.

A majority of Thumb voters also threw their support behind Republican John James in a heated battle for a U.S. Senate seat. However, first-term Democratic incumbent Gary Peters prevailed, winning reelection by taking 49.7 percent of the vote.

Local races

Closer to home, Cass City Public Schools teacher William C. Hartzell unseated a veteran Cass City Village Council trustee in a four-way race for three available four-year trustee terms.

Hartzell received the most votes of any candidate at 807, while incumbent trustees Tom Herron and Mick Kirm were reelected with vote totals of 605 and 676, respectively. Incumbent Jenny Zawilinski garnered 599 votes.

Running unopposed for a 2-year term was incumbent village President Dan D. Delamarter.

In Novesta Township, voters settled a heated race for the office of township treasurer, with challenger Deidra Zdrojewski unseating incumbent Val Peters. Zdrojewski garnered a total of 440 votes to Peters' 247 votes.

Also winning in the township were incumbents Supervisor Chad D. Daniels, Clerk Pennie L. Rienas and trustees Russel F. Rienas and Jesse Robinson, who were all seeking four-year terms unopposed.

In addition, there was a three-way race for two available four-year terms on the Kingston Village Council. The winning candidates were Jennifer Krug (115 votes) and Scott Fetting (94 votes). Robert Phagan received 63 votes.

Village President Cory J. Skinner was reelected after running unopposed.

Tuscola County

It was a quiet election on the county level.

Winning reelection unopposed for their respected offices were Prosecutor Mark E. Reese, Sheriff Glen G. Skrent, Clerk Jodi Fetting, Treasurer Ashley Bennett and Register of Deeds John Bishop.

Likewise, all candidates for the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners ran unopposed and were reelected. They are Tom Young, District One; Thom C. Bardwell, District Two; Kim Vaughan, District Three; Douglas DuRussel, District Four; and Dan Grimshaw, District Five.

Also running unopposed was Tuscola County District Court Judge Jason E. Bitzer, who won his first full six-year term.

A former Cass City attorney and partner/litigator with Biddinger, Bitzer and Estelle, PLLC, Cass City, Bitzer accepted an appointment to the bench from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in July 2019.

Bitzer filled a vacancy left by the early retirement of another Cass City resident, Judge Kim D. Glaspie, who earned the distinction of being Tuscola County's longest-serving district court judge. He stepped down in the spring of 2019 after serving nearly 30 years on the bench.

Cass City Schools

There was no race for trustee seats on the Cass City Board of Education, but there will be a new

face on the board in January.

Seeking the four available four-year terms were incumbents George E. Batty, Emily S. Lasceski and Janie Meeker, along with newcomer Scott Richards, whose wife, Janet Richards, opted not to seek another term on the local school board.

State representative

In the race for Michigan's 84th District House seat, first-term incumbent Phil Green (R-Millington) easily won a second term, defeating Democratic challenger Patrick Wood. Green, who represents Tuscola and Huron counties, garnered 72 percent of the vote, 33,078 to 12,800.

Rep in Congress

In the 5th Congressional District, Republican newcomer Tim Kelly of Saginaw failed in his effort to unseat incumbent Dan Kildee (D-Flint), who won reelection, garnering 54.26 percent of the vote.

In the 10th District, Republican Lisa McClain, Clinton Township, emerged the winner in a race against Democrat Kimberly Bizon, Lexington. McClain received more than 66 percent of the vote. She now fills a seat previously occupied by two-term incumbent Paul Mitchell (R-Dryden Township), who opted not to seek a third term.

Voters support vets millage

Tuscola County residents who cast ballots during the Nov. 3 general election left no doubt that they are willing support veterans with more lip service.

Voters overwhelmingly approved renewal of a special millage that funds various services for the county's veterans. The measure passed by a vote of 21,184 to 5,529.

The proposal requested renewal of .17 of a mill for six years, from 2021 through 2026.

The tax generates roughly \$316,375 a year and goes to providing dedicated services to veterans of the U.S. military and their qualified dependents.

For the owner of a home with a market value of \$80,000, the tax costs less than \$7 a year.

Koylton Township

In Koylton Township, meanwhile, residents approved renewal of a road millage by a margin of more than two to one. The final vote was 556 to 210.

The two-mill tax was renewed for two years and will continue to fund improvement and maintenance of township roads.

The tax generates about \$67,000 a year and costs the owner of an \$80,000 home \$80 annually.

State proposals

Tuscola County voters followed the lead of their fellow Michigan residents in overwhelmingly approving a pair of statewide ballot issues.

Proposal 20-1, which passed with more than 83 percent of the vote, is a proposed constitutional amendment to allow money from oil and gas mining on state-owned lands to continue to be collected by the state and used for land protection and creation and maintenance of parks, nature areas, and public recreational facilities, and to describe how those state funds can be spent.

The second proposal — Proposal 20-2 — is a constitutional amendment that requires a search warrant in order to access a person's electronic data or electronic communications. The measure passed with nearly 89 percent of the vote.

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Reporter's notebook

Too early for Thanksgiving?

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



As this column is written, it's still the first week of November — the general election votes are still being counted — but I'm already thinking about Thanksgiving. I'm definitely thankful that the tidal wave of political advertisements — complete with all of the out-of-context allegations and outright lies — are, by now, becoming a distant memory, and that the flow of never-answered texts from various political organizations has finally subsided.

Of course, I'm also thankful that the COVID-19 pandemic is certain to vanish into thin air, now that the election is over (please don't tell me the conspiracy theorists got that one wrong, too).

Sarcasm aside, I really am feeling thankful this election has come and gone, because months of living with all of the nasty political bickering and battles, on top of a global pandemic, has taken a heavy a toll on everyone, and any sort of relief is welcome.

Frankly, the past eight-plus months have left me tired mentally. You, too?

On one hand, I firmly believe the good Lord remains in control and we'll see His plans unfold, regardless of what any man or political party has to say about it. Period. On the other hand, I struggle when it comes to demonstrating the patience necessary to watch that unfold without opening my big trap and contributing to an already volatile situation.

It isn't easy when you feel passionate about an issue, and I do when it comes to taking precautions to protect ourselves and others during this pandemic.

Yes, I'm biased, because my wife is among the frontline healthcare workers who come face to face with COVID-19 on a regular basis — and these professionals are seeing more and more Covid patients lately.

It isn't pretty for those who come down with Covid and who are particularly vulnerable, for whatever reason, to this virus. Which is why I have little patience for Joe Schmo down the street, spending his days picking apart statistics on social networking sites.

In the end, I've learned, it's infinitely wiser to remain silent rather than engage in a debate over whether or not the virus really exists to the extent that health experts say it does. These days I'm content to mind my own beeswax if someone refuses to accept science and acts accordingly — I just keep my distance and wish them the best.

Yes, I know the world is full of risks, and I know the numbers indicate most people who come down with Covid are probably going to suffer mild illness at worst.

I also know that people — moms, dads, siblings, grandparents, even children — are dying. And while it's comforting to know most folks' chances of losing their lives to Covid isn't great, I'm guessing that fact doesn't mean much to someone who finds themselves on a ventilator. Or to those who dismiss this virus as "that pandemic thing" until it comes knocking on their door.

But I digress (about five paragraphs ago).

It's a pretty good bet that the passing of the general election isn't going to come anywhere close to putting an end to the sort of over-the-top arguments (and worse) that have become the norm in this country.

At the same time, wasn't the turnout amazing? Record numbers of people turning out to ensure their votes (and voices) were heard this year.

Makes me wonder if the shared value of participating in the election process — even when we disagree on which candidate will serve our communities, state and nation the best — might be a starting point for all of us (okay, many of us) to start heading toward a place where we can get back to agreeing to disagree, without feeling the need to take sides and go on the attack.

Perhaps we'll find more reasons to stand united than to remain divided, regardless of what our elected leaders say or do.

Now that would be something to be thankful for.

Protect against CO risk

As the temperatures continue to drop, Michiganders are being urged to take action to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

"Carbon monoxide poisoning can occur almost anywhere and I hope Michiganders take this time to prepare and prevent this life-threatening issue," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

"Awareness about carbon monoxide safety is a top priority, and Michiganders are encouraged to learn about this poisonous gas and ensure homes and appliances are maintained to protect themselves and loved ones against possible poisoning."

"To prepare for winter weather, Michiganders should make sure their heat sources and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working order," said Orlene Hawks, director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. "Being aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide and having a working carbon monoxide alarm is essential to keeping your family safe."

Annually, about 140 people are hospitalized for carbon monoxide poisoning in Michigan, and across the United States, thousands are poisoned and at least 430 people die from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.

In 2017, the latest year data is available from the MDHHS Michigan Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (MiTracking), 126 state residents were hospitalized.

"Working carbon monoxide detectors save lives," said State Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier. "Only one in eight families in the United States have a functioning carbon monoxide detector. Michigan residents should install a detector today to protect our loved ones from the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning."

"Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless and poisonous gas known as the 'invisible killer'; it requires an electronic sensor to detect."

To protect yourself and your family from carbon monoxide, follow these safety tips:

*Make sure you have working carbon monoxide detectors.

Detectors on every level of your home, including the basement, are strongly recommended. Daylight Saving Time is a good time each year to replace the batteries in your detector and push the "test" button to be sure it's working properly.

Replace your detector every five years or according to manufacturer's instructions. Use a battery-powered detector where you have fuel burning devices but no electric outlets, such as in tents, cabins, RVs and boats with enclosed cabins.

*Have your furnace or wood-burning stove inspected annually. Hire a professional to make sure it is functionally sound and vents properly outside the home.

*Never run a gasoline or propane heater or a grill (gas or charcoal) inside your home or in an unventilated garage. Any heating system that burns fuel produces carbon monoxide.

*Generators should be run at a safe distance (at least 20 feet) from the home. Never run a generator in the home or garage or right next to windows or doors.

*Never run a car in an enclosed space. If a vehicle is running, you must have a door open to the outside.

Symptoms of overexposure to carbon monoxide include headache, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea and confusion. At high levels, carbon monoxide can cause death within minutes.

If you suspect you may be experiencing carbon monoxide poisoning, or your detector sounds an alarm, head outside immediately for fresh air and call 911.

Residents can learn more about carbon monoxide poisoning by visiting the website Michigan.gov/MiTracking.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2015)

Maegan LeValley ended her Cass City volleyball career as a 2-time Greater Thumb West dream team selection. The senior outside hitter was one of six Lady Red Hawks honored in the 2015 all-conference selections. LeValley led Cass City to a 7-2 record in Greater Thumb West play and to the Class C district final, collecting 473 kills and 144 digs along the way. A 4-year letter winner, LeValley's career numbers include an impressive 1,364 kills and 109 aces.

Cass City senior Mason Erla signed his letter of intent to play baseball for Michigan State University last week in the school library. Joining him are former coaches Matt Prieskorn and Jim Baker, parents Michelle and Chuck Erla, athletic director Don Markel, Coach Josh Stern and Supt. Jeff Hartel.

10 YEARS AGO (2010)

Doug McArthur is an insurance agent's dream. United Parcel Service (UPS) officials think pretty highly of the Cass City native, too. After all, McArthur has managed to steer clear of traffic accidents in more than 2 decades of employment with the company. John Bunnell, supervisor of the Cass City UPS center, describes McArthur as one of the most professional, methodical drivers he's ever seen. Bunnell made the comment last Wednesday as the center's staff and drivers gathered to honor McArthur for 25 years of safe driving with UPS. The honor places him in some elite company known as the "Circle of Honor", with the honorees recognized not only by UPS, but also by the Wall Street Journal, which annually prints the names of all new inductees, according to Bunnell. McArthur accepted the award, with his wife, Brenda, and children, Kevin, 8, Stacey, 15, and Tony, 17, and his father, Bob McArthur of Cass City, all on hand.

25 YEARS AGO (1995)

Judging by the number of nice bucks strapped to cars and vans traveling on Thumb area roads last week, there'll be no shortage of exciting deer hunting tales to tell this year. But few of them will compare with Vern McConnell's success story. Like other area hunters, McConnell braved the cold of the first 2 days of the firearm deer season in hopes of seeing a buck. His patience paid off Thursday afternoon with a nice 8-point buck. So what's the big deal? McConnell is just 14 weeks shy of his 100th birthday. "I've gotten a lot of them," McConnell said of the 9 or 10 bucks he's bagged since he first took up the sport nearly 80 years ago at the age of 18.

35 YEARS AGO (1985)

Peter John Klemkowsky, a 1980 graduate of Owen-Gage High School, has graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology. He received his degree at the end of the summer session of the 1984-85 school year. Klemkowsky, 23, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Klemkowsky, is presently working in Kalkaska for Well Site Laboratories, Inc. an oil well testing firm.

Juanita Bradley, a 1985 graduate of Cass City High School, has completed her training of Airline and Travel Agency Personnel. She attended Associated Schools, Inc. in North Miami Beach, Fla. She studied an intensive course, dealing with all aspects of the travel industry. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bradley, Jr., of Cass City.

40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Brian Kelley an eight-pound, 11-ounce son, Brian Lee, Oct. 20, at Caro Community Hospital. He joins a sister Barbara at home. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kelley, Cass City and Mr. and Mrs. Duane Hall, Mayville; great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Karr, Cass City, and Mrs. Althea Kritzman, Deford,

and great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Edna Malcolm, Kingston.

Fred Jaus of Bad Axe, formerly of Cass City, was 99 years old Monday. His daughter, Mrs. Grey Lenzner, had as dinner guests Sunday to celebrate the occasion, Mr. and Mrs. Don Dale of Marlette, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Dean of Caro, Miss Minnie Jaus and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Esau. Other afternoon guests were Mrs. Myrtle McColl of Cass City, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Phillips and daughter Christina and James Cutler and sons, Edward, John and Jamie, of Pontiac. Monday, Mr. Jaus and his daughter, Mrs. Lenzner, and Mrs. Thelma Pratt were dinner guests of Mrs. Helen Little.

50 YEARS AGO (1970)

George Roch received a diamond tie bar with the General Cable symbol last week from Richard A. Rinaldi, right, the plant manager. In small town businesses, a man and wife team tends to be the rule rather than the exception. But in a multi-million dollar corporation like General Cable Corporation, you didn't expect to find husband and wife working together in fields of responsibilities. But George Roch, 60, and his wife Marie are the exception that proves the rule. The genial Roch and his wife have been a team in Cass City since before the plant opened here in 1960. Both were in Cass City long before the present modern manufacturing plant was built.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Haider (Suzanne Colbert) of Littleton, Colo., announce the birth of a second girl, born Oct. 25, one month premature. The baby is named Julie Ann and weighed three pounds and 15 ounces. She will join her family after a short stay in the hospital.

75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Pvt. Otis Dorland of Fort Bragg, N. C., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dorland, of Decker. At the completion of his furlough, which is his first one since entering the service in June, he will report to Fort Sill, Okla.

Pfc. Grant Watson, who has been stationed overseas for nine months, enjoyed a 45-day furlough with his wife and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben

Watson. He then returned to Camp Grant, Ill., where he received his discharge. He and his wife are making their home in Caro.

Lt. Delbert Rawson is home on leave and saw his 13-month-old son for the first time. Lt. Rawson has practiced his profession of dentistry for one and a half years on a dry dock in the Pacific area. Being but two degrees from the equator, he found the weather very warm. He expects to leave Nov. 22 for Camp LeJeune, N. C.

Sgt. Geo. F. Gallaway, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Gallaway of Route 1, Cass City, who has been in the Service for 45 months, 39 of which were spent overseas in England, France and Germany, arrived in the United States Nov. 7 and in Chicago Nov. 12. He had entered the Army on Feb. 15, 1941, and was a photographer for the air force engineers. He received his discharge at Camp Shelby, Ill., on Nov. 13 and is now at his home here.

100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Miss Caroline Keating was the hostess at a shower on Monday evening complimenting Miss Edna Colwell, a bride of this month. Fourteen young ladies of Miss Colwell's Sunday school class attended, all coming heavily loaded with goodies for the pot luck supper which was served. Stunts and games furnished the entertainment for the evening. Miss Colwell was presented with a handsome silver sandwich tray.

Theron W. Atwood Post, American Legion, is preparing for a big Armistice day celebration next Thursday, Nov. 11, at Caro. A big parade will commence the morning program. At noon, a barbecue will take place at the fairgrounds with a free lunch of meat, doughnuts and coffee served to all who are present. Prof. French of M.A.C. is among the speakers who will give addresses. In the afternoon an athletic program of races and other events with prizes will be held, followed by a football game. The evening will be devoted to dancing. Barbecue, athletic and literary programs and all activities of the celebration outside of dancing are free to the public.

Obituaries

Bonnie Bloomfield

Bonnie Lou Bloomfield, 79, of Cass City, died peacefully Saturday, November 7, 2020 in McLaren Bay Region, Bay City.

She was born March 9, 1941 in Sebawaing, to Hugo and Ana (Bumba) Kaatz.

She married Larry Edward Bloomfield March 11, 1965 in the Church of Christ, Caro.

Bonnie attended Sebawaing schools and Unionville High School. She worked for Valanite Metals of Caro, where she ran carbide machines for eight years. For over ten years Bonnie was a distributor for the Saginaw News and had multiple paper routes throughout the Thumb area. She employed many people to help with the deliveries. Bonnie enjoyed sewing quilts, making baby clothes and Christmas ornaments. She never made just one of anything, Bonnie always made things by the hundreds. She liked to bake and canned the many vegetables that she grew in her garden. Bonnie loved crafting and together with Larry owned the L & B Decorative Center of Caro. She made ceramics in her kilns and taught painting classes.

Bonnie is survived by her husband of fifty-five years, Larry; sons: Randall Scott Putnam of Venice, FL and Larry Bloomfield, Jr. of Cass City; grandchildren: Rebecca (Brandon) Elston of Unionville, Rachel (Jesse) Bucholtz of Gaylord, Casandra Bloomfield of Flint and Shane Bloomfield of Deford; ten great-grandchildren; siblings: Shirley (Harold) Johnson of Caro, Danny Kaatz of Vassar, Jerry (Shirley) Kaatz of Sebawaing and Betty Parson of Sterling Heights; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her sons: Jerry Putnam and Anthony Lee Bloomfield; and sister, Mary Ann Piazenza.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wednesday, November 11, in Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City. The funeral service will be held at 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 11 in Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.

Interment will be in Almer Township Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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

Attendees are kindly reminded to wear a mask or other facial covering and maintain proper social distancing.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



Covid impact has domestic violence advocates concerned in Tuscola Co.

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Friday's sentencing of a Tuscola County man convicted of stabbing the mother of his child to death last December underscored county officials' concerns over the welfare of domestic violence victims in the area.

That concern has increased in the wake of a pandemic that has both aggravated the likelihood of violence and prevented a number of victims from seeking assistance.

Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent says a combination of stress-related factors stemming from the pandemic – increased use and abuse of alcohol and drugs, and widespread unemployment that has left some victims trapped at home with their abusers, for example – have kept police officers busy.

"Law enforcement is seeing more domestic-type complaints. More child custody complaints also," he added.

"People are abusing pills, hard drugs, resulting in more calls of people out of control at home...at a time when law enforcement numbers are down," Skrent said. "I was just speaking with List Psychological and CMH (Community Mental Health)...about this issue. Someday, maybe we could do like Washtenaw County is doing and having social workers/therapists go along with officers (on these calls), but that takes money."

While the Thumb is dominated by largely quiet, rural communities, the county has not been immune to violent crime, including incidents involving domestic violence.

In what Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark E. Reene has described as an extraordinarily vicious domestic violence assault, Ellington Township resident Larry E. Lyons, 37, fatally stabbed his ex-girlfriend, Brandy Marie Dickson, 36, inside his Gerou Road home Dec. 15. At the time of the attack, Dickson was holding the couple's 11-month-old daughter, who also suffered critical wounds but survived.

Lyons, who had at least two prior convictions of domestic assault at the time, was recently found guilty on all counts – including first-degree murder – following a six-day jury trial and now faces life in prison.

Experts say domestic violence isn't limited to high-profile criminal cases or even simple physical assaults – punches, slaps, bruises and black eyes; it's also yelling, humiliation, stalking, manipulation, coercion, threats and isolation. It's stealing a paycheck, keeping tabs online, non-stop texting, constant use of the silent treatment, or calling someone stupid so often they believe it.

And the assault can come in context of various relationships. Under Michigan law, domestic violence can involve a spouse or former spouse, a dating relationship or former dating relationship, couples who have a child in common, and/or a resident or former resident of the same household.

In Tuscola County, women and men who are victims of domestic violence are encouraged to contact the Human Development Commission's (HDC) Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center, where they can access a variety of services, including a safe place to stay temporarily at the organization's 12-bed shelter.

However, very few victims have been doing that, especially during the first three months of the pandemic. And that has the crisis center officials, including HDC Program Development Director Kristen Misener, concerned.

During the months of April, May and June, Misener said crisis center officials saw a 56-percent dip in the number of victims asking to stay at the shelter. "We also saw a 50-percent decrease in men and women seeking non-residential services."

Misener believes many victims falsely assumed domestic violence shelters were shut down along with much of the state during the early months of the pandemic. But that's not the case, she said, noting HDC officials have seen a decrease in demand for many of its essential services since the pandemic took hold in the state.

Unfortunately, Misener said, the pandemic itself has further discouraged some victims from seeking shelter, because while the Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center has undertaken strict measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, "Having to make the decision to go to communal living, like a shelter, is a tough decision."

"With the (statewide) shut-down, we know that the need still exists, so we wonder what these people are doing. We're very concerned."

Misener expressed the same type of concerns voiced by Skrent.

"If you have an already abusive relationship, and now you've lost your job...maybe your kids are home from school – it can just make the situation more exacerbated," she said. "So things can get very volatile very quickly."

"Awareness in this situation is huge," added Misener, who is working to get the word out – to anyone being abused or who is in danger of being abused – that there are many forms of assistance and options available to them, including accessing shelter away from their abuser.

For example, if a woman has tested positive for COVID-19, she could receive a hotel voucher as opposed to being placed in the county's domestic violence shelter. The same arrangements can be made for a male victim (the Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center provides shelter space only to women and their children).

"So, there are some unique situations where we could put them (victims) up," Misener said.

Equally important, she added, is that a victim does not have to agree to stay at the shelter to receive services such as individual and group counseling, and legal advocacy. The crisis center staff also offers case management services, which involve meeting the

self-sufficiency needs of victims whose abusers have deprived them of access to financial resources, their own bank accounts or even a driver's license.

But those who need assistance must reach out for help, and Misener believes too many victims are not taking that step.

"Just because people aren't accessing services, doesn't mean the need doesn't exist. Access and need are two different things, and we saw that all across our programs," Misener said.

"We know the need is still there. If you look at July, August and September, the numbers are clearly going up."

That's a trend being reported in a country where domestic violence was a serious problem long before COVID-19 arrived on the scene.

In fact, one in three women and one in four men in the United States have experienced some form of physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner. On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls – that's roughly 15 calls every minute.

In Michigan, 41.8 percent of women and 23 percent of men experience domestic violence among intimate partners, rates that are higher than other nearby states such as Ohio and Wisconsin.

Who to call

Anyone in need of help is urged to call a local domestic violence shelter or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

Among the area shelters that offer services such as case management, support programs, temporary housing and support groups are:

*Tuscola County – Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center (989-673-4121).

*Huron County – Huron County Safe Place (989-269-5300).

*Sanilac County – Eva's Place (810-672-9467).

Anyone who is concerned about a friend or loved one who may be in danger is encouraged to:

*Find creative reasons to call, text, video chat. Check-ins may provide a lifeline for those who feel unsafe at home.

*Talk to your friend or family member about the different options to seek help.

*Let them know they are not alone and that you are there for them.

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Cass City advances into D7 District Final with thrilling overtime victory

by Clarke Haire
 Publisher

Forty-eight minutes wasn't enough to determine a winner between unblemished Greater Thumb Conference gridiron foes Sandusky and host Cass City Friday.

But in the overtime period, Cass City quarterback Bryce Fernald scored on the first play – a 10-yard

run – and then hit Matt Mihalic for the 2-point conversion toss that proved to be the difference in the thrilling Division 7 semifinal tilt.

With the heart pounding 14-12 decision, Cass City (8-0) advances to challenge another undefeated opponent for the district championship in Hemlock (8-0) who defeated Bad Axe 20-17 in their semifinal matchup.

The game will be played on Fri-

day - the 13th - at Wallace Field, named after former Cass City native Bob Wallace, who was 134-47-2 as the Hemlock football coach. The field was named after the coaching legend in 2007.

Nerves were apparent for both teams in the early going, but with just 48 seconds to the intermission, Sandusky would break open a scoreless tie on a Lucas Feehan dive from one-yard out. The PAT attempt failed and Sandusky would take a 6-0 advantage into the final half.

After a scoreless third quarter, Cass City used an 8-yard run by Jordan Mester with just over 9 minutes remaining in the final stanza to even the score at 6-6.

Cass City then looked to end the game in regulation as Fernald calmly orchestrated a possible game winning drive. Fernald broke free on his team's final dive and sprinted deep into the Red Zone where he came to rest with time for one final play. However, Sandusky was flagged for pass interference moments later and the result was one untimed down from the Sandusky four-yard line.

Fernald took the snap and rolled right before connecting with Noah Zaleski on a cross field toss inches from the goal line. Unable to cross the end zone, the game headed into OT.

After Cass City took a 14-6 edge, Sandusky would draw to within 14-12 on Delorin Wedge's 3-yard run. Sandusky then tried to run for the points after to force a second overtime, but the 2-point try would be spoiled by Cass City senior Ryan DeLong, who wrapped up the ball carrier at the line of scrimmage to help Cass City stay alive in the MHSAA playoff hunt.

Offensively, Fernald finished with 93 rushing yards on 11 carries and added another 55 yards passing with a 6-for-12 effort.

"He just dialed in right now," said Cass City Coach Scott Cuthrell on Fernald's late game antics.

Mester and Zaleski both chipped in 24 yards rushing, while Alex

Perry gained just 16 yards on the night.

Leading the defensive charge for Cass City was Mihalic with 6 total tackles, while Dustin Naegele was credited with four solo stops. Cass

City held the guests to zero rushing yards in the third and fourth quarters.

"I think we wore them out. I think we tired them out in the final half," Cuthrell said.



RED HAWK Bryce Fernald breaks loose for a huge gain during Friday's overtime playoff victory against Sandusky. The senior quarterback was at his best with the game on the line.

Cass City Red Hawk ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Knights Insurance Agency is pleased to announce senior Matt Mihalic as their Cass City Red Hawk Athlete of the Week.

Matt has often been an unsung hero for the Red Hawk football team over the past two seasons. But in Friday's playoff win over Sandusky he accounted for the game-winning points. On defense he anchors one of the tackle positions despite a lack of size. Still, Matt uses his quickness and strength to excel. In 2019, he was named to the Greater Thumb West all-conference defensive first team.

In Friday's playoff victory over Sandusky, Matt recorded 4 solo tackles and one tackle for loss. He has 9.5 TFL on the season.

Matt is the son of Kelly Mihalic.



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Cass City twosome finish cross country careers in style at MIS

by Clarke Haire
Publisher

Veteran cross country coach Jon Zdrojewski didn't know what to expect during the 2020 season, but had no problem with how it ended Saturday at the MHSAA LP D3 Finals held in Brooklyn.

"We made it to the finals of another Cross Country season. At the beginning of the season we weren't sure we were going to run any races, let alone make it to the finals. We ran the finals at Michigan International Speedway (MIS) under near perfect conditions with mid 50's and light breeze at race time under full sunshine," said the Cass City skipper.

Red Hawk seniors Nick McArdle and Brandon Witherspoon competed in the elite meet to the delight of Zdrojewski. McArdle was the race runner-up with a time of 15:58 and Witherspoon posted a time of 18:37, finishing 174th.

"They were both on the team that competed their freshman year. Nick has competed at all four State Finals in his stellar career

which landed him at the number 4 spot on the All-Time list for Cass City Cross Country (times) with a 15:53. He rounded out his final State Finals meet with only his second time posting sub 16. He entered the race seeded in 4th place and we were hoping for a top 5 finish. Nick has not had competition all season and I think that helped him learn to run his own race and that prepared him for the final race. Nick went out at his own pace and wasn't fazed at the speed that sophomore Hunter Jones from Benzie Central went out, that can't be said for the other competitors who went out with Hunter and burned out before the end. That allowed Nick to run his own race and pass Carson Hersch from New Lothrop near the 2 mile mark and maintain that position to finish as runner up in the 2020 State Finals. He was announced at the beginning of the race as the runner from the Thumb to keep your eye on. That was the perfect finish to his Cross Country career at Cass City Jr./Sr. High School. He worked very hard

every day to achieve his goals of Conference champion, Regional champion and All-State finisher.

The top 30 finishers receive All-State honors and Nick has come up short until this outstanding final race. He really did run the race of his life to become the 2nd fastest Division 3 runner in the State," Zdrojewski said before turning his admiration toward Witherspoon.

"Brandon Witherspoon also capped his senior year by being an individual qualifier for the first time in his career. He ran a near season best time of 18:37 finishing in 174th out of the 250 finishers on the day. I was very excited for Brandon to qualify for the race, as he worked very hard with Nick all season to give himself the opportunity to compete and he ran very well. I have been honored to work with the two individuals for the past four years of their varsity running. Nick is planning to continue his running career at Saginaw Valley State University, where he will join his former teammate CarLee Stimpfel."



Gusa paces Ubyly women at D4 Finals

Sophomore Maze Gusa led Ubyly to a Top 10 team finish Saturday at the Michigan International Speedway, where she posted a time of 19:55 to place third individually at the MHSAA LP D4 Finals.

Other scorers for the Bearcats included Josie Gusa (25th place) with a time of 20:54, Eric Klee (41st place) with a time of 21:21, Abigail Gusa (89th place) with a time of 22:23 and Emily Greyerbiehl (136th place) with a time of 23:24.

Lansing Christian held off Kalamazoo Christian 93-142 for

women's team honors. Ubyly finished 6th with a score of 189.

Other area athletes who had banner showings included Libby Ondrajka, Owen-Gage, who placed 27th with a time of 20:56, Karsyn Gruehn, Owen-Gage, placed 126th with a time of 23:10, Gracy Walker, Kingston, with a time of 22:30 placed 101st.

The race winner was Makenna Scott, Maple City Glen Lake with a time of 19:30.

Turning to the men's results in Brooklyn, Carson City-Crystal edged Breckenridge 157-162 for team honors. Closer to home,

Deckerville placed 7th with a tally of 237.

Individually, for the Eagles, Brett Dumaw ran a 17:35, Trevor Barker ran a 17:52, Kendall Dumaw ran a 18:39, Benjamin Moeller ran a 18:43 and Connor Palmar ran a 19:22.

For Kingston, Ethan Green was clocked in 18:14 and Dustin Peters in 19:23. For USA, Ty Pavlichek completed the 5,000 meter run in 17:24, Bryce Langmaid in 18:45, Tyler Aleksink in 18:56 and Michael Jacobs in 19:03. For Ubyly, Utah Gusa was fastest with a time of 18:09.

Hawk girls bounced from district play

The Cass City Red Hawk volleyball team ended its season at Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port High School last week, bowing in a District semifinal contest against Bad Axe.

The two Greater Thumb West foes exchanged wins to open Wednesday night's contest, before the Hatchets posted decisions of 25-14 and 25-23 to advance into Thursday's final. There, they fell to USA in straight games.

"It was not the way we would have liked to have ended our season," said Cass City Coach Amy Cuthrell. "This group of seniors

really loves the game and I am so glad they were able to play through the pandemic. They should be proud of their successful season and the contributions that they made."

Individually, Cass City had Sierra Spry with 13 kills, while Kalee Gray and Haven Bouverette split 22 kills. Abbey Phillips added 22 assists and Saylor Cuthrell had 17 assists, while Madison Cumper recorded 21 digs.

In a district quarterfinal game Monday, Cass City defeated the

host Lakers 25-8, 25-18 and 25-20.

Bouverette paced Cass City with 14 kills, while Phillips chipped in 14 assists and Cuthrell had 13 assists. Macey White had 14 digs and 13 service points.

"Haven really had the arm of the evening with her kills. She is so very powerful and when she clicks she is tough to stop," Cuthrell said.

Ending their Cass City volleyball careers on the night were Bouverette, White, Spry, Cumper, Phillips and Anne Gringas.

CASS CITY'S Nick McArdle, above, and Brandon Witherspoon, right, give it their all during the MHSAA LP D3 Finals Saturday. McArdle closed out a spectacular 4-year career with a second place effort over the weekend at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

Kingston spikers bow

A familiar foe ended the Kingston Cardinals' volleyball season last Wednesday, as North Central Thumb League Stars champion Dryden defeated host Kingston in district play.

Kingston gave their guests all they could handle in the opening two sets, but fell 27-25 and 25-23. Dryden made quick work of the third set and marched into Thursday's district final with a 25-11 victory. Meanwhile, Kingston finishes with marks of 11-4 overall and 7-3 in the NCTL Stars. Three of the team's losses were delivered by Dryden.

"Kingston was hoping to finally get a victory over Dryden this season and gave a valiant effort Wednesday night, but fell short in the district semifinal. Kingston was on the verge of taking set 1, but just couldn't convert late in the set. Kingston fought back in the second set as well, but Dryden shut the door with big points in big moments," said Kingston Coach Beth Hunter.

Ella Retan had 9 kills, 7 service points, 4 aces, 2 digs and one block for the hosts, while Hannah James had 18 assists, 8 digs and one kill, Isabel Hurd 6 kills, 6 digs, 4 service points, one block and one ace, Delaney St. George 13 service points, 4 digs, 3 kills, 2 aces, Olivia Ulewicz 4 digs, 2 assists, 2 kills and 2 service points, Brooklyn Walker 2 kills, 2 digs and 2 service points.

Ending their Kingston volleyball careers on the night were Retan, James and Ulewicz.

"I have 3 seniors this season that will be greatly missed. All three are very good players, but even better people! In an unprecedented season, their leadership was a huge part of our success," Hunter said.

Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

2020 Football Season Districts

				
	Clarke Haire	Ray Maurer	Geoff Morgan	Doug Hyatt
Nov. 13 Weekend (11-player games)				
Cass City -vs- Hemlock	Cass City	Cass City	Cass City	Cass City
Ubyly -vs- Beecher	Beecher	Beecher	Ubyly	Ubyly
(8-man games)				
Lenawee -vs- Morrice	Morrice	Morrice	Lenawee	Morrice
(College games)				
Indiana @ MSU	Indiana	Indiana	MSU	Indiana
Wisconsin @ UofM	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	UofM	Wisconsin
(Pro game)				
Washington @ Lions	Lions	Lions	Lions	Lions
LAST WEEK	5-4	5-4	5-4	5-4
SEASON RESULTS	(50-21) 70 %	(57-14) 80%	(48-23) 68%	(48-23) 68%

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

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

Varsity Football

Date	Opponent
W 9/18	CC 56; Vassar 0
W 9/25	CC 42, Reese 3
W 10/2	CC 38, HB 0
W 10/9	CC 28, USA 24
W 10/16	CC 54, Caro 0
W 10/23	CC 50, Marlette 0
W 10/30	CC 36, Reese 26
W 11/6	CC 14, Sandusky 12
11/13	Hemlock



JV Football

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

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

Volleyball (FRESHMAN, JV & VARSITY)

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

Cross Country

Date	Location	Time
9/12	Bad Axe	9:00 a.m.
9/22	Cass City Quad	4:00 p.m.
9/26	Lakers	9:00 a.m.
10/1	Kingston	4:30 p.m.
10/10	Cass City	9:00 a.m.
10/20	GTC League @ Reese	4:00 p.m.
10/24	Thumb Meet @ Caro	10:00 a.m.
10/31	Regionals @ Delta	TBA
11/7	State Finals @ Brooklyn	TBA

Varsity Boys Soccer co-op @ USA

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

~ Home games are located at USA ~

Varsity Girls Swim co-op @ Caro

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

~ Home meets are located in Caro ~

Home games in bold.

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Kingston trademarks its new logo

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

After running afoul of trademark laws, the Kingston School District now has a new logo it can call its own.

"We are the proud owners of a state trademarked logo," Kingston Schools Supt. Matt Drake recently announced.

School officials had to come up with a new Cardinal logo after learning its previous logo was vir-

tually identical to the design — featuring an angry cardinal, fists clenched, inside a swirling image — used and trademarked by Iowa State University.

The only difference between the two logos is Kingston's letters of KHS and the college's spelling out the name Iowa State Cyclones.

The issue of nearly identical logos was discovered when one of Kingston's sports teams ordered some items from a company from

Michigan, which then sent the work out to a company in Iowa to be made. The firm in Iowa contacted university officials, who then contacted Drake.

Even though Kingston had used its previous logo for more than 20 years, the college had their logo trademarked, while the local school district did not.

Now, Kingston will slowly transition with its new logo of a cardinal's head next to the letter "K" for Kingston.

State extends food assistance for families

Roughly 350,000 Michigan families will continue to have access to additional food assistance benefits during the month of November as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, state officials announced Friday.

Michigan previously approved the additional food assistance for March through June — and now that is being extended for the month of November with approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.

"MDHHS (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services) remains committed to helping families who continue to struggle to put food on the table as a result of the pandemic," said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. "Providing nutritious food is vitally important during these difficult times just as protecting residents from the virus is."

Eligible clients will see additional food assistance benefits on their Bridge Card by Monday, Nov. 30, with payments beginning for some households Saturday, Nov. 21. Additional benefits will be loaded onto Bridge Cards as a separate payment from the assistance that is provided earlier in the month.

Nearly 1.5 million people in Michigan receive federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits through the state's Food Assistance Program.

Households eligible for benefits will receive additional benefits in November to bring all current SNAP cases to the maximum monthly allowance for that group size. This change only applies to customers not currently receiving the maximum benefit amount.

The 350,000 households that receive increased benefits represent more than 50 percent of the more

than 682,000 Michigan households that received food assistance in September. The remaining households already receive the maximum benefit.

The federal government is providing additional funding to states for food assistance under House Resolution 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Eligible families do not need to re-apply to receive the additional benefits. People who receive food assistance can check their benefits balance on their Michigan Bridge Card by visiting the website www.michigan.gov/MIBridges or by contacting a consumer service representative toll-free at 888-678-8914.

Residents getting their flu shots

Nearly 2.4 million Michiganders have gotten their flu vaccine this season, putting the state more than halfway towards its goal of 4.2 million flu vaccinations, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced Friday.

"It's more important than ever that Michiganders get their flu vaccine to protect themselves and their families and help us save crucial resources for hospitals to fight the spread of COVID-19," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

"As we head into the winter months and the 2020-2021 flu season, I urge more Michiganders to get their flu vaccine, and make sure your kids get one too. And as always, mask up, practice safe physical distancing, and wash your hands frequently to protect yourself, your family, and our brave frontline workers from COVID-19. We will get through this together."

"This is great news, but we still need more Michiganders to get their flu vaccine as soon as possible," agreed Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief deputy for health and chief medical executive.

"Influenza can be deadly, and getting the flu vaccine is a step we can take to protect against it. Every flu-related hospitalization we see this season will put an additional strain on our hospitals that are already dealing with a surge of COVID-19 patients."

During the 2019-2020 flu season, the nation recorded 39 to 56 million estimated cases of the flu, 18 to 26 million medical visits due to the flu and nearly half a million hospitalizations.

Despite its comparison to the common cold, the flu is a very serious and potentially deadly disease, especially for children, older people and those with chronic health conditions. Last season, 187 children died from the flu in the United States, including six children in Michigan.

The flu vaccine is available across the state and residents can find a location nearby at Michigan.gov/Flu.

Last flu season, an estimated 3.2 million people in Michigan received a flu vaccine, according to statistics compiled in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). While reporting doses to the MCIR is strongly encouraged, it is not mandatory for adults aged 20 years and older.

The state has set a goal of achieving a 33 percent increase in flu vaccination this season, which means more than one million people over last flu season.



THE KINGSTON Schools has secured a trademark for its new logo (top photo), replacing its former logo (below), which was determined to be an infringement on the Iowa State University logo.

Hospital revises visitor rules

Continued from page one.

Jean Anthony.

The positivity rate is determined by dividing the number of people who test positive by the number of total tests for that week or given time frame.

From Oct. 21 through Oct. 27, the hospital noted a positivity rate of 14.8 percent, which dipped to 12.5 percent for the period of Oct. 28 through Nov. 3, which aligns with what health department officials are seeing in Tuscola County.

"These are the highest positivity rates we have seen to-date," Anthony said. "Something important to note is that access to testing has increased and the number of people being tested has also increased. We continue to see and test patients not only from Cass City, but from across the entire Thumb region."

As of last week, the hospital has conducted more than 1,550 Covid tests since mid-March.

"We conduct almost all our testing in an outpatient capacity, meaning a staff member will go out to a patient's car to perform the test. We use this method to try and keep the patient and our staff as safe as possible," Anthony noted.

"We also perform testing in the ER when needed. We have a designated room in our ER Department that any potential/symptomatic COVID cases are placed, as it is a negative pressure room, should the patient need extensive treatment before transfer."

According to numbers reported to the state, Hills and Dales had just one Covid positive in-patient as of Thursday. Hospital officials said they have had some Covid positive patients throughout the pandemic and fully expect to have more in the near future.

Anthony said the protocols in place at Hills and Dales, when it comes to transferring a Covid patient to another facility, are based on the future needs of the patient.

"If the ER physician expects a patient will need ICU (intensive care unit) care, a patient will likely be transferred," she explained. "As we continue to see the number of patients hospitalized from both COVID-19 and other illness, we may find that we are keeping more COVID patients than earlier this year. Our staff is prepared to care for these patients, and we do have isolation rooms on our inpatient floor."

The local hospital also offers telehealth visits, so if a patient is positive for COVID-19, Hills and Dales providers can conduct virtual visits with them to determine their care plan. They discuss signs to look for, medications they can take, and other information."

Anthony said hospital policies are subject to adjustments whenever needed to better address the special challenges that come with a pandemic.

"We have a weekly COVID-19 task force meeting, in which staff leaders join via Zoom to discuss policies, procedures, changes that need to be addressed, workflows, testing and many other items. Most recently, the task force was able to address the changes needed to our visitor policy to keep patients and staff safe," she said.

Officials are also keeping a close eye on their supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE).

"We have ample PPE right now, but continue to work to obtain more," Anthony said. "We don't know what will happen in the next few weeks/months. We do know that PPE can be used really quickly, so we will continue to work hard to make sure we maintain our inventory."

The bottom line, according to Anthony, is Hills and Dales is prepared to safely treat patients, and its staff encourages residents not to put off vital screenings and treatment, especially if they are experiencing an emergency.

"We want the public to rest assured that Hills and Dales is continuing to take all necessary infection control and screening precautions to ensure the safety of all who enter our facilities, and it is safe to come to the hospital for any healthcare needs," she said.

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Lyons' sentencing rescheduled for this week in Tuscola County

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Sentencing for an Ellington Township man convicted in the fatal stabbing of the mother of his then-11-month-old daughter and seriously injuring the child at his residence late last year was adjourned Friday and rescheduled for this week.

Larry E. Lyons, 37, Caro, was convicted on multiple felony charges, including first degree murder, by a jury in October after six days of testimony in a remote courtroom set up inside the Knights of Columbus Hall in Caro due to safety concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

He is scheduled to appear before Tuscola County Circuit Court Judge Amy Grace Gierhart Friday

at 9 a.m. for sentencing. First degree murder carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole.

He was also charged with assault with the intent to murder the baby — who 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 during the Dec. 15 assault — along with child abuse, domestic violence (third offense), and carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent.

Lyons was initially charged with open murder in the 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.

The child survived and is continuing to recover, although prosecu-

tors say she was left with a certain degree of impairment stemming from her injuries.

An autopsy performed last December confirmed Dickson's cause of death was multiple stab wounds, according to investigators, who indicated they believed they had located the murder weapon — a knife seized at the crime scene near the victim.

Lyons has a history of domestic assault, including at least two 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.

HDC: foster grandparent, senior volunteer programs funded again

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Volunteer programs that have offered hundreds of senior citizens the opportunity to impact the lives of thousands of children and adults alike across the region are being reinstated after both programs were defunded earlier this year due to budget shortfalls stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

That's according to officials with the Human Development Commission (HDC) in Caro, who last week reported their Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) have been funded for the 2021 fiscal year.

"As was previously announced on July 31, the state of Michigan cut funding to the senior volunteer programs, including the RSVP and FGP programs. This loss proved to be challenging for all employees, volunteers and volunteer stations at Human Development Commission. However, HDC is ready to, along with its selfless volunteers, resume its crucial role in the community," said Wendy Jacot, HDC marketing manager.

"Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 virus, there will be numerous modifications to HDC's volunteer programs," Jacot noted. "All of HDC's employees, volunteers and volunteer stations will be expected to implement precautionary procedures in order to both

prevent and reduce the transmission of the virus.

"In addition, HDC will be adjusting its face-to-face volunteer programs in order to provide maximum safety and ensure volunteers' and volunteer stations' continuous well-being."

HDC also announced the addition of Emily Dunham to its staff as the new volunteer program manager.

"Dunham will be overseeing the FGP and RSVP (programs) for Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties," Jacot explained.

"Dunham was raised in the Caro area, where she was involved in the community through both school and 4-H. She then moved to Detroit, where she attended Wayne State University and, after graduating, has returned to Caro."

"I am thrilled to be a part of the Human Development Commission and its principle mission to serve our community," Dunham said, adding she looks forward to meeting and working with HDC's current and future volunteers.

Nationally, the FGP was established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. In the Thumb region, HDC has operated a FGP since 1978. The regional community action agency has operated its RSVP since 2001.

Both outreaches have impacted residents of the Cass City area, both in terms of volunteers and the organizations they've served over the years.

Last summer, for example, HDC officials honored nearly 40 volunteers who had worked with more than 150 students in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties during the 2018-19 school year.

When HDC officials announced both the foster grandparent and senior volunteer programs were being shut down, they noted the decision would result in the loss of three full-time jobs. They also shared the news with 34 foster grandparents and 91 RSVP volunteers in the Thumb.

At the time, HDC Senior Services Director Kristy Sutherland explained both programs receive federal and state funding, and the loss of state funding had proved insurmountable.

"Unfortunately, the federal (dollars) are just not enough to carry the programs through," said Sutherland, who pointed out that state funding has typically accounted for nearly \$149,000 of the FGP's \$180,000 annual budget, and roughly \$47,000 of the RSVP's \$80,000 budget."

Foster grandparents have had a positive impact on several Thumb school districts — about 18 in all. Cass City and Kingston schools are among them, having hosted a number of senior volunteers, whose presence in the classroom provides the younger students with extra one-on-one attention, motivating them to embrace learning and improve academically.

Cass City Elementary School Principal Aaron Fernald praised the foster grandparents who have worked with local students, and he lamented the loss of what he described as a valuable asset in the classroom after hearing HDC was being forced to cut the program back in late July.

"They've (FGP volunteers) been valuable to our special ed students and our special ed teachers. They came in and provided some extra support in the classroom," Fernald said.

"They're dedicated; when they said they were going to come, they came in. They're very dedicated and very committed to being here every day," added Fernald, who indicted the children responded well to foster grandparents assigned to the local school.

"The teacher depended on them a lot, too. It was a good mix. I think (it's) a good program for the kids and for the (senior volunteers). It benefited both."

RSVP volunteers, meanwhile, devote their time and talents in a variety of ways, including working at senior fairs, community expo events, food drives and serving as home-delivered meal drivers, according to Sutherland. She said the program focuses on giving seniors an opportunity to give back to their communities and another positive reason to get up in the morning after retirement.

One of the program's signature outreaches has been Safe Seniors, in which volunteers place calls to isolated seniors to provide companionship and check on their well-being.

Last year, more than 100 senior volunteers put in a combined 17,000 hours of service through the RSVP in communities throughout the upper Thumb.



CASS CITY Chamber of Commerce officials last week announced this year's Christmas in the Village celebration will not take place after all, due to concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the casualties is the village's popular annual chili cook-off. Pictured above is chamber volunteer Dave Keller serving up some samples to (from left) Katrina Sarles, 13, Brooklynne Linberger, 12, Mia Caister, 12, and Quenten Hartwick, 14, all of Cass City, during last year's competition.

Christmas in the Village canceled

Continued from page one.

Past Christmas in the Village celebrations have drawn hundreds of people to the village with a massive craft show, popular chili cook-off competition, lighted Christmas parade and an annual community gathering at the local VFW hall.

However, those events also bring people in close proximity to one another, and there are concerns about everyone wearing masks.

"We are still going to be doing a couple of things," Keller noted, adding a coloring contest for Cass City students is planned, and there will be a special Santa mailbox set up in Rotary Park for children to drop off their lists. "And then we're going to decorate Rotary Park."

Keller said officials would still like to arrange for Santa to visit the village, and it's possible there may be a residential and business decorating contest, but details have not yet been worked out.

Keller urges residents to check for updates on the Cass City Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Covid cases soaring in state

Continued from page one.

direct result of residents gathering together and not maintaining social distancing and wearing masks.

"Social distancing means maintaining six feet between you and others who do not live in your home. We have seen direct virus transmission this past week from bowling leagues, church gatherings, funerals, anniversary parties and places of employment."

Hepfer said precautions, including wearing a mask, social distancing and regular hand washing remain the keys to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

The latest numbers

Statewide, Monday's total confirmed cases reached 216,804, with a total of 7,640 deaths — that's an increase of nearly 32,000 cases and about 283 more deaths compared to a week ago, when the totals were 184,889 cases and 7,357 deaths. Health officials estimate nearly 129,000 Covid patients have recovered statewide to-date, compared to 121,093 a week ago.

In the Thumb, between Monday, Nov. 2, and Monday, Nov. 9, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased by 338 — from 1,167 to 1,505 — with the three counties' combined death toll increasing by five to 55 fatalities.

According to the latest data (Monday afternoon), Tuscola County has now recorded 850 confirmed cases, an increase of 180 cases compared to a week before, and 39 deaths (an increase of two).

In Huron County, meanwhile, there are 325 confirmed cases (an increase of 69 from a week earlier), with eight deaths (an increase of two), and Sanilac County has a total of 330 confirmed cases, up from 241 cases a week earlier, and eight deaths (an increase of two).

The latest statistics in the Chronicle's coverage area revealed 97 confirmed cases, up from 85 cases a week earlier, in the Cass City zip code. The number of deaths attributed to so far is 13 (an increase of one over the past week. State officials are reporting 55 recoveries in this area.

The only county zip codes reporting higher numbers of cases are Caro (169 cases and 18 deaths), Vassar (147 cases and three deaths), and Millington (105 cases one death).

Over the same week-long period, there was an increase of 13 cases (for a total of 34) in the Unionville zip code, where there have been 15 recoveries and no deaths to-date; Deford has 11 cases, 11 recoveries and no deaths; Gagetown, three cases, three recoveries and no deaths; Kingston has 24 cases (up from 17), nine recoveries and no deaths; Ubyly has 16 cases (an increase of three), 13 recoveries and one death; and Owendale, one case, one recovery and no deaths.

Owen-Gage updates plan

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Under Michigan law, each school district has to have an emergency plan in place, and officials in the Owen-Gage School District recently approved the district's updated plan of action during a monthly board of education meeting.

The purpose of the plan is to update and provide information regarding how students, parents/guardians and employees will respond to various types of emergencies, according to Owen-Gage School Supt. Terri Falkenberg.

The plan incorporates input from local committee members representing different school departments, county emergency operators, local police officers and fire chiefs.

The emergency operations plan developed and adopted must include guidelines and procedures that address a wide range of incidents, such as school violence/attacks; threats targeting school-sponsored activities or events, whether or not they are held on school premises; and bomb threats, fire and weather-related emergencies.

The board also reviewed and extended its learning plan addressing education methods during the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan provides for adjustments in remote learning, for example, should the pandemic prompt state officials to shut down schools again, as they did in mid-March.

In other business, the board hired Nathan Gruehn as the girls varsity basketball coach, Jim Glidden as boys varsity basketball coach, and Andrew Whittaker as the girls varsity softball coach.

Vote results topic of discussion in Novesta

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Not surprisingly, the Nov. 3 general election results were among the topics discussed during a regular monthly meeting of the Novesta Township Board last week.

Challenger Deidra A. Zdrojewski unseated incumbent township Treasurer Val Peters in the election, receiving 440 votes compared to Peters' 247 votes.

The vote followed several months of disagreements between Peters and Clerk Pennie Rienas over a number of issues.

Those issues have included control of some records, who keeps which records, access to records, who is authorized to collect which funds, reconciliation of finances, receipt books, keys, access to some areas of the township hall, and supplies.

In an effort to clarify some of the disputed areas, Tuscola County Clerk Jodi Fetting was called in over the summer to give her opinion. At that time, Fetting explained it is the clerk's job to keep the records secure, just as it is the treasurer's job to keep her tax rolls secure.

The township has hired Anderson Tuckey, Bernhardt and Doran, PC, to have a "new set of eyes on the audit." And, audience member Bob Dickson questioned Peters about finances, record keeping, and if she is going to comply with regulations.

Because Dickson's questions were so complex and addressed a variety of issues, the board asked him to compile a list of questions and submit them prior to meetings so the board had enough time to research answers.

In other business, the board discussed the township's waste collection service. In September, Peters estimated the township had one more year of a contract with Republic Services.

Currently, the cost per household is \$198, which is basically a break-even proposition, noted Peters. As a result, the board decided in September to set the cost at \$200 per household in 2021 in order to have a fund to offset possible surcharges that could be imposed.

The area of concern addressed at this month's meeting was the number of trash collection customers Republic Services said the township has.

"I got a card that said we had 647 homes for service," said Peters. "When I ran the report from the garbage account from last year, it said 620 customers."

Officials agreed to contact the company in order to discuss the difference in numbers.

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Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.

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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

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6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5400

Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

Exercise Program: Mon., Wed. & Fri. 9:00 a.m.

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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



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2nd Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

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Associate Minister: Austin Keller at Ubyly &

Student Minister: Don Mecomber

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Saturday 5:00 p.m. Apr. 1 - Oct. 31

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Priest: Fr. Theo Nnabugo



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Pentecostal

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Church of Cass City

• Sunday: 11:00 a.m.



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 Our annual Turkey Dinner is also canceled for November 14.

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Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
 Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judiciary 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 November 19, 2020. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Dale R. Hughey and Ardith L. Hughey, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Citicorp Trust Bank, FSB

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Towd Point Mortgage Trust 2019-3, U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee Date of Mortgage: August 14, 2003
Date of Mortgage Recording: August 19, 2003
Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$35,607.58
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 5, Block 5 of Montague and Wilmot's Addition to the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 17, now Page 18A, Tuscola County Records. Common street address (if any): 909 Monroe St, Caro, MI 48723-1762
 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
 If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32

of the Revised Judiciary Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
 This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 21, 2020
 Trott Law, P.C.
 31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
 Farmington Hills, MI 48334
 (248) 642-2515
 1423097 10-21-4

ises:
 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.

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judiciary 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: Mortgagor(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 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
 1423874

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

TUSCOLA Behavioral Health Systems
Coming Soon
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:
 Do we provide a clean and safe setting? Do you receive the services you need and want?
 Are you treated with respect? Do you take part in planning your services?
 Are you told what you need to know about your services?
 Are your questions answered in a way you understand?
 Do you know where to go with questions or concerns?

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.

Internet: www.carf.org/contact-us E-mail: feedback@carf.org
 Mail: CARF International 6951 East Southpoint Road, Tucson, AZ 85756
 Toll-free telephone: (866) 510-2273
 Fax: (520) 318-1129

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 CARF International—a group of companies that includes CARF, CARF Canada, and CARF-Europe

Barn preservation group seeks state barn award nominations

Officials with the Michigan Barn Preservation Network (MBPN) are seeking submissions for their 2021 Barn of the Year Awards, which are presented annually to honor barn owners who have made the extra effort to maintain or restore historic barns.

This is the 24th year the network has presented the awards. Over the past quarter century, a total of ninety barns from across Michigan have been recognized for their unique qualities and/or the efforts that have gone into preserving them.

The contest showcases one of agriculture's most familiar historical treasures – barns not only evoke nostalgia for bygone times, they should be protected as part of the nation's heritage, according to Thumb resident Rose Putnam, a

member of the MBPN who also serves on the organization's selection committee.

"They are rapidly disappearing from our landscape in alarming numbers," Putnam said, noting the MBPN is dedicated to preserving barns and recognizing those who do so.

The Barn of the Year Program annually honors existing Michigan barns that support the MBPN's on-going mission to preserve the state's agricultural heritage exemplified by its barns.

Nominated barns must be in use, either for continued agricultural use or adapted for other uses. The barns must also retain their overall appearance — both in their interior and exterior characteristics.

Nominations are open to the public and are reviewed and deter-

mined by MBPN Awards Committee members.

The categories in which awards are presented are for barns in use for:

*Continuing Agricultural Use — Family (private), non-profit or commercial.

*Adapted to Other Uses — Family (private), non-profit or commercial.

Barns will be judged for completeness of information presented in the application, sensitivity and integrity of repairs or modifications, visual appeal, creativity, thoroughness of work, and effort expended to repair and maintain.

Anyone submitting a nomination must include the following: a completed one-page application form, a written narrative of the barn's history and restoration efforts, photographs, and a completed Michigan Barn and Farmstead Inventory.

Applications may be reviewed and printed from the MBPN website at mibarn.net, or a hard copy may be requested by contacting the program Chairman Keith Anderson by calling (616) 540-6701 or via email to klanderson42@gmail.com.

Nominations must be post-marked by February 1, 2021.

The MBPN is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, appreciation, preservation and rehabilitation of Michigan barns, farmsteads and rural communities.



THE MICHIGAN Barn Preservation Network (MBPN) is seeking submissions for their 2021 Barn of the Year Awards, which are presented annually to honor barn owners who have made the extra effort to maintain or restore historic barns. Pictured above are two of the 2020 winners – the Buck Family Barn in Ludington (top photo) and the Heritage Wedding Barn in Shelby.

Tuscola foundation among honored groups this month

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Tuscola County Community Foundation (TCCF) will join in a nationwide celebration, Nov. 12-18, recognizing the increasingly important role these philanthropic organizations play in fostering local collaboration and innovation to address persistent civic and economic challenges.

For more than a century, community foundations have served as a trusted partner and resource whose effect can be seen in the lives of millions and in the vibrant neighborhoods that continue to thrive through their mission-driven work, according to John Hunter, executive director of the TCCF.

During this time, he noted, these foundations have come together to share and reflect on the stories surrounding the impact foundations have had on their communities over the past year.

"The work of community foundations spans beyond the practice of giving. There is a tangible impact that can be seen in the lives of those these selfless organizations serve," Hunter said.

"We are more determined than ever to bring our community partners together to find innovative and effective solutions for some of our most challenging social problems and advance the most promising of opportunities to benefit our residents."

Community foundations are independent, public entities that steward philanthropic resources from institutional and individual donors to local non-profit organizations and represent one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy.

As community foundations find solutions for communities large and small, urban and rural – it is the collective work of these organizations that will have the most profound impact. This was most evident amid this year's corona-virus pandemic, during which more than \$1 billion has been distributed by community foundations in response to the crisis.

In addition, community foundations went beyond the money to help their communities adapt during this critical time — supporting charities, schools, non-profit groups and small businesses through partnerships with public institutions in cities, states, and in cooperation with the federal government.

Community Foundation Week was established in 1989 by former president George H.W. Bush to recognize the work of community foundations throughout America and their collaborative approach to working with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to address community problems.

The Tuscola County Community Foundation was formed in 1996, when nine community-minded volunteers met to determine requirements to establish a community foundation.

At the time, committee members were from the Caro and Cass City areas — Richard Ransford, Robert Tuckey, Susan Walker, Sue Ransford, Harry Schubel, Richard Donahue, Linda Marshall, Richard Kern and L. James White, according to Hunter.

"Part of their motivation was a challenge grant issued by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to match \$1 — up to \$1 million — for every \$2 raised by a community foundation," he said. "To meet the grant requirements, they also had to form a youth advisory council (YAC). TCCF's YAC is Future Youth Involvement (FYI)."

The TCCF met the Kellogg challenge and received the grant money in two installments — \$900,000 in November 1998 and \$100,000 in August 1999.

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

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

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

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