

Meet the latest
"students of month"

Page 2

Barb Ball creates
unique Santa art

Page 6

O-G School chief
gets top marks

Page 4

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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THUMB RESIDENTS whose holiday traditions include driving a few miles east of Cass City to take in the annual Nicol's Christmas Light Extravaganza have nothing to fear from the COVID-19 grinch. Joel and Jaime Nicol unveiled this year's display Friday night at their Germania Road residence.

Nicol's light extravaganza welcoming crowds

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Thumb residents whose holiday traditions include driving out to Joel and Jaime Nicol's place in western Sanilac County to take in an amazing spectacle of Christmas lights and music have nothing to fear from the COVID-19 grinch.

In fact, this year's Nicol's Christmas Light Extravaganza display is already up and running, and the Nicols will be welcoming visitors throughout the remainder of December, from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. each night.

The display is located four miles east of M-53 on Cass City Road (M-81) and a half-mile south on Germania Road.

"We are expecting larger than normal crowds this year because of Covid. There's just nothing else to do, and people need some normalcy and positivity in this cultural climate," Jaime Nicol com-

mented last week.

"All we ask is that people are patient and kind to one another out here," she added. "People need to slow down because of other cars. If you aren't patient, this display is not for you."

As has been true in the past, members of the Nicol family will be on hand to welcome residents anxious to get a look at this year's light extravaganza.

Jamie Nicol says Covid hasn't changed those plans. "We will be out greeting visitors. It is outside and there's plenty of room," she noted.

The Christmas display, which these days incorporates some 150,000 lights, is a tradition that was started by Joel's parents, John and Gayle Nicol, at their nearby residence on Robinson Road.

"John and Gayle started it 39 years ago," said Jaime Nicol, who noted Gayle had a lifelong interest in holiday decorating, having

Please turn to page 12.

Covid rules in place for 12 more days across state

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

COVID-19 continues to hammer rural counties across Michigan, including the Thumb, where health department officials say positivity test rates for the virus remain a serious concern.

With Michigan reporting some 6,000 new cases and nearly 100 deaths a day, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer Monday announced a 12-day extension — through Sunday, Dec. 20 — of restrictions on indoor social gatherings and other group activities.

Those temporary restrictions, first authorized by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) in mid-November, include:

*Suspension of all in-person high school and college classes.

*Movie theaters, bowling centers, ice rinks, bingo halls and casinos must remain closed.

*Restaurants are prohibited from offering dine-in service, but may continue drive-through and carry-out service.

*Group fitness classes and non-professional organized sports are prohibited.

Everyone who can work from home is also asked to continue doing so.

The restrictions allow schools to offer in-person instruction for younger children, through grade eight, providing they wear masks. Cass City School Supt. Jeff Hartel said the local district will offer in-person classes for youngsters in those grades (including children in the Great Start Readiness Program) starting today (Wednesday). All other students will continue to be offered virtual instruction for the remainder of the calendar year.

While parents may send younger children to school this week, Har-

Please turn to page 10.

Commissioners discuss options

Complaints target building codes

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

A variety of complaints lodged against the company the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners

hired to handle the county's building codes duties nearly two decades ago has prompted commissioners to explore other options for providing the service. SCMCCI (South Central Michi-

gan Construction Code Inspections), Athens, was hired about 19 years ago when county officials decided to privatize the building codes office due to the expense of the county operating its own department.

However, in the years since, commissioners have voiced some concerns, including having to repeatedly ask for a report on the department's activities, and residents started coming to them with complaints that SCMCCI wasn't addressing their needs or issues.

One of the issues brought to the commissioners involved property flooding in the village of Reese, with two residents stating they couldn't get the company to address issues they were facing.

In the fall of 2019, Marilyn Holt and Nancy Erdody sought commissioners' help regarding flooding on their property after the Reese School District razed its middle school. They had experienced flooding for two years after that.

Their properties abut the former school site on Center Street, and they contend the water runoff from the site was the cause of flooding on their property. They sought relief for the issue from SCMCCI, the school board, the village and the township, all with-

Please turn to page 4.

Huron Co. man faces 13th charge of OWI Thursday

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A Huron County motorist faces multiple charges — including his 13th operating while intoxicated (OWI) offense — after allegedly resisting troopers from the Michigan State Police post in Caro following a traffic stop Thursday night in Tuscola County's Akron Township.

The incident unfolded at about 9:20 p.m. when troopers were dispatched to the area of Liken and Berger roads to investigate a reported vehicle in a ditch, according to Specialist Lt. Liz Rich, public information officer for the MSP Third District.

"Troopers discovered the vehicle was not occupied and their preliminary investigation led them to the residence of the vehicle owner, 53-year-old Robert Elias of Sebewaung," Rich said. "Elias was arrested for OWI and taken into custody.

"Elias became combative while being transported to the jail, breaking out the windshield of the patrol vehicle and assaulting the trooper while kicking the windshield and steering wheel. The trooper was not injured," she added.

Elias was lodged at the Tuscola County jail and formally arraigned Friday on charges of resisting or obstructing a police officer, OWI (habitual offender), felonious assault on a law enforcement officer, and malicious destruction of police property.



THE DAZZLERS rocketry team's achievements include a second-place finish in the Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) National Finals about four years ago. This year's team is pictured with the nine-foot rocket they planned to enter in the Battle of the Rockets, which was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, competition officials subsequently ranked the participants based on their design documents, presentations and other factors, and the team from Deford came in second place in the nation out of roughly 60 teams. (See story, page 9)

Cass City Schools announce Dec. Students of the Month



Kindergarten Student of the Month is Lucian Scott
Lucian is the son of Ian Scott & Nicole Carlisle

Nominated by: Mrs. Stoutenburg
Characteristics he displays: Lucian displays all the SOAR traits. He is a dedicated worker, always striving to do his best. Lucian is honest and ready to help whenever needed. He always has something interesting to add to a class discussion. Lucian is a great addition to our Kindergarten class.
Some of his favorite things: Playing sports, especially wrestling, playing with his dog, Lucy, going fishing and eating hotdogs and pizza.



First Grade Student of the Month is Kimberly Michael
Kimberly is the daughter of Kirk Michael II & Amanda Ertman

Nominated by: Mrs. Scheffka
Characteristics she displays: While working from home, Kimberly is making the effort to attend Google Meets and complete her assignments. In addition, she is a good friend to others. I am proud of your hard work Kimberly!
Some of her favorite things: Hanging out with friends & going to the waterpark



Second Grade Student of the Month is Ella Ligrow
Ella is the daughter of Johnathon & Laura Ligrow

Nominated by: Mrs. Sweeney
Characteristics she displays: Ella is a kind person to everyone! She is a hard worker, and a big helper. She is very polite, and always has a good attitude.
Some of her favorite things: Family & friends, her dog, Rocky, school, singing, acting & fashion



Third Grade Student of the Month is Allyson Lockard
Allyson is the daughter of Jill & Andrew Lockard

Nominated by: Mrs. Stec
Characteristics she displays: Allyson is a very kind and thoughtful student. She is always looking out for others. I have often heard her encouraging other students when they have needed it. Allyson gets along well with her classmates. In class, she is very respectful and follows the school rules.
Some of her favorite things: Her dog, Moxie and her cats, Libby and Kitty, playing on her iPad, her favorite place to go is Meijer, her favorite food is cheeseburgers



Fourth Grade Student of the Month is Brinley Weippert
Brinley is the daughter of Alecia Little and Jason Weippert

Nominated by: 4th Grade Teachers
Characteristics she displays: Brinley is an awesome young lady who has shown some great improvement since the beginning of the year. She is much more comfortable in class discussions and is willing to ask for help when she is not understanding something. We have seen how hard she works to do her best, is doing a great job at getting her work done on time and is very neat. Brinley is also a very kind and considerate young lady. We are so very proud of you Brinley and know that you have a bright future ahead of you! Congratulations!
Some of her favorite things: Playing with her cousins and friends, swimming in the pool, learning at school and playing with her dogs



Fifth Grade Student of the Month is Evan Arthur
Evan is the son of Brandy Rabideau & Michael Arthur

Nominated by: 5th Grade Teachers
Characteristics he displays: Evan regularly displays the characteristics of SOAR. He is a polite student who always has a smile on his face. Evan puts forth a lot of effort in all that he does. He always follows the classroom rules, is considerate of others and gets along well with everyone. Evan sets a good example behaviorally for his peers. We enjoy having Evan in our classes, especially when he shares his dance moves with us.
Some of his favorite things: Playing video games, riding bikes, watching the Detroit Pistons, Dr. Pepper & hot wings



Sixth Grade Student of the Month is Kayla Stout
Kayla is the daughter of Ryan Stout.

Nominated by: 6th Grade Teachers
Characteristics she displays: Kayla is a pleasure to have in class. She is always willing to share stories and adventures from her life. If something needs to be done in the classroom, Kayla is always one of the first to volunteer. She is diligent in her work and takes pride in her accomplishments. Kayla enjoys sketching her favorite animal which is a wolf. She also enjoys writing.
Some of her favorite things: Sketching her favorite animal, the wolf, going for walks in the woods, swimming, roller skating and writing

Follow your favorite Red Hawks in the Cass City Chronicle Subscriptions as low as \$25.10/yr Call 872-2010



9th Grade Student of the Month is Trysten Gruber

Trysten goes out of his way to help others on a daily basis. He is thoughtful and caring to everyone around him. Trysten displays the quality of integrity through his actions of helping peers while being an outstanding academic student!
Tessa Campbell LMSW SSW, School Social Worker

Trysten is compassionate and kind; he has been there for others who need a friend and is dependable and reliable. Congratulations Trysten keep up the good work!
Heather Middleton, Cass City Jr/Sr High Agriscience Instructor

Trysten is very conscientious and takes time to get his work done well. He is friendly and courteous, and is a pleasure to have in class.
Garrett Gordon, Algebra

Trysten is an outstanding student in US History. He is always willing to participate in class discussion and willing to help other students around him so they can succeed also. Day in day out he comes to class with a positive attitude that is contagious in class.
Jeremy Buxman, US History



SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

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

		8						
			3	7		5		
	2				9		3	
				9		6	2	
2		4				8		1
6	5			7				
4		9					1	
	1		5	8				
						2		

Here's How It Works:

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

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In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

It's Christmas Tree Month in Michigan

It's Christmas Tree Month in Michigan, and state officials are recognizing the economic, environmental and social benefits of the Christmas tree industry.

"Real Michigan Christmas trees are an important tradition for many families, whether you visit a Christmas tree farm or a retail tree lot," said Gary McDowell, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development director.

"You not only get a fresh, fragrant, beautiful tree as the centerpiece of your holiday decorations, but at many locations you also get the experience of a variety of activities like hayrides or sleigh rides, petting farms, visits with Santa and more."

Michigan's integrated network of family farmers, processors, wholesalers, and retailers work together to ensure a quality product celebrated by millions throughout the state and country.

It's an industry that, like many others, has been challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in implementation of safety measures to keep patrons safe while still giving them a fresh, fragrant Michigan Christmas tree to adorn their holidays.

Michigan ranks third in the nation for the number of Christmas trees harvested, supplying about two million fresh trees – with an annual net value of \$30 to \$40 million – to the national market each year. There are more than 560 Christmas tree farms on a combined 37,000 acres in Michigan, ranging from large wholesale farms, to choose and cut farms, to small farms with a few acres selling pre-cut trees.

"Michigan Christmas tree growers and sellers are taking precautions this season due to the coronavirus pandemic, to make sure visitors stay safe and healthy," said Amy Start, executive director of the Michigan Christmas Tree Association.

"Key safety measures have been implemented to assure the well-being of their customers and employees. Visitors can help our agriculture community by following on-farm safety protocols, wearing masks, social distancing, washing their hands often, and staying home if they are not feeling well."

Michigan grows and sells more than nine major Christmas tree species on a wholesale level, which is more species than any other state.

The most popular types of Christmas trees available in Michigan include: Scotch Pine, White Pine, Blue Spruce, Black Hills Spruce, Balsam Fir, Concolor Fir, Douglas Fir and Fraser Fir. In addition to Christmas trees, the industry makes an additional \$4.1 million in the sales of wreaths, cut boughs, garland and other related items.

Real Christmas trees are also a great environmental choice. They grow on rocky soil typically unsuitable for other crops. They provide extra woodland for animals, create oxygen, and take carbon dioxide out of the air, helping combat global warming. Christmas trees can also be recycled.

For every Christmas tree harvested, Michigan growers plant three new trees for future harvests.

"The Friday right after Thanksgiving is the unofficial start of Michigan's Christmas tree season and most farms are open through Christmas Eve," said McDowell. "I invite you to celebrate the season and to make a fresh, fragrant, farm-grown Michigan Christmas tree part of your holiday traditions."

Visit www.MichiganFarmFun.com for a directory of Michigan Christmas tree farms.

Drier Humor

by Mary Drier

Things to be thankful for



"Be careful what you wish for" has been my mantra ever since I read the short story, "The Monkey's Paw." That story by W. W. Jacobs has haunted me since my childhood. The story is about a family that was content with their lives until a visitor tells them about the power of the monkey's paw. He said the paw could give its owner three wishes, but you had to be very careful what was wished for.

Of course, the family was intrigued. The father wished for \$200. The next day the family received \$200 as compensation for their son being killed in an accident at work.

Because the mother was overcome with grief, she wished on the paw for her son to return. However, it wasn't really the son she had known who returned. So, the paw was used again to wish the monstrosity away. There were many times in my life that I wished things were different. Then, I would remember the Monkey's Paw and still my thoughts.

However, I have often written columns complaining about how Thanksgiving is overshadowed by Christmas' commercialism. So, because of the Monkey's Paw, I can't help but wonder if I had a small part in what has happened.

Halloween and Thanksgiving are my two favorite holidays. Halloween because you can dress up to be anything you want to be. And, Thanksgiving is a simple holiday to be grateful for what you have.

Thanksgiving is a quiet, unassuming holiday to enjoy family, friends, food, and to be thankful. The only commercialism tied to it is buying turkeys and all of the trimmings.

I have riled against store sales on Thanksgiving Day because it should be spent with family, and/or friends. And, of course, being thankful.

I feel even those without family or friends to spend the day with should just relax enjoy the day and be thankful for what they have — even if it isn't a lot.

This is the first Thanksgiving I can remember without mega sales going on to lure shoppers away from spending time with family and/or friends. Not shopping on that holiday has been my stance so workers could also spend time with their families. It is a shame it took an epic pandemic to do that.

I know it was difficult, but I applaud those who stayed home to stay safe and keep others safe.

Letters to the Editor

Dec. 7, 1941, should be a national holiday

Editor,

I write this letter to carry on an annual tradition that U.S. Navy (retired) Chief Dagmar Brown went every year to the editor to note the importance of Dec. 7, 1941, and that it should be a national holiday.

As long as I can remember, she penned the letter to the editor every year, as religiously as she walked the Mackinac Bridge every Labor Day. Because it is not yet established as a national holiday, it was business as usual.

It was Dec. 7, 1941, that brought the United States into World War II. Dec. 7 should be a national holiday

Please turn to page 10.

Don't just survive -- thrive during the holiday season

The holiday season can bring out a wide range of emotions – the good, bad and the ugly.

You may feel overwhelmed planning gatherings, stressed about time management, or feel exhausted thinking about everything on your calendar. To top it all off, add COVID-19 into the mix.

The tough challenges you may be dealing with during the holidays may seem never ending, but there are still many things to celebrate this holiday season.

The Thumb Community Health Partnership wants you to celebrate so you don't just survive the holidays, but thrive this season.

Mental Health America (MHA), a national effort to promote overall mental health, suggests a few holiday-

Please turn to page 10.

Even during this trying time, there are things to be thankful for. Be thankful for shelter, be thankful for being warm, for having some food, be thankful for health, and be thankful for being alive.

As of early last week, there was no Thanksgiving for more than 9,100 people in Michigan because of the virus.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

The Cass City High School Peer Mentors in collaboration with the Tuscola County Prevention and Recovery Coalition are promoting a Red Ribbon Campaign for safe and sober driving through the holidays.

Each year, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) launches the campaign to raise awareness about the risks and consequences of impaired driving. The Red Ribbon Campaign has been a symbol of driving sober during the holiday season for over three decades. The campaign will highlight the motto, "Tie One on For Safety" to reference the red ribbons that symbolize the need for safe and sober driving. The Cass City High School Peer Mentors will share this message into the holidays due to the months of celebration.

As part of the campaign, red ribbons will be placed all over the community, including cars, and public locations. Our red ribbon is a small but powerful symbol of the wearer's commitment to sober driving, and helps keep the sober driving message top of mind for all who see it.

* Never drive impaired or ride with an impaired driver.

* Plan ahead if you're going to be drinking or consuming cannabis or other drugs. Call a Uber or a cab, arrange a designated driver, take public transit or stay the night.

* Call 911 if you see a driver you suspect is impaired. For information on the signs of an impaired driver and what to do, visit our Campaign 911 page.

* Tie it! Put the ribbon on your car, your purse or briefcase, your bike or your backpack to show your commitment to sober driving.

* Wear it! Show your support by picking a day to wear RED in honor of Project Red Ribbon.

Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent commented, "You can't give back someone's life after you take it from killing them in a crash. A small amount of alcohol can affect your driving ability. The price you pay for taking that chance is great."

Contact Amy Cuthrell with any questions at Acuthrell6@gmail.com or (989) 670-8238.

This from our DNR:

Whether you're at home or visiting a nearby natural area, wintertime provides plenty of opportunities to observe birds across Michigan. Our open lakes and rivers have turned into a cornucopia of waterfowl and water bird activity. Northern finches, sparrows and owls are descending upon forests and suburbs, and woodlands and grasslands provide winter cover and seeds for birds like the dark-eyed junco, white-throated sparrow and American tree sparrow.

You can contribute to community science, too, by joining a bird count this winter. With bird populations in decline since the 1960s, it is increasingly important that scientists and land managers understand all aspects of a bird's life cycle. Winter bird counts help scientists track bird movements, assess bird population health and guide meaningful conservation action. There are a few ways to get involved in a winter bird count near you:

Participate in Audubon's Christmas Bird Count
The CBC is the longest running community science bird census in North America. For more than a century, birders and volunteers have braved snow, wind and occasional rain to take part in this early-winter bird census. Join a local count, which will take place over a 24-hour period between Dec. 14 and Jan. 5. Explore the interactive CBC map to join a Christmas Bird Count near you!

Keep in mind that the COVID-19 pandemic will affect CBC participation. Pending local restrictions, many counts will be done under the COVID-19 guidelines sent to compilers, while others likely could be canceled. See the map for current information.

Join a Winter FeederWatch Count

If you have a bird feeder visible from a window at your home or office, you're ready to participate in a winter feeder survey, taking place now through April 2021. Monitor your bird feeder as often as you'd like. Participation is easy, and all age levels and birding skills are welcome.

* Register to volunteer for the Michigan Winter Feeder Watch with Kalamazoo Nature Center.

* Register to participate in Cornell's Project FeederWatch. Please note there is an annual participation fee of \$15 for members or \$18 for nonmembers.

MI Birds is a public outreach program presented by Audubon Great Lakes and the DNR, aimed at increasing all Michiganders' engagement in the understanding, care and stewardship of the public lands that are important for birds and local communities. Follow along on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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(USPS 092-00)

O-G School chief gets top marks

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Under Michigan's Department of Education regulations, students are not the only ones who have to



Terri Falkenberg

worry about getting a good grade. The state also requires teachers and administrators to be evaluated and graded. The law requires each school's board of education and each intermediate school district's board of education to conduct an annual evaluation of administrators' job performance.

The Owen-Gage Board of Education recently met that rule by evaluating school Supt. Terri Falkenberg.

Board members went into closed session and, after 55 minutes of discussion, returned to open session and announced they have determined Falkenberg to be "highly effective" in her performance as the district's superintendent.

Highly effective is the highest grade possible.

Falkenberg, who was hired as a teacher in 1999, was named principal in 2010. She became superintendent in 2015.

The evaluation process takes in several factors and complicated regulations. After reviewing an administrator's performance, a school board assigns the administrator with a rating of: highly effective, effective, minimally effective or ineffective.

Hospital fills local patient services post

Hills and Dales General Hospital officials recently introduced the Cass City hospital's new vice president of patient services, Christie Bishop.

"Christie joins Hills and Dales after most recently serving as the director of Patient Care Services at McLaren Bay Region," said Danielle Blaine, marketing director at Hills and Dales. "She oversaw the ER, CCU, cardiology and nursing areas while in this role."



Christie Bishop

working in a critical access hospital setting."

As vice president of patient services, Bishop will oversee the ER, operating rooms and med/surg units at Hills and Dales, as well as the quality department and nutrition services, according to Hills and Dales President and CEO Jean Anthony.

"Christie has excellent management experience and was a great candidate to fill this role for us," she said.

The current vice president of patient services, Jennifer TerBush, will be retiring mid-December.

"Jennifer came to Hills and Dales as the director of nursing in October of 2011 from Covenant's management team," Blaine noted. "Not many years later, in 2014, Jennifer was promoted to VP of patient services. In this role, she led the charge of many new things; she was involved in EPIC implementation, the swing bed program development, and was crucial in the 2017 renovation project."

In the coming days, Bishop will be training with TerBush to learn about the local hospital, Anthony said. "We wish Jennifer all the best in her retirement and look forward to this transition in our vice president role," she added.



Early Christmas gift...

TUSCOLA COUNTY Undersheriff Robert Baxter (pictured above, right) recently accepted a check from John Hunter, executive director of the Tuscola County Community Foundation. The William A. and Ruth Janks Fund, one of many funds overseen by the foundation, awarded the sheriff's office a grant totaling \$4,607 to pay for two ballistic shields that the officers will have available while on patrol. When the chance of gun fire and heavily armed resistance is possible, policemen turn to bulletproof ballistic shields, Baxter explained. He noted the shields, which are hand-held and weigh 15 to 20 pounds, protect against weapon projectiles and items that may be thrown towards or at officers. (Photo courtesy of the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department).

Complaints target building codes

Continued from page one.

out redress.

That is when they took the issue to county officials.

During a recent meeting, Commissioner Kim Vaughan read a letter to the board from a man who alleged wrongdoing by building codes personnel. However, after further study, it was determined the allegations were not exactly as presented. So, nothing further was done.

But commissioners have been receiving an increasing number of complaints from residents, contractors and local governments regarding SCMCCI, and when commissioners pushed for more information, it wasn't immediately forthcoming.

During a virtual commissioners meeting, it was explained part of the reason for the issues is the recent retirement of two key employees at the SCMCCI office in Caro, along with waiting for two other inspectors to get licensed, and some difficulty with managing an office so far from the main office.

In response, commissioners asked county Controller-Administrator Clayette Zechmeister to draft a request for quotes for building codes services to be presented at the board's Jan. 25 meeting.

The only cost benefit to the county is from the rent SCMCCI pays to house their operations in part of a county-owned building, Commissioner Dan Grimshaw pointed out several times.

"If it isn't viable and there is no cost benefit to use or for the people, then we may have to do something different," he said.

It was also noted the agency's rent has been reduced a couple of times due to reduced income.

"We need to get out of the building codes business altogether. Let the townships contract for that service themselves," Grimshaw said, noting some townships do that now. "Tuscola and Arbelia townships have done that for several years."

However, Commissioner Kim Vaughan felt the townships in the district wouldn't want the burden of dealing with building code issues, and he's in favor of the county going back to operating building codes again and to also get bids for services.

Grimshaw explained Vassar City and Vassar Township are each looking at pulling out of SCMCCI.

Although commissioners approved exploring other avenues for building code services, that doesn't necessarily mean they will end the county's contract with SCMCCI.

"We are exploring our options," board Chairman Thom Bardwell said.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Budget Hearing will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. for all interested citizens of the Village of Cass City, via a ZOOM on-line meeting.

PROPOSED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 2021

REVENUES:	
General Fund	1,532,919
Major Street Fund	443,331
Local Street Fund	638,557
Economic Development Fund	300
Downtown Development Fund	31,408
Seeger Street Project/USDA/RD	767,800
Water Recreation Fund	600
Wastewater Treatment Fund	739,060
Water Fund	687,735
Motor Vehicle/Equipment Fund	517,985
Operating Revenues	5,359,695
EXPENDITURES:	
General Fund	1,532,592
Major Street Fund	443,331
Local Street Fund	638,557
Economic Development Fund	300
Downtown Development Fund	31,408
Seeger Street Project/USDA/RD	767,800
Water Recreation Fund	600
Wastewater Treatment Fund	725,704
Water Fund	670,794
Motor Vehicle/Equipment Fund	517,941
Operating Expenses	5,329,027

The Property Tax Millage rate to support the proposed budget was introduced on November 30, 2020 as follows:

	Mills
Village General Operating	12.4625
Streets	4.9162
PA Act 298 – Landfill Maintenance	0.0800
PA Act 359 – Promotion	0.6800
Total Village Millage:	18.1387

The proposed budget may be examined on weekdays at the Municipal Building, 6506 Main Street, Cass City, Michigan from 9:00 am -1200 pm and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written and oral comment.

To Join the Zoom Meeting, go to:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3794878169?pwd=TjJuenVycG9KNHVkZktqanE0ZzU0UT09>

Meeting ID: 379 487 8169 Passcode: 157342

Or by phone by dialing: One tap mobile
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Clerk/Treasurer

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Reporter's notebook

Elected leaders' silence deafening

by Tom Montgomery
Editor



Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel recently joined attorneys general representing 43 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories in urging Congress to extend the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economy (CARES) Act funding beyond the deadline of Dec. 30.

It's a shame that request had to be made.

Over the past few weeks, the number of cases of COVID-19 has skyrocketed across Michigan and the nation, hospital Covid units are nearing or exceeding their capacities, and the economic toll on communities small and large continues to mount again.

In Washington, D.C., our elected leadership has been silent on the pandemic for weeks, deadlocked on how much money should go into the next relief package and, apparently, focusing instead on the results of a general election that unseated an incumbent Republican president who insists the election was rigged.

I don't doubt there are legitimate issues to consider after the 2020 vote about the security of mail-in ballots and the process of counting votes, but the search for evidence of widespread voter fraud has fallen flat.

President Donald Trump's own (now former) director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Chris Krebs, called the Nov. 3 election the most secure in American history, and his attorney general has said, on the record, there is no evidence of widespread fraud.

And courts across the nation, including three in Michigan, have now tossed out more than 30 legal challenges related to the election, most of them filed by legal teams representing the president and/or the Republic Party.

In each case, the judges have repeated similar messages: calling an election rigged, without evidence, doesn't make it so.

But I digress.

Congress, meanwhile, remains focused on Senate run-off elections in Georgia next month that will determine which party will have the upper hand.

That has left state and local leaders pleading for additional financial resources at the federal level as they place new or extend restrictions on some businesses across the country in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 – restrictions that are costing local economies dearly.

Congress initially passed the CARES Act last March, providing more than \$2 trillion in economic stimulus to state and local governments in an effort to combat the impacts of the pandemic. One of the restrictions placed on the funding, however, limited the money's use to expenses incurred between March 1 and Dec. 30, 2020.

"Given the current status of the pandemic, that assistance will be needed well into the new year," the attorneys general point out in their recent letter to congressional leaders.

"As the pandemic continues to set record infections, states and local communities will continue to incur COVID-related expenses next year. By extending the deadline, communities nationwide will be able to be more strategic with the use of CARES Act funds."

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's repeated requests for federal help have been ignored, prompting her to send a letter to the state's legislative leaders, asking for a \$100 million state-based stimulus package.

State lawmakers, many of whom appear to have put more time and effort into fighting the governor's pandemic-related executive orders than coming up with their own comprehensive plan to address COVID-19, were scheduled to return to Lansing from their vacation early last week.

Here's to hoping they – and their peers in Washington – will take a vacation from politics and conspiracy theories and get down to the business of fulfilling their obligations to the people who elected them.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2015)

The Knights of Columbus Council 8892 has awarded college scholarships to two recent Cass City High School graduates. Chris Pawloski, the area Knights' scholarship chairman, presents the awards to Erin Zdrojewski, attending Central Michigan University, and Chandler Pawlowski, attending Saginaw Valley State University.

Local spelling bee winners in grades five and six were: Vaughn Severance, first place; Alexandria Tilt, second place; Lukas Sheridan, third place; Olivia Graff, fourth place; and Quentin Rick, fifth place. Each of them received a McDonald's gift card and Cass Theatre pass.

10 YEARS AGO (2010)

Sanilac County Victim Services Unit member Karen Baranowski was recently honored with the Michigan Sheriff's Association 2010 Victim Advocate of the Year Award. Allegan County Sheriff Blaine Koops, who serves as the Victim Services Committee chairman, presented the award during the Michigan Sheriff's Association Fall Training Conference. "Karen has been a faithful advocate to the citizens of Sanilac County, being utilized on numerous call-outs since joining the Victim Services Unit since it was formed in 1997," said Sanilac County Sheriff Garry Biniecki.

Taylor Wells was among 15 Tuscola County youth who competed in the 2010 Michigan State Horse Show. Wells, a Caro area resident, was named Grand Champion in Gymkhana Showmanship.

25 YEARS AGO (1995)

ITT Engineering and Drafting Institute in Troy announces the acceptance of Brian C. Seeley into the National Vocational Technical Honor Society. Induction ceremonies were held Tuesday, Dec. 12. Seeley is seeking a career in the mechanical Computer Aided Drafting field and will graduate in March 1996. In addition to full time college, he also works part time with United Parcel Service in Madison Heights. He is the son of Roberta Seeley and the late Charles (Buzz) Seeley. He graduated from Cass City High School in 1994.

Terry L. Cleeton, son of Roger and Janice Cleeton of Snover, has been named to the dean's list for fall term at Northwood University, Midland. To achieve dean's list recognition, students must earn a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

35 YEARS AGO (1985)

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Lowe of Cass City are parents of twin sons, born in Huron Memorial Hospital, Bad Axe. Kevin James weighed five pounds and 14 ounces and Kyle Robert weighed seven pounds and four ounces. They join a sister, Kari, 2. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Butler of Cass City and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lowe of Snover.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Merchant left Nov. 23 for Florida where they flew to watch Brewster Shaw's space flight. They spent Thanksgiving with their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Miracle at Merritt Island and visited Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Law at Sarasota. They returned to Cass City Dec. 3.

Rev. Joe Robertson officiated at the baptism Sunday in Trinity UM Church of Jessica, daughter of Bob and Bonnie Kozan, on her first birthday. Also baptized was Tina Ballard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Skripy. Steve and Tollie Skripy were sponsors for Jessica. A dinner at the church followed for the families, Rev. Robertson and family, Mrs. Elizabeth Skripy of Deford, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Walrod of Gagetown, Mr. and Mrs. Randy Kozan and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kozan.

The Cass City Red Hawks rolled past North Branch, 62-45, Friday

and explained that about 40 new uniforms are needed. It was announced that the Christmas concert will be held Dec. 16 when the Junior and Senior bands and the choir will perform. Following the business session, the sixth grade band played. It was the final meeting conducted by retiring president, Mrs. Lenore Field.

40 YEARS AGO (1980)

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ball entertained relatives at dinner Sunday following the baptism of their children in Salem UM Church and also to celebrate the sixth birthday of their son Donald. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Roger Parker and children of Caro, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Ball and children of Reese, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hunt and children and Mrs. Grant Ball.

Rev. Eldred Kelley officiated at the baptism of four children during the worship service in Salem UM Church Sunday. They were Matthew Louis Wright, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Wright of Bay City, Adam Joseph Lalko, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Lalko and Donald and Douglas Ball, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ball.

Matthew Louis Wright, son of Bradley and Pain Wright of Bay City, was baptized by Rev. Eldred Kelley at Salem United Methodist Church Sunday, Dec. 7. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Verduyn of Bay City and Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Wright are the grandparents of Matthew.

The top salesmen in the Cass City Intermediate School popcorn and salt and pepper shaker sale were Barry Brown, \$157; Mark Gracey, \$119, and Deb McIntosh, \$115. A total of \$2,300-2,500 was raised, with proceeds being used by the student council for various projects, including a new gym scoreboard, already installed. Top salesmen received cash prizes.

C. Edward Fox has been promoted from lieutenant colonel to colonel in the U.S. Air Force. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Fox of Cass City. Fox has been in the Air Force almost 22 years and is assigned to the Tactical Air Command at Luke Air Force Base, outside Phoenix, Ariz. He and his wife Greta have two children, Lisa and Julie.

50 YEARS AGO (1970)

The most unusual deer shot in the Cass City area this season was downed by Mrs. Gerald Curtis of Deford. It was a Spikehorn doe. The doe horns were in the velvet stage and the kill was confirmed by the Department of Natural Resources. Posing with the animal are Gerald Curtis and Donovan.

In the Thumb of Michigan the creamery business has been steadily declining in most communities as companies turned to more economical production areas for products. In Cass City the giant Nestles plant closed, later to be followed by Freiburger Creamery. A year or so ago Nestles slashed operations at its plant in Uby. Spokesmen cited regulations, red tape or cost of milk as reasons for quitting business here. A bright exception to the rule in Cass City is Wesley Milk Company, now a division of giant Borman Foods, Inc. For quietly, without fanfare, Wesley's has been steadily expanding in Cass City.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Roger Root, Nov. 25 in Huron Memorial Hospital at Bad Axe, a seven-pound, four and a half ounce son, Roger Charles. He joins a four-year-old sister, Barbara, at home. Mrs. Root and baby returned to their home Saturday from the hospital.

Tuscola County Farm Bureau President David C. Loomis of Cass City called his first county Farm Bureau Board meeting to order recently, taking the gavel from Gerald Hicks of Deford.

Mrs. Lila Arroyo was named to head the Cass City Band Boosters for 1970-71 in a meeting held Monday, Nov. 23, at Cass City High School. She will be assisted by Mrs. Iris Tuckey, vice-president; Mrs. Janet LaPeer, secretary, and Mrs. Violet Wills, treasurer. Band Director James Kot told of the progress of the school's band

and explained that about 40 new uniforms are needed. It was announced that the Christmas concert will be held Dec. 16 when the Junior and Senior bands and the choir will perform. Following the business session, the sixth grade band played. It was the final meeting conducted by retiring president, Mrs. Lenore Field.

75 YEARS AGO (1945)

Lt. Wm. J. Toner has retired from the Detroit Fire department after a 25-year service. He entered the department in December, 1920, and has served under a number of well known fire chiefs. He has seen the city and its fire department double in the last quarter century. At the time he retired he was stationed with Engine 55 at Joy Rd. and Ashton Ave. He has been on furlough the past month. The Toner family live on R. R. No. 3, Cass City. Mr. Toner was born on a farm near Kinde and is the son of the late Charles and Emma Humphrey Toner. He married Edith McCleary in Detroit. They have nine children living and one dead. A daughter was born Nov. 17.

The Cass City High School football team elected Bob Foy as captain and Wilbur Silvernail as most valuable player for the 1945 season.

Harold R. Crane, S 1/c, and Mrs. Crane have received the honorable discharge papers for "Ginger," the dog with which Harold has patrolled the coast at Patuxent River, Maryland, for the past two years. The dog arrived here last week and is making his home at the James Crane farm until his master receives big discharge. Harold is now at Curtis Bay, Maryland, where Mrs. Crane also joined him last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Tesho welcomed a little son into their family when Garry Thomas arrived Dec. 5. Mother and baby are in the Morris hospital and expect to go to their home during the weekend.

The annual Christmas party of the Gagetown Grange was held on Tuesday evening of last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Clara. Mrs. Mose Karr, the lecturer of the Grange, presented a program of songs and readings. The songs, "The Christ Child" and "Away in the Manger" was given by the grandchildren of the members. An exchange of gifts was supervised by Santa. At the close a two-course potluck supper was served. Mr. and Mrs. Basil Quick of Aimer Grange were guests. The January meeting of the Grange will be held January 2 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Doerr.

100 YEARS AGO (1920)

Under a new law, people using sleighs must see that they "track" the same as wheeled vehicles. The law goes in effect January 1st, and is designed to help keep the highways of the state open to all kinds of traffic. Heretofore sleigh-runners have made a track of their own, which wheeled vehicles could not follow. Present indications are that there will be little need for widening sleighs this winter, but it will be well to be prepared.

James E. Doerr recently received a medal from the U.S. Marine Corps headquarters at Washington in recognition of good conduct while in the service of his country. The message accompanying the medal was dated at Washington, D.C. on Sept. 28, 1920, signed by F. A. Barber, Major of the U.S. Marine Corps, and read as follows: "Sergeant James E. Doerr, U.S. M.C., being distinguished for obedience, sobriety, industry, courage, cleanliness and proficiency and having been duly recommended is, in accordance with U.S. Navy Regulations and by direction of the Major General Commandant awarded a medal for good conduct during his first enlistment from Oct. 1, 1917 to July 14, 1919." This is the third medal, Mr. Doerr has received commending his military record.



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2,459 and counting for Cass City artist

Unique Santa art Ball's specialty

by Mary Drier
For the Chronicle

Ever since Barb Ball was old enough to hold a crayon in her hand, making marks on paper, she knew artwork would be in her future.

"I always wanted to be an artist and I wanted to be an art teacher. I've always been interested in doing something creative," the Cass City resident commented. "I loved working on coloring books and have always loved to paint."

Although she took art classes while attending Cass City High School, she is basically self-taught.

"I got married and had a family instead," added Ball, who with her husband, Don, has two sons and seven grandchildren.

Even though she didn't follow her dream of being an art teacher, she turned her passion for art into a specialty — painting Santas.

Ball has painted 2,459 Santas — and counting. Most of her Santas are painted on pieces of driftwood from Caseville's beach. Her sister, who has a cottage in Caseville, collects driftwood for her.

"My sister gave me a piece of driftwood and told me to paint it, and I did. That was back in 1998.



ASIDE FROM painting Santas on pieces of driftwood from Caseville Beach, she also utilizes canvas for some of her creations.

I've been painting Santas on driftwood ever since," she noted.

She has also been given pieces of driftwood from places where people have walked on the beach while vacationing.

Each of her Santa's are different and unique because the shape of driftwood dictates the design of the painting, and each piece of driftwood is unique in texture and weight. Some of the tiny pieces can be heavy and some of the bigger ones, light.

Normally, about this time of year, she takes her art collection to the Holly Berry Craft Show, but that show, like most others, was canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I love Santas. The reason I started painting Santas was that I wanted to collect them, but most of the ones I found looked so sad. They were not jolly at all. They didn't look like the happy Santas that I wanted to collect. That is one of the reasons I started painting my own," she said.

"I wanted Santas that have a twinkle in their eye, rosy cheeks, and a nose like a cherry — Like the story, the 'Night before Christmas' said he looked like."

Ball, who uses acrylic paint on her driftwood pieces, noted it is the eyes on her Santas that most people comment on.

Although her main focus is painting Santas, she does canvas paintings as well. "I will paint on any kind of a surface that will hold paint," she said. "I have even painted on a dry cactus leaf."

Ball has also branched out this year, painting gnomes and snowmen.

Aside from creating pieces for her own enjoyment and to sell, Ball has shared her talent with the Cass City community — She painted the farm scene featured on the playscape in town.

Area residents can see more of her work by logging onto Ball's Facebook page, or by contacting her at (989) 872-3807.



CASS CITY'S Barb Ball typically spends about three hours in her craft room, doing what she loves best — painting Santas on driftwood. She has painted 2,459 Santas, and counting.



HER SEARCH to find "happy" Santas to collect turned into a hobby for Barb Ball. She mostly paints Santas on driftwood, but she has also painted gnomes and snowmen.



Decking the halls...

THE CASS City Chamber of Commerce erected its Christmas tree at Rotary Park Friday with the help of D/Services of Cass City. Pictured above decorating



are Stacy and Justin Anthes, Amy Peters and Kevven Dorland. A bulb was created for each chamber business member, and project was sponsored by Cass City Hardware, CLS Management, D/S Services and Thumb Bank and Trust.

Wishing you a healthy & safe holiday season.

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

All-Region gridiron stars named

The Michigan High School Coaches Association Division 7 All-Region honorees included four Cass City Red Hawks.

“Alex Perry (earned) all-region running back, Matt Mihalic all-region defensive line and Jeremy Valesquez all-region linebacker. Scott Cuthrell is all-region coach as well,” said Cass City Athletic Director Justin Ketterer.

The complete Division 7 All-Region players and coaches for Region 25, Region 26, Region 27 and Region 28 appear below.



MATT MIHALIC



COACH SCOTT CUTHRELL



ALEX PERRY



JEREMY VELASQUEZ

REGION 25			REGION 26			REGION 27			REGION 28		
POS	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL	
OL	Mack Bontekoe	McBain	Blake Smithers	Laker	Tyler Arwood	Bendle	Dalton Hart	Lumen Christi	Dalton Hart	Lumen Christi	
OL	Zach Hiebel	Charlevoix	Bryden McMullen	Ithaca	Nate Johnson	Detroit Loyola	Isiah Simon	Grass Lake	Isiah Simon	Grass Lake	
OL	Kaden Schirmer	Oscoda	Caden Blashill	Sandusky	David Mitchell	Detroit Central	Drew Stephany	Lawton	Drew Stephany	Lawton	
OL	Quintin Alonzi	Harbor Springs	Dre Brown	North Muskegon	Toby MacPhee	Bad Axe	Zach Patterson	SMCC	Zach Patterson	SMCC	
OL	Mitch Hall	Beaverton	Hunter Hahn	Hemlock	Will Taylor	New Lothrop	Cade Vanbogden	Manchester	Cade Vanbogden	Manchester	
OL	Luke Mawell	St Louis	Justin Farnel	Pewamo Westphalia			Connor Webb	Schoolcraft	Connor Webb	Schoolcraft	
TE	Brennon Mills	Oscoda	Brenden Huff	Sandusky							
WR	Cole Hopkins	Ewart	Joel Emery	Ravenna	Shenard Foster	Detroit Loyola	Harmon DeVries	Schoolcraft	Harmon DeVries	Schoolcraft	
WR	Evan Solomon	Charlevoix	Zach Puff	Ithaca	Kenyatta McKeever	Detroit Central	Josh Sherwood	Grass Lake	Josh Sherwood	Grass Lake	
WR	Drew Hess	Oscoda			Brian Jones	Grosse Pointe L'Azert					
RB	Dan Rodenbaugh	McBain	Alex Perry	Cass City	Gavin Parry	Bath	Cole Jondro	SMCC	Cole Jondro	SMCC	
RB	Brian Morgan	Houghton Lake	Robert Knapik	Hemlock	Trent Hocter	Detroit Community	Trenton Holden	Hanover-Horton	Trenton Holden	Hanover-Horton	
RB	Bryant Calderon	Ewart	Tanner Wirth	Pewamo Westphalia	Dariontae Brown	Detroit Community	Demaso Lebron	Homer	Demaso Lebron	Homer	
RB	Trent Reed	Beaverton	Zach Farnel	Sandusky							
QB	Danny Witbeck	Ewart	Brady Hesbrook	Ithaca	Carson Roose	Detroit Loyola	Alex Thole	Schoolcraft	Alex Thole	Schoolcraft	
QB	Jake Fischer	Beaverton	Jake Thelen	Pewamo Westphalia	Anthony Garnett	Detroit Loyola	Carson Farley	Grass Lake	Carson Farley	Grass Lake	
DL	Jake Cullin	Charlevoix	Conry Schuler	Pewamo Westphalia	Derrick Harmon	Detroit Loyola	Wally Gilbert	Lumen Christi	Trenton Holden	Trenton Holden	
DL	Kamren Green	Ewart	Jacob Sanderson	Sandusky	Tristan Duncan	Detroit Central	Trenton Holden	Lumen Christi	Trenton Holden	Lumen Christi	
DL	Brant Bontekoe	McBain	Jeremy Wazny	Hemlock	Jason Avery	Detroit Community	Evan Stephany	Lawton	Evan Stephany	Lawton	
DL	Gavin Lueck	Oscoda	Matt Mahalic	Cass City	Cam Orr	New Lothrop	Michael Holdstlaw	Riverview Gabriel Richard	Nic Caray	Riverview Gabriel Richard	
DL			Will Gallo	North Muskegon			Nic Caray	Schoolcraft			
LB	Mitch Hall	Beaverton	Bryden Green	Hemlock	Andrew McDonnell	Perry	Brandon Newland	Schoolcraft			
LB	Luke Snyder	Charlevoix	Brennan Pannucci	North Muskegon	Nick Stoskopf	Bath	Gabe French	Hanover-Horton			
LB	Jake Harg	Houghton Lake	Derek Draher	Ithaca	Yragnere Williams	Detroit Community	Brody Dalton	Lumen Christi			
LB	Mont Utsch	McBain	Cass City		Jeremy Valesquez	Bad Axe	Adam Kelly	Manchester			
LB	Andrew Vanderburg	Lake City	Logan Wertman	Pewamo Westphalia	Julian Garza	New Lothrop	Dave Whitehead	Leslie			
LB					Myles McFarland	Detroit Loyola					
DB	Trent Reed	Beaverton	Brook Thelen	Pewamo Westphalia	Jackson Zetter	Bishop Foley	Jackson Taylor	SMCC			
DB	Philip Stravert	Charlevoix	Chad Pratt	Ithaca	Will Moron	New Lothrop	Jayson Bradley	Lumen Christi			
DB	Zach Oullette	Oscoda	Collin Schotts	North Muskegon	Adam Kiddler	Bishop Foley	Josh Sherwood	Grass Lake			
DB	Danny Witbeck	Ewart	DeMorris Wedge	Sandusky			Connor DeVries	Lawton			
DB	Kaden McGillis	McBain	Dylan Labrow	Hemlock			Nick Szczechowski	Riverview Gabriel Richard			
DB	Grant Richardson	Harbor Springs			Justin Tugale	Detroit Central	Jimmy Downs	Schoolcraft			
Spec	Omex Aguilar	Pine River	Gabe Rahrle	North Muskegon			Trent Hocter	Hanover-Horton			

2020 REGIONAL D7 COACHES OF THE YEAR

- R25 – Pat Maloney (McBain), Mark Whitley (Oscoda)
- R26 – Adam Clark (Hemlock), Scott Cuthrell (Cass City), Jeremy Miller (Pewamo-Westphalia)
- R27 – Clint Galvas (New Lothrop), Brian Barnes (Madison Heights Bishop Foley)
- R28 – Nathan Ferency (Schoolcraft), Thomas Michalsen (Riverview Gabriel Richard), Wade Waldrup (Lawton)

SMARTY PANTS

The Cass City Red Hawk volleyball team earned Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association (MIVCA) Academic All-State honors in 2020.

“These ladies are very dedicated to their studies and have very bright futures,” said Coach Amy Cuthrell, while MIVCA official Betty Wrouble wrote in an e-mail: Coach, congratulations on your team earn-

ing Team Academic All-State. This is no small feat especially in light of the current situation!

On behalf of the MIVCA board, I would like to congratulate you and your players on earning this honor. Thank you for all you do to help your student-athletes maintain a high level of excellence in the classroom while still working hard on the court.

#####



MORE FAMILY FUN. Julianne (Decker) Tefft shot her first deer with a gun! She was hunting with her husband- Ryan Tefft on her grandparents' farm (Art and Betty Decker) - NE of Cass City. She is the daughter of Greg and Karen Decker.

Cass City Red Hawk ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Knights Insurance Agency is happy to announce Dustin Naegele as their Cass City Red Hawk Athlete of the Week award winner.

Dustin is a 2-year member of the Red Hawk varsity football team. During that time, he has helped win a pair of Greater Thumb West championships, 2 district championships and one regional championship. He's hoping for another run to the MHSAA semifinals and beyond in his final go-around.

Dustin has provided valued leadership in his senior year, always doing what's best for the team. Dustin has contributed to the Cass City ground game when called upon. He's rushed for 105 yards on 17 carries and a pair of touchdowns. On defense, the hard hitting defensive back has recorded 15 solo tackles, 6 assisted tackles and 1.5 tackles for loss.

Dustin is the son of Jeff and Jodi Naegele.



DUSTIN NAEGELE

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at Ithaca**



#2 Bryce Fernald



#3 Jordan Mester



#5 Ayden Torres



#6 Riley Swiderski



#7 Cameron Gottschalk



#10 Kyle Jordan



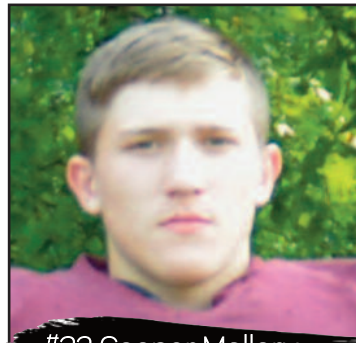
#11 Lance Swiderski



#20 Dustin Naegele



#27 Matt Mihalic



#32 Cooper Mallory



#33 Noah Zaleski



#44 Alex Perry

**FOOTBALL
SCOREBOARD**

Date	Opponent
W 9/18	CC 56; Vassar 0
W 9/25	CC 42, Reese 3
W 10/2	CC 38, HB 0
W 10/9	CC 28, USA 24
W 10/16	CC 54, Caro 0
W 10/23	CC 50, Marlette 0
W 10/30	CC 36, Reese 26
W 11/6	CC 14, Sandusky 12
W 11/13	CC 36, Hemlock 22



#50 Josh Steely



#51 Cameron Kaake



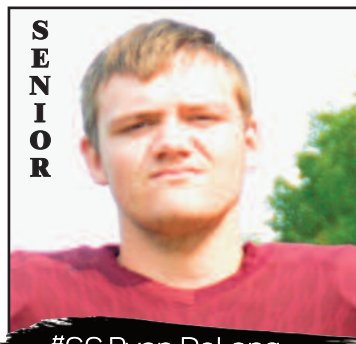
#60 Jeremy Velasquez



#62 Justin MacAlpine



#65 Justin Miller



#66 Ryan DeLong



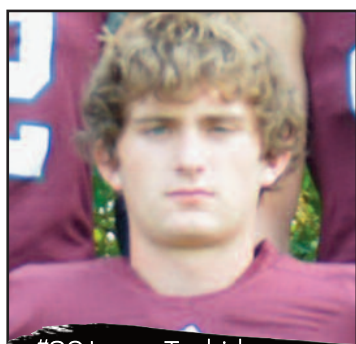
#70 Connor Herford



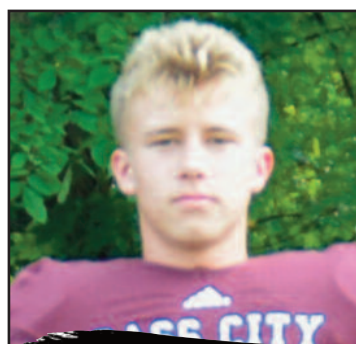
#71 Ethan Kampo



#74 Joe Zietz



#80 Lucas Tschirhart



#85 Carter Patrick



#89 Jacob Shantz

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News briefs

Bids benefit free kids' books

TUSCOLA COUNTY – Area residents can help support Great Start Tuscola's Imagination Library – which provide free hundreds of free books for the county's youngsters each year – by participating in an online auction now underway.

"Sadly, due to COVID-19, Great Start Tuscola was forced to cancel our annual Imagination Library fundraiser scheduled for this year," said Rachael Koepf, Great Start Tuscola director.

However, Koepf added, "Due to our generous local donors, we have several wonderful items to be auctioned off to support the 1,800 children receiving books each month in Tuscola County. The yearly cost for the purchase and mailing of these books is over \$54,000. We are able to pay this invoice each year because of the unwavering support of this community."

Residents can support early literacy in Tuscola County by placing bids during an online auction at www.kauction.com until Monday, Dec. 14. Purchased items will be delivered at no cost.

More information is available by emailing greatstarttuscola@gmail.com or by calling (989) 912-9806.

Kingston's book fair is still on

KINGSTON – there are still a few days to take advantage of the Kingston Community Schools Book Fair, which continues through Sunday, Dec. 13.

Organized by the Jacquelin E. Opperman Memorial Library and Kingston Junior-Senior High School, the fair is a virtual event that can be accessed online at www.athomebookfairs.com (enter the Zip Code 48741).

Proceed from the book fair go to benefit the Kingston Community Schools.

Photo contest deadline Dec. 30

THUMB — State Rep. Phil Green's fall photo contest is still going on. Photos should be submitted by Wednesday, Dec. 30.

The winners will be selected in early January, and the winning photos will be displayed in Green's office in Lansing.

The contest centers around the seasonal theme Fall Fun in the Thumb. Winners will be chosen in the following four categories: fall harvest, foliage and wildlife, family fun, and fall décor.

Photos can be submitted to RepPhilGreen@house.mi.gov or mailed to S-1188 House Office Building, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909. All submissions should include the name, address and contact information of the individual entering the contest, as well as where the photo was taken within Huron and Tuscola counties.

More information is available by emailing Green's office at RepPhilGreen@house.mi.gov or by calling (517) 373-0476.

Compiled by Mary Drier and Tom Montgomery



MARK AND Patricia Hansen, who established the Deford Dazzlers 4-H Club and Rocketry Team a decade ago, last week announced the club is disbanding permanently. The Hansens are pictured above (Mark in back, third from left, and Patricia far right), working with their students early this year as they prepared for their first planned appearance in the Battle of the Rockets competition in Culpeper, Va.

Hansens: Deford Dazzlers closed

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A decision to temporarily suspend the Deford Dazzlers 4-H Club and Rocketry Team – announced over the summer – is now permanent, according to club mentors Mark and Patricia Hansen, whose students made multiple appearances in national rocketry competitions during the club's decade-long existence.

The Hansens made the announcement last week on the 4-H club's Facebook page.

"It is with great sadness that we announce the closure of the Deford Dazzlers 4-H STEM Club and competitive rocketry team," they wrote.

"This was not an easy decision for us to make. Due to changes in work situations, the beginning of transitioning our future residency to Huntsville, Ala., to be near our grandsons as well as pursue personal goals working on the education outreach and competition organization side of the aerospace industry, we will not have the time nor the consistent in-state presence to run a club and team in the upcoming years as well as meet 4-H requirements in order to maintain sponsorship.

"We are disappointed to be ending our time with the organization, and will deeply miss our students," the Hansens said. "But we are also excited to be able to spend more time with our grandchildren, as well as assist with NAR (National Association of Rocketry) events, mentor at the university level, potentially compete at NARAM (National Association of Rocketry Annual Meet), and work at the International Rocketry Engineering Competition at Spaceport, USA.

"We wish all our alumni the very, very best. We have been so privileged, so proud to be your mentors. These memories and experiences will last a lifetime."

The Hansens in August announced plans to temporarily disband the club due to issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Covid has taken its toll on youth programs and education around the U.S.A., and 4-H is no exception," Mark Hansen said at the

time. "No in-person instruction will be allowed to take place for the remainder of the year, which forces us to scrap all of our STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and rocketry plans.

"We have loved working with all of you. We are so proud of every Dazzler alumnus. You have given us, for sure, more than we have given you."

Many achievements

The Hansens established the model rocket team in 2010-11, a year after forming the Deford 4-H STEM club. The couple selected the club's oldest members who met age and grade requirements, and the team made its first attempt to qualify for the TARC (The American Rocketry Challenge) Finals, which are held annually in The Plains, Va. Unfortunately, they failed to qualify among the top 100 teams vying for a spot.

TARC is the world's largest rocket contest, with nearly 5,000 students nationwide competing each year.

However, the team from Deford qualified the next year, coming home with a 10th-place finish and receiving an invitation to serve as special speakers at a 4-H STEM conference at Michigan State University.

The Dazzlers went on to qualify for the TARC National Finals in each of the next four years, finishing in 14th place in 2013, and in 38th and 36th place in 2014 and 2015, respectively. The team also finished in third place in the TARC Engineering Presentation Competition in 2014 before win-

ning the same competition outright in 2015.

A year later, the Deford Dazzlers was named one of the best student model rocket teams in the country following its impressive second-place finish at the TARC National Finals, which also qualified the team for a coveted spot in the 2016-17 NASA Student Launch event.

"The team took a year off from TARC for 'student launch' and successfully completed the eight-month engineering program," Hansen noted. "Students spent nearly a week in Huntsville, Ala., for aerospace education, science fair, touring RedStone Arsenal Base and Marshall Space Flight Center, and participating in the launch event."

The Dazzlers were the only team from Michigan chosen to take part in the 2017 NASA Student Launch, which offers middle school to college-aged students a chance to design, build and launch high-powered, reusable rockets to one-mile-above ground level. Interested teams are required to submit a proposal for comprehensive review by NASA subject matter experts. Teams are then chosen to participate based on detailed outlines of their rockets, its recovery systems, payloads, safety and educational engagement plans.

In 2018, the Dazzlers returned home from the TARC National Finals without a top-25 finish, but the Tuscola County youths did their hometown proud just the same. The team claimed first place in the 2018 TARC Presentation Contest, and Mark Hansen was honored as the Outstanding Mentor of the Year.

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Village of Cass City NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
A Millage Hearing will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. for all interested citizens of the Village of Cass City.

The proposed 2021 Property Tax Millage rate to be levied to support the proposed 2021 Village of Cass City Fiscal Budget as follows:

	Mills
Village General Operating	12.4625
Streets	4.9162
PA Act 298 – Landfill Maintenance	0.0800
PA Act 359 – Promotion	0.6800
Total Village Millage:	18.1387

The meeting will be held via a ZOOM on-line meeting, for the purpose of discussion of the proposed millage.

To Join the Zoom Meeting, go to:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3794878169?pwd=TjJueVycG9KNHVkZktqanE0ZzU0UT09>

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Covid rules in place for 12 more days across state

Continued from page one.

tel emphasized that the decision to do so is entirely up to families, as school officials will continue to offer virtual instruction.

Positivity rates climb

While positive COVID-19 test rates averaged 13.4 percent statewide last week, the numbers in some Thumb counties far exceeded that figure. Tuscola County's climbed to about 19.7 percent, while Sanilac County reported a positivity rate of 16.7 percent and Huron County, 13.1 percent.

During the week-long period that ended Monday, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the upper Thumb counties increased by a combined 736.

The sheer number of cases has local health officials struggling to keep up.

"In the last two weeks, Sanilac County has averaged over 200 cases weekly," Bryant Wilke, health officer for the Sanilac County Health Department, reported Friday. "This week alone, we have had five fatalities for a total of 18. "Our case count is changing and rapidly increasing.

"Masking, social distancing and hand-washing are the only protective techniques we have right now to reduce the spread. Even if you acquired COVID-19 while wearing a mask, you are lowering your risk because you are exposed to a lesser amount of the virus than without a mask," Wilke said.

"We all need to bring our community together to knock down the spread and stop unnecessary illness and death."

Ann Hepfer, health officer for the Tuscola and Huron county health departments, echoed those comments.

"Many people believe that we cannot beat this, but I am an optimist. I know that as a community we are stronger than this virus," she said. "We know what steps to take to reduce our chances of being infected, and then spreading it to others. It's pretty easy, and the science supports wearing a mask, social distancing, washing your hands and isolation and quarantine those that have potential of spreading the virus.

"Our most vulnerable residents in our community are counting on all of us to stop the spread of this infection."

Hepfer reported Friday that Tuscola County had averaged more than 260 Covid tests a day over the previous seven days — including tests administered by the health department, clinics and hospitals — with nearly 20 percent of subjects testing positive. "The rate of positivity has not changed much in the past three weeks," she noted.

"Huron's seven-day average of positive tests is running at 16 percent for the past seven days, up from 14 percent over the past three weeks, (with an) average 142 tests a day.

"The regional hospitals continue to struggle to keep up with ICU admits for COVID-19. Our local hospitals are also treating COVID19 patients," Hepfer added.

Likewise, local health department officials are being pushed to their limits.

"Both (Tuscola and Huron) health departments are managing this infection with just about the same number of staffs we normally have," Hepfer said.

"Almost all of our staff have been moved from their regular jobs to the front line and are now working on contact tracing, case investigations, tracking, stats, gearing up for COVID19 vaccinations, conducting flu vaccinations, assisting those in the greatest of need in finding local resources for food, assisting with Medicaid applications, conducting testing in Tuscola and assisting with testing in Huron — the list of unmet needs is very long."

The good news, she noted, is that officials have not seen any surge in seasonal flu activity yet.

"We have not seen any surges in seasonal flu yet. Seasonal flu normally does not result in widespread community infection until Mid-January and February," Hepfer explained. "We all know that 2020 has been a rather odd year — let's hope and pray that influenza does not occur at all.

"There is still time to get that flu vaccination; the local pharmacies, your local physician and health department have plenty of vaccine for everyone who still desires a vaccination."

The latest numbers

Michigan health officials reported the second highest single-day increase in additional COVID-19 cases — 8,689 new cases for a total of 389,032 — Friday afternoon. The highest number of new daily cases was set Nov. 20 at 9,779 cases.

The number of Michigan residents hospitalized with confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases decreased slightly for the fourth consecutive day on Friday to 4,113, which is 37 fewer than Thursday's total. Of those, 3,764 patients are confirmed COVID-19 cases, which is 29 fewer than Thursday.

The number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care and on ventilators both increased Friday statewide, when Michigan hospitals were treating 855 coronavirus patients in ICUs, with 513 patients on ventilators.

Monday's statewide total confirmed cases reached 404,386, with a total of 9,947 deaths — that's an increase of 43,937 cases and 813 more deaths compared to a week ago, when the totals were 360,449 cases and 9,134 deaths. State health officials estimate roughly 197,750 Covid patients have recovered statewide to-date.

In the Thumb, between Monday, Nov. 30, and Monday, Dec. 7, the number of combined confirmed cases in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties increased by 736 — from 3,070 to 3,806 — with the three counties' combined death toll increasing by 19 to 103 fatalities.

According to the latest data (Monday afternoon), Tuscola County has now recorded 1,838 confirmed cases, an increase of 235 cases compared to a week before, and 64 deaths (an increase of 10).

In Huron County, meanwhile, there are 896 confirmed cases (an increase of 230 from a week earlier), with 16 deaths (an increase of one), and Sanilac County has a total of 1,072 confirmed cases, up from 801 cases a week earlier, and 23 deaths (an increase of eight).

The latest statistics available in the Chronicle's coverage area (as of Thursday) revealed 213 confirmed cases, up from 181 cases a week earlier, in the Cass City zip code. State officials are reporting 79 recoveries in this area.

The only county zip codes reporting higher numbers of cases are Caro (402 — an increase of 69 cases over the previous week), and Vassar (276 cases — an increase of 36 cases).

Over the same week-long period, there was an increase of seven active cases (for a total of 99) in the Unionville zip code, where there have been 52 recoveries; Deford has 39 (an increase of 15) cases and 13 recoveries; Gageton, eight cases (no change) and four recoveries; Kingston has 60 cases (up from 50) and 26 recoveries; Ugly has 39 cases (an increase of 17) and 16 recoveries; and Owendale, 15 cases (an increase of two) and one recovery.

Hey kids! It's time to write letters to Santa

Hey kids, get busy writing those letters to Santa.

Everybody knows Santa has a subscription to the Cass City Chronicle, and he checks each issue closely

this time of year in search of Christmas lists from children in the Thumb area.

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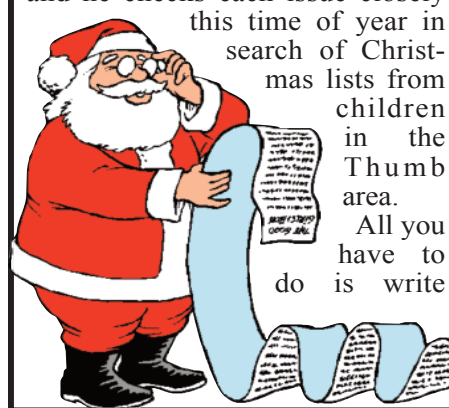
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Letters can also be mailed to the paper at: **6550 Main St., Cass City, MI 48726**, or drop them off to us in person (we're located at the corner of Main and Oak streets, next to Schneeberger's).

All of the letters will be published in December - most of them in our annual Christmas edition, Wednesday, Dec. 23.

But get started now because the deadline is: Thursday, Dec. 17.



Obituaries

Robert Howard

Robert John Howard, 64, of Cass City, our loyal and hardworking husband, dad, grandfather, son, brother, uncle and friend passed away on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at Covenant — Cooper in Saginaw.

Bob was born in Sandusky November 20, 1956, the son of Richard and Hazel (Smith) Howard.

He was a graduate of Deckerville High School and went on to attend Port Huron School of Business.

Through mutual friends, Bob happened to meet the former Tanya (Rolston) Vincent. They dated, fell in love, and were united in marriage on August 8, 2008.

Throughout life, Bob was known for his love for his family, and love for living off the land. He enjoyed tending to his garden, cutting wood for his wood stove and kept busy on his hobby farm, where he raised cows and pigs. Bob was employed as a Grain Merchant with Michigan Agricultural Commodities and was looking forward to his retirement in February of 2021.

Bob leaves to carry on his legacy, his wife, Tanya Howard and children, Bonnie Melnik, Steve (Autumn) Howard, Jenny Howard, Anna Howard, Stephanie (Bob) Ross, Kimberly Vincent and Timothy Vincent (Kimberly Proctor). He was the most loving and supportive Grandpa Bob and Papa of Alyssa, Carter, Markus, Zoe, Jack, Andy, Trinity, Bobby, Alex, Addyson, Avery, Wesley, Waylon, Patrick, Sean and Darby. Bob will forever be missed by his mother, Hazel Howard; siblings, Lee (Janice) Smith, Betty Mogielski, Arlene (Dave) Berger and Frank Howard; along with many in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, Richard Howard.

A Life Celebration will be held in the Summer of 2021.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the wishes of the family c/o Tanya Howard via Skorupski Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 821 N. Pine Rd., Essexville, MI 48732.

Contributions will be utilized toward an educational fund for Bob's grandchildren, who were the lights of his life. Expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family online at www.skorupskis.com.



Helen Ramsey

Helen Marian Anderson Ramsey, 89, of Cass City died November 23, 2020 from COVID-19. She was born March 7, 1931 in Windsor, Ontario. Her husband, Charles "Ed" Ramsey, her parents, Charles and Julia Anderson her brothers Gerald, Edwin, Bob, Raymond, and sister June Wilgus preceded her.

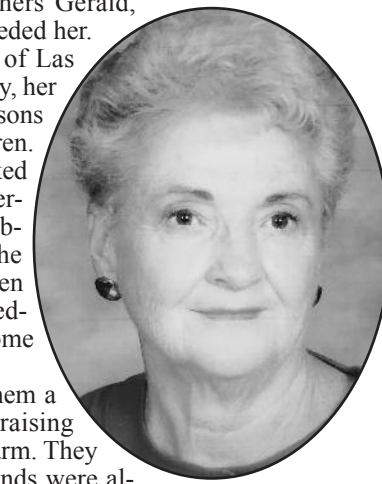
She is survived by her son Chuck (Jill) Ramsey of Las Vegas, and daughter Ann (Chuch) Keiser of Cass City, her brother Don (Margaret) Anderson of Livonia, grandsons Chuck and Chad (Lauren) and two great-grandchildren.

A graduate of Hamtramck High School, Helen worked for her Aunt who owned a travel agency, Joan Anderson Travel Inc. It was located in the Detroit's Penobscot building. Working for the agency gave her the opportunity to travel many parts of the world. Helen married Ed May 2, 1953. Immediately after their wedding reception they went to pay for lumber for the home they then built. Helen was not afraid of hard work.

Family and friends were always around to give them a hand. They built four more homes together while raising two children before retiring to Cass City and their farm. They enjoyed gardening and entertaining family and friends were always welcome. There were many holidays and family celebrations with lots of great food prepared by her. She was especially known for her pierogis, cabbage rolls, apple pies and exceptional hospitality to all.

Helen became a United States citizen on the fateful 9/11. After Ed died she moved to the Northwood Lake Condo's for many years. Her last year was spent in Northwood Meadows, where she felt thoroughly at home with old and new friends.

A private service is planned.



Letters to the Editor

Dec. 7, 1941, should be a holiday

Continued from page 3.

like Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Christmas and others.

Many lives were lost on that day. Life for the United States of America was changed in so many ways. Our nation rallied behind our troops, and everyone was involved in World War II, whether abroad or at home. Our factories were converted to making supplies and equipment, helping the war effort. Everyone did their part.

Please let us never forget Dec. 7, 1941, as this day should be a day we never forget. God bless America.

Respectfully,

Mark D. Zmierski
NCCS-USN retired
Tuscola County Veterans Affairs
Caro

Thrive during holiday season

Continued from page 3.

themed tips and practical strategies to help you thrive during this unusual holiday season.

First and foremost, identify how you're feeling. Take some time to sort through your emotions in whatever way is most productive for you. You can journal, talk to a friend, or just go for a walk. Second, don't romanticize your typical holiday plans. Even though you may be giving up some of your favorite things about the holidays this year, you're probably leaving some stressors behind too.

Last, always practice gratitude. Make a conscious effort to regularly identify things that you are thankful for.

For more ideas on how to "thrive" this holiday season, please visit www.Facebook/ThumbHealth.

Kari White, program coordinator
Thumb Community Health Partnership

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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 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): Michael Arends III, single man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services LLC
Date of Mortgage: September 7, 2018
Date of Mortgage Recording: September 10, 2018
Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$53,409.89
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Cass City, Tuscola County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 2, Block 1 of Pinney's Addition to the Village of Cass City, according to the plat recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 60, now being Page 6B
Common street address (if any): 6742 Main St, Cass City, MI 48726-1528
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the

redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: November 25, 2020
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1425392
11-25-4

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 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): Rudyard K. Fay, a single man
Original Mortgagee: Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a subsidiary of Indy Mac Bank, F.S.B.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust
Date of Mortgage: March 12, 2005
Date of Mortgage Recording: April 20, 2006
Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$114,145.14
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Kingston, Tuscola County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 3, Block D, Legg's Addition to the Village of Kingston, according to the

plat thereof, recorded in Liber 1, Page 65 now being Page 15B of Plats, Tuscola County Records.

Common street address (if any): 3312 River St, Kingston, MI 48741-9701

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: November 25, 2020
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1425140
11-25-4

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 Sys-

tems, 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 redemption 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 Potosi & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 313768
12-9-4

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Nicol's light extravaganza up and running

Continued from page one.

grown up in a family that would drive around to view Christmas lights.

As an adult, Nicol said, Gayle "wanted to put some up in the yard, and John then got the Christmas light bug. Every time they would stop at a store, he would have to go check out what the store had for lights. And then he just started building and fabricating items for the yard."

The work and care that John and Gayle put into those creations can still be seen at the home of their son and daughter-in-law.

"The merry-go-round and the Ferris wheel, the lighthouse, Santa in a hot air balloon, and the castle are all from the original display. We have updated them with lights, of course, but they are original - 30-plus years old," Jaime said.

"There is something nostalgic about those pieces. And it also helps to keep the history of the tradition. People that...came out to (Gayle and John's) display on Robinson Road still remember those pieces."

Jaime and Joel Nicol started carrying on his parent's lighting legacy about 13 years ago.

"It wasn't like an official thing," Jaime recalled. "For a couple of years, mom and dad and us, we were (all) putting up lights. Then they stopped...too much work and none of the kids were at home anymore. We still continued to do lights, and all of a sudden, the castle made its way down here, then the Ferris wheel, then the merry go round."

John and Gayle Nicol also make their way down to Germania Road to help keep the tradition alive.

"(They) both come over and still work on the display," Jaime said. "And we owe a lot of our success to them."

"The year before we took it over, my father-in-law, John, bought the

first 'box' to animate the display," Jaime pointed out, referring to the high-tech equipment in use today. "(They) run commands to the lights - that's where you get the animations."

The set-up involves hundreds of feet of computer cables connected to a computer that sends out data "directing" how each portion of a light show unfolds.

"That's where you get the lights to dance to the music, flash, etc., etc.," Jaime explained. "Each song has to be programmed to the beats of the music. So, when we have an animated song on, all that's been programmed by hand. A computer just doesn't 'do it'."

"Joel 'sections' the song - finds the beats - zooms into milliseconds and tells what we want each strand or individual bulb to do. A song could take 8 to 10 hours of work or more."

The Nicols have expanded the production over the years, making some changes as new innovations have come along. "Well, it's grown in number of lights and technology. We are almost completely converted to LED lights with a mix of pixel (RGB) lights," said Jaime, who added an RGB light is a bulb with three bulbs - red, green and blue. "You can tint the colors to create up to 16 million different colors. It's like those stadium scoreboards you see at like Lions games. You can program each individual bulb and even make pictures out of them, like we have a cross that displays on the 50-foot tree, because we can program that picture into it."

Joel is the mastermind behind making all of that technology work, according to Jaime. "Joel is just super intelligent," she said. "He does his research and belongs to a lot of Christmas light forums online, and he reads and researches all this stuff."

That knowledge and curiosity

has played a key role in the family's dedication to share their love of the season with others.

"Well, we love Christmas and all the people that come out. We love to spread the word of the birth of Jesus. Someone once told me 'our display might be the one and only time someone hears about the story of Christmas'," Jaime said.

"And my husband loves the challenge; he loves getting everything to run and (to see) his vision come to life."

The Nicols, who have two children - Justin, eight, and Jenna, six - enjoy creating the sort of imaginative and spectacular displays made possible by advances in outdoor lighting, but they also strive to honor the past.

"Although we add the latest technology, we like to still keep the feel of traditional Christmas lights. If you get too 'techy', it doesn't feel like Christmas lights," Jaime said. "So, we try to ride that line of traditional mixed with technology. We try to keep that nostalgic, traditional feel."



THE NICOL'S Christmas Light Extravaganza will be running throughout December, from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. each night. The photo below was taken with a slow shutter speed, giving a slow-moving train the appearance of racing past visitors amidst a backdrop of thousands of lights.



WORK ON the Christmas light extravaganza starts weeks before the holiday season, according to Jaime Nicol, whose husband, Joel is pictured above. "We started this year first week in October," she said. "We had a great fall, too, putting up lights. A couple of days we were wearing shorts. How often does that happen here in Michigan?"



JOEL NICOL'S parents, Gayle (pictured above) and John Nicol first created the popular Christmas light display about 40 years ago at their Robinson Road home.

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