

2nd time around: Tuscola county seeks mill for bridges, operations

Tuscola county voters Tuesday will be asked for a second time to approve a 1-mill levy for five years to fund bridge repair and county operations.

The same proposal was rejected in the Aug. 5 primary election, 3,518-3,333. The levy is not an increase. If approved, it will replace the present 1-mill levy for local road bridges that will appear on tax bills for the last time this December. (Because of the Headlee amendment rollback, the levy this time will be .9888.)

The new levy, if approved, will appear for the first time on December, 1981 tax bills. The difference between the two is that all of the old levy was for bridges.

The new proposal - Proposition 1 on the ballot - will allocate a half-mill for bridges and a half-mill for Tuscola county government operations. The two are linked together. Voters will only have the choice of all or none, not one or the other. County residents approved the first levy for bridges in 1970 and the second in 1976.

Since 1970, improvements have been made on 99 bridges on township local roads at a cost of \$4.59 million, according to the Road Commission. Of that

amount, \$3.07 million has come from the millage, \$817,464 from the state and federal governments, \$435,357 from county funds and \$266,409 from the townships.

There are still 62 township bridges either closed to all traffic or posted with load limits.

The Road Commission board felt it could get by with a half mill in the future because additional federal and state funds are becoming available, according to its chairman, F. William Tuckey. To obtain the money, however, the county must have matching funds available and the bridges designed and ready for construction. Millage is also needed for emergencies.

Tuscola is scheduled to receive \$744,000 in federal and state funds this year for new bridges. If matching funds are available, \$1.28 million "may be forthcoming," according to Tuckey. Although all of the 1970 levy was spent for local road bridges, starting with the 1976 one, a new state law required sharing of such countywide millages with villages and cities, even if they don't have bridges.

This year, Cass City received \$15,387 from that source; Gagetown, \$1,876, and Kingston, \$2,128. Of the half-mill to be

received by the Road Commission if the millage is approved, based on the recent county equalized valuation, about \$200,000 will go for township bridges each year and \$50,000 will go to the 11 incorporated cities and villages.

COUNTY OPERATIONS

If there was a need for a half-mill back in August, according to Ken Kennedy, chairman of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners' finance committee, the need is more acute now.

Based on the present state equalized valuation, the half-mill will give the county about \$250,000 a year.

The board usually approves its budget in October for the upcoming year. This year, it hasn't even started yet.

The reason is that no one knows how much money the county will receive in 1981.

Passage of the millage won't help the county until 1982, as it won't go on tax bills until the end of next year.

The 4.2 mills levied by the county now, according to Kennedy, is the lowest levied by any of the 83 counties in Michigan. Even if the half-mill is approved, 4.7 mills may still be the low-

est. (Because of the Headlee Amendment rollback requirement, the county levy on this December's tax bills will only be 4.1572 mills.)

Tuscola county will spend about \$4 million this year for general operations, of which about half comes from property taxes. (Health department, mental health department and road commission aren't included in the general fund budget.)

Passage of any of the three statewide tax reform proposals won't affect the tax bills that will be mailed in about a month, thus won't affect property tax revenue in 1981.

This year, Tuscola is supposed to receive about \$557,000 in state funds for general operations, as its share of various state taxes. It receives additional state funds for mental health and public health departments.

But with the state's severe budget crunch, state funds to the county are already undergoing a decrease and could decline even more next year, even if all the state tax proposals are defeated.

Starting in 1982, the tax proposals could have an effect on county property tax revenues, in particular, the Tisch and coalition tax amendments (Proposals D and C respectively).

How much money could the county lose over what it receives now if any of the proposals pass? "I think it's impossible to say," Kennedy responded.

The other big unknown about future county revenues is federal revenue sharing, which contributed about \$320,000 to county coffers this year.

Back in August, the finance committee chairman

was expecting that would drop to \$300,000 in 1981. Now he is afraid it will drop to nothing.

The federal revenue sharing program has expired and Congress won't vote until after the Nov. 4 election on whether to renew it.

Even if Tisch is defeated, he predicted the 1981 county budget "will be tight," but didn't care to speculate on what cuts if any might have to be made.



OFFICERS of the Hills and Dales General Hospital Auxiliary for 1980-81 are, front row, from left, Virginia Hartwick, vice-president, and Janet Francis, president. Back row, Linda Herron, secretary, and Betty Greenleaf, treasurer.

Judicial candidates

Justices of the Supreme Court

Term Expires 1/1/89

(Vote for not more than two)

- ELIZABETH BURCH
- MARY S. COLEMAN
JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT
- MICHAEL K. HEGARTY
- CHARLES L. LEVIN
JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT
- JOSEPH B. SULLIVAN

Judge of the Court of Appeals

2nd DISTRICT

Term Expires 1-1-87

(Vote for not more than two)

- S. JEROME BRONSON
JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS
- ROBERT J. DANHOF
JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS
- JOHN J. MURRAY

Reject transfers

The Tuscola Intermediate School District (TISD) Board of Education Monday evening rejected two requested transfers of property from the Kingston to the Caro School District.

It approved one transfer from the Vassar district to Caro.

All the requests stemmed from the Caro district making a careful check of its boundaries and finding four parcels long thought to have been part of the district, which actually were in Kingston or Vassar.

The students living there had been going to the Caro schools, some as long as 10 years, according to TISD Assistant Supt. Jerome Thienes.

The district then notified the property owners they would either have to pay tuition to Caro or request a transfer of their property.

One transfer request, from Kingston to Caro, scheduled to be considered Monday, was withdrawn as the parents involved are now sending their two children to the Kingston schools.

The transfer request from Vassar to Caro was approved, Thienes said, because the Vassar district did not object. Involved was one student and property with a valuation of \$5,100.

The two requested transfers from Kingston were denied, he explained, because the Kingston district did object, primarily because of the loss in valuation if the transfers were approved.

The 118-acre parcel of Eugene Krywko on Frankford Road, Wells township, has a valuation of \$34,900. Involved were three students.

The 40-acre parcel of Roy Lind, Mushroom Road, Wells township, has a valuation of \$17,000. One student was involved.

The parents involved can appeal the transfer denial within 10 days of the TISD board's action to the State Board of Education. Their other options are to pay tuition to the Caro schools or start sending their children to Kingston.

Items worth more than \$300 were reported stolen from a car last Wednesday.

Area accidents

One killed, 4 injured

Continued from page one

ported he was eastbound on M-46 and his vehicle went straight off the road at a slight curve.

The vehicle went into a ditch, struck a fencepost, sheared off a large tree, rolled into a utility pole and burst into flames. The fire started in the engine compartment and consumed the entire vehicle.

Hisey, 22, of 6510 Moriarty Road, who was still inside when the car burned, was dead at the scene.

Troopers said his vehicle traveled 472 feet from where it went off the road until it struck the utility pole. The Lapeer Fire Department was called to the scene to extinguish the flames. The accident occurred at 3:25 a.m.

What caused his vehicle to leave the road was not immediately known. There were no witnesses to the crash.

Hisey was born July 30, 1958, in Mount Clemens. He had attended Marlette High School and was a tool and die maker at Modular Data Systems in Utica.

He is survived by his mother, Delores Groove, Sandusky; two step-sisters, Renee Clark and Sherri Groove, both of Sandusky; two step-brothers, Mike and Mark Clark, both of Carsonville, and his grandparents, with whom he lived, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hisey of Decker. Funeral services were

held Monday afternoon from Marsh Funeral Chapel, Marlette. Rev. John E. Larkin, retired pastor of Christian Missionary Alliance church, officiated.

Interment was in White Chapel, Troy.

OTHER ACCIDENTS

James O. Parker, 45, of 6246 Rossman Road, Kingston, was treated and released from Marlette Community Hospital after an accident at 7:30 a.m. Oct. 21.

Tuscola county deputies reported he was northbound on Cemetery Road, north of M-46, when he braked and turned to try to avoid hitting a deer.

His vehicle skidded on the wet dirt road, went off the west side of the road into an embankment, flipped on top to its hood and top part of the cab, then fell back on its wheels.

At 5:45 p.m. that day, deputies said, Jason D. Koehler, 18, of 3850 S. English Road, Kingston, eastbound on M-46, west of English, was turning south onto a private drive.

The car following him, driven by Orville W. Lockhart, 71, of W. Sanilac Road, Kingston, tried to pass on the left but then spotted a westbound truck, pulled back into the eastbound lane and ran into the rear of the Koehler vehicle.

Caro state police reported that an unknown northbound vehicle ran into a General

Telephone utility pole off the east side of Dodge Road, south of DeLong Road, breaking it in two. The vehicle then left.

The incident was reported at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 20.

CAR-DEER

Karen A. Koester, 26, of 6306 E. Rossman Road, Kingston, was eastbound on Deckerville Road, near Crawford Road, according to Caro state police, when her car struck a deer. The incident occurred at 11:50 a.m. last Wednesday.

At 7:15 p.m. that day, they

said, Janet M. Kratz, 28, of 4274 Hurds Corner Road, Kingston, was eastbound on M-46, east of Phillips Road, when her car struck a deer.

At 10:15 p.m. last Wednesday, Cass City police reported that Deanne Zmierski, 16, of 6192 Ritter Road, was southbound on Cemetery Road, north of Kelly Road, when her car collided with a deer.

Caro state police reported that at 10:30 a.m. last Thursday, Jeffrey A. Petersen, 25, of Essexville, was eastbound on Deckerville Road, west of Murray Road, when his vehicle struck a deer.

Drop charges in bad check case

A charge of non-sufficient funds - check against a Deford woman was dismissed Friday by District Judge Richard F. Kern.

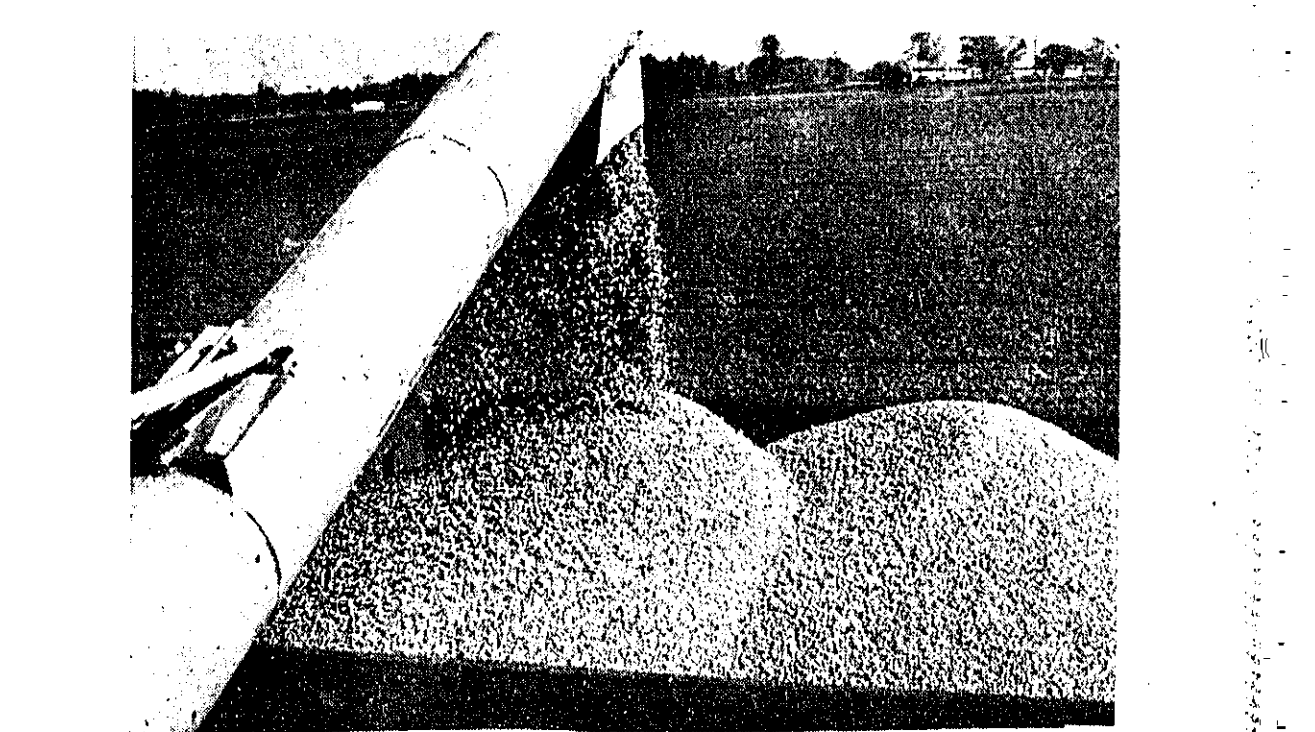
Karen T. Murphy, 24 of 2232 Englehart Road had been charged with writing a check for \$81 to the Kroger store in Caro in June for which she did not have enough money in her bank account.

According to Assistant Prosecutor Eric Proschek, he moved for dismissal because further investigation showed there was reasonable doubt as to intent to defraud by the defendant.

Thomas L. Slater, 28, of 4118 S. Seeger Street, Lot 4, Cass City, pleaded guilty in district court Oct. 21 to a charge of impaired driving.

His plea was accepted and he was placed on one year probation and ordered to attend alcohol education classes. He was fined \$100, assessed \$100 court costs and his driving privileges were restricted.

Slater was arrested by Cass City police Sept. 28 after his car missed a turn at high speed from Cemetery Road onto DeLong Road and went into a ditch.



GOOD HARVEST - Dry weather most of last week and this week has enabled farmers such as Frank Schwartz (above right) of Williamson Road, Gagetown, to make much headway in harvesting corn. Photo at left was taken from inside his combine. Tuscola County extension Director Bill Bortel said this year will be the first ever that corn yields will probably average more than 100 bushels per acre in the county. Lack of warm days and a good killing frost have resulted in high moisture content, which means farmers have to pay more to get their corn dried. Schwartz' Grant township field, harvested last Thursday, he guessed, would average 130 bushels, with a moisture content of close to 30 percent. Ideal would be low 20 percent range or less.

NAMES OF OFFICES

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

REPUBLICAN

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE

President and Vice President
JIMMY CARTER
WALTER F. MONDALE

President and Vice President
RONALD REAGAN
GEORGE BUSH

STATE BOARDS
MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO

Member of the State Board of Education
CARROLL M. HUTTON

Member of the State Board of Education
NORMAN STOCKMEYER

Member of the State Board of Education
JAMES H. LINCOLN

Member of the State Board of Education
EDMUND VANDETTE

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO

Board of Regents, University of Michigan
STUART E. HERTZBERG

Board of Regents, University of Michigan
DEANE BAKER

Board of Regents, University of Michigan
NELLIE M. VARNER

Board of Regents, University of Michigan
DAVID LARO

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO

Trustee of Michigan State University
WILLIAM D. BYRUM

Trustee of Michigan State University
PAUL GADOLA

Trustee of Michigan State University
ELIZABETH P. HOWE

Trustee of Michigan State University
THOMAS REED

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO

Board of Governors, Wayne State University
MURRAY E. JACKSON

Board of Governors, Wayne State University
KURT R. KEYDEL

Board of Governors, Wayne State University
ELENA R. SANCHEZ

Board of Governors, Wayne State University
RICHARD VAN DUSEN

OTHER PRESIDENTIAL candidates on the ballot are John Anderson, Anderson coalition; Ed Clark, Libertarian Party; Barry Commoner, Citizens Party, and Gus Hall, independent candidate (Communist Party). The American Independent Party and Libertarian Party have candidates running for state offices.