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Progress on de

EIGHTEEN PAGES

Two millage proposals on August ballot

The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Tuesday voted to put two millage proposals on the Aug. 5 primary ballot.

By a 4-3 vote, it approved the request of the Tuscola County Commission on Aging to put a .2 mill, four-year proposal for support of senior citizen activities on the ballot.

Commissioner Royce Russell of Elmwood township was among those voting yes.

The second proposal that will go on the ballot will be 1 mill for five years, with the levy, if approved, to appear on lax bills for the first time in December, 1981

A half-mill will be for local road bridges and village local streets and the other half-mill for county operating expenses.

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Commissioners decided to schedule the vote this year as waiting until 1981 would have required a special election. The senior citizen millage, if approved, will go on tax bills this December.

Also on those tax bills, the present 1-mill levy for bridges will appear for the final time.

The county Road Commission notified the county board it will no longer need the full mill to complete the bridge program, that a halfmill will be adequate.

With county finances getting ever tighter, and in severe trouble should federal revenue sharing funds ever be cut off, commissioners decided to seek an additional half-mill for county operations. The county presently gets 4.2 mills.

proposal.

In Huron county, a question was raised over whether the senior citizen millage



JUST A MINUTE -- First grader Jeremy Stafford seems intent on studying a piece of artwork on display Tuesday at the annual Campbell Elementary School art show. His mother, Colleen Stafford, of 4178 Cass City Road, would like him to look at more than just one.

Council wa. .or word on sewage plant

The Cass City Village Council is going to have to wait a little longer for the new sewage plant to rise and the old grain elevators to fall.

A pregnant secretary is part of the reason for the first delay.

The council was informed Tuesday that all is in readiness for the start of the construction on the wastewater treatment plant expansion project except for the final okay of the construction bid and cost break-down by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA has given its verbal okay, village President Lambert Althaver reported, but the letter giving the official okay, being prepared at the agency's Chicago office, had to be redone because of mistakes. Then the secretary apparently responsible for typing the letter left on maternity leave. The village has now been informed if it doesn't receive word by Wednesday, June 4, it should call the EPA in Chicago.

Village superintendent Lou LaPonsie reported a pre-construction meeting with the village engineers and the contractor, H.C. tacted his firm's headquart- He directed the public safety Weber Construction, was held May 20. The contractor said it hopes to have all the concrete work done by Dereceived authority to have the demolition bids updated

Althaver told the council that it obtained several the results of his telephone months ago. conversation with James R. Suchodolski then told Alt-Suchodolski, Wickes vicehaver he will call back president for eastern operations, regarding demolition what progress has been of the firm's old elevators on taken Vulcan Street. The village president told council members "I guess I

The council has been after the firm for several months would recommend another to have the elevators torn 30 days of patience and it down and in March authorwill be underway." ized its attorney, Clinton House, to begin condemna-RAILROAD CROSSING tion proceedings.

cember.

in a month.

Althaver said his aim was A letter has been received to try to get the structures from the Grand Trunk Railtorn down faster than would road offering under a new take to complete lengthy state law to pay half the cost condemnation proceedings. of erecting stop or yield According to the village signs at the Garfield Street president, Suchodolski first said the hoped for sale of the cleared property to General Telephone had fallen through and that Wickes was

turning the property over to a real estate agency for sale, \$80,000 with hope for progress with-Althaver

Althaver responded that Wickes executive then con- case of a car-train accident.

ers in California and called committee to work with the village president back attorney House in examin-Tuesday to tell him he had ing the railroad's proposal. Stopping at the crossing presently isn't required.

OTHER ITEMS

The council approved within two weeks to report changes to two village ordinances, both to take effect June 17.

One puts the village ordinance in accordance with state law by raising the stated allowable drinking age from 18 to 21.

The other applies the junk car ordinance to the entire village. The present prohibition on storage of inoperable or partly dismantled motor vehicles applies only to areas zoned residential.

The estimate of Keck Consulting Services, Inc., of East Lansing, of \$11,762 for its hydrogeological study of the Cass City landfill, including eight test wells, was approved. Its proposed work plan must be submitted to the state Department of time in 1981.

Aim of the state required study is to determine if groundwaters are being polluted from the landfill. The village won't have to pay for the study until 1981.

The swimming pool will be open Saturday and Sunday afternoons, weather permitting, until school is out, when daily hours will commence.

The arts and crafts program will start June 11.

Cost of installing a drinking fountain by the softball diamonds proved excessive, almost \$1,000, so instead a

One judge for one county or three mills. The two half-mill requests will be lumped together in a single take-it-or-leave-it pronosal *for two? Commissioners must decide*

-the Chronicle told they still supported the split ers continued to make their question I have in my mind circuit before pushing the wishes known since then to is whether I can handle the legislation through. Before the board votes on Although reluctant to outthe measure, he said he right oppose the proposal, he wanted to talk to all of the did mention a judicial study done as part of the original judges, prosecutor and lawdebate two years ago yers about the effect a lone judge in Tuscota would showed the caseload in Tus-

An issue thought to have rate circuits. Lapeer county circuit created here, one chairman of the Tuscola judge for Tuscola county. He DeGrow polled the Tuscola county board, commission would then have two circuit reason being so that the county would have its own judges and Tuscola one. judge. The two circuit area legislators in Lansing docket. judges then (and now) live that they wanted a judge for in Lapeer county.

crossing, with the village to pay the other half. The letter also said that the cost of installing automatic flasher lights is about questioned whether installation of the Natural Resources by Sept. signs might legally absolve 1 and the final study by some wasn't soon enough. The the railroad of liability in

vote could be held as part of the Aug. 5 primary election as state law says millage votes must take place during general elections.

A check was made with the State Elections Commission prior to the vote in Tuscola and an assurance was received that Aug. 5 was permissible for the millage votes as primary elections

Please turn to page 14.

been settled two years ago has reappeared. The legislature last week

approved and the governor signed a package of bills to allow the realignment of several circuit, district and probate courts in the state and authorize additional judgeships.

Included was authority to split the present Tuscola-Lapeer circuit into two sepa-

Some teachers more helpful

Presently, three judges serve the two counties. The issue first appeared two years ago when legislation was introduced to add a third judge to the then overworked two-judge circuit. The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners

fought unsuccessfully to have a new single-judge

Becky said.

educational need.

Principal Russ Richards.

English are required.

fundamental writing and

grammar classes are neces-

sary, she added. Even

though she does not plan to

attend college, Sharon said

she took college preparatory

English in 9th and 10th grade

At

said,

That fear was crased, however, when Patrick R. Joslyn, then Tuscola county prosecutor, was elected as

the third circuit judge over a Lapeer county opponent. He still lives in Caro. According to Paul Nagy.

Tuscola county. Thus when the judicial package was introduced this year, Sen. Alvin DeGrow, R-Pigeon, inserted an amendment to split Lapeer cola required more than one and Tuscola counties into separate circuits.

The measure passed the fewer than two judges. "I Senate but Rep. Larry Burkhalter, D-Lapeer, was successful in getting it defeated shape with two full-time in the House of Representajudges. tives.

DeGrow's original measure would have given final authority to split the circuit to the Tuscola county board. A compromise was ing out that he will be reached; that the district

attending a judge's conference in Reno, Nev., for a will be split only if approved by the boards of commis- month, something that sioners of both Lapeer and would be hard to do if he Tuscola counties. That was were the lone judge. the measure that was signed Friday by Gov. Milliken, Norman A. Baguley and having been approved the Martin E. Clements, both previous day by the legislaoppose the splitting of the

circuit, which was also their If the circuit were split, position two years ago. Nagy pointed out that

The other two judges,

have. He did feel there would be full-time judge while the some advantages, including caseload in Lapeer needs the need for only one courtsuspect Lapeer county will room instead of the present come out in much better two.

He hadn't seen the final legislation when contacted Problems develop in Monday by the Chroniele but it was his understanding the single judge circuits whenever the judge is away or out county commissioners in the due to illness in scheduling a two counties have until June 27 to make a decision. visiting judge, he said, point-

Tuscola commissioners met Tuesday, but only discussed the proposal informally during lunch, according to Commissioner Royce Russell of Elmwood town-

ship. The feeling was, he said, that their counterparts in Lapeer county will oppose

the measure. If so, the

three-judge, two-county cir-

water faucet will be installed. Action will commence on changing the present zoning ordinance prohibiting new apartments downtown in buildings that didn't have

nance went into effect. The Elkland-Novesta United Way has contributed \$1,500 to the village park and recreation program, up from \$1,000 last year.

them when the zoning ordi-

The finance committee was given authority to make preliminary application for workers' compensation insurance through the Michigan Municipal League which should save the village 20 percent over its present premium of about \$15,000 annually to Auto Owners Insurance.

One effect of having a fifth policeman on the village force is more parking meter tickets being written. The four-man force wrote 39 overtime parking citations in April, 1979; 152 in April of this year.

cuit will remain as is. Judge Joslyn would be the

THE THREE VOLLEY SALUTE was fired by representatives of the various branches of the Armed Forces at the Memorial Day service at Elkland township cemetery Monday to honor the war dead. (Other pictures, page 15).

You can learn if you want, new grads say

(First of two parts)

By James Iseler

You can learn if you want to at Cass City High School. However, most teachers will not put in extra time with students if the kids don't want to be taught. That is the consensus of a number of Cass City seniors when asked about the validity of a high school education here.

"There are some teachers that make you want to learn, you know what I mean," said Sharon Lowe, a 1980 graduate. "But then there are some that figure if you don't get an "A" fine, but if not they aren't gonna force it down your (learning) throat.'

Asked if perhaps students should be made to work harder in high school, she agreed many students, herself included, could have benefited from academic prodding.

"I wish I would have worked harder. Now I do, but I suppose it's a little late," said Sharon of 4965 N. Germania Road, Snover.

Another student agreed, stating the grading system at school was not overly strenuous

"I have a 3.7 and I hardly do anything," said Becky Hobart, of 4534 Oak Street. "I have homework, sure, but it's really nothing."

Most students asked said

they felt they were prepared to some extent to deal with the "real world" but some classes received less praise than others. earlier writing courses,

"I think there is a big problem with writing at school," Becky said.

In fact, much of the English department leaves a bit to be desired, she said. She blames that problem on the teachers.

There are some good English classes which are better because the teachers make them interesting, Becky said. But some, such as general grammar and composition courses are weak. In her creative writing class, Jane Hobart said assignments were not returned until the end of the year. Jane, of 2558 Hobart Road,

Gagetown, wondered how she and fellow students were supposed to see where improvements were needed when they were unable to see their assignments. THE FACT THAT PROB-

"This way they'll get a little of everything," he said. lems with the school newspaper, the Hawk Herald, were discussed by the Board of the classes served no purpose at all. A class on the of Education earlier this year illustrates the writing modern short story "doesn't problem, Becky said. make any sense," she said. However, some of the

The Herald was brought to the Board's attention due to large numbers of spelling and grammatical errors, said Becky, a member of the paper's staff. It was only after the incident that the paper's advisor began proofreading it before the final printing, she added.

and found them very useful. STUDENTS READILY

Part of the problem with admit part of the problem the paper lies in the fact may lie in their own apathy members of its staff were towards some aspects of not properly instructed in school.

"Maybe if kids act like they don't care then the Students agree many of teachers don't want to care the high school's English either," Jane said.

classes are taken to fill a One of the problems faced required English credit by teachers in Cass City, as rather than to fulfill an in other area towns, is structuring the classes so both college-bound students A plan next year to consolidate English courses into and those who do not plan to a four-year program, three attend college can try to get of which will be required, something out of them.

hopefully will work to rem-Debbie Page, of 6848 Heredy some of the problems, ron Drive, said some of the according to High School courses could be a little tougher.

present English She said she found them courses are one semester easier than she was used to long and chosen by the at a larger school in New student, depending on their Jersey she attended before interests. Three years of moving to Cass City three years ago. The new program should

expose students to material Also in her former school, Debbie said academic and from courses they might not social competition was more otherwise take, Richards stringent.

'You were always competing to see who gets the best grade and things like Sharon said she felt some that," she said.

> At Cass City competition is less severe and most don't worry so much about classes, she said.

However, for the size of the school and available resources, Debbie termed the school as "adequate." THERE IS A BRIGHT spot on what is otherwise a dimly painted picture by Please turn to page 14.