

## Turnout could be a record

A record number of Tuscola county residents are registered to vote in Tuesday's election.

Whether that means a record number will vote remains to be seen.

According to County Clerk Elsie Hicks, there are 32,516 persons registered to vote. Not only is that the most ever, it is 3,155 persons more than were registered in July.

The number of registrations always climbs before a presidential election, but the number who registered prior to the Oct. 6 deadline was more than normal.

One reason why there are more persons registered, she explained, is because they can register when they renew their driver's license, instead of only with their township clerk. The change has been in effect about two years. Although that makes it easier for persons to register, "Whether or not they're going to vote is another thing," she commented.

The record turnout in Tuscola county was in November, 1976, when 79.6 percent of the registered voters (more than 20,000) went to the polls, attracted by the presidential race, a close sheriff's race and four state ballot propositions.

This year, Mrs. Hicks is predicting a turnout of at least 50-60 percent adding that turnout in Tuscola county is traditionally more than the national average.

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**HAPPY HALLOWEEN** — Luke Taylor, 3, is all ready for Halloween with these pumpkins, grown by his grandparents, Dean and Lena Tuckey of Koepfgen Road. The biggest weighs 125 pounds and is 74 inches in circumference. Luke is the son of Arnold and Susan Taylor of Cass City.

## Board leaves decision to a journey

After an hour of debate Monday in a special meeting the Cass City School Board voted 4-3 to place the question of an apology for Mrs. Joyce Crouse in the hands of a Saginaw attorney.

Voting to hire the attorney were Mrs. Thresa Burnette, Dr. E. Paul Lockwood, Dean Hoag and Dick Albee. Against were Dr. Ed Scollon, Board President Geraldine Prieskorn and J.D. Tuckey.

The motion to refer to the attorney was made by Lockwood, who said that all releases to the press should be from the lawyers.

Mrs. Prieskorn attempted to get the matter resolved without an attorney because of the expense. It could cost \$5,000 or more, she said, to get it settled.

There apparently was a moderation of the stand taken by Scollon and Hoag after discussion by the board.

Dorland Kuntz, one of the members of the personnel committee that sat in on the discussions under the direction of Burnette, said that the resolution by the three board members (Hoag, Burnette and Lockwood) was not to sign an apology under any circumstances.

At the conclusion of the meeting, both Hoag and Lockwood said they would sign an apology if that was the course decided upon by the Saginaw law firm.

Burnette said that she would not be committed to signing even if the lawyer advised that it was the best option for the school.

Albee reiterated an earlier stand by saying that he had nothing against signing an apology but voted to refer to the lawyer because he was afraid of the school's liability. Perhaps if this is signed anyone will be able to sue the school for discrimination, he explained.

A motion was made by Lockwood to have Hoag and Burnette meet with the lawyer and the superintendent

but it was withdrawn after the rest of the board members said they wanted to sit in on the discussion, too.

### GRANT FRINGES

On the recommendation of the personnel committee, fringe benefits to supervisors in the system were authorized by the board that exceeded the request made for the group by the superintendent.

At a previous meeting, a request was made for major medical insurance policy under a group program offered to supervisors. This program for full family would have raised the cost to taxpayers to \$127.22 per month, up from \$104.00 the current Blue Cross policy

costs. Granted to the supervisors was a choice between that policy and the policy issued to the teachers. The teacher group policy costs \$131.12 per month, \$3.90 per month per person more than the plan for supervisors.

The board increased the sick leave benefits as suggested in a previous meeting. The number of sick leave days was upped from 12 to 16. The rate of pay was increased from \$25 per day to one-half the daily rate of pay. Supervisors can use vacation days for sick days if they desire.

The benefit increase was in addition to the 9 percent pay increase that was granted when new contracts were signed.

## Estimated budget tops \$3 million

It is estimated that the cost of operating Cass City's schools for 1980-81 will be over \$3 million, according to a budget adopted by the Cass City School Board Monday evening.

The annual meeting and budget hearing attracted few members of the district and the budget adopted Monday was more tentative than budgets usually are.

That's because the legislature has not acted on state aid for schools and the amount listed is at best an educated guess. It is likely that the budget will be amended when state revenues are known.

Supt. Don Crouse told the board that he anticipated less revenue from the state this year than was received in 1979-80.

The loss, coupled with an increase in expenses, means that the school will end the year with a deficit.

Crouse said that revenues increased 6.4 per cent while expenses are up 11.4 per cent. The increase came in spite of a cut-back in the teaching staff.

These figures mean, according to the projections, that the school will be \$153,000 in the red. The school ended the year with a cash surplus in the general

fund of \$306,172 to defray the estimated loss.

The fund balance was revealed in the annual financial statement of the district presented by Barry Vallee, accountant with the school auditors, Rehmann, Robson, Osburn & Co.

He told the board that the financial condition of the schools was the best of any of the 15 schools that his company audited.

He also said that the operation run by the superintendent was the best that he was associated with.

See chart, page 16.

## Downtown apartments ok'd

# Council, customers promised, cable television improving

Cable television reception in Cass City is getting better, the Cass City Village Council and several disgruntled customers were told Monday evening.

The council also approved a new ordinance allowing apartments in downtown buildings and got a dim preview of village finances for 1981.

Appearing before the council was Arnold Witherspoon, president of First Michigan Cablevision, and its engineer, Bob Stevens.

Witherspoon first appeared two months ago and promised improvements were forthcoming.

One of the improvements was made Tuesday of last week when a satellite reception dish was installed at the

Cass City antenna site.

The dish, he explained, enabled broadcasting of WTVS from Atlanta to begin within the past week. Home Box Office (special programs) will start Saturday for those customers paying the extra charge. The antenna to receive Channel 28 from Flint (public broadcasting station) is in but the equipment to process the signal so it can be broadcast locally is still on order.

Customer Jerry Vegosen of 4574 Hill Street then complained that although reception of Channels 2, 7 and 50 has "improved remarkably," reception of 5, 19 and 25, which had been good, no longer was.

Other complaints were similar, with John Maharg

of Brenda Drive commenting that the shadow on Channel 5 was so bad, the apparent reason why the Philadelphia Phillies won the World Series was because it had 18 men on the field most of the time.

Stevens explained the problem with 5, 12 and 25 is poor equipment used by the previous owners of the cable network. New equipment is on order, due by Nov. 6.

As for Channels 2 and 7 from Detroit, he and Witherspoon explained the problem is they are too far away and there is sometimes interference from other channels 2 and 7 elsewhere, so consistently good reception cannot be guaranteed.

Developer Tom Herron wanted to know why cable

television couldn't be installed in his Northwood Village and Estates subdivision.

Witherspoon responded that the cost to do so would be \$12,377 and with only 10 homes there now, "There is absolutely no way at the current rate we can do that." He added that the subdivision was constructed after the original cable firm was given the Cass City franchise.

The council did agree to installation of a message channel keyboard in the municipal building at no cost to the village, as part of the new Channel 3.

The channel, replacing one out of Caro, will give current weather information for Cass City. By typing

messages of public interest on the keyboard, they will be broadcast as a "crawl line" along the bottom of the picture. Delivery of the keyboard is expected in 30 days.

First Cablevision currently has 475 subscribers in the village.

In August, 1979, the council authorized an increase in the monthly rate charged from \$7 to \$8, contingent upon improvement in service. Witherspoon said after the session with councilmen, the rate increase will go into effect Dec. 1.

### APARTMENTS

The council meeting was preceded by a planning commission hearing, at which it Please turn to page 12.

# Berry vs. Clancy: Sheriff's race only one of countywide interest

Come Jan. 1, for the first time since 1963, Tuscola county will have a new sheriff.

The question voters must

answer Tuesday is whether it will be Republican Paul Berry, a deputy in the sheriff's department, in which he has served 25 years, or Democrat Herbert Clancy, the Millington police chief.

Both men first ran for the job four years ago. Berry lost in the Republican primary to the now retiring Sheriff Hugh Marr by 607 votes and Clancy lost to Marr in the general election by 322.

In August, Berry defeated four other candidates to win the Republican primary. Clancy did not have any opposition.

The man who finished second to Berry by 617 votes, present Undersheriff Bruce Tait, has been selected by Clancy to serve in the same capacity should the Democrat be elected. Berry hasn't announced who his undersheriff will be.

The election of a new sheriff is the only countywide contest. The others running, all Republican, do not have opposition. They are: clerk, Elsie Hicks; treasurer, Elgene Keller; register of deeds, John W. Marshall; drain commissioner, Stanley Henry, and prosecutor, Artis Noel.

Henry, who defeated two opponents in the primary, is the only one not presently holding office. Presently a drain inspector, he will take over for retiring Drain Commissioner Edmund Goodchild.

Mrs. Hicks has held office 10 years; Mrs. Keller, four; Marshall, eight, and Noel, two.

Also on the Tuscola County ballot will be Circuit Judge Norman Baguley, unopposed, running for a six-year term. He has held the office since 1969. The vote will apparently be meaningless because as of Jan. 1 he will serve in Lapeer county exclusively, due to a change in the state law, instead of in Lapeer and Tuscola as in the past.

To aid voters in making a choice for sheriff, the Chronicle asked each to respond in writing to three questions. The first two questions were the same for each. The candidates' backgrounds are described first, followed by their answers to the questions.

### PAUL BERRY

Berry, 47, was appointed a special deputy in the Tus-

cola County Sheriff's Department in July, 1955, and became a full-time officer the following year. He was undersheriff from 1969-72.

Berry graduated from Caro High School in 1951 and is a graduate of the Saginaw Valley Law Enforcement Officers Training School. He has completed several seminars concerning various aspects of police work, including administration and supervision.

He is a member of the Fraternal Order of Police chapter, of which he was president two years. He is also a member of the National Sheriff's Association, has served for many years on the Tuscola County Fair Association Board of Directors, is former activities chairman of Cub Scout Pack 3652 of Caro and has been involved in scouting much of

his life.

Berry was presented with the Caro Jaycees' distinguished service award in 1966 and is a life member of the organization. He belongs to the Caro Moose Lodge. He and his wife, Ruth, have three children.

### HERBERT CLANCY

Clancy, 50, is a Millington native who retired from the Army as a first sergeant in 1972 after 20 years of service. He was a member of the military police and trained both military personnel and civilians in police technology.

In 1965, while serving in Germany, he was presented with the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service as chief clerk and training noncommissioned officer in his unit, part of the headquarters branch of the Seventh Army.

After his return to civilian life, he was a deputy in the Tuscola Sheriff's Department from early 1972 until he resigned in March, 1973, to become chief of police in Millington.

Clancy holds certificates in police administration Please turn to page 16.

## Trick-or-treat hours Friday

Friday is the one night of the year the ghosts and goblins wait for. It's Halloween.

Trick-or-treat hours have been established in area communities.

In Cass City, "Halloweening" hours will be from 5-7:30 p.m.

In Gagetown, they will be from 6-8 p.m. and in Owendale, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Youngsters in Kingston can trick-or-treat from 6-7 p.m. When the fire siren blows, they should go to the village hall for the party and costume judging.

Hours in Ubyl will be from 5:30-7 p.m. The Lions Club party for children, 14 and under will start in the school gymnasium at 7:30.



**SATURDAY ACCIDENT** — The vehicle occupied by the Jack Ramseyer family of Haslett became a twisted mass of steel after colliding with a sugar beet truck Saturday afternoon at M-53 and Deckerville Road.

## Inside

Other election stories in Section 1, pages 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 16; Section 2, pages 1, 9, 12.