



**UNITED WAY** — Looking toward reaching the goal of \$13,500 in this year's Elkland-Novesta United Way fund drive are, from left, Sally Bowen, speaker at the kickoff banquet Tuesday; Don Englehart, board member; President Dale Deering; Arthur Holmberg, board member; Secretary Ron Keegan, and Dan Allen, board member.

## Opinions differ on TV religion

# Local ministers agree; Politics not an issue

By Mike Eliasohn

Religion has become an under-the-surface issue in this fall's political campaigns.

But in contrast to the Rev. Jerry Falwell's of this country, who have decided the way to create "a moral America" is to get conservative politicians elected to office, local ministers contacted by the Chronicle don't see that as their proper role.

Their feelings are mixed about televised religious programs. Falwell hosts the "Old Time Gospel Hour" on television and is the head of Moral Majority, a fundamentalist Christian oriented organization working to replace liberal members of Congress with conservative ones that share its beliefs.

Falwell's program is one of several fundamentalist or evangelical television programs, supported by listener donations, that have received media attention of late, partially because of their hosts' involvement with political issues and candidates.

Rev. Gerald Rodgers of the Deford Community church, which he describes as fundamentalist, feels such programs are "an asset to the local church that is active for the Lord."

Such programs, according to Rev. John Lange of the Novesta Baptist church, express a point of view, such as opposition to homosexual rights and abortion, that doesn't get shown on the news. "You never hear the other side, really (on regular programs)."

But Rev. Gilson Miller of the Kingston and Deford United Methodist churches feels some of the television evangelists have become more concerned with ratings and fund raising, and that they present "what people want to hear, rather than a true Biblical message."

"I think they take away to

some extent," commented Rev. Vern Lockard, of the Novesta Church of Christ, "because it leaves a feeling that watching TV is all one has to do."

Watching such programs doesn't require a person to make a real commitment to the Lord. "I think it misses the whole point of Christianity."

Biblical Christianity, said Rev. Harry Capps of the First Presbyterian church, always involved persons' relationship with God and with other persons, that is, the community.

The "electronic church," he feels, promotes individual Christianity at the expense of involvement with the community. Television, he said, "makes Christianity so doggone easy. It makes one so comfortable, it lulls one into a false sense of security."

Rev. Robert Taylor of the Cass City Missionary church takes the middle ground. "I feel they can be a help. Sometimes it depends a lot on the pastor. Sometimes they are fearful they will lose their congregation to the '700 Club.'"

Overall, I would be in favor of television evangelists."

**AS FOR WHETHER** such programs turn people to the Lord, again reaction varied.

Rev. Taylor said one parishioner accepted Christ when watching a Billy Graham crusade.

Some members of the Deford Community church were first influenced by the television programs, Rev. Rodgers said.

More influential has been his church's own programs, broadcast on the Caro and Sandusky radio stations Sunday mornings, which has resulted in some people being saved "we would have never reached otherwise."

Rev. Lange doesn't feel television programs attract members. "To get someone

to come to church, you have to go out and ask them."

**SUCH RELIGIOUS** programs as the "Old Time Gospel Hour," "700 Club" and PTL Club (Praise the Lord) represent a fundamentalist viewpoint, which some ministers supported, although they might disagree on points of theology, such as speaking in tongues.

Rev. Rodgers, for instance, said his church is similar in tone to that presented by Jerry Falwell.

"I personally would like to see the liberal or more moderate views capture air time," commented Rev. P. Thomas Wachterhauser of the Trinity United Methodist church. "The evangelical voice is taking over, giving America only that side of things. It is misleading of the full spectrum of religious points of view."

The conservative viewpoint, such as expressed by Falwell's Moral Majority, includes opposition to abortion and favors a strong military.

## Gagetown ends year in black

Gagetown finished its last fiscal year in the black and its books are in good shape. The village council was informed Monday evening.

Reporting on results of the audit for the fiscal year that ended last March 31 was John Walsh of the Pigeon certified public accounting firm of Anderson, Lynch, Nietzke and Co.

The council approved three ordinances, pertaining to disorderly conduct, loitering and storage of junk vehicles and vehicle parts. The ordinances are published elsewhere in this issue

of the Chronicle.

Tuscola County Road Commissioner Grover Laurie explained the one mill proposal that will be on the ballot Nov. 4, a half-mill for bridges and a half-mill for county operations. The council approved a resolution supporting it.

Halloween trick-or-treat hours were set from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31. Tom Reehl was hired to ride with village police officer Michael Pine Oct. 30 and 31.

Representatives of Edmands Engineering reviewed forms for the Step II grant for the proposed village sewer and wastewater treatment project.

A motion was approved adopting Title I of the Federal Housing and Community Development Act that Tuscola county can receive community development discretionary funds.

At 7 p.m. this Thursday, the council will conduct a public hearing concerning its proposed application for federal Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funds.

In December of last year, the village applied for about \$130,000 in Small Cities Funds to purchase the old St. Agatha School and convert it into four apartments for senior citizens.

Gagetown didn't get the grant, so is aiming to apply again.

Its federal grants consultant, Leonard Hool, will be at the hearing to explain the proposal.

Suggestions of alternative projects can be made at the hearing.

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Goal \$13,500

# Area United Way fund drive underway

The 1980 Elkland-Novesta United Way fund drive got underway Tuesday evening with the traditional kickoff dinner at the Charmont for volunteers.

The goal this year is to raise \$13,500, the same amount as was the goal last year. Because of the economic situation, United Way President Dale Deering explained, that was thought to be more realistic than to try for an increase.

The goal last year was exceeded slightly.

"We are stressing strongly, how much money does stay locally," Deering said, pointing out that 13 local organizations or causes were aided, with money going to three more county or Thumb area organizations that also provide service locally.

A total of \$13,803 was distributed.

The aim is to complete fund raising activities within 30 days.

Although the goal this year is the same as last year, there is one change, the existence of the newly formed Tuscola County United Way, which will be soliciting funds in areas of the county not presently served by a local organiza-

tion.

Residents in those areas will receive a solicitation request by mail. There will be some overlap, county President Iris Tuckey said, because it is impossible to send out a mailing strictly by township. A person who lives in Novesta township, who has a Kingston address, for instance, would receive a mailing.

The solicitations state that if the person has been contacted by a local United Way drive, he or she should give to it, rather than to the county organization.

In addition to Elkland-Novesta, local drives are being conducted in Caro, Vassar, Akron-Fairgrove and maybe Reese.

**THE EXISTENCE** OF the county organization will have several benefits, according to Mrs. Tuckey, who was president of the Elkland-Novesta drive last year.

The obvious one is that persons will be asked to contribute who have never contributed before.

Another is that for the first time, Saginaw County United Way is permitting Tuscola county residents who work in Saginaw county to designate half of their

pledge to their home county.

The money can only be pledged to Tuscola County United Way, not to the local drive, and the minimum pledge must be \$50, of which half can be designated to Tuscola county.

When asked to contribute, the worker must ask for a special designation form.

Saginaw county was the last county to allow partial designation of pledges outside of its borders.

Other organizations only keep 10-25 percent, and don't require the money to go only to the county United Way. Last year, for instance, Elkland-Novesta received a check from Bay County United Way as the pledge from a resident of this area employed in that county.

**SPEAKER AT** THE kickoff banquet was Sally Bowen of Hemlock, former president of Michigan United Way and the first woman to hold that post, and presently a member of the Saginaw County United Way Board of Directors.

In addition to Deering, other officers of this year's Elkland-Novesta organization are Jon Fahrner, vice-president; Nancy Weippert, treasurer; and Ron Keegan, secretary.

Board members, in addition to the officers, are Ruth Grassmann, Arthur Holmberg, Iris Tuckey, Jerry Cleland, Dan Allen, Iva Hartwick, Don Englehart and Herb Ludlow.

The kickoff dinner was paid for by the Cass City State Bank and The Pinney State Bank.

Organizations and programs which received funds from the 1979 drive were Michigan United Way, \$2,500; Catholic Family Service, \$2,000; Cass City park program, \$1,500; Cass City Meals on Wheels, \$1,250; Rawson Memorial Library, \$1,000; Tuscola County Big Brothers-Big Sisters, \$1,000; Cass City Boys Little League, \$850; Christmas baskets for the needy, \$566; Cass City Girl Scouts, \$500; Cass City Arts Council, \$400; Cass City Girls Little League, \$400; American Red Cross, \$400; Cass City Boy Scouts, \$200; Cass City Babe Ruth, \$210; Cass City Cub Scouts, \$100; Deford Cuo Scouts, \$75; and Reading is Fundamental program, \$75.

Expenses were supplies, \$329; state of Michigan license, \$30; and advertising, \$74.

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## Proposed apology delayed

The proposed apology to Mrs. Joyce Crouse for not hiring her as special education teacher at Cass City Schools has been delayed in the school board's personnel committee.

A copy of the resolution submitted in behalf of Mrs. Crouse was in the hands of board members before a special meeting held last Wednesday.

However, it was never brought before the full board. President Geraldine Prieskorn said that the personnel committee chairman, Mrs. Thresa Burnette, was unable to get the committee together to discuss the proposal.

Although the full board was present at the meeting Wednesday, the issue never was placed on the table.

As a result, the special meeting took only a very few minutes when the formally agreed upon contract with the Tri-County Bargaining Association was ratified and books okayed for the continuing education department.

The resolution was accompanied by a release that Mrs. Crouse was to sign when the apology was confirmed by the entire board.

The proposed resolution reads:

WHEREAS, Joyce Crouse applied for a position in the high school for an opening in the Special Education classes; and

WHEREAS, the Cass City School District School Board determined that the potential conflicts of interest presented by her employment in the system because of her marriage to the superintendent of the system make it unwise to employ her in the position;

WHEREAS, Joyce Crouse has offered to release and waive all claims she may have against the school district arising out of her application in return for an apology;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Cass City School Board, by a unanimous vote, hereby offers its apology to Joyce Crouse for the embarrassment and anxiety she experienced as a result of her application for employment as a Special Education instructor on August 26, 1980 and acted upon by the board on September 8, 1980.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the members of the Board offer their signatures to this Resolution.



**HOMECOMING** — One of the three seniors in the front row will be crowned Cass City High School homecoming queen during halftime Friday night of the game against Sandusky. They are, from left, Brenda Izydorek, Lori Gohsman and Kelly Seuryneck. In the back row are homecoming court representatives, from left, Suzy Scollon, 9th grade; Rochelle Peters, 10th, and Bobbi MacKay, 11th. Homecoming parade down Main Street starts at 7 p.m. at the Big D parking lot.

# Fostoria man dies in Saturday crash

Dell J. Friday, 51, of Fostoria, was killed Saturday in an accident east of Millington.

Sheriff's deputies reported he was westbound on Millington Road when his car was struck in the driver's side door by a vehicle northbound on Center Road, which had failed to stop at the stop sign.

The other driver involved was William P. Graham, 24, of Millington, who was taken to Caro Community Hospital. He was discharged from there Monday.

According to Tuscola County Assistant Prosecutor Kathleen Boyle, the prosecutor's office is waiting for the sheriff's department investigation to be completed before deciding whether any charges will be brought against Graham.

Friday was dead at the scene. The Millington Fire Department's Jaws of Life hydraulic tool was used in extricating one or both victims. The accident took place at 4:55 p.m.

Friday was the 19th person to die in a Tuscola county traffic accident this year, compared to 16 as of this date a year ago.

**INJURY ACCIDENTS**

Three Caro teenagers were treated and released from Caro Community Hospital following an 8:05 p.m. accident Sept. 30 in Ellington township.

They were Lisa Dykes, 16, Rose Dunton, 15, and Daniel Sines, 17, all passengers in a car driven by Mark R. Frazee, 16, of Caro. A fourth passenger was reported to

have been injured, but the hospital did not have a record of his having been treated there.

Caro state police reported that Frazee was eastbound on Gerou Road, west of Jacob Road, when he lost control of his car when it hit a rise in the road.

His car went off the south edge of the road, then crossed over and went off the north side, rolled over, and landed on its wheels.

Kenneth W. Maynard, 28, of Ferndale, was treated and released from the Caro hospital after a 9 p.m. mishap Monday.

According to Caro state police, he was northbound on Phillips Road, north of Bevans Road, when a southbound vehicle came into his lane.

Please turn to page 10.



**OWEN-GAGE HOMECOMING** — One of these seniors will be crowned homecoming queen Friday night during halftime ceremonies of the game against Peck. From left, are Dana Laurie, Becky Howard, Loretta Hahn, Annette Rockefeller and Terri Sontag. (Related photo, page 3).