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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 114, NUMBER 43

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

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Evergreen officials set to build satellite Argyle Twp. fire hall

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Shaving a few minutes off response times in a house fire or serious traffic crash can mean the difference between life and death.

In Sanilac County's Evergreen Township, officials figure an expanded partnership with the Argyle Fire Department will enable them to do an even better job of protecting local residents in the near future – and without asking citizens to pay more for fire protection.

"After discussions with the Argyle Township Fire Department, we have come to an agreement to put a fire hall in Evergreen Township," Evergreen Township Clerk Randy Severance announced last Wednesday, adding Evergreen Township officials have approved a plan to construct the new hall in 2021.

"Evergreen Township will provide a building and the Argyle Township Fire Department will provide the equipment and manpower to operate it," Severance explained. He said the standby fee for the fire protection service provided by Argyle Township will remain the same at \$350 per section annually.

Officials closed on the purchase of the property, located directly across from the Evergreen Township Hall on the southwest corner of Shabbona and Decker roads, last Wednesday.

"The purchase price was \$35,000. The intent is to clear the site and erect a 48-foot by 48-foot insulated pole barn building to house the fire equipment," Severance said. He noted the building will house a first response/rescue unit and one – possibly two – fire trucks from the Argyle Fire Department.

"There will be no additional taxes or fees for our residents, due to the ability to pay for this project out of general funds," he pointed out.

The Evergreen Township Board will host a public meeting to discuss the project as soon as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, allowing for

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Veteran county Treasurer Gray closes out her career

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

An icon of Tuscola County government is retiring from a job she has held for nearly five decades.

Tuscola County Treasurer Patricia Donovan Gray is retiring at the end of the year after 48 years of service to the county.

It's a legacy of dedication that hasn't gone unnoticed, with tributes pouring in from multiple sources – local, state and national.

They include a special certificate of congressional recognition from the 117th congress, presented by Ed Smith, an aid to Congressman Paul Mitchell, who represents the 10th District, and a U.S. House of Representatives Congressional Proclamation from 5th District Congressman

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HILLS AND Dales General Hospital Emergency Room physician Dr. Jerry Greib prepares to receive his COVID-19 vaccine.



HILLS AND Dales General Hospital, represented above by (from left) Pharmacist Tim Lowthian, Director of Quality Lindsey Skiles, RN, and President and CEO Jean Anthony, welcomed a delivery of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine last Wednesday. (Photos courtesy of Hills and Dales General Hospital)

Hospital wastes no time giving Moderna shots to employees

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Shipments of COVID-19 vaccine are continuing to make their way into the Thumb, including Cass City, where Hills and Dales General Hospital officials welcomed its share of Moderna vaccine last Wednesday and began administering it to local frontline medical staff members the next morning.

"We began administering the vaccines to our '1A-1' group this morning, which is the criteria set forth by MDHHS (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services). The 1A group are those employees who have frequent, prolonged close contact with patients in high-risk areas or those in critical service areas," explained Danielle Blaine, Hills and Dales' director of marketing.

"We received enough vaccines to cover all of our employees who wish to get vaccinated," she said, adding hospital officials will move on to the next priority group after offering the vaccine to those classified as top priority. "Some of the phases will be intermingled, as we hope to vaccinate as many as possible in the next week as we can."

"We could not be more excited to receive our doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine," Hills and Dales President and CEO Jean Anthony said. "Our staff are anxious to receive the vaccine and are very thankful that we were able to receive it so quickly."

"I want to commend our COVID-19 task force, who were instrumental in organizing the rollout of the vaccine. We were able to begin distributing the vaccine within 20 hours of receiving it, heading into the Christmas holiday. I'm very grateful for their dedication," Anthony added.

"We here at Hills and Dales know the importance of receiving the vaccine and look forward to

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Year in Review

COVID-19, presidential election turned 2020 upside down

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Selecting a handful of significant news stories out of an entire year can be challenging in a typical year, largely because it's a subjective task

But then, 2020 was anything but a typical year.

After two months of relative quiet, 2020 ushered in a global pandemic that would change the lives of virtually everyone on the planet, leaving millions sickened and claiming tens of thousands of lives across the United States and around the world.

The newly-identified coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 – also known as COVID-19 – emerged in Wuhan, a city in China, in December 2019, and quickly spread from country to country.

Spread primarily through droplets released into the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, COVID-19 causes a variety of symptoms that include cough, fever or chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle or body aches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, headache, new fatigue, nausea or vomiting and congestion or runny nose. COVID-19 can be severe, resulting in death, especially among people whose immune systems are compromised by other health conditions.

The pandemic has led to a new norm, with health officials urging everyone to wear face coverings in public, social distance and wash their hands frequently.

Early on in the pandemic, residents stormed stores, emptying shelves of toilet paper, water and food in panic-buying sprees. Hand sanitizer and facemasks became gold among online retailers.

While health officials across the globe grappled with identifying how the virus is spread – and ways to slow that spread – a number of elected officials, from state legislators to President Donald Trump, spent months downplaying the pandemic.

But the sheer numbers are indisputable: with just a couple weeks left in 2020, COVID-19 had infected nearly 78 million people across the globe and claimed more than 1.7 million lives. In the United States, the number of cases topped 18.5 million, with some 327,000 deaths attributed to the virus – easily surpassing the number of U.S. combat deaths (291,557) recorded throughout World War II, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Cases again surged late in the year – roughly 50,000 deaths were reported in this nation alone during the first 20 days of December – fueled in part by many people ignoring recommendations not to travel during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Closer to home, Michigan had confirmed more than 460,000-plus cases of COVID-19 and more than 11,500 deaths three weeks into December. In the Thumb, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties had topped 4,700, with a combined 166 fatalities.

Governors in a number of states, including Michigan, responded to the pandemic early on by issuing expansive emergency orders instructing residents to stay at home, and forcing schools to shut their doors, at least temporarily, and shutting down a variety of businesses. As a result, unemployment claims soared and demand for free food distributions increased sharply as many families struggled financially.

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THE COVID-19 pandemic has shuttered some businesses, including the Cass Theatre in Cass City, for months.

Obituaries

Gerald Norton Ferris, Jr.,

Gerald Norton Ferris, Jr., 84, of Deford, died Saturday evening December 19, 2020 in McLaren Flint. He was born August 30, 1936 in Brooklyn, MI to Gerald and Hazel (Turk) Ferris.

He married Patricia Ann Crawford on August 8, 1959 in the First Baptist Church of Cass City. Jerry attended high school in Onsted, where he played on the football team. Following graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the rocket division for three years, during the Korean War era. Jerry was honorably discharged, having achieved the rank of Corporal.

He went on to attend and graduate from the Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music with a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies. Jerry was ordained in 1965 and served as pastor of Ocqueoc Baptist Church for thirteen years. Following the pastorate, he was employed by and retired from Cole Carbide. Jerry enjoyed teaching and serving in the local Baptist church. He was passionate about passing out gospel tracts.

Jerry loved all things cowboy, especially western movies featuring Gene Autry. He could always be found in the stands at the sporting events of his children and grandchildren, proudly supporting them.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Patricia; children: Cassidy (Leah) Ferris of Saginaw, Randal (Alesia) Ferris of Fowlerville and Raymond (Bonnie) Ferris of Deford; grandchildren: Jesika (James) Struve, Tyler (Allison) Ferris, Lance (Rachel) Ferris, Jared Ferris, Brenton (Danna) Ferris, Jillian Ferris, Amber (Nick) Knieling, Jalen (Emily) Ferris and Leann Ferris; great-grandchildren: Brett, Darrin, Merek, Emmett, Ainsley, Crew, Vivienne, Oliver, Ryker, Archer and Roman; brother, Dean (Joan) Ferris.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two infant brothers: Norman Ferris and Dale Ferris.

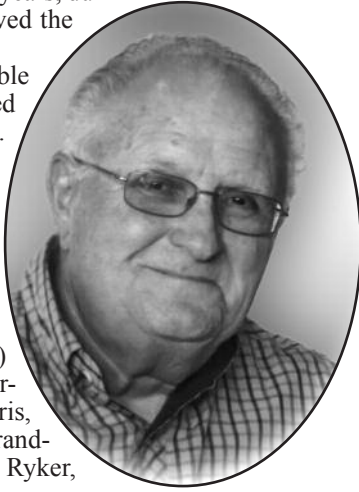
A funeral service was held Wednesday, December 23, in the First Baptist Church of Caro with Pastor Marc Herron officiating.

Interment will be in Novesta Township Cemetery with military honors conducted by the Cass City V.F.W. Post # 3644.

Memorials may be made to the Forgotten Man Ministries or Gideons International.

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

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



Gail Klein

Gail M. Klein, a resident of Brighton, passed away on December 14, 2020 at the age of 59.

Gail was the beloved wife of Steven; loving mother of Lindsey Jaeger, Paige (Randen) Syjut; and the proud grandmother of Rowen. She was the dear daughter of John (late) and Janet Peters Laszlo.

Gail was preceded in death by her brother Mark Laszlo.

Gail was a loving, caring, and generous Mom and Grandma. She loved spending quality time with loved ones, boating at the lake and traveling. Gail enjoyed hobbies of crafting, gardening and reading. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

A memorial gathering was held Saturday, December 19, until the time of the memorial service at the Keehn-Griffin Funeral Home, 706 W. Main Street, Brighton.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions may be made in Gail's name to The American Cancer Society <https://donate3.cancer.org/>

The family has entrusted Gail's care and services to the Keehn-Griffin Funeral Home, Brighton.



John Perry Graham

John Perry Graham, 74, of Caro, passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

John was born May 15, 1946 in Caro, the son of the late John R. & Mildred (Perry) Graham and was a graduate of Caro High School.

He was united in marriage with the former JoAn Shurlow on January 15, 1964.

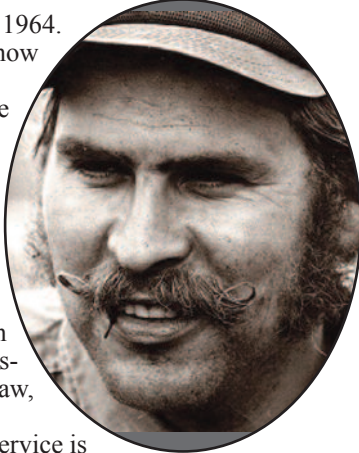
John farmed all his life until 1996 and then went into lawn care and snow removal.

John is survived by his loving wife of fifty-six years, JoAn Graham; three children, Jonathan Graham and wife, Debbie, of Cass City, Kelli Jo Graham of Ypsilanti and Jeffrey Graham of Caro; one granddaughter, Zoei-Conner Graham; siblings, Grace Ann Lockwood of Indiana, Nellie Lowery and husband, John, of California, Margaret Walpole and husband, Forest, of Colorado and Joseph Graham and wife, Kay, of Cass City; sister-in-law, Janet Shurlow-Lashley of Arizona; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Evelyn Chambers; his mother- and father-in-law, Ralph and Thelma Shurlow; a sister-in-law and her husband, Delores & Paul Kittles; and two brothers-in-law, Rev. Marvin Price and John Lockwood.

In keeping with John's wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service is being planned for the summer of 2021.

The family was assisted with these arrangements by the Ransford Collon Funeral Home of Caro. Friends may share memories, thoughts and prayers online at www.RansfordCollon.com.



Arthur L. O'Donohue

Arthur L. O'Donohue of Chelsea, Michigan passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 102 years of age.

Arthur was born November 1, 1918 to Francis and Rhea (Ward) O'Donohue in Detroit.

Arthur is survived by his loving wife Patricia A. O'Donohue; children, Dennis (Linda) O'Donohue, Susan O'Donohue, Frank O'Donohue, Lois (Kevin) MacFarland, and Brian (Lee Ann) O'Donohue; 20 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren & 2 great great-grandchildren. He was also survived by sister Joanne Schatz and brother Richard O'Donohue.

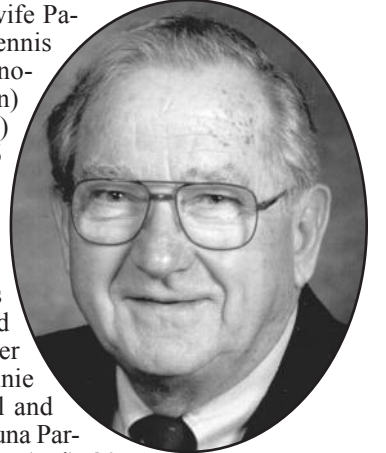
He was preceded in death by his brothers, Wesley O'Donohue and Clayton O'Donohue; sisters Esther Downing, Frances Parker and Minnie Flesher; stepsons Albert, Michael and Ronald Parsons; granddaughter Shauna Parsons and his first wife Eva Theresa (Lei) O'Donohue.

He enjoyed his family, especially his grandchildren. Arthur loved to golf, he enjoyed new technology, he was a chip carver, he loved to travel, he enjoyed square dancing and playing many different card games. He also liked solving brainteasers, riddles, puzzles and anything else that was challenging to solve. He worked in tool & die for many years and retired from General Motors.

Services will be held privately for the family due to capacity restrictions.

Memorial contributions may be made to Faith in Action in Chelsea, MI and envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

To sign Arthur's guestbook, to leave a memory, for more information or directions, please visit www.rbhfsaline.com.

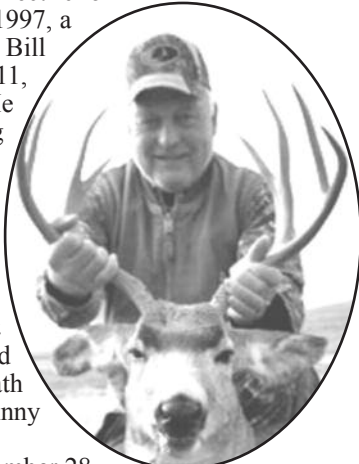


William Guwa

William Carl Guwa of Caro, age 76, passed away on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at his home. Bill was born May 9, 1944 in Bad Axe, the son of the late Stanley & Mary (Krause) Guwa. He graduated from Bad Axe High School with the class of 1963 and was drafted to the U.S. Army shortly after, serving in Alaska. Following his honorable discharge, Bill held several jobs that afforded him the opportunity to attend night school to become a master electrician. He later took a position with Area Electric for twenty-three years until founding his own company, G & G Electric in 1997, a family business where he proudly worked beside his son and grandson. Bill was united in marriage with the former Christine McCullough on August 11, 1973 in Cass City, and she preceded him in death on August 5, 2016. He was a proud member of the National Rifle Association and Sebawaing Knights of Columbus. Bill was happiest outdoors, hunting, fishing, and raising pheasants. Never one to sit still for long, he could often be found tinkering with his tractors or anything else that needed to be fixed.

Bill is survived by two children, Danielle Guwa of Cass City; Scott Guwa of Caro; three grandchildren, Dalton, Josalyn, and Alexis; four siblings and their spouses, Frances & Lee Kulish of Arkansas, Rose Ann Kline of Midland, Theresa & Ted Grocholski of Linwood, Joseph & Pauline Guwa of Metamora; many nieces and nephews; and his beloved lab, Frankie. In addition to his parents and wife, Bill was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Lydia Rose Guwa; and two brothers, Stanley and Johnny Guwa.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 28, 2020 at St. Christopher Parish, Sacred Heart Church in Caro with Rev. Christopher Coman officiating. The family will be present to receive friends at the Ransford Collon Funeral Home on Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and at the church on Monday from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the Mass at 10:00 a.m. Memorial contributions in Bill's name may be made to the Trump Make America Great Again Committee, 725 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10022. The family was assisted with these arrangements by the Ransford Collon Funeral Home of Caro. Friends may share memories, thoughts and prayers online at www.RansfordCollon.com.



Fredric William "Bill" Tuckey

Bill Tuckey, 83, of Cass City, died Sunday, December 20, 2020 at Covenant Healthcare Cooper Campus.

He was born March 26, 1937 in Cass City, the sixth child born to Charles Luke and Evelyn D. (Doerr) Tuckey.

He married Sylvia Ann Daniels on June 4, 1994 at Hopevale Baptist Church in Saginaw.

Bill attended Cass City High School where he excelled in basketball, football and track.

He earned a B.S. Degree from Central Michigan University, and where he also played football and basketball. Bill graduated in June 1960 and joined the military in October 1960. He served in the U.S. Army, where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. His exemplary performance allowed him to stay in Fort Benning, Georgia as a company commander for inductees into bootcamp. After his time spent in the service, Bill moved to Daytona Beach, FL and worked as a manager for Prudential Life Insurance Company. Bill moved back to Caro in 1966, where he purchased and operated Tuckey Block Company which he later sold. In 1977, he bought an insurance agency in Caro, which later became the Tuckey-Raymond Insurance Agency.

Bill served on numerous boards over the years including: the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners, the Tuscola County Road Commission, Caro Community Hospital Board, and the Board of Directors for State Savings Bank of Caro. Bill's favorite sport was golfing; and to his credit he made six successful holes-in-one! He enjoyed many hobbies such as fishing, wood carving, pottery, building dollhouses, and artwork. Bill liked to watch the old westerns on television, especially Gunsmoke, which he watched over and over.

Bill is survived by his wife, Sylvia; children: Michael (Laura) Tuckey of Caro, Lisa (Jim) Will of Caro, Teri (Pete) Lalli of Navesink, Denise (Mike) Sturgeon of Clio and Shari Lee (John) Concklin of Oxford; grandchildren: Megan, Jennifer, Emma, Alec, Ryan, Demetra, Sofia, Amanda, Michael and Benji; great-grandchildren: Piper and Cole; sister Eunice Kaufman of Cass City; brothers: Charles (Iris) Tuckey of Cass City, Dr. Donald (Kathlyn) Tuckey of Frankenmuth and Roy (Kathleen) Tuckey of Cass City; sisters-in-law, Delores Tuckey of Cass City and Barbara Tuckey of Cass City.

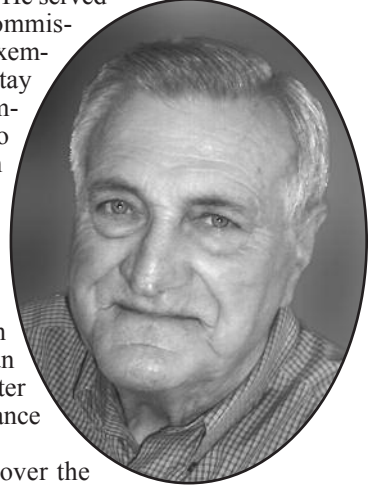
He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers: JD Tuckey and Robert Tuckey; sister: Dorothy (Carl) Mantey; brother-in-law, Donald Kaufman.

A funeral service was held Monday, December 28, in the Cass City Missionary Church with Pastor Phil Burkett officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Cass City Missionary Church or the American Lung Association.

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

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home of Cass City.



Elaine G. Phelps

Elaine G. Phelps, 97, of Cass City, passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 19, 2020 at the Tuscola County Medical Care Community in Caro after spending the last several years living with her daughter in Caro.

Elaine was born September 4, 1923 in Bay City, the daughter of the late William & Wanda (Stark) Hacker and came to this area as a teen.

She was united in marriage with George Bates Phelps on May 12, 1942 and he preceded her in death on June 24, 2014.

Elaine was an Avon representative for many years, but will be best remembered as a consummate homemaker. Spare time was often spent sewing clothes for her children, canning fruits and vegetables, and caring for the daily needs of her family. Elaine was of the Lutheran faith her entire life and attended Lutheran school as a child. She enjoyed playing piano, traveling throughout the United States with George, camping, and attending events for her grandchildren.

Left to cherish her memory are one daughter, Carolyn Parker of Caro; seven grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; four great great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Mary Phelps of Grayling; sisters-in-law, Loretta Hacker of Cass City and Bonnie Phelps of Mayville; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, Elaine was preceded in death by two sons, Glen Phelps and James Stewart Phelps; son-in-law, Roger Parker; siblings, Bill Hacker, Winnie Williams and her husband, Robert Williams; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Eleanor & Ernie Ihrke, Ruth & Harold Harris and Robert Phelps.

Private family services for Elaine were held with burial in Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Saginaw. Those planning an expression of sympathy my wish to consider memorial contributions to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Good Shepard Lutheran Church in Cass City.

The family was assisted with these arrangements by the Ransford Collon Funeral Home of Caro. Friends may share memories, thoughts and prayers online at www.RansfordCollon.com.



In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Make preparedness for winter a priority

Like it or not, winter is here, prompting state and law enforcement officials to encourage residents to make winter emergency preparedness a priority.

Severe winter weather poses health and safety concerns with extremely cold temperatures, freezing pipes, potential propane shortages and power outages.

In preparing for the harshest weather Old Man Winter can dish up, Michiganders should focus on safety measures both at home and while on the road.

To prepare your home for winter, experts recommend the following tips:

*Weatherproof your house by installing weatherstripping and caulking and insulating walls, doors and windows.

*Insulate any water lines that run along exterior walls, so pipes are less likely to freeze.

*Lock in a propane rate and have a backup heating plan, such as a generator, wood stove or fireplace.

*Have furnaces inspected by a qualified professional and change the air filter.

*Have your fireplace and chimney cleaned and inspected. Contact your local fire department for a referral or look for a local inspector online.

*Install battery-operated carbon monoxide (CO) detectors near every sleeping area.

*Clean gutters to prevent ice dams from forming. Roof ice dams can cause water to build-up, leading to interior damage.

*Clear storm drains along the curb to enable water to drain. If plugged, water has the potential to go into low-lying areas and flood basements.

*Have an emergency preparedness kit stored safely in your house that includes water, non-perishable food, a first aid kit, extra batteries, a battery or hand-crank powered radio, emergency lighting or flashlights, extra blankets and warm clothing.

To prepare your vehicle for winter:

*Have your radiator serviced before winter and make sure to replace windshield wipers and wiper fluid with a wintertime mixture that will not freeze.

*Replace any worn tires and check air pressure regularly.

*Have your brakes, brake fluid, oil, car battery, heater and exhaust checked to make sure everything is running efficiently.

*Keep an emergency preparedness kit in your vehicle stocked with batteries, battery powered or hand-crank radio, flashlight, windshield scraper, jumper cables, mobile phone charger, shovel, blankets, first aid kit, non-perishable food and bottled water in the event you get stranded or stuck.

For more tips, visit the website www.michigan.gov/miready or follow the Michigan State Police/Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division on Twitter at @MichEMHS.

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Am I set in my ways?



When in the heck did I get so old?
Never, ever in a hundred million years would I think that I would become set in my ways. I'm not just set in my ways, but I'm cemented in them.

That realization struck home when I recently had to retire the recliner that I normally sit in. Since my semi-retirement, mobility issues and the pandemic, I have come to basically live in my recliner.

I sit in it to watch television. I sit in it to watch movies on my portable DVD. It is where I sit to write articles and columns. That chair is also where I fall asleep the easiest and get my best sleep.

I bought it in 2001. I don't remember what I paid for it anymore, but I can brag that I got my money's worth from how much I have used it, and for how much I miss it.

Overall, the chair held up pretty well until I lost my balance and fell backwards in it. That broke one of the springs. The chair has never been the same since then. Every few days I had to adjust the cushions over the spring.

I finally bit the bullet recently and had my son take the old chair out and replace it with a backup chair I bought a few months ago when I realized the chair's demise was imminent.

It's a nice chair. It is quality made. To me it isn't as comfortable as my old chair, and it just isn't the chair that I have come to love and live in. Sigh.

I want my old chair back.

My son, who knows me so well, broke my old chair apart. He said he had to do that to get it out of the house.

Liar, liar pants on fire! It came into the house in one piece by the delivery men.

I'm desperately worried about the impact the new chair will have on my life. Will I enjoy sitting in it for hours at a time watching television? Will I be able to sleep in it like I could the other chair? But, mostly, will I still be as comfortable to write like I had been? That is my biggest concern — the impact it will have on my writing.

I can still say that I'm not set in my ways... I'm cemented in them.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Bert Althaver's decades-long dedication to public service is well known in the Cass City community and beyond.

The retired long-time Walbro Corp. executive served as village president for many years as well as devoting countless hours to a variety of boards and committees in Tuscola County, including the Hills and Dales Hospital Board of Trustees in Cass City.

Hospital President and CEO Jean Anthony recently announced Althaver is now retiring from the hospital board after 22 years.

"Through his time as a board member, he has served as a mentor, an advocate and a leader for the hospital," Anthony said of Althaver, who joined the hospital board in 1998.

"He has given countless hours to Hills and Dales, serving in several officer positions, including chair of the board. He has also served on both the finance committee and strategic planning committee," Anthony added. "Bert's wisdom and loyalty will be missed by all who have had the pleasure of serving with him on the board."

Althaver was born in Kansas City, Mo., and earned a bachelor's degree from Principia College in Illinois. He served two years in the military and moved to Cass City when he joined Walbro Corp. in the mid-1950s. He retired from the corporation in 1998 as chairman and chief executive officer. Althaver also served on the board of directors of Walbro Corp. from 1968 until his retirement in 1998.

We join the staff at Hills and Dales General Hospital in wishing Bert all the best and in thanking him for his many contributions to the hospital and community.

What do Scott Cuthrell, Ron Nurnberger, Dennis Meck, Chuck Reed, Bill Potter, Don Markel, Irv Claseman, Todd & Dora Potrykus, Dave Lovejoy, Lloyd Schinnerer, Kathy Bouverette, Beth Howard, Dave Hoard and Larry Robinson all have in common?

They all are the longest serving varsity coaches in their respective sports for Cass City Schools, according to paper work supplied by Athletic Director Justin Ketterer on Oct. 5, 2020.

Cuthrell has served 18 years at the helm of the Red Hawk football program and also another 12 years as leader of the boys' track team, Nurnberger 17 years as boys' basketball coach, Meck 18 years as cross country coach, Reed 8 years as boys' soccer coach and 12 years as girls' soccer coach, Potter 5 years as tennis coach, Markel 35 years as wrestling coach, Claseman 14 years as baseball coach, Todd & Dora Potrykus 7 years as bowling coach, Lovejoy 6 years as golf coach, Schinnerer 14 years as girls' basketball coach, Bouverette 14 years as gymnastics coach, Howard 17 years as volleyball coach, Hoard 18 years as softball coach, and Robinson 14 years as girls' track coach.

If you're celebrating New Year's Eve this year and find a lull in the conversation, you can impress those around you with these New Year's trivia items.

* According to statistics from the National Insurance Crime Bureau, more vehicles are stolen on New Year's Day than on any other holiday throughout the year.

* The Time Square New Year's Eve Ball came about as a result of a ban on fireworks. The first ball, in 1907, was an illuminated 700-pound iron and wood ball adorned with one hundred 25-watt light bulbs. Today, the round ball designed by Waterford Crystal, weighs 11,875-pounds, is 12 feet in diameter and is bedazzled with 2,668 Waterford crystals.

* The top three destinations in the United States to ring in the New Year are Las Vegas, Disney World and New York City.

* Food plays a big role in New Year's traditions. Eating black-eyed peas, ham or cabbage are thought to bring prosperity. However, stay away from bad luck foods like lobsters, because they move backwards, and chicken, because they scratch in reverse. It is believed that eating these on New Year's day might cause a reversal of fortune.

* In Colombia, Cuba and Puerto Rico families stuff a life-size male doll called Mr. Old Year with memories of the outgoing year and dress him in old clothes from each family member. At midnight he is set on fire - thus burning away the bad memories of the year.

* According to one survey, 40 to 45 percent of American adults make one or more resolutions each year. The top New Year's resolutions include weight loss, exercise, quitting smoking and better money management. By the second week of January, 25 percent of people have abandoned their resolutions.

* In Italy, people wear red underwear on New Year's Day as a symbol of good luck for the upcoming year.

Happy New Year to all.

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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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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News briefs

Zehnder's Snowfest is still a go

FRANKMUTH — Although it will be greatly different, Zehnder's Snowfest is still a go.

The annual event is scheduled for Jan. 29-Jan. 31, 2021, at 730 Main St., Frankenmuth.

Even though the event will be smaller in scope, visitors can still enjoy a limited number of larger-than-life snow sculptures and beautifully-detailed ice carvings. Zehnder's Snowfest is considered to be one of the top snow sculpting events in North America.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 event will not include entertainment, a warming tent or fireworks, but guests are encouraged to view the snow and ice sculptures throughout downtown Frankenmuth.

Food giveaway in Huron Co.

THUMB — There will be a free food distribution in Huron County this week.

The event — organized in coordination with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan — is scheduled for today (Wednesday) at the Huron Community Fairgrounds in Bad Axe, starting at 11 a.m.

Grant funds charging stations

MARLETTE — Marlette Oil and Gas Co., Marlette, received \$50,000 to install two charging stations for electric vehicles.

The installations will continue to build a network of direct current fast chargers (DCFC) that the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is partially funding at strategic locations around the state to provide drivers with worry-free travel.

4-H SPIN club events slated

BAD AXE — Huron County MSU Extension officials continue to share information on upcoming 4-H SPIN club events available virtually to Thumb area youths.

A 4-H SPIN (special-interest) club is defined as a club in which five or more young people from at least two different families can get together to learn about a topic of interest, such as nature, heritage, arts, science, engineering, gardening and technology.

SPIN clubs are led by MSU Extension staff or volunteers who have a passion and want to share their knowledge with young people. Each club meets a minimum of six times but not more than eight times within an eight-week period.

Upcoming virtual SPIN clubs include:

*4-H Lego Master Builder SPIN Club — will begin on Monday, Jan. 18, and end Friday, Jan. 22. Registration closes Jan. 14. This club will meet virtually every day from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Over the course of the week, youth will get a chance to be creative, be ingenious, be an engineer and become a "master builder" with LEGOS.

This club is free, open to 4-H and non-4-H members ages five to 12, and will meet virtually via Zoom (both computer and smartphone accessible — the club is listed under Livingston County).

For more information and to register, visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HLEgoSPINClubJanuary/>.

*Minecraft SPIN Club — will begin Monday, Jan. 25, and end Friday, Jan. 29, with registration closing Jan. 21. This club will meet virtually every day from 10 to 11:15 a.m. EST. Youth will be introduced to computer coding through the world of Minecraft — no game necessary. This club is also free and open to 4-H and non-4-H members ages 8 to 12.

More information and registration are available by visiting <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HMinecraftSPINClubJanuary/>.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery

Owendale officials await audit results

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The Owendale Village Council will have to wait another month to hear the results of a financial audit.

"The audit is complete and representatives from the audit company plan to distribute and discuss highlights of the audit with the council at the January council meeting," Clerk Randy Howard recently reported following a regular meeting.

The council is scheduled to meet Jan. 12 starting at 6:30 p.m.

The issue of having an audit conducted rose earlier this year due to the village's accounting method.

Although the village council approved its 2020-21 budget back in February, the state required the local officials to conduct a full audit on finances, rather than a compilation, because of a general fund deficit.

The audit was requested because the village had not been making the necessary accounting entries when funds were transferred from various internal funds — such as major and local streets, sewer and water, which are in separate savings accounts in the bank — to the general fund to cover expenses, according to Howard, who noted the savings account also serves as the village's only checking account.

Because of that practice, it appeared the village had a deficit in its general fund when, in fact, there was no deficit.

As a result, the accounting firm of Yeo and Yeo suggested in April that the village contract with another accounting firm.

In July, village officials approved contracting with Grapp-Lerash, a CPA firm in Saginaw, to conduct the annual village audit for \$6,000, while Top of the Hill Services, Gagetown, was hired to perform services at a cost of \$500

a month.

In October, long-time village Treasurer Manuel Thies resigned; and during a special meeting Lori Limberger was appointed the new treasurer.

In other money matters, the village received \$2,600 in COVID-19 funding from the state.

"We have spent most of the \$2,600 and have until the end of the month to make some final purchases of items to help fight the spread of COVID-19," Howard said.

The council also spent \$500 at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland for some new decorations.

To help with the decorating, DPW Supervisor Steve Sweatland used a boom truck from Timmons Farm. The council approved paying Timmons \$100 for the service.

Officials also learned new speed limit (30 mph) signs have arrived and will be installed as soon as possible.

Kingston Village updating its master plan

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Kingston officials are in the process of updating the village's master plan.

In order to accomplish that sizeable task, the village council recently hired the Spicer Group Inc., Saginaw, which specializes in engineering, land surveying and community planning, and offers architectural services.

To help develop the master plan, the Spicer Group asked the village to subscribe to Tuscola County's geographic information system (GIS) for a year to help them pro-

duce a map for the community's master plan.

GIS provides a central location for data and analysis that is critical to surveying, planning, construction, and management. The system enables professional land surveyors to provide more accurate and less expensive surveys.

The cost to join the county's GIS is \$250 a year. Because there is some money left in the project, it will cost the village about \$100 to sign up.

The council approved the request.

In other business, Carrie Gilley, former village clerk, gave an update on the transitioning to a new

clerk-treasurer.

In November, the council hired Stefanie Bruce to work a maximum of 32 hours a week in the position. She replaces Heather Baker, who accepted another job.

To help with the transition, the council approved having Gilley work with Bruce though February.

Also, the council approved hiring village President Cory Skinner to also serve as the village's custodian.

In addition, the council added Kingsbury Street and River Street to the roadways where parking is prohibited during the winter to allow for snow removal.

Circuit court proceedings

Several appear on felony charges

The following people appeared in Tuscola County Circuit Court recently on various criminal charges:

*Cory J. Lewicki, 31, Saginaw, was sentenced to six years to 20 years in prison following his conviction on a charge of fleeing a police officer March 18 in Unionville. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$258.

Lewicki was also sentenced to 87 days in jail following his convictions on charges of delivery/manufacture of methamphetamine and carrying a concealed weapon May 4-5 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions) in that case.

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$326.

*Rodney K. House, 53, Cass

City, was sentenced to 30 days in jail following his convictions on two counts of possession of cocaine, heroin or another narcotic (less than 25 grams), and one count of conspiracy to deliver/manufacture cocaine, heroin or another narcotic (less than 50 grams) between March and July of 2019 in Fremont and Ellington townships.

He was also placed on probation for 18 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$794.

*Justin R. Plain, 39, Kingston, was sentenced to 365 days in jail following his convictions on two counts of domestic violence, third offense, Dec. 22, 2019, in Kingston. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to jail time, he was placed on probation for 36 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$776.

*Brandon J. Gilliam, 32, Cass City, was sentenced to 180 months to 7 ½ years in prison following his conviction on a charge of op-

erating a motor vehicle while having a high BAC (blood alcohol content), third offense, Oct. 19 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$258.

Gilliam has received a concurrent prison term of 18 months to 7 ½ years in prison following his conviction on a charge of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, June 30 in Elmwood Township.

He was ordered to pay costs and fines of \$198 in that case.

*Barbara A. Applebee, 58, Mayville, was sentenced to 365 days in jail following her convictions on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and domestic violence Jan. 3 in Fremont Township.

She was also placed on probation for 60 months and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,008.

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Reporter's notebook

Keeping an eye on the prize...

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



Given the fear, anxiety and uncertainty a pandemic tends to bring, news reports that alcohol consumption and drug abuse are up across the country don't surprise me a bit. Heck, I've been tempted to tip a glass myself. But I haven't, because I can't. I'm a recovering alcoholic.

This week, I'm marking nine years of sobriety, although in all fairness, I'm thinking that maybe folks like me should get credit for more than one year, this year, you know? Seriously, I would love to tell folks that after nearly a decade of sobriety, every alcohol-free day is a walk in the park.

But that would be a lie, and successful sobriety is all about being truthful with yourself, as well as with others. So, while I have no problem breezing through most days without giving much thought to booze, I still struggle with it every now and then. And the era of COVID-19 has brought even greater challenges.

That's not to say sobriety still isn't worth every ounce of determination, effort and resolve I have to stay that way, especially when I consider how amazing life is these days. But there are moments, however brief, that remind me just how vital it is for me to keep my eye on the prize, you know?

Fortunately, I depend on a God who not only gave me the gift of desperation that finally led me out of that mess, but who also gives me what I need every day to hang tough.

I touch on this subject about this time every year because the holidays are an especially lousy time to be an alcoholic or drug addict, and because December marks a turning point in my life. I'm also aware that there are others in our community fighting the same fight.

And who couldn't use a little encouragement, you know?

I took my last drink Dec. 29, 2011, after years of living on an exhausting treadmill of addiction. It was, in short, a dark, depressing, fearful, hopeless existence.

Honestly, there was a time I figured alcoholics were all a bunch of weak, poor excuses for normal folks like - well, like me.

And then I took a look - an honest look at myself - and came to terms with the reality that I was one. It was a gradual process, taking years to reach that point, then a few more years to accept just how deep I was in this mess, and a few more years to really get serious about getting better.

And then the real work began.

I've come to realize a number of things along the way.

Recovering addicts and alcoholics, for example, are some of the most human people you'll ever meet, maybe because they've been forced to take a really hard look at how low they've sunk. This is a fight that requires brutal honesty, and frankly, the truth isn't very pretty sometimes.

I'll clue you in on something else; you can't possibly make an addict or alcoholic feel worse than they already feel about themselves. Can't be done.

If you've never been an addict or alcoholic, consider yourself fortunate. But don't ever presume to understand this struggle. If you've never been there, you can't know. Period.

On the other hand, you could reach out to someone battling an addiction and let them know you're there for them. Sure, they'll likely recoil at first, but who knows what a word of encouragement (without a side of judgment) might do in the long run for someone you care about. It's just possible they've been aching for someone to reach out to them.

Remind them that there's always hope as long as they don't give up on themselves. If they reach out for help, take their hand and help them to find some, even if you don't feel qualified.

In time, they may experience a reality you couldn't convince them of now if your life depended on it: that sobriety will deliver everything their drug of choice promised.

Perhaps most importantly, I've learned to never underestimate the power of being grateful, not just for everyone and everything in my life, but for each and every day. It's a good feeling, one I hope our readers will be enjoying as they welcome the opportunities and challenges 2021 will bring.

Happy New Year!

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2015)

Jim Luth and his wife, Cheryl, recently unveiled a major makeover of their McDonald's restaurant in town during a ribbon-cutting ceremony early last week, and at the same time presented a pair of \$1,000 donation checks to Rawson Memorial District Library and to the Cass City Junior Citizen of the Year Scholarship Fund. "I was blown away," Kate Van Auken said of the donations, which she accepted in her roles as both library director and as a member of the scholarship committee. "The Luths are so generous. Imagine them renovating their McDonald's, and we get a check," Van Auken added. "One thing Jim always says is that he truly likes this town and he always tries to give back."

Schneeberger's choice for their "Athlete of the Week" award is Jacob Wright. The high-scoring Owen-Gage senior recorded a pair of double-doubles to end play in 2015, helping the Bulldogs improve to 5-0 on the season. Playing on back-to-back nights, Wright tossed in 18 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in a 61-39 win over host Mackinac Island High School last Monday, before going off for 35 points and 11 rebounds in a 68-57 victory over Northport in a contest played at Kalkaska High School. Jacob is the son of Brian and Rhonda Wright.

10 YEARS AGO (2010)

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has awarded a \$25,000 creative writing fellowship grant to a former long-time Cass City resident. Teresa Scollon, who now resides in Traverse City, received the grant in the 2011 grant category of "Literature Fellowships: Creative Writing (Poetry). She is the daughter of Dotty Scollon of Cass City and the late Dr. Ed Scollon. The creative writing scholarships are awarded to encourage the production of new works of literature by allowing writers the time and means to write, according to NEA officials, who noted panelists reviewed more than 10,000 manuscript pages from the 1,063 eligible applications submitted.

The latest recipients of the coveted Red Hawk Award of Excellence are high school senior Michael Milligan, seventh grade student Maria Weilbach and third grader Olivia Peters. School officials formally recognized each of the outstanding students during a monthly board of education meeting and presented them with a maroon ribbon and certificate last week.

25 YEARS AGO (1995)

On Nov. 17, Senior Chief Boatswainmate William S. VanAllen, son of Douglas and Hilda VanAllen of Cass City, successfully completed 20 years of Naval Service. VanAllen is a 1974 graduate of Cass City High School and is presently serving at the Norfolk Naval Base in Norfolk, Va. He is scheduled to join the Fleet Reserves (retire) June 1, 1997 and return to Michigan.

Randy, Carmen, Jason and Ethan Damm and Tim and Susan Wooster of Flint were Christmas Eve guests of Dale and Mary Damm. They all attended the candlelighting service at the United Methodist Church at 7:30. The Woosters spent the night with the Dale Damm and attended the McClorey Christmas dinner.

Dr. Kevin Barrons, a Kingston native, recently was named director of instructional technology for the Singapore American Schools in Singapore. His duties will begin in Singapore in February and will include the supervision of the school's video, data, and

voice systems.

35 YEARS AGO (1985)

Mrs. Shelly Wilson of Deford received her LPN degree from St. Clair County Community College at exercises held Dec. 18 at Bad Axe Jr. High School. She is the daughter of Darold and Etseleene TerBush of Deford. A 1984 graduate of Deford Christian Academy, she is the wife of Michael Wilson.

Michael D. Armstead, son of Ray and Betty Armstead of Sebewaing, formerly Cass City, and brother of Ray and Greg Armstead of Cass City, has been promoted in the U.S. Army to the rank of chief warrant officer two. Armstead is a helicopter pilot with the 6th Cavalry Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas. His wife, Darlene, is the daughter of R. and Dorothy Matheran of Fort Walton Beach, Fla. He is a 1976 graduate of Clarkston High School. The Armsteads have two sons, Robert and Nicholas.

40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Mr. and Mrs. Garrison Stine and sons, Scott and Randy, had with them Sunday for a belated Christmas dinner, Dean Stine of Hastings, Miss Jackie Casto of Delton, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Nicholas and children of Kawkawlin, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Marker and children of Bay City and Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Stine.

Lori Teichman, a freshman at Northwestern Michigan College, earned a 4.0 average (all A's) during her first semester at the Traverse City school. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Teichman of Cass City and a 1980 graduate of Cass City High School.

Tammy Tibbits, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Tibbits of Cass City is one of 10 students from Michigan high schools to be named a DAR Good Citizen by the Piety Hill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution of Birmingham. She was honored at a tea Dec. 9 at the Bloomfield Township Library in Bloomfield Hills. She was presented a certificate from the national DAR organization, a Good Citizen's pin, a copy of the DAR Landmark magazine and an individual gift. The Good Citizen Award has been given to senior students since 1934. Selection is based on dependability, leadership, service, patriotism and academic achievement. Miss Tibbits, a senior, has been a member of the National Honor Society for three years. She is president of the Student Council and was a member of the committee that helped rewrite the Student Council constitution. She was president of her freshman and junior classes, is treasurer of the Senior Trip Club, has been a cheerleader six years and was 1980 captain of the football cheerleading squad. Tammy was chosen to attend the Rotary Club Leadership Camp last summer and was representative of her school at the superintendents' conference at Michigan State University. She is president of her church youth group and junior church pianist. Miss Tibbits plans to attend Anderson College in Indiana and major in secondary education.

50 YEARS AGO (1970)

Born Dec. 19 in Hills and Dales General Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Caverly of Kingston, the former Dorothy Tracy of Cass City, a five-pound, nine-ounce daughter, Ida May.

Linda L. Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Smith of Cass City, has been promoted to H. N. E-3. Miss Smith has been in the Navy since May 15, 1969, and stationed at the U.S. Naval Hospital at Great Lakes for one year. She graduated from Cass City High School in 1968. She will be home for the Christmas week end with her family.

Kelly and Kevin Smith of Cass City and Warren Kappen are

spending a few days with their grandmother, Mrs. Mildred Kappen. Bonnie and Deena Kappen visited her Sunday. Sunday evening supper guests were Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rabideau and Renee and Jay Smith of Cass City.

Mr. and Mrs. George Krause took a carry-in birthday dinner Monday night to Mr. and Mrs. Don Krause and family. The dinner was to honor Mrs. Don Krause's birthday. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woodward and sons.

Dear Santa Claus, My name is Gerald Bartnik. I am 6 years old. For Christmas I would like a bike, crane, gas station with a garage, and a big dumptruck. Hope to see you at Christmas. Gerald Bartnik.

YA YA for Santa Claus. Have fun on your trip. I will sleep when you are here. I will be good for you Santa Claus. I want a train set and a toy gun and repair set and a toy rifle and a rubber knife and a dart game and a big long snake and a drum set. See you before Christmas Santa. David Parker

75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Miss Gerneth Mercer, a student at Cleary Business college in Ypsilanti, came last week to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Mercer. Her sister, Miss Gatha Mercer, of Detroit spent from Friday until Christmas night at her parental home also. Other guests in the Mercer home for Christmas dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Partridge and sons.

Mr. and Mrs. John G. Holmberg of Ann Arbor came Monday to spend Christmas in the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Perry. Mr. Holmberg returned home on Wednesday. Other guests for dinner on Christmas day were Mrs. C. W. Price and daughter, Miss Kathryn, and Mrs. Price's mother, Mrs. Anna Holmberg.

Ralph Ball of the Navy, who has been stationed in Florida for some time, brought his wife and small daughter home here to live with relatives for a time. After a short visit here, he left for Treasure Island, San Francisco, and has been assigned to sea duty.

Sgt. Clarence Wright who has been stationed in India for some time, has returned and has been honorably discharged from the service. He arrived home Sunday evening in time to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wright.

100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Mr. and Mrs. Sim Bardwell celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Saturday, Dec. 18. One o'clock dinner was served to twenty-seven guests. Mr. and Mrs. Bardwell received many beautiful silver gifts. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Fred LePla of Ubyly, Herman Wright of Detroit, Mr. and Mrs. John Barnes and Grover Keys of Gagetown, and Mr. and Mrs. Will LePla and family, Mr. and Mrs. Harry LePla and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Copland, and Levi Bardwell and two daughters, all of Cass City.

Thos. Wilson, employed on the night police force at Pontiac, had Thursday night off and came to Cass City Thursday to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wilson, returning to Pontiac Friday afternoon.

From about 20 applicants for the position as superintendent of the Cass City Public Schools to succeed L. O. Hoxie, whose resignation becomes effective the last of this month, the board of education has chosen Harley W. Holmes of Holt, Mich. Previous to his graduation from the Kalamazoo Western State Normal, Mr. Holmes taught for six years in rural and town schools and for the past four years held the position of superintendent of the Edwardsburg

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Integrity of Tuscola County vote passes test with verification

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

The integrity of the voting system was recently confirmed in Tuscola County.

"As part of the election verification, the Michigan Bureau of Elections randomly selects jurisdictions to do a hand count to verify results," explained Tuscola County Clerk Jodi Fetting, adding post-election audits were conducted in Akron, Wisner and Vassar townships.

"A hand count of the U.S. Senate contest was required as part of the audit process. Overall, the audits went well and the contest results were confirmed by the hand count," Fetting said.

"In the U.S. Senate contest in those jurisdictions, the undervote decreased by one and Gary Peters increased by one. What that tells me is the oval on the ballot was not filled in enough to meet the threshold for the machine to count, but the human eye saw a mark and counted the vote.

"There are other items checked for, and all three jurisdictions did a good job on meeting those items as well," Fetting continued.

Although re-verification of results is rather tedious, it is a necessary one, according to the clerk.

"This is always a great exercise to take away improvements that may need to be done," she said. "It also helps me in training the other clerks in preparing for an election as well as in my training for the inspectors and areas that I may need to spend more time on."

Tuscola County has 42,756 registered voters, of which 29,627 cast ballots during the November election for an overall turnout of 69.29 percent.



IN RECOGNITION of her 48 years of service, Tuscola County Treasurer Pat Donovan Gray was recently presented with honors from local, state and federal officials. She is retiring at the end of this year.

Veteran Tuscola County Treasurer Gray honored for years of service

Continued from page one.

Dan Kildee.

Gray also received a state tribute — signed by Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, 31st District state Senator Kevin Daley and 84th District state Rep. Phil Green — which was presented by Daley's aid, Matthew Bierlein.

Bierlein, a former Tuscola County Commissioner, knows first-hand the time and dedication Gray has committed to her profession.

"I congratulate Patricia Gray on her retirement. It was a pleasure to work with you during my time at the county, and I was glad I could present your tribute on behalf of Senator Daley," said Bierlein. "Your 48 years of service to the citizens of Tuscola County is an incredible accomplishment."

According to a resolution that was read by newly-elected Tuscola County Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Gray started her career with the county in October 1972 as a clerk typist. In October 1975, she was promoted to account clerk.

As result of her hardworking nature and special skill set for the job, she was promoted to the position of chief deputy treasurer in 1977, serving in that role for 11 years before being appointed

county treasurer when Elgene Keller retired.

Gray was then elected to the position in November 1988 and has been repeatedly reelected over the past 32 years.

"During her long...career, Pat has been an integral part of many changes and advancements, resulting in increased efficiencies for the county, the major advancement being in the automation of the production of residential tax bills, and (she is a) dedicated public servant," Bennet said, reading from the resolution.

Because county board meetings are being held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bennett presented the county's resolution to Gray.

"It has been an honor to serve the people of Tuscola County and to have such awesome co-workers," Gray said as she fought back tears.

The veteran treasurer also received accolades from a number of local government officials she has worked with during her tenure.

"You are one of the best mentors I have ever had. I have to say thank you for your many, many years of expertise," said Cass City Village Clerk-Treasurer Nanette Walsh.

Tuscola County Clerk Jodi Fetting added, "You have been a role model for other elected officials of the county. We strive to be as ded-

icated as you. It has been my pleasure to serve with you the last eight years. Thank you for your guidance, and you will be greatly missed."

Gray also had an impact on many other officials.

"I cannot even comment on the pedigree of the kind of person it takes to work somewhere for 48 years," said Eean Lee, head of the county's technology department. "I think we have all learned something from you."

"Over the last nine years, I have been honored to know my treasurer."

Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Chairman Thom Bardwell, who has worked with Gray the longest, also congratulated her.

"You will be missed greatly. You have dealt with a great many (commissioners) and several challenges. I'm sure you could write a book on highlights of challenges faced," said Bardwell. "You have always been there for us, and you have been a great council to everyone. We have appreciated all that you have done."

Gray's co-workers in the treasurer's office presented her with their own tribute.

"We gave her a personalized one about how she has affected us, and how much we appreciate her and are going to miss having her in the office every day," said Bennett.

Evergreen set to build fire hall

Continued from page one.

public gatherings.

Evergreen Township currently contracts with three different departments for fire service — the Argyle and Lamotte Township departments in Sanilac County and the Elkland Township Fire Department in Tuscola County.

However, the Argyle department covers by far the most territory, 28 out of 36 sections of Evergreen Township.

Setting up a satellite fire hall "just makes a lot of sense for our township. This fire hall will serve all of Evergreen Township," Severance said. "This will provide the best possible emergency services (because) it will be right in the middle of the township."

As a possible added bonus, Severance said, some residents may qualify for a home insurance premium reduction — if their insurer offers it — for living within five miles of a fire hall.

Severance said additional updates will be provided to residents as they become available, although groundbreaking isn't expected to take place until later in 2021.

"We're going to have to wait until spring to clear the site. I'm thinking (the hall will be completed in the) fall."



Sanilac County Santas...

CHRISTMAS isn't always delivered by someone wearing red and white. The Sanilac County Sheriff's Department hosted its 10th annual "Shop with a Hero" event a little differently this year, but they were able to help make Christmas merrier for 31 families (a total of 117 people). "To-date, we have been able to help 211 families with a total of 946 people during Christmas," Sheriff Garry Biniacki noted, adding the community was generous in making donations. Representatives of central dispatch not only helped deliver presents, but also lent a hand with the wrapping. Also volunteering were heroes from Crosswell EMS, Crosswell Police Department, Sandusky Police Department, Lexington Police Department, the Moore Township Fire Department, Michigan State Police and Port Sanilac Fire Department.

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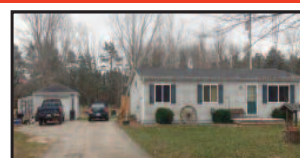
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COVID-19, presidential election turned 2020 upside down

Continued from page one.

Educators, meanwhile, have been forced to deal with interruptions in the school year and the monumental challenge of balancing in-person learning for some children with virtual instruction for others.

And virtual meetings via Zoom and other online apps have infiltrated just about every segment of the population, from local government meetings to business meetings and conferences.

Face-to-face activities largely disappeared in 2020, with just about every community and state festival and celebration canceled.

There has been much pushback among lawmakers, business owners and residents over Michigan

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders, with many questioning the legal and scientific basis for threatening the state's economic livelihood. In the fall, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled Whitmer had overstepped her authority in extending her orders. However, many of the same restrictions were put back into place by state health officials under their own authority.

The federal government has twice — including just a week ago — passed massive aid packages providing billions of dollars in assistance for families, businesses and states. Throughout the past several months, a number of businesses have benefited from grants and loans designed to help keep them afloat, but the profound economic

impact of the pandemic — including the permanent loss of countless small businesses — is expected to be felt for a long time to come.

The same is true for the effects of long-term isolation for many, with health officials reporting alarming increases in incidents of domestic violence and mental health issues along with a steady increase in the number of people abusing drugs and alcohol.

At the same time, December brought good news in the area of vaccine development, a success many experts attribute to President Trump's Operation Warp Speed initiative, which was launched in the spring to facilitate and accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.

In recent weeks, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved emergency use authorization for two COVID-19 vaccines — both touted as being highly effective during months of studies and testing.

Millions of doses of each vaccine have already been shipped across the country. Those vaccines will go to high priority groups such as frontline health care workers and nursing homes. Vaccinations for the general public aren't expected to become available until late spring, but it's believed they will — in time — restore some sense of normalcy to the lives of millions.

ELECTION 2020

As if a pandemic were not enough, Americans were subjected to a presidential election unlike any other in memory.

There is no lack of words describing the Nov. 3 vote, which saw a record turnout across the nation along with an unprecedented number of voters casting ballots early by absentee ballot — which in Michigan was made possible in 2018 when residents approved a statewide ballot initiative allowing eligible citizens to vote absentee without giving a specific reason.

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted many people to cast their vote early, rather than stand in line on Election Day and risk exposure to the virus.

But the counting of those early ballots paved the way for an angry, conspiracy-laced campaign against the results, led by President Trump, who has claimed all along that the election was "rigged" and that he, in fact, won a second term.

He didn't. While many Republican state and congressional candidates fared well at the polls, it was Joe Biden who emerged the victor over Donald Trump in the race for president, with the Electoral College earlier this month confirming that Biden had received 306 electoral votes to Trump's 232 — the same margin the president won by in 2016.

Along the way, Biden flipped traditionally Republican states: Michigan (where he won by roughly 154,000 votes), Arizona, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

As for the popular vote, Biden garnered 81,283,098 votes, or 51.3 percent of the votes cast. He is the first U.S. presidential candidate to have won more than 80 million votes. Trump won 74,222,957 votes, or 46.8 percent of the votes cast — more votes than any other presidential candidate has ever won, with the exception of Biden.

More than 159 million Americans voted in 2020, the largest total voter turnout in U.S. history.

In spite of the results, President Trump has refused to concede, instead persisting in his claims that the election was a fraud, with Democrats conspiring to steal the vote.

However, his baseless allegations of widespread voter fraud have been rejected by officials at every level of government.

The nation's top intelligence and law enforcement agencies have confirmed that there is no evidence of significant voter fraud, and that the 2020 election was secure. The courts, meanwhile, have overwhelmingly rejected claims of fraud in more than four dozen post-election lawsuits brought by the president and the Republican Party.

Those legal actions have elicited harsh rebukes from some judges upset over allegations of fraud not supported by a shred of evidence.

Even the U.S. Supreme Court was asked to weigh in when Texas attempted to overturn the election results in four battleground states that President Trump lost. The high court rejected the suit.

In short, Trump and his allies have failed to discount a significant number of votes, block the certification of results, or overturn the results of any race.

While the president has refused to recognize the results, Joe Biden is scheduled to be sworn in as this nation's 46th president during his inauguration Jan. 20.

HOMICIDE TRIAL

The pandemic and general election dominated headlines throughout much of the year, but there were also stories in the area worth mentioning, including the conclusion of a high-profile murder case in nearby Ellington Township.

A Tuscola County Circuit Court jury in October convicted resident Larry E. Lyons in the fatal stabbing of the mother of his then-11-month-old daughter and an assault that left the child critically injured in late 2019.

In November, Tuscola County Circuit Judge Amy Grace Gierhart handed down a mandatory sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. She also sentenced him to multiple, lengthy concurrent prison terms.

Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark E. Reene described the homicide as being among the most vicious he has prosecuted, with Lyons repeatedly stabbing the victim, Brandy Marie Dickson, 36, while she was clutching the couple's baby.

GROCERY STORE

After more than three years of on-again, off-again work on the project and numerous delays, Jim Zyrowski and his crew of employees opened the doors to Ben's Fresh Market last month in the former Erla's Food Center building on Church Street in Cass City, ending a lengthy grocery store drought in the community.

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

Zyrowski initially purchased the 20,581-square-foot former Erla's building in the fall of 2015.

He considered construction of a new building at the west end of Cass City, but eventually opted for renovation of the Erla's building, and in the spring of 2017 announced he was ready to move forward with those plans.

At the time he predicted the business would be open by the end of that same year.

In the months that followed, Zyrowski acknowledged the work was taking longer to complete than expected, citing the scope of the project and the age of the building, which was constructed in 1948 and renovated in 1993. Construction crews went on to virtually gut the building's interior, replacing everything from the floors to the plumbing throughout the structure.

Contractors continued to chip away at extensive renovations at the property on and off, but there were multiple delays that halted the work.

CASS CITY PROMISE

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

However, organizers are gearing up to initiate the first stage of their promise to make a difference in the educational futures of all local students.

"The 'Red Hawk Nest Egg' program of the Cass City PROMISE is on track to roll out in February 2021. Following the formal student count in mid-February, all full-time Cass City Public Schools students, grades kindergarten through twelfth, will begin a savings account to be used for post-secondary — after high school — educational endeavors; college, trade school, etc.," Janet Richards, secretary of the Cass City PROMISE Board, recently announced.

"Each savings account will be opened with a \$50 deposit from the PROMISE, with \$10 de-

posited at Thumb Bank and Trust and \$40 reserved at the Sanilac Community Foundation," Richards explained.

"In future years, the PROMISE — along with Cass City Public Schools, Thumb Bank and Trust and the Sanilac Community Foundation — will work on helping students 'grow their accounts,' set goals for the future, explore career options and develop financial skills."

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

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

PARK UPGRADES

The summer months brought smiles to frequent visitors and newcomers to Cass City Recreational Park, where a variety of improvements were completed, including construction of a new splash park, located adjacent to the community newly-refurbish pool.

Cass City Village Trustee Tom Herron spearheaded the project, which was largely funded by a Pinney Foundation grant of \$25,000 plus an anonymous donation of \$40,000.

Also at the local park, volunteers gathered over the summer to celebrate completion of a nearly two-year effort to upgrade walking trails and double the size of Cass City's disc golf course — from nine to 18 holes.

Improvements to the Cass City Woodland Trails and Cass City Rotary Disc Golf Course was spearheaded by the Cass City Rotary Club and made possible by a host of generous sponsors as well as a strong partnership involving a number of adult and student organizations, including the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy (SBLC), village of Cass City, and the Cass City Homeschoolers Envirothon teams.

In addition, a partnership involving the village, the Pinney Foundation, Cass City Gavel Club and the List Fund (through the Tuscola County Community Foundation) celebrated a successful campaign to purchase and install new playground equipment in the park.

CARO CENTER

It was a year of progress for construction of a new psychiatric hospital in Tuscola County, with the preliminary design completed and a detailed cost analysis due.

The new hospital is smaller than the one initially proposed and approved in 2017. The plan back then was to build a \$115 million, 200-bed, 225,000-square foot hospital. But just as construction was to start, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Robert Gordon halted the project and hired a consulting firm to review it.

At the time, Gordon indicated the decision to halt the project was based on indecision over need, size of the facility, municipal water service, and other issues. In the meantime, several residential buildings at the site were razed in preparation for new construction.

Following that review, state officials revised the project, opting for construction of a smaller hospital — a \$63 million, 100-bed state psychiatric facility that will replace the Caro Regional Mental Health Center outside of Caro on Chambers Road.

Crews started demolition of old buildings on the 650-acre hospital site this year, and a water franchise between Indianfields Township and the city of Caro moved forward as well.

The new hospital is on track for completion in the spring of 2023.

GREENLEAF TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting Schedule of Township Board & Planning Commission

Address: 6435 Bay City Forestville Road, Cass City, MI. 48726
Phone: 989-670-1401

The Greenleaf Township Board & Planning Commission, will meet on the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7 PM. All meetings will take place at the Greenleaf Township Hall, 6435 Bay City Forestville Road Cass City, MI 48726.

Board 2021	Planning 2021
January 21 st	February 18 th
February 11 th (Budget Hearing)	April 15 th
March 18 th	June 17 th
May 20 th	August 19 th
July 15 th	October 21 st
September 16 th	December 16 th
November 18 th	

This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, (MCL 41.72a(2)(3)) and the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The Greenleaf Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio recordings of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting or public hearing upon seven-day notice to the Greenleaf Township Board.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Board by writing or calling the following:
Clerk Judy Keller, P.O. Box 135 Cass City, MI. 48726 989-670-1401

Posted on: December 30, 2020

Township Clerk Signature: Judy Keller

A copy of this notice is on file in the Clerk's Office, located at:
6435 Bay City Forestville Road, Cass City, MI. 48726

NOTICE FOR GILFORD TOWNSHIP

DECEMBER 10, 2020 MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Virtual Meeting called to order at 7:38 P.M., followed by silent prayer for Covid -19 situation in the world. Board members present: D. Strasz, Treasurer; D. Spencer, Clerk; J. Stockmeyer, Supervisor; A. Goss, Trustee; K. Houghtaling, Trustee. Order of agenda approved.

Public Comment: Has Board given any thought to constructing a columbarium in Gilford cemetery? Any plans to paint white lines on Township roads?

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by K. Houghtaling, second by D. Strasz to approve minutes of November 12, 2020 meeting. Motion approved.

Treasurers Report: Motion by J. Stockmeyer, second by D. Spencer to approve Treasures Report. Motion approved.

REPORTS:

Supervisor: One Fire Run for Reese. Blight Ordinance tabled until in person meetings resume. Motion by J. Stockmeyer, Second by A. Goss to adopt Covid-19 Preparedness Plan, Motion carried. TC Drain Commission Board of Determination VCCM Drain will hold a zoom meeting Thursday Dec. 17 at 11 A.M. BOR will meet Monday Dec 14 at 9:00 A.M. J. Stockmeyer asked to purchase Townships lawnmower, no longer used and needs repairs. Motion by A. Goss, second by D. Strasz to grant J. Stockmeyer's request. Motion approved.

Treasurer: Winter taxes went out Nov. 30, 2020. Office will be open Dec.28 9:00 am -5:00 pm. State of Michigan finalized Chart of Accounts.

Clerk: Motion by J. Stockmeyer, second by D. Strasz to approve payment of bills. Motion approved. Oath of office was given to all Board Members on Nov.16, as of Nov. 20 they are official. R. Haines has agreed to deputy Clerk position. Big Thank You to Bob for all the time he spent preparing the clerk for her new position. Moton by D. Spencer, second by D. Strasz to appoint A. Goss to Parks and Recreation committee. Motion approved. Motion by J. Stockmeyer, second by D. Strasz, to appoint J. Dohrmann. T. Gruber, K. Houghtaling, J.Kajjala, R. Prime to Planning Commission. Motioned carried. Motioned by D. Spencer, Second by K. Houghtaling to appoint D.Janson, M. Goss, P. Budry, B. Wagner to Board of Review. Motioned approved. Oaths will be given in person. Mini audit for Gilford Township will be Jan12,2021 at 9:00 A.M. Motion by D. Strasz, second by A. Goss to re-allocate \$1622.00 from Dept. treasure budget to Dept. Clerk budget. Motion carried.

Trustees: Planning commission approved tower to control wind turbine lights. Construction to begin soon. Next PC meeting is Dec. 14 at 7:30 via Zoom. Shoulder work on M-138 will resume in Spring of 2021. Parks and Rec. will be presenting Gilford Township with a resolution for a five- year plan to adopt at January meeting. Ambulance Representative: Virtual meeting was held Nov. 19, Gilford Township had 8 medical responses, average response time is 14 minutes. Stop the bleed pouches are available free to Gilford residents.

Fire Department Representative: No report

Zoning Administrator: One zoning permit

Public Comment: None

Motion by D.Strasz, second by K. Houghtaling, to adjourn . Motion approved.

Diane K. Spencer
Gilford Township Clerk

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Legal Notices

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Tuscola County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on January 14, 2021. 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. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Grace Davis, a Single Woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Quicken Loans, LLC Date of Mortgage: September 21, 2018 Date of Mortgage Recording: September 25, 2018 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: \$82,279.18 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Village of Cass City, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 4, Block 3, Plat of Jesse Fox Addition to the Village of Cass City, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 15 of Plats, Page 277, Tuscola County Records. Commonly Known as: 6407 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemp-

tion period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act 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 Purchaser:

This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. 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 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: 12/09/2020 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diverston Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 313768 12-9-4

FORECLOSURE NOTICE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTN HOMEOWNER:

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CHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. MORTGAGE SALE— Default has been made in the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by Ronald F. Stevens, a single man, of 9698 Edward Road, Fostoria, Michigan 48435 ("Mortgagor"), to ChoiceOne Bank, a Michigan banking corporation, of 109 E. Division, Sparta, Michigan, 49345, successor by merger to Lapeer County Bank & Trust Co., a Michigan banking corporation ("Mortgagee"), dated April 24, 2007, and recorded with the Tuscola County Register of Deeds, State of Michigan, on May 4, 2007, in Instrument

No. 200700895408 (the "Mortgage"). The sum claimed to be due and owing on said Mortgage as of the date of this Notice is Twelve Thousand Eleven and 80/100 Dollars (\$12,011.80) including principal and interest. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., local time, said Mortgage will be foreclosed at a sale at public auction to the highest bidder at that place where Circuit Court is held in Tuscola County of the premises and land described in the Mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due on the Mortgage, together with interest, expenses, including the attorney fee, and also any sums which may be paid by the undersigned necessary to protect its interest. Said premises are situated in the City of Fostoria, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as: PART OF THE NE 1/4 OF SEC 34, T10N, R9E, DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE E LINE OF SEC 34 WHICH IS NO 01 DEG 06' 53" W 550.00 FT FROM THE E 1/4 CORNER OF SEC 34; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG THE E LINE OF SEC 34, N 01 DEG 06' 53" W 150.00 FT; THENCE AT

RIGHT ANGLES TO THE E LINE OF SEC 34, S 88 DEG 63' 07" W, 264.00 FT; THENCE S 01 DEG 06' 53" E 150.00 FT; THENCE N 88 DEG 53' 07" E 264.00 FT TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS OF RECORD. PPN: 79-021-034-000-0400-00 Commonly known as 9698 Edward Road, Fostoria, Michigan 48435 The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948 CL 600.3241 or 600.3241a, as the case may be, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Tuscola County, starting promptly at 10:00 a.m., on January 28, 2021. 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.

Dated: December 15, 2020
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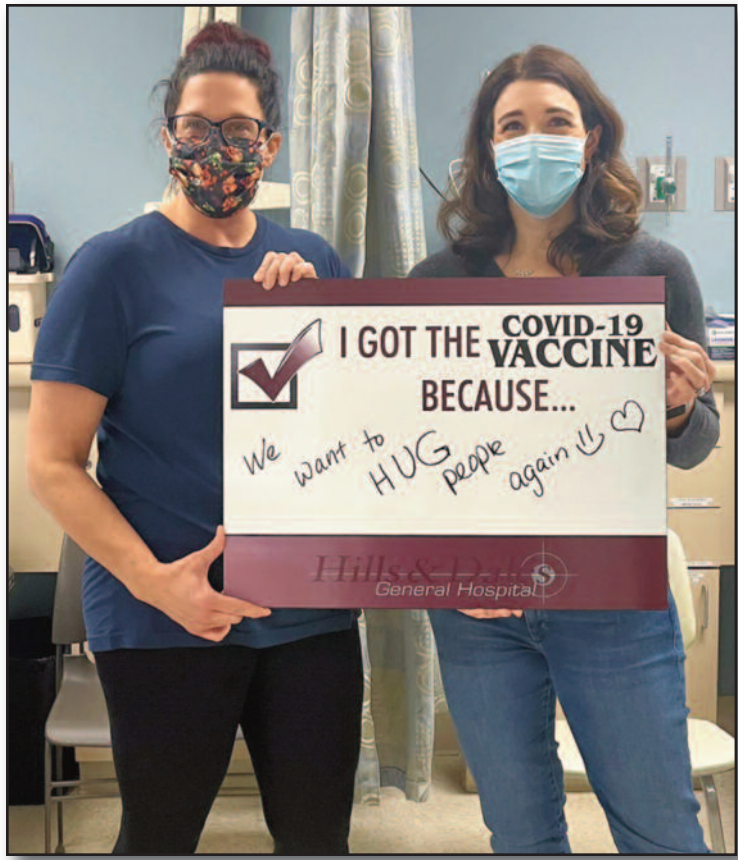
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FAMILY practice physician Dr. Melanie Kramer (right) and Megan Coyer, emergency room RN, are among the frontline medical staff at Hills and Dales to have received their COVID-19 vaccines Thursday morning.

Vaccine arrives at hospital

Continued from page one.

taking this next step in the battle against COVID-19.” MDHHS officials last week updated the prioritization guidance for COVID-19 vaccination administration for essential workers and those at high risk of severe infection.

As of last week, more than 37,000 frontline healthcare providers had been vaccinated in the state.

“Some essential workers are at higher risk of exposure or exposing others due to the nature of their work and older individuals, particularly those with underlying health conditions, are particularly vulnerable to the virus,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health.

“As new information is learned, this guidance will continue to evolve. The availability of these safe and effective vaccines means the end to the pandemic is near. Everyone should be planning now for how they will get their vaccine when it becomes available to them.”

The updated prioritization guidelines are:

*Phase 1A: Paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home as well as residents in long term care facilities.

*Phase 1B: Persons 75 years of age or older and frontline essential workers in critical infrastructure.

*Phase 1C: Individuals 16 years of age or older at high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 infection and some other essential workers whose position impacts life, safety and protection during the COVID-19 response.

*Phase 2: Individuals 16 years of age or older.

The guidelines may change as more information on vaccine effectiveness and additional vaccine products become available.

More than 231,000 doses of Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine have been delivered to local health departments and hospitals across the state, with over 120,000 additional doses expected this week.

This data is being tracked on the Michigan COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard, which also includes information on the number of providers enrolled to provide the vaccine, and doses administered. The dashboard will be expanded over the coming weeks to include vaccination coverage rates by age and race.

Even with COVID-19 vaccinations starting in Michigan and worldwide, Khaldun urges everyone to continue to practice preventative measures such as properly wearing masks, social distancing and frequent handwashing to reduce the spread of the virus until the vast majority of people have been vaccinated.

Michigan health officials have set a goal of vaccinating 70 percent of Michiganders over age 16 – roughly 5.6 million people – by the end of 2021.

There will be no out-of-pocket costs to individuals for the vaccine; however, healthcare providers may bill insurance for administrative costs. The COVID-19 vaccine will require two doses, separated by three or four weeks depending on the manufacturer. Individuals who receive the vaccine may experience mild side effects such as low-grade fever, sore arm and general discomfort, which indicate that the vaccine is working.

The latest numbers

The latest MDHHS statistics indicate the number of new confirmed Covid cases and deaths are both continuing a gradual trend of decreasing both across the state and in the Thumb.

Monday’s statewide total confirmed cases reached 480,508, with a total of 12,089 deaths – that’s an increase of about 17,105 cases and 557 more deaths compared to a week ago, when the totals were 463,403 cases and 11,532 deaths. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) officials estimate roughly 318,389 Covid patients have recovered statewide to-date.

In the Thumb, between Monday, Dec. 21, and Monday, Dec. 28, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased by 218 – from 4,741 to 4,959 – with the three counties’ combined death toll increasing by 12 to 178 fatalities.

According to the latest data (Monday afternoon), Tuscola County has now recorded 2,267 confirmed cases, an increase of 72 cases compared to a week before, and 82 deaths (an increase of five).

In Huron County, meanwhile, there are 1,308 confirmed cases (an increase of 73 from a week earlier), with 40 deaths (an increase of five), and Sanilac County has a total of 1,384 confirmed cases, up from 1,311 cases a week earlier, and 56 deaths (an increase of two).

The latest statistics available in the Chronicle’s coverage area (as of Thursday) revealed 267 confirmed cases, up from 253 cases a week earlier, in the Cass City zip code. State officials are reporting 187 recoveries in this area.

The only county zip codes reporting higher numbers of cases are Caro (542 – an increase of 30 cases over the previous week, with 359 recoveries), Vassar (368 cases – an increase of 21 cases, with 260 recoveries), and Millington (279, an increase of 15 cases, with 200 recoveries).

Over the same week-long period, there was an increase of two active cases (for a total of 117) in the Unionville zip code, where there have been 98 recoveries; Deford has 54 (an increase of three cases) and 38 recoveries; Gagetown, 16 cases (an increase of three) and nine recoveries; Kingston has 74 cases (up from 70) and 60 recoveries; Uby has 71 cases (an increase of 14) and 29 recoveries; and Owendale, 35 cases (an increase of five) and 13 recoveries.

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