Pot store owner: Planning commissioner wanted $5,000

By John Schneider
john@tcadvertiser.com

According to a Caro Police Department report, police responded March 18 to Premier Provisioning, a medical marijuana store at 1023 E. Caro Road in Caro, for a suspicious person complaint. When they arrived, the store’s manager told an officer Michel had been there.

The manager told police Michel claimed to be from the Caro Planning Commission, and that he was there to inspect the facility. The manager said she then called the business’ owner – Ray Murad – who advised the manager she should tell Michel to leave. Michel refused to leave immediately, but left the business before police arrived.

Matthew Lane, city manager of Caro, population 6,328, said at the April 17 council meeting that planning commission members have no right to enter business inspections, and that Michel’s behavior violated the city’s new ethics ordinance.

“That is the backdrop of why we are here today,” Lane said. “The council has determined there was cause to go through this process because Mr. Michel is a public official. This process is required to move forward.”

The Caro Transit Authority asks voters to decide on a two-mill ($2 yearly on each $1,000 of taxable value) property-tax renewal in 2023 through 2027. Voters last approved the tax’s renewal in 2016 by a count of 1,884 to 1,649.

The Caro Transit Authority Millage Renewal Proposal

The Caro Transit Authority asks voters to decide on a two-mill ($2 yearly on each $1,000 of taxable value) property-tax renewal. The renewal is for five years, from 2023 through 2027. Voters last approved the tax’s renewal in 2016 by a count of 1,884 to 1,649. Government officials from Almer County Board of Commissioners, MIDC office were rejected by the commissioners, for an additional attorney for the local MIDC office.

John Schneider, former Controller/administrator, Clayton Zechmeister said the county will have to advertise the opening.

“I think he did a really awesome job,” she said. “I almost wanted to not accept his letter, but I can understand where he is coming from.”

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“I think he did a really awesome job,” she said. “I almost wanted to not accept his letter, but I can understand where he is coming from.”

“I feel bad about that but we need to move forward,” Rolando said. “Rolando asked for more help. On Monday, the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners was informed Rolando, the head of the local Michigan Indigent Defense Counsel office, had submitted his resignation letter. Rolando has headed the local MIDC office for less than a year. The commissioners are expected to accept Rolando’s resignation letter on Thursday. If they do, Rolando’s last day will be May 31.

Local MIDC boss opts to resign

By Mark Haney | Reporter
haney@tcadvertiser.com

“Because this board, I feel, has to support their man. And we didn’t support him at all. … I was disappointed in that.”

He said Rolando was “beaten down” by what had been happening “and I feel bad about that but we need to move forward.” Rolando’s request for an additional attorney for the local MIDC office was rejected by the commissioners.

Mike Rolando

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2021 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST AWARD WINNER

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Pot store owner: Planning commissioner wanted $5,000

By John Schneider
john@tcadvertiser.com

CARO — A Caro Planning Commission member was dismissed after an incident at a business resulted in a police report being sent to the Tuscola County Prosecutor’s Office.

Prosecutors lawyer’s decided whether or not to charge 76-year-old Al Michel with any crimes – such as trespassing, or bribery – but the Caro City Council, on April 17, voted unanimously to remove Michel from the planning commission.

“By what had been happening “and I feel bad about that but we need to move forward.” Rolando’s request for an additional attorney for the local MIDC office was rejected by the commissioners.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

‣ Letters containing language or content that is blatantly offensive, or contain statements that are libelous will not be published.
‣ Letters that contain statements that are factual in nature will be published.
‣ Letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification only. Letters will be printed with the author’s name and city of residence only. Anonymous letters will not be published.
‣ Letters should focus on the opinion/s of the writer, not facts.
‣ Letters should be 200 words or less. Letters over the word limit will be cut at the editor’s discretion.
‣ All letters are subject to editing for style, mechanics and grammar.

Submissions are limited to one letter per person per month. We reserve the right to publish or not publish any letter we choose. If a letter is published, the author’s name and city of residence will be published. All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification only. Letters will be printed with the author’s name and city of residence only. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Letters that contain statements that are factual in nature will be published. Letters referring to news stories should mention the newspaper from which the material is quoted. Letters regarding elections should mention the headline and date the letter was published. Letters related to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

Letters containing language or content that is blatantly offensive, or contain statements that are libelous will not be published.

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Any statement of facts not generally known or accepted to be true will be cut at the editor’s discretion. All letters are subject to editing for style, mechanics and grammar.
Marlette’s Chappel wins pair of SVSU writing prizes

By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor
gilchrist@tcadvertiser.com

Marlette’s Chappel wins pair of SVSU writing prizes

By Alex Szwarc | For The Advertiser

Muth museum to honor late broadcaster at golf outing

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KROCZYSZOT HEJNO

John DeOpsomer, a nursing major from Bay City, won a Braun Award for students in the SVSU College of Health and Human Services.

SVSU states that its University Writing Program "provides students with the resources to develop their writing and critical thinking skills, supports faculty engagement in best practices in the teaching of writing, and encourages all members of the university community to value writing by coordinating various activities and programs across campus."
Four proposals, one contest to be decided

**Resident of Gagetown**

The village of Gagetown is asking voters to decide on a 13-mill renewal to allow the Gagetown Police Department to continue providing service. The proposal is for 10 years, and if approved, landowners will pay taxes of $3.50 per $1,000 dollars of taxable property. Approval of the tax renewal would generate about $14,650 in its first year.

- **Residents of Gagetown can vote on the proposal.**
- **Village of Gagetown Public Works Millage Renewal**

The village of Gagetown is also asking voters to renew a 3-mill tax to provide the village with public works service. The tax will raise about $14,650 in its first year.

- **Residents of Elmore Township can vote on the proposal.**

**Unionville-Seedung Area Schools Operating Millage Renewal**

The USA Schools district is asking voters to approve a 10-year, 18-mill renewal which will amount to the taxation of $18 on every $1,000 of property—except principal property such as a home and other property exempted by law. It is a Michigan Homestead Act renewal, meaning only secondary property, such as second homes and businesses, will be taxed. If the tax is renewed, it will provide about $1,178,126 to the school district in its first year, 2023.

- **The USA school district includes parts of both Tuscola and Huron counties. In Tuscola County, residents of Alcona, Columbia and Winterton townships will be eligible to vote.**

**Pot store owner: Planning commissioner wanted $5,000**

Ray Murad, who owns Premier Provisioning Center in Caro, shown here, claims Al Michel told Murad to pay Michel $5,000, or it could affect how Michel voted as a member of the Caro Planning Commission.

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**Pot store owner: Planning commissioner wanted $5,000**

Ray Murad, who owns Premier Provisioning Center in Caro, shown here, claims Al Michel told Murad to pay Michel $5,000, or it could affect how Michel voted as a member of the Caro Planning Commission.
Local MIDS boss Rolando chooses to resign

From | A1

but not until both District Judge Jason Bardwell and Circuit Judge Amy Grace Gierhart blasted Rolando’s work, and DuRussel and Commissioner Doug DeRussel and District 3 Commissioner Dan Grimshaw led the effort to reject Rolando’s proposal.

Tuscola Township Building Commissioner Thomas Hardbarger said he expected more from Rolando in making his pitch for help and that he felt the last meeting before getting a chance to speak because he had to be in court. He said he also leaned toward believing the two judges more than what little Rolando said.

“When I see a public defender, I expect them to have perseverance and to come to the board determined,” he said. “… I didn’t hear that from Mr. Rolando. … I was disappointed in that. I wouldn’t want someone representing me if it was the man that I saw in here publicly.”

Zechmeister recommended the county move ahead with adding staff to the MIDS office as well as hiring a new administrator. But Grimshaw said the county shouldn’t add staff until a new administrator has been hired so the new person can be part of that hiring process.

Zechmeister said if the county didn’t act now to approve the plan to add staff to the local MIDS office then it won’t be able to get that funding until the Oct. 1 start of the state’s next fiscal year. She argued for the county to line up the funding now to give whoever the next MIDS director is the same type of support as the current staff, especially since the state funds the actual end result.

But Grimshaw said he’s willing to wait until October to be able to add to the MIDS office. He said the next leader can make that decision.

“But they will be,” Zechmeister said. “It just gives them that flexibility.”

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Tuscola twp. approves worker training

By Mark Hany | reporter
hany@tuscolatoday.com

TUSCOLA TWP — Training was front and center when the Tuscola Township board met April 19. The board approved sending Carol Sceats, secretary of the planning commission, to six state training workshops.

Any board member also will be allowed to attend a planning and zoning meeting May 31 in Frankenmuth by the Michigan Township Association.

The board also named Matt Jobson to the parks and rec board to replace retiring Commissioner Tom Young.

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Employees and the public can use the office’s space for the office and hire the people needed to fill that office.

Opening a public defender’s office, Zechmeister said, also would eliminate the contracted attorneys the MIDS office uses and create a greater burden on the short staff.

“If we don’t get that verbiage in (the plan now),” Zechmeister said, “… to get that shift in the current plan, then we are dealing with Oct. 1. I think it is mindful to have that flexibility. And why not? It doesn’t cost us a dime.”

Rolando said the commission is leaning toward establishing a public defender’s office in the county and to do so before Oct. 1. But Zechmeister said that’s unlikely because of the simple logistics of the task. The county would have to find space for the office and hire the people needed to fill that office.

The Huron County Drug Task Force was busy April 20, conducting multiple operations resulting in three arrests and the seizure of drugs and guns.

The first operation occurred at about 5:30 p.m. when task force members, along with Huron County deputies and Bad Axe Police Department officers, executed a search warrant at a residence on Charlotte Street in Colfax Township near Bad Axe.

According to a press release from Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson, the home’s residence, 47-year-old Randolph B. Kinney, was arrested for fenanyl was found. He was arraigned in Huron County District Court on April 21 and lodged in the county jail on a $2,000 bond.

At about 10 p.m. April 20, officers from the same agencies — aided by a Sebewaing Police Department officer — arrested 47-year-old Edward A. Rodrigue of Saginaw, and 37-year-old Jeffrey A. Martin of Bay City.

The men were in a Toyota Camry when they were pulled over in Sebewaing Township. The operation was the result of a “long term investigation involving drug trafficking in our county,” Hanson said.

Police reported finding approximately 60 grams of methamphetamine — with a street value of about $6,000 — during the traffic stop. They said they confiscated two handguns and other weapons. The Camry was seized as well. Both men were arrested Thursday on multiple drug charges and confined to the Huron County Jail on identical $4,000 bonds.

Further charges are expected as the investigation continues, Hanson said.

Last week’s arrests are part of a three-month stretch in which the Huron County Drug Task Force has removed narcotics from the streets. Community members can report drug activity by calling the Huron County Sheriff’s Office during regular business hours at 989-269-6500, or Huron Central Dispatch’s non-emergency number anytime at 989-269-6421. Confidential calls can use the office’s TIPS Line of 989-269-2861.

Task force nabs pair near Sebewaing, one near Bad Axe

By Jean Schwarm

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The Advertiser
Township hall to get video recording system

By Mark Haney | Reporter
haney@dcheraldtrib.com

VASSAR TWP. – Smile, you’re on “Candid Camera.”

That isn’t exactly what great leaders choosing to enter the Vassar Township hall, but they will be met by a variation.

That’s one result of the decision made April 13 by the township board. The township is paying Harper Alarms of Vassar $1,925.00 for a way to record meetings in the township hall. That cost includes the installation, wiring, a splitter, network video recorder and signs. The signs will warn those entering the hall that what takes place there may be recorded.

The recorder will have a 1 terabyte hard drive so it will be able to store months of recordings, “You could have tons of recording before you start recording over stuff,” he said.

Harper’s firm also will install a camera outside the hall’s main entrance to show anyone wanting to enter the hall. It would come with a buzzer and a way to unlock the door remotely from indoors. The key still will unlock the door.

The board consisted that night of just John Stack and board member Ben Foether said, “we’ll be in good shape.”

“The board said yes. We need a good recording system to protect our board members and the township,” said John Stack.

There were no objections from anyone in the room.

“It costs $4,137 with the Tuscola County Road Commission to apply to 23A gravel to improve Humes Road. Half the cost will be paid upfront. It would have cost the township $16,005 for 22A gravel. Besides the price, the difference is the clay content. The board also was told the road needs ditching to clear up water issues.

“The road needs ditching to clear up water issues.

“Adjust the 2022-23 budget to add $5,000 to board supplies; add $3,000 to parking lot maintenance; add $500 to the accounting fund to cover three additional costs. That still leaves $97,069.66 in the contingency account.

“Learned the tire collection is 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 21 at the hall. Tuscola County Recycling is sponsoring the event.

“Will be seeking bids for roadside mowing, with the bids due by May 13 for the township hall.

“Set the cleanup day for the township park for May 13. May 14.

“Approved getting a portable toilet for the park for May 1 to Oct. 30 at a cost of $150 per month.

“Approved getting 2 yards of gravel for the parking lot for $250.

“Will pay Kappen Tree Service of Cass City $5,500 to take down six pine trees and one cottonwood around the pavilion at the township park, plus removing the wood and grinding the stumps.

“Approved spending up to $700 for a chinawax to be used by parks and recreation to remove trees at the park.

“Will have dumpsters at the hall May 12-15 for the spring cleanup.

“Learned the tire collection is 8 a.m. May 21 at the hall. Tuscola County Recycling is sponsoring the event.

“Approved spending up to $100 for a chimney to be used by parks and recreation to remove trees at the park.

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CARO — The recent dip in pump prices has reversed, with the national average for a gallon of regular gas rising four cents over the past week to $4.12. Upward pricing pressure on concerns that less Russian oil will enter the global market is countered by fears of a COVID-induced economic slowdown in China, the world’s leading oil consumer. These opposing forces are causing the oil price to hover around $100 a barrel.

“As long as the price of oil stays elevated, the price at the pump will struggle to fall,” said Andrew Gross, AAA spokesperson. “Consumers may be catching a little break from March’s record-high prices, but don’t expect any dramatic drops.”

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), total domestic gasoline stocks decreased by nearly 1 million bbl to 232.3 million bbl last week. Gasoline demand increased slightly from 8.73 million b/d to 8.86 million b/d. Although supply and demand factors would have typically supported elevated pump prices, the fluctuating oil price continues to be the main factor influencing prices at the pump.

Today’s national average for a gallon of gas is $4.12, which is 12 cents less than a month ago, and $1.24 more than a year ago.

### Quick Stats

- **The nation’s top 10 largest weekly increases:**
  - Maryland (+13 cents)
  - Delaware (+12 cents)
  - Kansas (+11 cents)
  - South Dakota (+11 cents)
  - Connecticut (+10 cents)
  - Florida (+9 cents)
  - Nebraska (+9 cents)
  - Missouri (+9 cents)
  - Rhode Island (+9 cents)
  - Washington, D.C. (+8 cents)

- **The nation’s top 10 least expensive markets:**
  - Georgia ($3.71)
  - Arkansas ($3.74)
  - Missouri ($3.75)
  - Ohio ($3.75)
  - Kansas ($3.77)
  - Oklahoma ($3.77)
  - Mississippi ($3.77)
  - Texas ($3.77)
  - South Carolina ($3.78)
  - Kentucky ($3.79)

### Oil Market Dynamics

At the close of Friday’s formal trading session, WTI decreased by $1.72 to settle at $102.07. Crude prices weakened at the end of the day due to demand concerns in Shanghai as fears of a demand-reducing slowdown in global economic activity loom. Crude prices declined despite EIA reporting that total domestic oil inventories decreased by 8.1 million barrels to 413.7 million barrels. This week, crude prices could see further reductions if demand concerns continue to drag the market down.
Frankenmuth museum to honor late broadcaster Frank Beckmann at golf outing

Reflecting on last year’s outing, Cyrus explained that this year’s outing is a little more special following Beckmann’s passing. “We lost him to vascular dementia,” he said. “He was a huge supporter and a board member. For a guy who was on radio and television for over 40 years, he had this incredible passion for the museum. We collectively thought we needed to honor him by adding his name to the event.”

Ryder noted that Beckmann broadcasted a few shows from the museum over the years. “We absolutely loved what we did here in telling the stories of Michigan service men and women,” he said. “He thought everybody should know about it. We couldn’t think of a better way to honor him than with a golf outing.”

Beckmann’s son Jon is expected to attend, with Cyrus adding that WJR donated a four-person team so four veterans can golf for free. Reflecting on last year’s outing, Cyrus said the spirit of the day was one of celebration and having a great time. “It was hanging out with celebrities and seeing them interact with our guests,” he said. “Just having the opportunity to be around so many influential Michiganders.”

The outing begins with registration, breakfast and an open driving range between 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. followed by a scramble-style golf tournament at 11 a.m. The event includes lunch on the turn, a dinner featuring barbecued chicken and locally made bratwurst with sauerkraut, and awards. Team packages include a celebrity team consisting of three golfers and a celebrity for $1,200. Several ticket and sponsorship opportunities are available including platinum, gold, silver and bronze sponsorships ranging from $2,000 to $3,000. Folks can register for the outing by visiting events.golfstatus.com/event/fc5091f5-abc3-4154-9b35-00c5999c903 details registration-details. To learn more about the museum, visit miheroes.org.
You may have seen the term “bare root plants” in nursery catalogs and websites and wondered what it means. Basically, it’s exactly what it sounds like: Plants are shipped without soil or a container. These plants are dug and divided in the fall, then kept in cold storage until shipped in the spring. You’ll see perennials, shrubs, roses, vines, perennial edibles such as asparagus, and young trees sold as bare root plants—but not annuals because they only live for one season.

But what’s the point? Well, for starters, it’s much cheaper to purchase bare root plants because, obviously, you don’t have all the extra weight and complications of shipping in a container. That means you can add to your garden on a budget and in a hurry! Also, these plants still are in a dormant state when you receive them, so you can plant them earlier in the season than mature plants. This gives them an extended period of time to get established during their first year in the ground.

Curious about adding a few bare root plants to your garden? Here’s everything you need to know about planting and caring for them, plus eight plants you can buy now to get started.

**WHEN CAN I PLANT BARE ROOT PLANTS?**

Bare root plants typically are shipped in late winter and early spring, depending on where you live. You can plant bare roots as soon as the ground has thawed and the soil can be worked, meaning as soon as you can get a shovel in there. The roots start growing before you’ll see anything happening above ground, so don’t get nervous. The whole point is to help the plants establish a strong, healthy root system before more extreme temperatures and dry spells arrive in summer. In much of the country, you may be able to plant bare roots well into May, depending on the weather.

**HOW DO I PLANT BARE ROOT PLANTS?**

It’s best to plant bare root plants as soon as possible after they arrive. However, in the real world, we know that’s not always possible; nature is finicky, and you may have a cold snap in spring so you can’t dig a hole just yet. Just keep your plants in a cool, dry place. You don’t want them to get too warm because they’ll come out of dormancy. Check the packaging and ensure the medium they’ve been shipped in (usually paper, peat moss or wood shavings) remains moist so the roots don’t dry out. Try to get the plants in ground within a week, but if the weather still isn’t cooperating, keep the roots damp and cool. And don’t let them freeze!

**HOW DO I CARE FOR BARE ROOT PLANTS ONCE THEY’RE IN THE GROUND?**

For the first month or so, water your plant because you want to keep the soil moist, not sopping, as it sends out roots. It’s also a good idea to water regularly during the first season or two. Eventually, your plant will push out new buds and leaves. But don’t get impatient; it can take a month or more for some perennials, such as peonies, to look like they’re doing much.
Marlette pitchers vaporize Vulcans’ offense

By Scott Boomer | Sports Editor

VASSAR – The Marlette arms were on display Thursday night in Vassar, as the Red Raiders defeated Vassar 5-1 and 7-1 in a nonconference doubleheader.

Marlette struck first in game one thanks to a Grant Robertson double to left field that scored Travis Fuller. Robertson crossed home plate two batters later, when Devin Turland singled in Robertson from second.

Vassar answered in the bottom half of the first inning on a Dustin Henderson single that scored Manuel Mendham. The Red Raiders widened their lead, though, by tacking on three more runs in the fifth inning.

Roberson led Marlette in the opener with two hits, one RBI, and one run scored. Aaron Bower and Turland had one RBI each, while Fuller scored two runs.

Marlette senior Ethan Marshall hurls a ball home during Thursday’s nonconference game against Vassar. Marshall struck out 10 in a 5-1 win over the Vulcans. (Photo by John Cook | The Advertiser)

Marlette jumped out to a big lead gaining a 5-0 advantage in the first inning, before adding two more runs in the second. The Vulcans could muster only one run in the top of the third, as Mendham scored on a passed ball. Roberson scored two runs and had one RBI in the nightcap, while Fuller, Marshall, Bower, Turland, and Connor Kelly scored one run each.

“It feels good to get these wins,” Marlette coach Dave Hayden said. “We still need to wake up on being a little more aggressive in the field,” he noted he’d like to see cleaned up.

The Red Raiders opened their season 4-0 and 9-2 overall.

The Cardinals prevailed, firdg a team striking out 10 to earn the win.

In game two, Marlette jumped out to a big lead gaining a 5-0 advantage in the first inning, before adding two more runs in the second. The Vulcans could muster only one run in the top of the third, as Mendham scored on a passed ball. Roberson scored two runs and had one RBI in the nightcap, while Fuller, Marshall, Bower, Turland, and Connor Kelly scored one run each.

It feels good to get these wins,” Marlette coach Dave Hayden said. “I know Vassar was going to be a tough team coming in, and they really were. They’d do some damage in the west (division) of the league. The guys played really well tonight. The competition was good for us.”

The Red Raiders contributed two errors in each game, something that Hayden noted he’d like to see cleaned up.

“We still need to wake up on being a little more aggressive in the field,” he said. “The slow grinders that they were

By Scott Boomer | Sports Editor

Tigers tee off in split with Sanders; Hudie wins 300th

By Scott Boomer | Sports Editor

VASSAR TWP. – Millington’s golf team opened its season Tuesday by defeating Vassar and North Branch at Willow Springs Golf and Country Club.

The Cardinals put up a low score of 168 to vanquish the Bronces (203) and Vassar (223).

Jace Slough led Millington by shooting a 40, and teammates Kaden Wisenbuck (41), Drew Murray (43) and fireman Brad Coleman (44) contributed to the win.

They followed up Tuesday’s triumph with a first-place showing at Wednesday’s Tri-Valley Conference Jamboree hosted by Nouvel Catholic Central.

The competition occurred at Swan Valley Golf Course in Thomas Township, featuring Millington, Hemlock, Nouvel, Valley Lutheran, St. Louis, Standish- Sterling, and Ithaca.

The Cardinals prevailed, firing a team score of 316 to defeat second-place Hemlock (338) and third-place Nouvel (340).

Brayce Martin shot a 75 to lead Millington, followed by teammates Slough (78), Coleman (81) and Wisenbuck (82).

Millington returned to the links on Friday at The Fortress in Frankenmuth.
Hudie gets win No. 300 as Cards roll in home victory

FROM B1

Ashley Ziel earned the win for Millington, allowing no runs on four hits and striking out 11 through six innings. Sherman pitched one inning of relief with one strikeout.

In the nightcap, Millington jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the top of the first on a route to a 17-1 win. The nine-run inning included an Emma Dickie home run.

Trinity Fessler had four RBIs, while Dickie and Kendall Payne recorded three RBIs each. Holmes scored four times.

With the win, Millington coach Greg Hudie achieved 300 wins in 12 seasons as head coach of the Cardinals.

Millington (8-6) returns to action today at the Michigan States Tournament at Grand Blanc. The Cardinals will play Henry Ford II, Division 2 No. 3 Jackson Northwest, and Division 2 honorable mention Marysville.

Cass City cruises by Bearcats

CASS CITY — The Cass City softball team made easy work of Ubly here on Thursday in a doubleheader sweep.

The Red Hawks took game one 13-2 in six innings as Isabel Hurd went 3 for 3 with a double, a home run, and two RBIs. While Kayley Salcido, Olivia Graff, Paige St. George, and Ashley Ziel each drove in three runs and scored three times.

In the second game, Carley Hoag had two hits, two RBIs and two runs scored, while Amanda Marshall had three hits, three RBIs and two runs scored. Graff, Salcido, and Spencer drove it two runs each. Spencer and Kacee Fary scored three times each.

Graff tossed five innings in the win, allowing three earned runs on nine hits and two strikeouts.

Kingston takes two in battle with Wildcats

MAYVILLE — A nine-run fourth inning propelled Kingston to a 16-4 opening game win here on Thursday.

The Cardinals followed it up with the sweep on the back of an 11-8 win over Marysville in game two.

Kena McGarvie scored three in the opening game, while Kali Norris, Delaney St. George, Madison Wylie, and Jaylin Skinner scored two runs each.

Abby Walker took the win from the circle with a five-inning performance, allowing four runs on four hits and striking out five.

For the Wildcats, Jordan Anders, Stella Zechmeister, Gabby Diemont, and Amanda Enos each scored one run.

In the nightcap, the Wildcats jumped out to a 7-1 lead before the Cardinals scored back-to-back five-run innings in the third and fourth.

Skinner, McGarvie, Walker, and Lauren King scored two runs each, while St. George, Norris, and Isabel Hudel each scored a run.

Chesney Wenzlaff took the win in four innings of work, allowing seven earned runs on nine hits and striking out three.

Walkers pitched two innings of relief with four strikeouts.

Marlette pitchers vaporize Vulcans’ offense

FROM B1

Marlette pitchers Dusty Oblinger and Dakota Adams allowed only four hits and striking out five.

The loss was the second game in a doubleheader against Marlette. Mendham scored both runs in the 5-1 and 7-1 losses to the Red Raiders.

The spring weather has made it tough for a team to get in a groove, with multiple cancellations and postponements. It has even prevented teams such as Marlette from practicing on the field as often as they’d like to do so.

“It makes it very difficult, because when games are canceled it means you are practicing inside and that isn’t ideal,” Hayden said. “It’s nice to get out on the field, even if it is a little smelly. Every team has been in that situation. You just have to keep playing though it and get better every day.”

Marlette (6-2) hosts Sandusky on Monday while Vassar (7-4) looks to bounce back on Monday at Division 3 No. 7 Bad Axe.

OWNESDALE — The Ownesdale-Gagetown ban were quietly held here on Thursday with 22-5 and 17-1 losses to Peck.

The Bulldogs were led in game one with one hit each from Shelby Bowers, Shaylynn Thurston, Dana Morris, and Karissa Grueh. Grueh also had two RBIs in the loss.

In the nightcap, Aubrey Hellebuyck, and Erin Morrish each recorded a hit. Morrish also drove in the lone Bulldogs’ run.

OWENDALE | Track & Field

Photo by John Cook / The Advertiser

Owen-Gage (1-7) hosts North Huron on Monday.

Owen-Gage sweeps Rockets in Thursday doubleheader

RESEE — The Reese softball team last tied to Bad Axe here on Thursday.

The Rockets lost game one 9-7 and game two 4-2.

The first game was a continuation of a game started on Tuesday that was tied 6-6 in the 6th before the rains came.

Lydia Palmeuter and Jerric VanOchten led the hitting in the opener with three hits each while Palmeuter also added two RBIs. Malley Stack added two hits and two RBIs.

Lydia Palmeuter again led the hitting in the second game with two hits. Malley Stack and Megan Shipahan each had an RBI.

Kennedy Russia took the loss despite allowing only four hits and striking out five.

Owen-Gage struggles to find offense against Peck

The Red Raiders fell to eventual Division 4 state semifinal appearance last season, where they’d like to do so.
1. LANGUAGE: What is the practice of chiromancy?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is unusual about the date the Chinese New Year is celebrated each year?
3. ACRONYMS: What phrase does “http” stand for?
4. MUSIC: Which Beatles’ song asks listeners to “take a sad song and make it better”?
5. TELEVISION: What is the name of SpongeBob Squarepants’ best friend in the animated series?
6. GEOGRAPHY: Nairobi is the capital of which African country?
7. MOVIES: Which two male actors starred in “The Sting” (1973)?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby oyster called?
9. HISTORY: In its planning stages, which World War II attack was coined “Operation Z” by the Japanese?
10. LITERATURE: During which war is the novel “All the Light We Cannot See” set?
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ANNOUNCING A NEW
E-EDITION ALERT

The Advertiser is pleased to announce a new email alert for our newspaper. The new alert will give our digital subscribers the ability to read the newest edition of the newspaper on the front page of the new issue before it arrives in your inbox. The Advertiser is excited to share the new alert with you. The new alert is a more robust tool and makes it easier for you to view your paper. Once we upload our newspaper to TuscolaToday.com each Tuesday and Friday evening an email alert will be sent out to notify you of the ability to read the newest edition of the newspaper online.

Please be sure to check that Current subscribers, your existing username and password will remain the same. If you are not a current subscriber you would like to receive our newspaper online quiz as they gather information, Superintendent Larry Kroswek warned against spreading false information and incite distrust of something so a regular occurrence.

THE ADVERTISER

The Saturday edition is available for a short time online with a view of TuscolaToday.com. A user account is required for this short time to view the issue.

"I don't agree that we need to bring your vote back up," he said. "We are trying to move forward and not over until Jan. 20 (Inauguration Day) and then ask you to vote again. That's not over until Jan. 20 (Inauguration Day) and then ask you to vote again. The current allowance ends on Dec. 31. The current allowance ends on Dec. 31.

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Millington - Arbela Historical Society is honoring history

Michigan Outdoors with Tom Lounsbury

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The Millington - Arbela Historical Society Museum in downtown Millington.

The intact elk antlers scored a record 363 Boone and Crockett points, and it is estimated that the other set, had they not been broken up, would have scored much higher. Yep, folks, this was a pair of really big bull elk in their day. In 1986, a set of elk antlers was discovered by this team of skin divers on the bottom of Murphy Lake, and though partially broken up, the rack was very large in size. More probing revealed elk bones as well. In 1987, a fully intact set of elk antlers on Saturdays from 1 – 4 pm, and it can be reviewed the amazing elk antlers, and of taxidermist Matt Hill, of Reese. In February 2011, Matt Hill would graciously loan the pair of mounted elk antlers to the Millington - Arbela Historical Society Museum, where they are on exhibit today.

One thing I discovered right away, is that it is well worth a visit! On Saturdays from 1 – 4 pm, and it can be open from April 15 to October 31. Also, every Saturday from 1 – 4 pm. Starting in June, it will be also open on Saturdays from 1 – 4 pm, and it can be open from April 15 to October 31.

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By Jason Beck | @BeckJason MLB.com Tigers Reporter

Miggy on why Torkelson is better than him

“Three thousand is a big number, don’t get me wrong,” he said, “but I always play like the next guy is going to be good. I always play for my teammates. They teach me. I’m not going to change game to game, but that’s a special number. There’s only, how many, 13 guys? That number is really hard to get.”

“Don’t get me wrong. I always dreamed about this moment. I was thinking about this moment, how in your career, where you’re going to do this. I want to enjoy my moment. But at the same time, I want to think the same way I think when I was first coming up. Win with my teammates. It’s not fair to say I hit 3,000 because of me. No, I hit 3,000 because of my teammates, my coaches, my manager, everybody.”

He also remembered the influence of another member of the 3,000-hit club, Hall of Famer Al Kaline. They didn’t always agree, especially when they had tremendous conversations.

“We talked about hitting,” he said. “He always asked me when I get to two strikes why I spray [the ball]. He’d say, ‘Don’t spray, hit a bomb.’ I’d say, ‘No, I’m going to hit it. I want to put the ball in play.’ But he’d say, ‘You’re going to hit one too far.’ I’d say, ‘I don’t care. That’s the way I play.’”

“Torkelson and Riley Greene. We talked about hitting, that, it’s dangerous. He’s going to be comfortable, comfortable, comfortable. This is what fuels me, they’re ready now, but they show me they’re ready now, and they’re always going to throw it, what they’re going to throw it for. That’s the way I play.”

Among his contributions to Torkelson was his persistence. Miguel Cabrera said, “He’s always had that conversation. At the same time, it worked for me, but I understand what he was saying. He wanted me to hit more than me, but it’s not part of my game. I always want to hit like a small guy.”

Cabrera has always tried to hit like a big guy, he said, a credit he gives to his uncle, David Torres.

Cabrera also told the story of a Yankees scout who doubted his hitting ability.

“When I signed, some scout from the Yankees, they said I’m going to make it to the big leagues, it’s going to be as a pitcher,” Cabrera said. “True story. He got fired after that, in 2001. ‘You know the Yankees, big money. ‘Oh, now we can sign this guy from the Midwest.’

Now he’s a legend in Detroit.

Therapist!

Scheurer Health, a critical access hospital, is seeking a full-time licensed Physical Therapy Assistant to join our Rehabilitation Team. This position will float between the main hospital campus in Pigeon and the Suburban Wellness Clinic. The hospital’s Physical Therapy Department is exceptionally well-equipped to treat a variety of diagnoses and features: a dedicated pool for aquatic therapy and a great support team.

The Physical Therapy Department has experienced continuous, strong growth of staff over the past few years and is seeking a caring, motivated professional to join the team. Physical Therapy Assistant would be responsible for administering various treatments and procedures under the direction of a physical therapist. The candidate would also teach and demonstrate physical therapy and rehabilitation techniques to patients and their families as required. Management of equipment and supplies, and prep of patients will be part of the day to day operations. The candidate will be required for weekend call rotation at the equivalent of one weekend monthly.

All qualified physical therapy assistants must have completed a two year accredited associate of science degree from a school approved by the American Physical Therapy Association and have a Michigan License in good standing.

For questions regarding this position, please contact Jennifer Isler; Rehabilitation Services Manager, or Lynn Rhodes, HR Generalist. Please submit all employment applications online at scheurer.org/careers. EEO/A/Employer M/F/Disability/VET

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To apply, contact HR Manager Jeff Baxter at 989-465-7078 or via email JBaxter@nlcfi.net

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By Jason Beck | @BeckJason MLB.com Tigers Reporter

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PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY SERVICE room open every Tuesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Vassar Seventh-day Adventist Church, 9202 Franklin Rd. for free clothing, shoes, bedding, etc. Donations greatly appreciated. Everyone welcome. 989-823-3069.

EASTER EGG HUNT Lytle South Baptist Church at 1125 E Industrial Blvd, Abbeville is having a Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16 at 11:00 a.m. It is free. We will have Sassy the Clown, Snow Cones, & Lots of EASTER EGGS.

FOOD OUTREACH hosted by Sprit of Life Community Church in Mayville the third Saturday of each month. Free groceries will be available to all who attend. A free dinner will also be available. For more information, call 989-843-0104.

PANTRY is open 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at St. Christopher Parish, 910 W. Frank St., Caro. Typical grocery staples plus some frozen food. Limit one visit per month. For more information, call 989-672-2104.

MEETINGS/ EVENTS

AMERICAN LEGION POST #37 meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at 248 W. Main St., Mayville.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 7 meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

CARO AMERICAN LEGION POST 7 meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

CARO CHAPTER #396 Royal Arch Masonic Temple. 156 N. State St., Caro. Call us at 989-823-3848 or stop in for more information.

CARO LIONS CLUB meets the 1st of the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Betnworth. Membership applications available. Call 989-673-5588 for more information.

MARION (MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SELLER PERSONNEL) will be meeting on June 15th at 11 a.m. at The Brentwood in Caro. The program is Caro’s Exchange Club Forest, free, will offering.

THUMB COMMUNITY CONCERT CHORUS Spring concert: Lay in the House under the direction of Dr. Phillip Barket & Thumb Rangers handbell choir. Fridays April 8th at 7 p.m., Sunday April 10th at 3 p.m. at 134A High School Auditorium. Free, will offering.

TOPS MI 0211 CHAPTER meets Thursday at 6 p.m. at Bayshore Beauty Academy. Call JoAnn at 989-551-6361 for more information.

TOPS CLUB 1212 VASSAR meets Monday at 6:00 p.m. at 11253 Lane St. Weigh in from 8-9 a.m., meetings from 9-10 a.m. Call Connie at 989-673-6414.

TOPS CLUB 1627 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets Tuesday at the Michigan Road, Caro, from 9-11 a.m. For more information, call Gail Makuch at 810-241-6201 or email gmakuch@careteammi.com.

VFW POST MONTHLY MEETINGS: VFW Post 3514, Caro, second Monday, 7:30 p.m.; VFW Post 3644, Cass City, second Monday, 7 p.m.; VFW Post 3785, Bad Axe, second Tuesday at 7 p.m.; VFW Post 7486, Fairgrove, first Wednesday at 7 p.m.; VFW Post 4817, Marlette, third Wednesday at 7 p.m.; AMVETS Post 230, Caro, meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 110 W. Frank Street, Caro.

SELF HELP

AL-ANO FAMILY GROUP (AFG) – Find help if your life is being affect by alcohol or someone in your drinking. There are regular meetings in the Thumb area. For more information, call the MI Thumb Area AFG at 989-912-5478.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA) meetings every Monday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 503 State St., Caro. (VASSAR) meets Mondays at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 885 Saginaw St., Vassar. For more information, call 989-577-4464.

AA (VASSAR) meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Reese.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP CAREG-percent 360 messages on behalf of the Caro Senior Center, 101 E. Sycamore Rd., Caro, 989-673-5578.

CARO Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at the Tuscola Development Commission 429 Montague Avenue in Caro. For more information, contact Suzie at 989-551-4838.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP VFW Post 4164, Caro, second Thursday at 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Bul- last Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.; VFW Post 4837, Marlette, third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.; VFW Post 6955, Port Austin, second Tuesday, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. at 101 E. Sycamore Rd., Caro.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY every Friday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at 101 E. Sycamore Rd., Caro Rental Moving & Storage, 466 Ellington St. Caro.

COURTSHIP DANCE will be held on May 21, 2022 at 7-10 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express in Bad Axe, 55 Rapson Lane West. For more information, contact Suzie at 989-673-4212.

FREEDOM AA MEETINGS are held Mondays & Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at 101 E. Sycamore Rd., Caro.

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN: Kinship Care grants are available through the Tuscola County. Kinship caregivers must be 55 or over, live within the county, have some type of legal custody of the grandchild and are able to care for clothing, toys, personal items, special needs for the children. Applications can be provided by the Human Development Commission and the Region VII Area Agency on Aging. Call the Human Development Commission at 989-673-4212.

HELP SUPPORT Meeting is held the third Wednesday of each month at Caro Senior Center, 1601 W. Gilford Road, Caro at 4 p.m. — public is welcome. For more information, please contact Chaplain Dan O’Sullivan, 989-912-6640, gums@live.com, and the Region VII Area Agency on Aging. Call the Human Development Commission at 989-673-4212.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER Meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Bul- more about becoming a Hospice Volunteer. Call us at 989-790-7533 to learn in the lives of Hospice patients and their families. Call us at 989-790-7533 to learn

LIVING WITH PARKINSON’S - (“Where caring is a way of life.”)

MEETS on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the library.

TOPS MI 0211 LECTURE is held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Caro Library. Each month a new topic will be presented to the public is welcome. For more information, call 989-823-8670 or Diana at 989-551-6361.

TOPS CLUB 1627 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets Tuesday at the Michigan Road, Caro, from 9-11 a.m. For more information, call Gail Makuch at 810-241-6201 or email gmakuch@careteammi.com.

VASSAR FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the library.

VETERAN TO VETERAN (VET TO VET) meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at the VFW Post 4164. men and women veterans who have served in the military. The meetings provide a chance to talk to other veterans about their experi- ences serving and bringing veterans together to learn about available benefits. Reenactments are provided. For more information, call 989-673-8148.

VFW POST MONTHLY MEET- INGS: VFW Post 3514, Caro, second

WEDNESDAY IN THE TOWN Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

LIFE PARTNER, 360 messages on behalf of the Caro Senior Center, 101 E. Sycamore Rd., Caro, 989-673-5578.
Drivers using long handled dip-nets and fish spears to herd suckers to waiting nets, and getting the occasional suckers themselves during the process.

The Rockets were led by Sarah Gray’s 6-4 ½ to win the high jump. Herford won in 1:37.86. Connor Herford also teamed up with Travis Brenner, Seth Barger won the 200-meter dash in 24.58 seconds.

Cass City’s 400 relay team of Tyler Cumper, Brady Kolacz, Nolan Medere and Dylan Hafner won in a time of 46.96, while the Red Hawks’ 800 relay team of Cumper, Halpin, Kelcz and Connor Herford won in 1:37.86. Connor Herford tossed a personal-best 48-1 to win shot put and Halpin had a personal record of 6-4 ½ to win the high jump.

LeMonte Davis won the long jump for Vassar with a career-best 19-11 1/4 leap. Meeghan Flikkie tied in the high jump at 4 feet, 8 inches. St. George won the long jump with a leap of 14-2. Peck (64) and Dryden (53) rounded out the top five.

The Frankenmuth girls scored 64.5 points, taking third place behind champion Bay City Western (128) and Saginaw Heritage (84). In the boys’ meet, the Eagles’ Sam Berger won the 200-meter dash in a season-best 23.07 seconds, and was a member of the winning 800 relay team (1:33.54) with Ivan Chinery, Riley Hubbard and Andrew Braman. Berger also teamed up with Travis Brenner, Seth Barger to win the 400 relay (46.96) and 400 relay team (57.32) with Andie Hurd, Faith Boyd and Delaney St. George. Hurd and teammate Megan Flikkie lifted in the high jump at 6 feet, 8 inches. St. George won the long jump with a leap of 14-2. Aaron-Fairgrove’s Baily Dithi swept the discus (99-11) and shot put (28-8). Ethan Green won the 5,200 run for Kingston in 10:53.06 and Todd Brink took first in the pole vault at 11-6.

The Frankenmuth boys’ track and field team kept its meet record unblemished with a victory here on April 22 in the Marceet Invitational. The Eagles scored 137 points to defeat Corunna (111.5), Saginaw Heritage (105), Carman-Ainsworth (64), and Bay City Western (51) in the top five. Care also competed and scored 37 points.

The girls won first, the Eagles’ Sam Berger won the 200-meter dash in a season-best 23.07 seconds, and was a member of the winning 800 relay team (1:33.54) with Ivan Chinery, Riley Hubbard and Andrew Braman. Berger also teamed up with Travis Brenner, Seth Barger to win the 400 relay (46.96) and 400 relay team (57.32) with Andie Hurd, Faith Boyd and Delaney St. George. Hurd and teammate Megan Flikkie lifted in the high jump at 6 feet, 8 inches. St. George won the long jump with a leap of 14-2. Aaron-Fairgrove’s Baily Dithi swept the discus (99-11) and shot put (28-8). Ethan Green won the 5,200 run for Kingston in 10:53.06 and Todd Brink took first in the pole vault at 11-6.

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DECIDES TO FURNISH A COMMUNITY KITCHEN IN NEW QUARTERS.

DECIDES TO FURNISH A COMMUNITY KITCHEN IN NEW QUARTERS.

Viola Slone.

Clarence Myers, Allison Lazelle, Bert Purdy, Robert Park Jr., Charles L. Jones of Akron, Ohio, who was in Caro for the day, delighed the crowd with several stories tending to show the value of united effort in community affairs.

Rev. Mr. Green had been heard in Caro before, but he had never before had he an audience of the size of that city, was the principal speaker at the meeting during the evening.

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Community Decorations – S. R. Park, Clarence Myers, Allison Slone.

Public Relations – F. W. Wasik.

The Home, the educational institutions of his town, he declared are the foundation stones of our country's greatness.

And why wouldn't she dance? She was born to be happy, to be at ease in the world, to enjoy life. She was the life of the party, the soul of the celebration. Whether it was a formal dinner at the Caro Knights of Columbus Council 3224 hall, or a casual gathering at a friend's house, she always had a story to tell, a joke to share, and a smile to brighten the room.

Kim Wasik, Citizen of Year, is 'best of who we are'

Kim Wasik, named the 2021 Caro Citizen of the Year on April 23, "represents the best of who we are," said Mark Ransford, who introduced Wasik and presented her with the award.

Financial

Fordson...
Kim Wasik, Citizen of Year, is ‘best of who we are’

FROM | c1


"In fact, I’m told of a fire in this individual’s home sometime around 1985. The fire was small and contained to the second floor. This individual was, no doubt, concerned about the blaze, but also certain to tell the firemen to remove their muddy boots before entering the home."

That same drive to maintain something of importance applies to Wasik’s profession, according to Ransford.

"She is a caregiver, by nature and degree," he told the audience. "And her advocacy is not just happenstance. It’s been an intentioned journey for decades -- a journey meant to give voice to the voiceless.

"She received her master’s degree in social work from the University of Michigan and has served our community as a geriatric social worker."

Kim Wasik thanked chamber members, and the audience, for the award, noting "We love this community and I love being a part of it."

"I really don’t feel like I deserve it as much as a lot of people here," she said. "Wasik’s community involvement takes different forms. Ransford called her "a faithful member of St. Christopher Parish in Caro," and a supporter of the church’s food pantry.

"She’s also active with the Caro Historical Society and Roadhouse Museum," he noted. "She has volunteered for decades with the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival, Relay for Life, Caro Community Schools, the Jaycees and how many countless others?"

Wasik, by various accounts, stays physically active, too. "(This) is an individual I would like to say that walks among us, but I can’t," Ransford said. "Instead, this individual power-walks among us, or, bikes around us -- always careful to wear a helmet.

"It is an individual that has been full of energy since moving to our community at only 14 years of age."

Ransford called Wasik "a loving mother to five children, grandmother to 13, (who) loves traveling, and kayaking, and in the rare moments she’s sitting still, she’s taken up crocheting -- but no one in this room believes she ever sits still."

Wasik also received a certificate of congressional recognition, signed by U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and presented by Dondre Young on Stabenow’s behalf.

Wasik received a special tribute signed by state Rep. Phil Green and state Sen. Kevin Daley, presented by June Schweitzer on behalf of Green.

"I’m a new family member that’s taking care of a loved one, and we had a tough winter. …" Schweitzer told Wasik. "You do a lot for the families of loved ones; I think you give them hope, and you give them peace."
Knox gives Caro ‘kind heart’ and ‘helping hand’

The past two Merit Award recipients – 2021 winner Mandy Knox and 2019 winner Wendy Jacot – pose for a photo after Jacot presented Knox with her Merit Award on April 23.

By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor

gilchrist@tcadvertiser.com

CARO — Mandy Knox is known for quickly relaying Caro Chamber of Commerce developments to others, but on April 23, she was the story.

Knox received the chamber’s 2021 Merit Award for a variety of reasons, according to 2019 Merit Award recipient Wendy Jacot, who presented the honor at the chamber’s community dinner.

Knox, a Caro High School graduate and retired teacher, “has a kind heart, and lends a helping hand for many causes,” said Jacot, who gave clues about the winner before revealing her identity.

“For those of you who know this individual, the words ‘social butterfly’ may come to mind – or that a good time is always had by living life to the fullest,” Jacot said.

The latest Merit Award winner does not discriminate when it comes to supporting events helping Caro-area residents, according to Jacot.

“If it’s happening in Caro, you can bet this individual will be involved,” Jacot said. “If you are looking to catch this person at home, good luck. Try the Caro Golf Course, maybe Arrowhead Golf & Grill, or maybe in the Moose Lodge. There’s always something going on, and she is involved, supporting our community.”

Knox, 37th recipient of the award first presented to Carol Ellsworth in 1986 and bestowed upon the late Hank Mai in 1998 before the night’s wonderul event tonight on Facebook, before the night’s wonderul event tonight on Facebook.

She “assists organizations in the community and helping others via service projects and donations. “This is such a huge surprise,” Knox told the audience inside the Knights of Columbus Caro Council 3224 hall.

“My wonderful family did not give me this award.” Knox said she enjoys doing things for others because it provides enjoyment to her.

“I love giving back to everyone and, just was 39 last year, and, somehow, I’m going to be 60,” Knox said. “But I’m going to do all these things that I can do, until I can’t. So thank you so much.

“This is such an honor, and I love our community and all the people that make it wonderful, and we’re just going to continue giving back the way that we have.”

Jacot said Knox tends to use social media to spread the word about positive developments around town.

“We will probably see pictures of this wonderful event tonight on Facebook, before the night’s over,” Jacot said.

But Knox does more than market Caro.

She “assists through other organizations in the community, by selling raffle tickets.

SEE KNOX | C4
Knox gives Caro ‘kind heart’ and ‘helping hand’

Mandy Knox, front row third from left, is shown with family members and supporters after receiving the 2021 Merit Award at the Caro Chamber of Commerce Community Dinner at the Caro Knights of Columbus Council 3224 hall.

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WE’VE BEEN MAKING LIFE SWEETER TOGETHER FOR 100 YEARS!

Michigan Sugar Company operates one of the oldest sugar beet processing factories in the world in Caro, Michigan. They’ve been making sugar there since 1899 and they’re still going strong today! We’re proud to be part of the community’s past, present, and future.

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Congratulations on 100 Years!

Supporting events, and – even though her children are adults – she still sits and attends school fundraisers,” Jacot said.

Knox loved playing sports as a Caro High student, and later obtained a teaching degree from Central Michigan University.

“For many years, while teaching, (Knox) also coached and refereed many sports, and continues to do so today,” Jacot noted.

Knox enjoys playing cards, having family gatherings, traveling throughout the U.S. and occasionally taking in a concert or casino, Jacot said.

Knox, on April 23, also received a certificate of congressional recognition, signed by U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and presented by Dondre Young on Stabenow’s behalf.

In addition, Knox received a special tribute from state Rep. Phil Green, presented by June Schweitzer, who called Knox’s level of involvement in the community “amazing.”
Past Caro Chamber award winners

Citizen of the Year Awards

2021 – Kim Wasik
2019 – Mark Ransford
2018 – Joseph Greene
2017 – Dale Perz
2016 – David Otmowski
2015 – Jim Tussey
2014 – James Rolka
2013 – Brenda Caruthers
2012 – Jim Will
2011 – Norman Daniels
2010 – Mike Henry
2009 – Dick Fullmer
2008 – Tom Striffler
2007 – Robert Delfoer
2006 – Sandy Gaudreau
2005 – Kathy Neuman
2004 – Pat Curtis
2003 – Ken Beachy
2002 – Sara Dost
2001 – Gary Avery
2000 – Dick Ransford
1999 – Jim Sparling
1998 – Betty Pattullo
1997 – Betty Colling
1996 – Brett McLaughlin
1995 – Kathy Mathias
1994 – Gary Avery
1993 – Weston Raven
1992 – Glenn Eastham
1991 – Patrick Boylan
1990 – Carol Ellsworth
1989 – W. Donald Duggar
1988 – Maurice Ransford
1987 – Dr. Herbert Nigg
1986 – James McLoskey
1985 – Dorothy Mantey
1984 – Paul Findlay
1983 – Dorothy Mantey
1982 – Frank Chamberlain
1981 – Ronald Laeder
1980 – Ruby Reid
1979 – William Graham
1978 – Percy Graum
1977 – Gladys Galloway
1976 – Donald Kanicki
1975 – Doris Willard
1974 – Ruby Peetzold
1973 – Beatrice Berry
1972 – James Sutherland
1971 – Lucille Ashman
1970 – Donald Stamps
1969 – Reid Thurston

Merit Award Winners

2021 – Mandy Knox
2019 – Wendy Jacot
2018 – Dr. Mark Strzelewicz
2017 – Dolly Jones
2016 – Steve Ley & Bob Suranye
2015 – Meggen Jensen
2014 – Cathy Cabala
2013 – Carl Sandblad
2012 – Leanne Nichols
2011 – Jim & Julie Matuszak
2010 – Megan Sylvester
2009 – Suzanne Smith
2008 – Mark Ransford
2007 – Olena “Len” Jensen
2006 – Susan Ruckwal-Hofer
2005 – Jamie Lee
2004 – Corky Dean
2003 – Louise Hodges
2002 – Sheila Conely
2001 – Mike Bauerschmidt
2000 – Glen Roth
1999 – Vic Verchereau

Junior Citizen of the Year

2021 – Baylee Smith
2019 – Sara Weingartz
2018 – Ashton Goodchild
2017 – Steven Strachan
2016 – Nathan Strzelewicz
2015 – Make Merry Smith
2014 – Alex Phillips
2013 – Blain Tusee
2012 – Nicole Hodges
2011 – Kendle Ehrenberg
2010 – Danielle Bubrick
2009 – Elizabeth Schlaud
2008 – Becky Albrecht
2007 – Dayna Roe
2006 – Justin Jackson
2005 – Megan Tibusin
2004 – Nathan Gearhart

Business/Service Awards

2021 – The Advertiser/Heritage Press
2019 – McDonalds – Caro
2018 – Harvest Coffeehouse & Deli
2017 – Caro Area District Library
2016 – Caro Gleaners
2015 – Strand Theatre
2014 – Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhard 
& Donan PC CPA
2013 – Consumers Energy
2012 – Pizza Hut
2011 – Caro 150 Snow Fest
2010 – PJ O’Brien’s
Catering and Party Rental
2009 – Knights of Columbus
2008 – Caro Police Department
2007 – Department of Public Works
2006 – Thumb Area Big Brothers
Big Sisters for Gingerbread Village

Community Service/ Special Tribute Awards

2021 – Good Samaritan Fund of Tuscola County Churches/St. Christopher Parish
2019 – Caro Fire Department
2018 – Child Advocacy Center
2017 – Caro Garden Club
2016 – Brenda Caruthers
Optimal Health Coaching
2015 – Tuscola County Community Foundation
2014 – Caro Schools
2013 – Tuscola County Republican Committee
2012 – Strzelewicz Family
2011 – Jim Tussey
2010 – Lotta Hartel
2009 – Don Reid
2008 – Jim Caruthers
2007 – Rex & Carol Ellsworth

Support your local 4-H! Vote “Yes” Tuscola Co. 4-H Aug. 2nd!
CARO — Caro High School senior Baylee Smith carries a well-rounded resume — volunteering, playing sports and excelling academically. Now she can add “2021 Caro Junior Citizen of the Year” to that document.

Smith, Caro High’s salutatorian for 2022, has played on the school volleyball and softball teams, is the school’s National Honor Society president, and is active on student council.

In addition, Smith “has been significantly involved in community service and volunteering her time with many local organizations and companies, such as the Tuscola County Medical Care Community, Caro United Methodist Church food drive and the Cass River cleanup, just to name a few,” said Brenda Pomeroy, who presented the award to Smith at the Caro Chamber of Commerce community dinner on April 23.

Smith has played on Caro volleyball and softball teams all four years during high school. She was named an all-conference honorable mention volleyball player for two consecutive years, and recognized as an all-conference scholar-athlete in 2019, 2021 and 2022.

She received all-state academic honors in 2021, and was named the softball team’s “Most Improved Player” that year. Smith aims to become an orthodontist, first attending Michigan State University to study biology. She is a member of Caro High’s Key Club and Internet Club.

Amanda Rhodes also was nominated for 2021 Junior Citizen of the Year and, like Smith, received a certificate of excellence for her efforts.

“(Rhodes) has done the Walk for Warmth for several years, starting when she was a small child,” said Barry Cronin, who introduced her to the audience at the Caro Knights of Columbus Council 3224 hall.

“She has participated in all six of the blood drives at the high school. She compiled and distributed child care kits for the Great Start Tuscola program for the past two years.

“She has participated four times in the Christmas Shopping for Kids. She has gone shopping for kids through the United Way agencies.”

Rhodes has made goody bags for senior citizens living at Caro’s Heritage Hill complex, helped pass back and clean up pumpkins following the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival, and helped multiple times with the Human Development Commission’s “Spoonfuls of Plenty” free community meals.

She also has helped care for animals at Paradise Animal Rescue, a former area business. Rhodes plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University in the fall, double-majoring in business and marketing.

Smith becomes the 17th Caro Junior Citizen of the Year, following the selection of the initial winner, Nathan Gearhart, in 2004. Other winners have included Nicole Hodges in 2012 and Sara Weingartz in 2019, the last time the chamber chose a Junior Citizen of the Year. 
By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor | gilchrist@tcadvertiser.com

CARO — For 39 years, Al Gabalis has manned a print shop in Caro, using machines to create flyers, brochures, business cards and invitations — sometimes on a moment’s notice.

This week, through his name is the one ink.

Gabalis manages Heritage Press, a business owned by The Advertiser. The two businesses were jointly named the Business of the Year on April 23 by Chamber of Commerce President Susan Holder.

Holder, addressing the audience at the chamber’s community dinner at the Caro Knights of Columbus Council 3224 hall, thanked the two businesses “for being the dynamic duo for our community.”

Advertiser Publisher Tim Murphy, and Gabalis, 52 — who began working in the print shop as a teenager — accepted the award.

Both businesses have assisted numerous organizations in the Caro area, and can be counted on at a moment’s notice,” Holder said. “There’s ‘Stat. Hey, and can be counted on at a moment’s notice.

“If you need this printed right away.” Or ‘Hey, I need this in The Advertiser. ’”

Holder stressed that the two businesses’ willingness to inform area residents proved vital “especially during the pandemic when a lot of businesses wanted to make sure (the public knew) that their business was still open and running.”

Heritage Press, founded in Caro in 1984 by Gabalis’ father, Harry Gabalis, and now managed by Al Gabalis, is a full-service print shop providing free delivery of printed products in the Tuscola County area.

The Advertiser newspaper, founded in 1968 in Caro, is the oldest surviving business in the city of Caro. Tim Murphy, the seventh publisher of the newspaper, thanked the chamber for the award, calling it “truly an honor.”

Past publishers include Caro Citizens of the Year recipients Rudy Petzold (1974) and Brett McLaughlin (1996), and also the chamber Merit Award winner, Jamie Lee (2005).

“When I started, Rudy sat me down many, many years ago, and said ‘Your job is easy,’” Murphy said. “He put a map in front of us of the entire county, and he said ‘All you have to do is be the chamber of commerce for every community in this county.’

“So here we are tonight, maybe 15 years later, and he’s probably looking down smiling, saying ‘Finally.’”

Holder placed second in the “Newspaper of the Year” competition in the Weekly Class B division comprising newspapers with circulation from 7,001 to 15,000 subscribers.

The newspaper’s writers, photographers and page designers won a total of 14 awards in the 2021 Michigan Press Association “Better Newspaper Contest,” a fact that drew applause from the audience at the April 23 community dinner.

Award winners included photographer John Cook, sports editor Scott Bolby, news editor Tom Gilchrist, reporter/columnist Mark Haney, reporter Alex Swiatec and Eric Warsinskie, director of sales, marketing and promotion.

By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor | gilchrist@tcadvertiser.com

CARO Chamber of Commerce President Susan Holder presented the Business of the Year award to The Advertiser/Heritage Press. Advertiser Publisher Tim Murphy, left, joined Heritage Press Manager Al Gabalis to accept the award. The newspaper and the print shop operate at 344 N. State St. (M-81) in Caro.

The Advertiser placed second in the “Newspaper of the Year” competition in the Weekly Class B division comprising newspapers with circulation from 7,001 to 15,000 subscribers.

The newspaper’s writers, photographers and page designers won a total of 14 awards in the 2021 Michigan Press Association “Better Newspaper Contest,” a fact that drew applause from the audience at the April 23 community dinner.

Award winners included photographer John Cook, sports editor Scott Bolby, news editor Tom Gilchrist, reporter/columnist Mark Haney, reporter Alex Swiatec and Eric Warsinskie, director of sales, marketing and promotion.

By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor | gilchrist@tcadvertiser.com

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Congratulations, Caro Chamber of Commerce! 100 years of serving our community.
By John Schneider and Mark Putnam
Special to the Advertiser

CARO — For generations, Caro-area residents have gathered at the town’s historic movie house to watch their favorite Hollywood stars. But the single-screen Strand Theatre brings back memories far greater than just a trip to the movies. For many community members, the Strand represents the place where longtime lovers went on their first date, or frequented while working in Caro for their first job. And it looks like memories will continue being made.

On Tuesday, April 27, the Strand was sold to local businessman Ron Anderson, which is significant because the theater is a few months away from celebrating its 100th birthday. According to local historian Mark Putnam, the Strand Theatre at its Grand Opening in 1922. In October 1932, Richard Ashmun, of Sault Ste. Marie, bought the Strand and became part-owner. The Ashmuns later acquired the Temple Theater in Marlette. They bought a theater in Caro and went on to build a theater in Sebewaing.

In 1929, the movie house was owned by Dr. and Mrs. J.E. Handy, of Caro. Putnam said, the Handy’s sold the Strand to the Chapman family leased the three stores formerly occupied by the Sheppard Sales Company and began construction on a 700-seat auditorium. The theater was built in art deco style. It included a stage, which could be used for plays performed by theatrical troupes. The Strand was a welcomed addition to downtown Caro.

The Ashmuns’ first drive-in was the Twilight Drive-In in Saginaw, which was a success and remained open until 1990. By 1948, the Ashmun brothers owned in East Tawas and another in Frankfort before purchasing the Lincoln Theatre in Sebewaing.

They eventually decided to expand further into drive-in theaters. The Ashmun’s first drive-in was the Twilight Drive-In in Saginaw, which was a success and remained open until 1990. By 1948, the Ashmun brothers owned

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Caro Chamber of Commerce

Historic Strand celebrates 100 years of memories

In July, Harry Hobloth takes over as new manager.

In October 1932, Richard Ashmun, of Sault Ste. Marie, bought the Strand and became part-owner.

1930

1931

1932

1934

1938

1939

1948

1957
In June of 1932, the Tuscola County Advertiser reported that Edmund Chapman leased the three stores formerly occupied by the Shepard Sales Company and began alterations that resulted in an auditorium that sat hundreds of people.

The church operates a prayer chain ministry, prayer shawl ministry, food pantry and teamed Commerce on behalf of St. Christopher Parish churches in Caro and Mayville on April 23. or energy bills, and dispersed free food to hundreds of households.

Barry Cronin. The fund has helped hundreds of households receive money to help pay fuel

The Rev. Christopher Coman accepted a special tribute award from the Caro Chamber of Commerce! Congratulations on 100 years of memories

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100 Years of Serving the Community.

1939

The Strand was remodeled again, but caught fire the night before reopening. The Temple still showed movies, and by the time the Strand opened it was garnering much of the local movie traffic. Later, the Temple operated on weekends only.

1950

The Caro Drive-In opened in 1950 and the Temple had closed its doors. Even though the Ashmuns owned theaters all over the state, their home office was in Caro. It was located on the second floor of the building next door to the south of the Strand that would later become Images Photography Studio.

The office was connected to the Strand by a stairway, but it was later sealed off. At this time, film salesmen from Detroit pedaled the movies that sometimes required payment before the film could be released. Depending on the film, the Ashman brothers might pay between $2,500 and $5,000 before its release.

Big name westerns — featuring stars such as Gene Autry and Roy Rogers — were well-received in Caro.

By the time the Strand opened it was garnering much of the local movie traffic. Later, the Temple operated on weekends only.

The Ashmuns sold most of their theaters but kept the Strand Theatre out of sentimental value.

1970s

The city of Caro widened State Street, which removed parking spaces for the Strand and caused the theater to downsize its marquee, which jutted out from the front of the building.

1987

High winds blew down the screen at the Caro Drive-In. The Ashmuns sold the Strand on June 10, 1990.

1994

In May 1994, married couple Angie and Rick Farris, who met while employed at the Strand, bought the theater.

Though the Strand had just one screen, they hoped to bring in a film to premiere on its opening weekend every couple of months. Throughout their ownership, the Farrises kept ticket prices lower than larger chain theaters.

The husband and wife made movie-going in Caro a better experience by offering 50-cent refills and soda and popcorn.

2013

The Strand Theatre, under the ownership of Rick Farris, went digital.

2022

The Farrises sell the Strand to local businessman Ron Anderson, and the movie house celebrates its 100th anniversary of showing movies to residents of the Thumb area.
Ball’s back at A-F - with a Viking at the helm

Several Vikings aim high: for the state meet

FAIRGROVE TWP. — If you lean toward field events at a track meet, you may spot athletes wearing the green and white of Akron-Fairgrove this spring. They’ll be performing well, if past performances are any indication.

“We are a small team so league titles won’t happen, but those that we do have are quite good, so we will be surprisingly strong with the handful of kids we have,” said coach Carl Aldrich. Todd Brink won the pole vault in every meet he entered last year, except for the Division 4 state finals, where he placed third.

“Todd will be a contender for a state title in the pole vault and will look to win his second (Thurby) Meet of Champions,” Aldrich said.

Aldrich hopes that Baily Diehl, after missing a year of track competition, can qualify for the state meet as well.

Diehl “should push to win the league in both the shot and discus,” as well as regionals,” he said.

Wyatt Brink qualified for the state meet last year throwing the discus, “and should push to win the league and qualify for states as well,” Aldrich said.

“Brendan Durham should finish in the top two or three in our league in the shot put,” Aldrich said. “Cayden Karpovich will also look to do well in our league in the high jump.”

Members of the Akron-Fairgrove track and field program are, from left, Baily Diehl, Bryce Ball, Morgan Middaugh, Jeff Blakely, Isaac Squires, Vaughn Beauvais, Wyatt Brink, Todd Brink, Yaw Poku (boys) and Whyatt Erdody.

“Akron-Fairgrove Boys’ and Girls’ Track in Focus”

ENROLLMENT: 87
CONFERENCE: North Central Thumb League Stripes Division
COACH: Carl Aldrich
KEY LOSSES: (girls) Emma Britton, Cecelia Goodchild, Tara Kern
KEY RETURNERS: (girls) Baily Diehl (boys) Wyatt Brink, Todd Brink, Cayden Karpovich, (green) Beauvais, Wyatt Erdody, Brennan Dunham, Isaac Squires

AKRON-FAIRGROVE BASEBALL IN FOCUS

Enrollment: 87
Conference: North Central Thumb League Stripes Division
Coach: Justin Rajewski
Key losses: None (first time school has fielded a baseball team since 2017)
Key newcomers: Sy Bernia (Sr.), Yaw Poku (Sr.), Kent Bernia (So.), Justin Campbell (Fr.), Griffin Johnson (Jr.), Andrew Collier (Jr.), Jeffery Diehl (Sr.), Gavin Prime (So.), Mason Becker (So.), Kent Bernia (So.), Gatin Guild (Sr.)
Players to watch: Ashton Barrett, Gatin Guild, Griffin Johnson

Rajewski advises baseball fans to keep an eye on Ashton Barrett, Gatin Guild and Griffin Johnson this spring in the North Central Thumb League Stripes Division.

Some young Vikings – eighth-graders Kent Bernia and Andrew Collier, along with freshmen Jeffery Diehl and Justin Campbell – figure to gain varsity experience this spring.

Coach Rajewski also looks for contributions from upperclassmen, including senior Yaw Poku and junior Griffin Johnson.

Tony’s Today.com Saturday, April 30, 2022, The Advertiser
CARO — The Caro boys’ track and field squad qualified for five events at last season’s Division 3 finals at Jenison High School.

“New guys can step up this year,” coach Jeff Schember said. “It will add some needed strength,” Caro athletic director Mike Martin said.

“Last year, we had a majority of seniors,” Schember said. “This year, we have a good mix of athletes and are working very hard,” Caro coach Jeff Schember said. “It will be another fun season.”

The Tigers opened the 2022 season with a pair of first-place showings at the Marlette Quad and the Shaker Off The Rust Invitational in Davison.

Schember took over the girls’ program in 2004. The Tigers return sprinters Adelyn Moore, Isabella Langmaid and Olivia Walker, and in the field events, Moore and Jones lead the way in jumping events, and Riley Parker, Engelmann and Reyes in the hurdles.

“The men’s team has more depth with the addition of a few new members that will add some needed strength,” Caro coach Jeff Schember said. “It will be another fun season.”

This will be Schember’s 18th season as head coach of the boys’ track and field squad.

Caro also welcomes newcomers Jeremiah Anderson, Carson Brown, Wynn Garrett, Hunter Halyckyj, Logan McCarriss, Jacob Moore, Ethan Ransford and Julian Woding.

Key returners include Brooklyn Thompson, Alyssa Corrion to vaulting and Walker enters the jumping events; and Riley Parker, Engelman and Trace Engelmann in the jumping events; and Riley Parker, Engelman and Reyes in the hurdles.

The Caro boys’ track and field team are, front row from left, Abigail Bescheid, Addison Fisch, Leah Swenor, Rachael Walsh, Olivia Walker, Paige Herron, Kelcey VanBuskirk, Adelyn Moore, Madelyn Ball, Alex Long, Kaya Vrable, Faith Swenor, Isabella Langmaid and Emma Joslyn; second row, Ethan Ransford, Adam Fisch, Tristan Lovett, Tyler Miller, Jeremiah Anderson, Matthew Pattullo, Connor Stefanovsky, Tyresse Beedle, Evan Langmaid, Martin Samuelson Jr. and John Reyes; back row, Jacob Moore, Riley Parker, Landon Wyckoff, Logan McCarriss, Trace Engelmann, Wynn Garrett, Dustin Spencer, Carson Brown and Hunter Halyckyj.
CARO SOFTBALL IN FOCUS

ENROLLMENT: 209
CONFERENCE: Greater Thumb Conference

CARO: Greg Hollingsworth
KEY LOSSES: Jade Hollingsworth, Kateryn Peters
KEY RETURNERS: Leah Daniels, Makayla Hennenbery, Breyenne Wycoff and Jacqueline Peters
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Leah Daniels, Makayla Hennenbery, Breyenne Wycoff and Jacqueline Peters

The Tigers return seven key players and look to improve upon their 8-26-1 overall record and early exit in the state district tournament last season.

Returning are Russell Fischer, Zach Williams, Ashton Savage, Mark Phillips, Michael Booms, Keegan Gomez and Brady Rigg.

Sixth-year head coach Victor Gomez noted the Greater Thumb Conference West Division will be strong once again this season, with Caro battling alongside Bad Axe, Cass City, Laker, Reese and Vassar.

“Each one of these players are hard workers and have what it takes to be a strong competitor in the league,” Gomez said. “I’m looking to have a great season with this group of young men.”

Gomez noted the Greater Thumb Conference West Division will be strong once again this season, with Caro battling alongside Bad Axe, Cass City, Laker, Reese and Vassar.

“Our team dynamics is key for us,” he said. “As always, our league is one of the toughest around and we need to show up and come ready to play if we are going to make things happen.”

Gomez named Fischer, Williams, Savage and Phillips as four players to watch. Caro has struggled out of the gate this season with an 0-6 record, including a pair of losses to Chesaning, Laker and Millington.

CARO BASEBALL IN FOCUS

ENROLLMENT: 259
CONFERENCE: Greater Thumb Conference

COACH: Victor Gomez
KEY LOSERS: Chad Persell, Tom Waggoner
KEY RETURNERS: Russell Fischer, Zach Williams, Ashton Savage, Mark Phillips, Michael Booms, Keegan Gomez, Brady Rigg
KEY NEWCOMERS: Bryce Campbell, Riley Rigg

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Russell Fischer, Zach Williams, Ashton Savage, Mark Phillips, Michael Booms, Keegan Gomez, Brady Rigg

Caro returns seven key players and looks to improve upon their 12-6-1 overall record and early exit in the state district tournament last season.

Returning are Russell Fischer, Zach Williams, Ashton Savage, Mark Phillips, Michael Booms, Keegan Gomez and Brady Rigg.

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Good Luck to All Area Athletes!
CARO — First-year Caro girls’ soccer head coach William Walker will take on a tall task this season with a squad of only 13 players—and with three of those players new to the program.

The Tigers hope to build off last season’s 5-7-1 record, returning Olivia Walker and Lexi Johnson from last year’s squad. They will welcome key newcomers Alexa Goff, Addison Fisch and Karmin White into the Greater Thumb Conference, which also features state-ranked Bad Axe.

“We have a pretty tough league this year,” Walker said. “With only 13 players, we need everyone to stay healthy.”

A few of the familiar faces from last season who will need to be replaced are Cheyenne Bearden, Faith MacDonald and Katie Scharrer, but coach Walker hopes Olivia Walker and Lexi Johnson can be major factors this season for the Tigers.

“Tigers need to stay healthy in tough league”

CARO GIRLS’ TENNIS IN FOCUS

ENROLLMENT: 399
CONFERENCE: Greater Thumb Conference West Division
COACH: Jim Stapleton
KEY LOSSES: Sophie Keys, Claire Branding
KEY RETURNERS: Allie Abbott, Lily Stewart, Shelby Austin, Camryn Nugent, Alex Garza, Gwen Geiger, Alanna Harmon
KEY NEWCOMERS: Cheyanne Wicks, Skylar Fullerton, Madi Bach, Ashanti Harmon, Emma Stapleton
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Gwen Geiger, Emma Stapleton

“Numbers rising on golf teams, including Caro’s”

CARO BOYS’ GOLF IN FOCUS

ENROLLMENT: 399
CONFERENCE: Greater Thumb Conference West Division
COACH: Mark Cockerill
KEY RETURNERS: Evan Nugent, Xander Gilmore
KEY NEWCOMERS: Cole Marcola, Landon Hood

“Caro Boys’ Golf in Focus”

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Eria relies on assortment of pitchers

By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor

CASS CITY — Cass City baseball coach Morgan Eria was hired before the 2020 season was canceled due to COVID-19. Last season became his first official one at the helm of his alma mater, and what a first season it turned out to be.

Eria’s Red Hawks shared the Greater Thumb Conference West Division title with Bad Axe and Laker, finished the season with a 21-13 record, and won a district championship with an 8-6 win over Bad Axe.

Cass City loses a slew of starters from last season, including Kenon Wiseman, Bryce Fernald, Alex Perry, Ryan DeLong, Taylor Marshall and Jeremy Velasquez.

"With losing a key sensors in the lineup, we still have all we will need to limit teams scoring runs this season," Eria said. "We still have a young, yet very experienced and competitive pitching staff that is extremely solid with plenty of depth this season."

Key returners with varsity experience include juniors Riley Swiderski and Mike Mellendorf along with sophomores Carter Patrick, Luke Tschirhart and Cohen Sherman.

Patrick and Tschirhart will be among those to watch from the mound, while Swiderski looks to handle the shortstop duties.
Cass City brings speed, work ethic to track

By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor sbolsby@tcadvertiser.com

CASS CITY — Second-year Cass City girls’ track and field head coach Amy Cuthrell looks forward to watching her team grow this season.

“Our goal is to continually improve each week and work to focus on the events that will best help the team,” she said. “We have a very unselfish and team-driven group, making this season exciting and fun.”

“As we progress through the season, I am certain some amazing memories will be made.”

The Red Hawks welcome in newcomers Shelby Isgan, Lexi Champagne, Audrina Hartwick, Maia Estrella, Josie Spencer, Shelby Ignas, Paula Learmen and Maia Estrella. Missing are Lexi Champagne, Takara Tagueson and Maya Dow.

KEY NEWCOMERS:
Estrella, Josie Spencer, Takara Tageson, and Maya Dow.

KEY RETURNERS:
Isgan, Champagne, Hartwick, Estrella, Spencer, Ignas, Learmen, and Estrella.

KEY LOSSES:
Sarah Wood, Madison Kohnert, Nolan Ralston, and Logan Outka.

CONFERENCE:
Greater Thumb Conference

DIVISION:
Division 3

CASS CITY GIRLS’ TRACK AND FIELD IN FOCUS

ENROLLMENT: 268

CONFERENCE: Greater Thumb Conference

West Division

KEY NEWCOMERS:
Shelby Isgan, Lexi Champagne, Audrina Hartwick, Maia Estrella, Josie Spencer, Takara Tageson, and Maya Dow.

KEY RETURNERS:
Madison Kohnert, Nolan Ralston, Logan Outka, and Alex Hopper.

KEY LOSSES:
Sarah Wood, Madison Kohnert, Nolan Ralston, and Logan Outka.

“I can say that there is a lot of potential in this group of girls,” said coach Cuthrell. “We have some hard-working, dedicated athletes on this team. Any time you have a large group of girls coming back, it’s hard to tell who will step up to fill the starting spots.”

“Our goal is to continually improve each week and work to focus on the events that will best help the team.”

“With the return of some key athletes, we are confident that we can compete at a high level this season.”

“We have a great group of girls who are really looking forward to the season,” said coach Cuthrell. “At any time, any of these girls are capable of contributing to the team scoring. It remains to be seen how we can get better through the season.”

“We have a lot of potential on this team,” said coach Cuthrell. “We are always working to get better and see what we can be doing.”

One of the biggest members of this year’s team is senior Connor Herford, who signed in February to play football at the Air Force Academy.

“Connor is a strong leader on the field and will be a big asset to the team this year,” said coach Cuthrell. “He has noted that before leaving Cass City High School, he wants to break the school shot put record, which is currently at 20 feet.”

Another returner to keep an eye on, according to Cuthrell, is Dylan Halpin, whom the coach calls “a very gifted athlete, who is fun to watch in the track and field events.”

Joining the squad as newcomers this year is Mason Gruver, Gage Dooliver, Tyler Camper, Lane Herford, Nate Kota, Nolan Modere and Trayton Gruver.

So far this season, the Red Hawks have placed third at their own invitational, fourth at Marlette Quad and third at the Brown City Invitational.

Flock of golfers joins the Red Hawks’ nest

By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor sbolsby@tcadvertiser.com

CASS CITY — The Red Hawks welcome in newcomers Shelby Ignas, Lexi Champagne, Audrina Hartwick, Maia Estrella, Josie Spencer, Shelby Ignas, Paula Learmen and Maia Estrella. Missing are Lexi Champagne, Takara Tagueson and Maya Dow.

KEY NEWCOMERS:
Estrella, Josie Spencer, Takara Tageson, and Maya Dow.

KEY RETURNERS:
Isgan, Champagne, Hartwick, Estrella, Spencer, Ignas, Learmen, and Estrella.

KEY LOSSES:
Sarah Wood, Madison Kohnert, Nolan Ralston, and Logan Outka.

CONFERENCE:
Greater Thumb Conference

DIVISION:
Division 3

CASS CITY GIRLS’ TRACK AND FIELD IN FOCUS

ENROLLMENT: 268

CONFERENCE: Greater Thumb Conference

West Division

KEY NEWCOMERS:
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So far this season, the Red Hawks have placed third at their own invitational, fourth at Marlette Quad and third at the Brown City Invitational.
Good luck Eagles!

Good luck to all Frankenmuth Eagles this season!

By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor
gilchrist@tcadvertiser.com

FRANKENMUTH — His team compiled a 12-0-1 record last season, but Frankenmuth girls’ tennis coach Bill Coulter isn’t resting on those laurels.

“We have a more difficult nonconference schedule this season, and the conference will be much more competitive,” said Coulter, whose Eagles have won their first three matches this spring.

“This will help with preparing us for the year-end state tournament.”

Graduation took its toll on the Eagles, who lost No. 1 singles player Grace Gasper, No. 2 singles player Ella Smith, and Hunter Warack, from last season.

Sofia Grossi, a freshman, has helped the cause as a newcomer so far, winning three consecutive matches at No. 4 singles.

No. 2 singles player Haley Watchorn also is unbeaten in three matches for Frankenmuth. Brooke Carnahan, at No. 1 singles, and Kate Hetsner, at No. 1 singles, were each 2-1 on the season as of Friday.

The No. 2 doubles team of Ashlee Walz and Macie Jacob, playing their second year together in doubles competition, hasn’t lost a set this season.

And Britta Williams, on the No. 4 doubles team, has won all three matches – two partnering with Alyse Notter, and once with Walz.

The Eagles compete in tennis in the Tri-Valley Conference, a league including tennis teams from Frankenmuth, Nouvel Catholic Central, Bullock Creek, Ithaca, Alma, Essexville-Garber, Hemlock, and Bangor Township John Glenn.

Eagles ace early tests, aim to soar at states

Frankenmuth Eagles tennis coach Bill Coulter tallies results after beating John Glenn earlier this month. His Eagles are 3-0 so far this season.
They’re both good, and have good off-conference games. Tyler McKinstry – the coach’s son – in that. won’t always have two guys who can do that. Some will have one guy, but they teams in this area with two guys who can hit 92. There aren’t too many. There doesn’t matter who we’re playing. Like Ty, we always have a chance to win – it doesn’t matter who we’re playing.

On April 12 against Swan Valley, Drew hit 93 miles an hour (for top pitch speed) and Tyler hit 92. There aren’t too many. There doesn’t matter who we’re playing. Like Ty, we always have a chance to win – it doesn’t matter who we’re playing.

McKinstry holds some aces.


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Kingston girls’ track and field members are, front row from left, Andie Hurd, Matthew Fields, Wernette Hurd, Brandon Green, Ethan Harrington, Masen Fields, Delaney St. George, Gracy Walker, Mistydawn Smith, Chesaney Wenzlaff, Faith Boyl and Jordis Mosher; second row, assistant coach Jenna Tetil; Leah Jones, Isabel Muxlow, Mikayla Adamczyk, Heidi Williams and head coach Matt Fields. Missing is Abby Putman, Emma Putman and Izzy Putman.

Kingston boys’ track and field members are, front row from left, Cantil Tellit, Marco Sommerfield, Matthew Sommerfield, Gavin DiIota, Chris Cumper and Carson Zywowski; second row, assistant coach Jena Tellit; Declan McGarvie, Jacob Ray, Zachary Szczyrba, Owen Corlis, Nick St. George, Connor Seamans, Ethan Green and head coach Matt Fields; back row, Alex Kotsch, Kaden Bruce, Ethan Harrington, Austin DeRoseau, James Wilson and Josiah Muxlow. Missing is Anthony Krych.

**Kingston Cardinals**

**Kingston boys’ track and field**

**CONFERENCE:** North Central Thumb League Stars Division

**ENROLLMENT:** 203

**KEY RETURNERS:** Matthew Fields, Alex Kotsch, Austin DeRoseau, James Wilson and Josiah Muxlow

**KEY LOSERS:** Kyle Corlis and assistant coach Jim Ulewicz

**COACH:** Matt Fields

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:** Ethan Harrington, Caleb Brown, Matt Fields

**LEAGUE:** North Central Thumb League Stars Division

**TROPHY:** Spring Sports Award

**IN FOCUS:**

By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

- Ethan Harrington: Expectations are high for the senior after a strong finish in district and state meets last season. Harrington is expected to make a significant impact in the 800 and 1600 meters.

- Matt Fields: Fields is a returning state qualifier in the 100-meter hurdles and 300-meter hurdles. His speed and agility make him a key player for the team.

- Sam Klein: Klein is a returning state qualifier in the long jump and triple jump. His vertical leap and leaping ability will be crucial for the team.

- Austin DeRoseau: DeRoseau is a returning state qualifier in the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash. His speed and explosive power will be important for the team.

- James Wilson: Wilson is a returning state qualifier in the discus and shot put. His strength and technique will be crucial for the team.

- Josiah Muxlow: Muxlow is a returning state qualifier in the 1500-meter run and 3200-meter run. His endurance and ability to withstand the distance will be important for the team.

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- Owen Corlis: Corlis is a returning state qualifier in the high jump. His height and jumping ability will be crucial for the team.

Kingston baseball team members are, front row from left, Dominique Wilson, Declan McGarvie, Canton Tellit, Ethan Ulewicz, Nick St. George, Collin Machota and Bronson Skinner; back row, assistant coach Austin Schmidt, coach Ray, Isaiah Helton, Collin Johanm, Kaetin Peters, Ethan Green, head coach Mike Schmidt, Owen Corlis and assistant coach Jim Ulewicz.

**Kingston baseball**

**CONFERENCE:** North Central Thumb League Stars Division

**ENROLLMENT:** 203

**KEY RETURNERS:** Ethan Harrington, Matt Fields, Austin DeRoseau, James Wilson, Isaiah Helton

**KEY LOSERS:** Mike Schmidt

**COACH:** Mike Schmidt

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:** Ethan Harrington, Austin DeRoseau, James Wilson, Isaiah Helton

**LEAGUE:** North Central Thumb League Stars Division

**TROPHY:** Spring Sports Award

**IN FOCUS:**

By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

- Ethan Harrington: Expectations are high for the senior after a strong finish in district and state meets last season. Harrington is expected to make a significant impact in the 800 and 1600 meters.

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Kingston nine begins unexpected new chapter

By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor

**LETS GO CARDINALS!**

(989) 872-3131  4865 HILLS BAY, CASL. CITY, Ml 48676

**SPORTS**

**TRACK AND FIELD**

**CONFERENCE:** North Central Thumb League Stars Division

**ENROLLMENT:** 203

**KEY RETURNERS:** Matthew Fields, Alex Kotsch, Austin DeRoseau, James Wilson and Josiah Muxlow

**KEY LOSERS:** Kyle Corlis and assistant coach Jim Ulewicz

**COACH:** Matt Fields

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:** Ethan Harrington, Caleb Brown, Matt Fields

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**BY SCOTT BORCHER | Sports Editor**
sports@tcadvertiser.com

**KINGSTON CARDINALS**

KINGSTON — The Kingston softball team returns possibly one of the strongest core groups in the North Central Thumb League. The Cardinals boast returnees in almost all offensive and defensive positions.

“Pretty much everyone I’m returning is my key returning,” Kingston coach Rob St. George said. “I have a very strong sophomore class and strong seniors. I’m very excited about the upcoming season with this squad.”

Last year Kingston enjoyed a 20-4 record while clinching the North Central Thumb League Stars Division championship, and a district championship, before falling to eventual Division 4 state champion Unionville-Sebewaing Area in the regional finals.

“We are doing our best to emulate (UCHS),” St. George said. “We are a fledging program compared to them, but we are working closely with the younger girls, and I like what we have building here in Kingston.”

The Cardinals look to replace last season’s star pitcher, Olivia Ulewicz, who compiled a 10-2 record with a 2.68 earned run average while striking out 83 batters in 90 innings.

That role will be filled by sophomore key returner Keira McGarvie, Delaney St. George, and Emma Heussner.

“Keira McGarvie will be a key starter for us on the year and has done good things this spring,” St. George said.

Kingston started the season with a win over Brown City before game two was postponed due to rain. The Cardinals returned home to sweep conference foe Tuscola Today.com Saturday, April 30, 2022, sports@tcadvertiser.com

**MARLETTE BASEBALL IN FOCUS**

ENROLLMENT: 229
CONFERENCE: Greater Thumb Conference-East Division
COACH: Dave Hayden
KEY LOSERS: Colby Hayden, Gavin Gage, Grant Robinson, Logan Clark
KEY RETURNERS: Ethan Tenbusch, Grant Tenbusch, Mylo Parker, Braydon Campbell, Brandon Anderson, Aaron Bowen, Travis McClelland
KEY NEWCOMERS: Travon McClelland, Jace Lewis
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Ethan Tenbusch, Cameron Millette, Colby Miller, Travis McClelland, Jason Tenbusch

Kingston softball team members are, sitting, Bailey Barringer; second row from left, Madison Wylie, Lauren Krug, Delaney St. George, Meghan Flikkie, Chesaney Wenzlaff, Andie Hurd, Jaylin Skinner and Sophia Schipinski; back row, head coach Rob St. George, Madison Coyer, Heidi Matheny, Malawi Roberson, Keira McGarvie, Chesaney Wenzlaff, Isabel Hunt, Abby Walker, Madelyn Zauner and assistant coach Beth Hunter.

Kingston nine begins unexpected new chapter

average of 0.92 and 83 strikeouts, including a 17-strikeout performance against Peck to secure the NCTL Stars Division title. Helton was named to the all-Adirondack second team.

“The attitude we are going to use is to do whatever it takes to make us better,” Schmidt said. “Those guys know there will be sacrifices to make this team better.”

The Cardinals have plenty of experience returning from last season, including Nick St. George, Tristen Creighton, Chesaney Wenzlaff, Andie Hurd, Jaylin Skinner and Sophia Schipinski.

Kingston opened the season with a 2-2 tie at Brown City on April 13, in a game that ended due to rain.

**GO RAIDERS!**

**MARLETTE RED RAIDERS**

MARLETTE — The Marlette softball team may be one of the most experienced squads in the Greater Thumb Conference-East Division.

The Red Raiders welcome back nine players from last season, including Grant Tenbusch, Aiden Gonzalez, Dalaney Gage, Mylo Parker, Braydon Campbell, Brandon Anderson, Aaron Bowen, Travis McClelland, Jason Tenbusch.

Newcomer Jason Tenbusch has shown strength as a hitter, and Hayden said he’s confident when playing Tenbusch at any position defensively.

“With the speed and leadership of newcomer Colby Miller, and adds that Travis McClelland “will be a key infielder for us on the year and has done good things at the plate during early practices.”

**FROM | 310**

**KINGSTON BASEBALL IN FOCUS**

ENROLLMENT: 203
CONFERENCE: North Central Thumb League Stars Division
COACH: Craig St. George
KEY LOSERS: Austin Koehne, Jaden Tarkowski, Alex Sheffer, Ethan Tenbusch
KEY RETURNERS: Lauren Krug, Keira McGarvie, Abby Walker, Delaney St. George
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Abby Walker, Keira McGarvie, Delaney St. George

“Tuscola Today.com Saturday, April 30, 2022, sports@tcadvertiser.com

**MARLETTE — Marlette reached the Division 4 state baseball semifinals last season, and the Red Raiders are reloading this campaign.”

True, graduation saw the departure of five players from last year’s 22-9 squad, including first-team all-stater Cody Hayden, second baseman Gavin Gage and center fielder Logan Clark.

But coach Dave Hayden welcomes back a pair of second-team all-staters — pitcher Ethan Tenbusch and catcher Travis Fuller — along with shortstop Grant Robinson and solid defensive outfielders Tristan Creighton, Mylo Parker and Brayden Campbell.

Marlette won the Greater Thumb Conference East Division in 2021 with a 9-2 record.

Hayden likes the crop of new arrivals on his baseball team, including Weston Chapin, whom the coach calls “a strong and smart player who will play first base and outfield for us.”

He said, of another newcomer, “as a good athlete and has already established that he will be a key outfielder for us,” Hayden said.

**Kady’s Red Raiders return some talent**

Kady noted that Hartwell is a major asset to the baseball team, was a key player last season and showed great promise this year.

**SEE KADY’ | D12**

**LAWRENCE**

Ethan Ulewicz, Isaiah Helton, Nick St. George, Delaney St. George, Chesaney Wenzlaff, Madison Wylie, Chesaney Kingston softball team members are, sitting, Bailey Barringer; second row from left, Madison Wylie, Lauren Krug, Delaney St. George, Meghan Flikkie, Chesaney Wenzlaff, Andie Hurd, Jaylin Skinner and Sophia Schipinski; back row, head coach Rob St. George, Madison Coyer, Heidi Matheny, Malawi Roberson, Keira McGarvie, Chesaney Wenzlaff, Isabel Hunt, Abby Walker, Madelyn Zauner and assistant coach Beth Hunter.

Kingston nine begins unexpected new chapter

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The Cardinals have plenty of experience returning from last season, including Nick St. George, Tristen Creighton, Chesaney Wenzlaff, Andie Hurd, Jaylin Skinner and Sophia Schipinski.

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**Kady’s Red Raiders return some talent**

Kady noted that Hartwell is a major asset to the baseball team, was a key player last season and showed great promise this year.
player to watch this season at third base and as a pitcher. “Her overall fundamentals have improved this year and she will be a threat both on the mound and at third base,” she said. “Hollie has really stepped up her game and we are excited to see what she brings to the game this year.”

The Red Raiders look to challenge defending champ Sandusky in the GTE Conference East Division, along with Castle, Beach, Memphis, Sandusky, and Ubly. “Each team in our league has their own strengths in different areas,” Storm added. “We are hoping to be competitive at each meet and have our best performances the week of league and regionals.”

Kady’s Red Raiders return some talent

Members of the Marlette softball team are, front row from left, Autumn Klatzke, Allyson Carpenter, Adi Ruggles, Lily Lemanski, Kasey Hornbacher, Emma Heussner, Madelyn Lefler, Jayden Beach, Memphis, Sandusky, and Ubly. “Each team in our league has their own strengths in different areas,” Storm added. “We are hoping to be competitive at each meet and have our best performances the week of league and regionals.”

**Photo by John Cook | The Advertiser**

**IN FOCUS**

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Emily Martinez, Gabby Martinez

**CoACH:** Cathy Storm

**KEY LOSSES:** Zoey Hunter, Vivi Young, Cassie Thibault

**IN FOCUS**

**KEY RETURNERS:** Chloe Miller, Kasey Hornbacher, Memorial, Ubly, and for being a young team they are very focused.”

Oivia Findlay is the lone all-stater to return in the long jump and high jump, while state qualifier Ashley Lye returns in the 800-meter relay. Other returners are Lily Parker, Emma Woods, and Patricia McHeron in the 400 relay. Lily Lemanski, Bella Hinjosa, and Abby Meyer return as well.

The Red Raiders welcome newcomers Alyssa Sudduth, who will compete in the sprints, Kasey Hornbacher in hurdles, Liz Gierman in sprints and middle-distance runs, and Blythe Stevens in the sprints. “I hope we compete each meet and continue to improve throughout the season,” Storm added. Marlette aims to repeat as conference champs this year but they will have some strong opponents in their own strengths in different areas,” Storm said. “We are hoping to be competitive at each meet and have our best performances the week of league and regionals.”

**Photo by John Cook | The Advertiser**
Members of the Mayville boys’ track and field team are, from left, Eli Morey, Nathan Crane III, Seth Fisher, Nathan Carey, Gavin Helgeson and Joel Enos.

Members of the Mayville softball team are, front row from left, Josie Walker, Carly Hoag, Amanda Enos, Jordan Anders, Lili Deutsch, Rachael Friday, Allisson Schlissker; back row, Jasmin Helgeson, Jaidyn Witherspoon, Stella Zeichmeister, Mae Novak-Eghigian, Mackenzie Smith, Gabby Dinsmore, Brooke Strother, Chelsea Schlosser and Brieanna Amend.

Members of the Mayville softball team are, front row from left, Katie Eide, Isabella Ziesing, Emily Landgard, Olivia Prosch. Back row, Alex Hoag, Wren, Gavin Estrine, Mason Halsne and Chris Gonzol.

By Scott Bolsby | sbolsby@tcadvertiser.com

Wildcats reach finals

By Scott Bolsby | sbolsby@tcadvertiser.com

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MAYVILLE BOYS’ TRACK AND FIELD IN FOCUS

**ENROLLMENT:** 187

**CONFERENCE:** North Central Thumb League Stars Division

**COACH:** Mike Campbell

**KEY LOSSES:** Haley Zuehl (sprints, middle distance), Hailey Rowbotham (distance), Hailey Huffer (middle distance), Lila Flynn (sprints), Kealise Dinsmore (pole vault)

**KEY RETURNERS:** Jordan Andres (hurdles and sprints), Amanda Enos, Samson Kerr (sprints), Montana Kerr (sprints), Carly Hoag (high jump, pole vault)

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Joel Enos, Nathan Carey

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MAYVILLE GIRLS’ TRACK AND FIELD IN FOCUS

**ENROLLMENT:** 187

**CONFERENCE:** North Central Thumb League Stars Division

**COACH:** Joe Russell

**KEY LOSSES:** Haley Zuehl (sprints, middle distance), Hailey Rowbotham (distance), Hailey Huffer (middle distance), Lila Flynn (sprints), Kealise Dinsmore (pole vault)

**KEY RETURNERS:** Jordan Andres (hurdles and sprints), Amanda Enos, Samson Kerr (sprints), Montana Kerr (sprints), Carly Hoag (high jump, pole vault)

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Annabel Jansen (middle distance), Mae Novak-Eghigian (throws, sprints), Lili Deutsch (throws, pole vault), Gabby Dinsmore (pole vault)

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MAYVILLE BASEBALL IN FOCUS

**ENROLLMENT:** 187

**CONFERENCE:** North Central Thumb League Stars Division

**COACH:** Travis Harbin

**KEY LOSSES:** Lance Cooper, Travis Harbin

**KEY RETURNERS:** Gavin Estrine, Mason Hatone, Hunter Latbain

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Luke Campbell, Gavin Griffith, Brady Hoag

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MAYVILLE BASEBALL IN FOCUS

**ENROLLMENT:** 187

**CONFERENCE:** North Central Thumb League Stars Division

**COACH:** Mike Campbell

**KEY LOSSES:** Lace Cooper

**KEY RETURNERS:** Gavin Estrine, Mason Hatone, Hunter Latbain

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Luke Campbell, Gavin Griffith, Brady Hoag

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By Scott Bolsby | sbolsby@tcadvertiser.com

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The Wildcats fell behind early but battled back to cut the score to 9-8 in the fifth inning, but gave up seven runs in the top of the sixth. Jordan Anders led the way for Mayville with three runs scored and six stolen bases.
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CARDINALS’ soccer roost filled with returnees

By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor

MILLINGTON — The Millington girls’ soccer team achieved both team and individual success during the 2021 season. The Cardinals closed out the campaign with a 10-10 record, and won the opening game of district play against Unionville-Sebewaing Area.

All-state goalkeeper Hannah Bees also set a school record for most saves in a career, with 781.

While Bees-departed due to graduation, the Cardinals return Vanessa Selich, Nicole Raleigh, Emma Haard, Olivia Williams, Georgia Peters, Hannah Bees, Emily Ludescher, Natasha Bickel, Jasmine Girlish (Sr.), Macie Bugg (Sr.), Maddie Caudill (Sr.), Natasha Bickel (Alana Deshasky and Jasmine Mauk.

Hemlock are good every season.”

Andrew Selich noted players to watch are Vanessa Selich, who was named first team all-conference last season; Hannah Cook, takes over as full-time goalkeeper; and senior four-year defender Olivia Williams who the coach calls a “solid all-around player.”

“Every game in our conference is a battle,” Selich said. “We just want to work hard and get better and hope to be competitive.”

The Cardinals dropped three conference matches to start the season against Hemlock, Valley Lutheran and Bullock Creek.

MILLINGTON SOCCER IN FOCUS

ENROLLMENT: 365
CONFERENCE: Tri-Valley Conference 10
COACH: Andrew Selich
KEY LOSSES: Hannah Bees, Kierrah Butterfield, Sarah Simpson
KEY RETURNERS: Vanessa Selich, Nicole Raleigh, Emma Haard, Olivia Williams, Georgia Peters, Hannah Cook, Alanna Brinager, Charlotte Ratza, Naomi Williams, Sydney Livingston, Erin Ertman.

This season we have a lot of experienced players returning to the team,” coach Andrew Selich said. “Our conference is tough. Nouvel (Catholic Central) and Hemlock are good every season.”

The Cardinals look to replace Kierrah Butterfield and Sarah Simpson, turning to freshman newcomer Alexis Berry to help fill the void.

Andrew Selich noted players to watch are Vanessa Selich, who was named first team all-conference last season; Hannah Cook, takes over as full-time goalkeeper; and senior four-year defender Olivia Williams who the coach calls a “solid all-around player.”

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Softball team carries torch at Owendale-Gagetown

By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor

OWENDALE — First-year Owendale-Gagetown softball coach Nick Huston is adapting to the small-town way of life, and to the area’s softball squads.

Huston, a native of the metro Detroit area, recently moved back to Michigan from Texas, and enters a situation where his softball team is the only varsity program at its high school.

Owendale-Gagetown baseball players have joined the cooperative program at Caseville, and the Owendale-Gagetown track and field program folded last season, leaving the softball team as the only varsity team to cheer for at O-G.

“It’s a learning experience,” Huston said. “I don’t know their teams around here or how to recruit to expect them. It’s also about getting to know the girls on my own squad.

The Bulldogs rely on experience this season, returning a large chunk of their squad. Faith Morrish, whom Huston said have “taken over the leadership role of this program.” Libby Ondraja was lost to graduation, Nick Huston said. “Whatever you want, you must work your way into that system to get a spot. I’m glad to have a clean slate and to build something cool with the girls and their expectations and goals.” Huston said. “I’m looking to build something cool with the girls and can’t wait to get to know them other than as just softball players.”

The battery will be made up of young pitchers Aubrey Hellebuyck and Karlie Morrish, throwing to catchers Shelby Bowers or Natalie Wood.

“Instead of one, I’ve got two, actually,” Huston said of his catchers. “If we can get those two working and work another younger one in.” Huston also had high praise for Hellebuyck, pointing out she is in eighth grade but throwing like a “true varsity player.”

Whether players are returners or newcomers, Huston noted that they’ll earn their positions.

“The more time I spend with them, the more time they kind of shake into where they want to be, and they see themselves,” Huston said. “Whatever you want, you must work your way into that system to get a spot. I’m glad to have a clean slate and to work from there.”

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Newcomers could keep Reese in title hunt

By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor
sbolsby@tdadvertiser.com

Reese — There will be some new faces for the Reese boys’ track and field squad, and not all of them are freshmen.

“We have a good number of freshmen,” Reese coach Eric Largas said. “But we even have some seniors that decided to give it a shot. Money Troublefield should be a big help for the program.”

The Rockets will have to replace key athletes in certain events, including Grant Bouvy in shot put and disc, Josh Kendzierski in hurdles, Jack Stricker in sprints and middle-distance events, and Sam Spencer in the distance runs.

Despite losing some familiar faces, the key is still to win the Greater Thumb Conference West Division title. Reese returns Corbin Bouvy, Wilbert Haines, Isaak Wurdock Swift and Beck Shores in the 4x100 relay.

“Looks like a great group of kids that should make the season fun,” Largas said. “We are hoping to stay healthy and make a long run into the end-of-the-season meet with a talented group of hard-working kids.”

Haines and Wurdock Swift were part of a 3,200-meter relay team that finished in eighth place at last season’s Division 3 state meet.

The Rockets have finished second this season at the Cass City Invitational, Reese Quad and Brown City Invitational.

By Tom Calcium | News Editor
tcalcium@tdadvertiser.com

Reese — Jacob Purman is following in the footsteps of longtime Reese baseball coach Dave Elliott, but he’s looking ahead.


“Tanner TerBush showed range and poise on defense during a doubleheader against Frankenmuth earlier in the month, while senior shortstop Tanner TerBush showed range and poise on defense. Purman likes what he sees from Luth as a pitcher, and seniors Levi Foco, Jesse Stricker and Griffin Gugel already have some action on the mound for the Rockets. Catcher Connor Gugel delivered key hits during a doubleheader against Frankenmuth earlier in the month, while senior shortstop Tanner TerBush showed range and poise on defense.”

“Reese registered a 17-13-1 overall record in 2021 but that included a district championship. The Rockets fell in a regional final to New Lothrop, marking Elliott’s final game in a 42-year baseball coaching career that included 24 seasons at the helm of the Rockets.”

REESE BOYS’ TRACK AND FIELD IN FOCUS

Enrollment: 271
Division: Greater Thumb Conference
Conference: West Division

Key Returners:
- Grant Bouvy
- Josh Kendzierski
- Jack Stricker
- Sam Spencer
- Corbin Bouvy
- Carter DeLong
- Wilbert Haines
- Isaak Wurdock Swift
- Beck Shores
- Markey Troublefield

Key Newcomers:
- Money Troublefield

The Rockets qualified for the state meet last season.

“Expect a lot of competition within the Greater Thumb Conference West Division,” said coach Purman.

That said, Purman also notes that Reese “has a solid squad and should be very competitive.”

“Looks like a great group of kids that should make the season fun,” Largas said. “We are hoping to stay healthy and make a long run into the end-of-the-season meet with a talented group of hard-working kids.”

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tcalcium@tdadvertiser.com

Reese — Jacob Purman is following in the footsteps of longtime Reese baseball coach Dave Elliott, but he’s looking ahead.


“Tanner TerBush showed range and poise on defense during a doubleheader against Frankenmuth earlier in the month, while senior shortstop Tanner TerBush showed range and poise on defense. Purman likes what he sees from Luth as a pitcher, and seniors Levi Foco, Jesse Stricker and Griffin Gugel already have some action on the mound for the Rockets. Catcher Connor Gugel delivered key hits during a doubleheader against Frankenmuth earlier in the month, while senior shortstop Tanner TerBush showed range and poise on defense.”

“Reese registered a 17-13-1 overall record in 2021 but that included a district championship. The Rockets fell in a regional final to New Lothrop, marking Elliott’s final game in a 42-year baseball coaching career that included 24 seasons at the helm of the Rockets.”

REESE BOYS’ TRACK AND FIELD IN FOCUS

Enrollment: 271
Division: Greater Thumb Conference
Conference: West Division

Key Returners:
- Grant Bouvy
- Josh Kendzierski
- Jack Stricker
- Sam Spencer
- Corbin Bouvy
- Carter DeLong
- Wilbert Haines
- Isaak Wurdock Swift
- Beck Shores
- Markey Troublefield

Key Newcomers:
- Money Troublefield

The Rockets qualified for the state meet last season.

“Expect a lot of competition within the Greater Thumb Conference West Division,” said coach Purman.

That said, Purman also notes that Reese “has a solid squad and should be very competitive.”

“Looks like a great group of kids that should make the season fun,” Largas said. “We are hoping to stay healthy and make a long run into the end-of-the-season meet with a talented group of hard-working kids.”

Haines and Wurdock Swift were part of a 3,200-meter relay team that finished in eighth place at last season’s Division 3 state meet.

The Rockets have finished second this season at the Cass City Invitational, Reese Quad and Brown City Invitational.
New Reese coach inherits full cupboard

FROM | 05

the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association year-end meet.

They’ll also return numerous members from last season, including Sarah Gray, the Thumb Meet of Champions Athlete of the Meet. Gray became the first female Athlete of the Meet to hail from Reese.

Joining Gray this season are Allison Galster, Mallory Hughes, Courtney Kalkman, Abby Karst, Brooke Sweeney, Jenna Sweeney, and Ashlyn Wolschleger.

The Rockets welcome newcomers Grace Brown, Aydan Dalak, Taylor Facching, Ellymae McCoy, Aubrey Putman, Nicole Raymond and Kenneth Tucker.

“I am excited for this upcoming season,” he said. “They aren’t afraid to put in the work and challenge themselves. I expect to end the season with a second-place showing at the Cass City Invitational, and took first at its own quad and first place at the Brown City Invitational.

JOINING GRAY THIS SEASON ARE ALLISON GALSTER, MALLORY HUGHES, COURTNEY KALKMAN, ABBY KARST, BROOKE SWEEENEY, JENNA SWEEENEY, ASHLYN WOLSCHLEGER, OLIVIA KRUEGER, KAYLA ERREMA AND ABBY GRANT.

The volleyball and basketball teams also have an eye on the state tournament.

“The girls know to have that continued team success in volleyball, cross-country, and basketball this school year. The girls will have to continue to practice each day, learn and grow.”

Brandon Gnatkowski.

“These girls have a great energy to them,” he said. “They aren’t afraid to put in the work and challenge themselves. I am excited to see how the season unfolds.”

Brandon Gnatkowski

“We have to continue to work hard and have fun,” he said.

“Gnatkowski noted that top losses from last season include Maacey Hawk, Josie Hinchman, and Mallory Wolschleger.

“Tard forward to the upcoming season,” he said. “They are excited to make a run at the state tournament and have set team and individual goals and will make sure to work hard to achieve those goals.”

The girls are looking to make a good impression on the voters and stay in the top 10 of the state tournament. The girls are excited to see how the season unfolds.

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Unionville-Sebewaing Area boys’ track and field members are, front row from left, Kaden Kuhl, Sam Koch, Aidan Querback, Jacob Nimtz, Bentley Alderson, Bryce Langmaid, Connor Gettel, and Jacob VanHove; back row, assistant coach Fred Peter, head coach Mike Peter, Nathan Schad, Brayden Kemp, Dakota Miller, Adam Maust, Braylon Ballard and assistant coach Nicholas Kilburn.

Unionville-Sebewaing Area girls’ track and field members are, front row from left, Madilyn Horton, Cambree Torma, Emmeline Kotenko, Danielle Hunter and Olivia Peter; second row, Kadie Bunch, Megan Peter, Grace Herman, Rhianne Varrin and Olivia Tomlinson; back row, assistant coach Fred Peter, assistant coach Nicholas Kilburn and head coach Mike Peter.

USA boys shoot for conference, regional title

USA girls plan to climb GTW ladder
The Unionville-Sebewaing Area softball team looks to join exclusive company by winning a third consecutive state championship.

The Patriots clinched the Division 4 championship in 2019 and 2021 – the 2020 season was canceled due to COVID-19 – and look to defend their title.

“We are excited about this year’s team,” fifth-year coach Isaiah Gainforth said. “We bring back a lot of key contributors from last year’s team and hopefully experience will bode well for us this year.”

The Patriots closed out the 2021 season with a 40-3 record, clinching their seventh state title after defeating Bay City All Saints Central 14-1.

Despite having to replace experience from last season’s senior class, Gainforth expects to be able to fill the holes and continue to march the team toward another state crown.

“We have two quality pitchers and should be pretty good defensively,” he said. “Offensively we have a lot of smart hitters who will give us quality at-bats all season.”

Last season the Patriots enjoyed the best offensive season in program history. The team finished with a .460 batting average, scored 502 runs, drove in 493, and collected 811 hits. The pitching staff’s 5.83 strikeouts ranked third in the state record books.

Key returnees are Laci Harris and Macy Reinhardt, who are three-year starters. Harris cruised the ball last season with a .539 batting average, 14 home runs, 78 RBIs, 83 hits and 22 doubles, but will look to fill the void left in the circle by all-state pitcher Brynn Polega.

Polega closed out last season with a 2.89 ERA while striking out 365 in 169 innings.

Harris closed out last season with impressive numbers as the squad’s No. 2 pitcher, putting up a 1.12 ERA with 26.88 Ks in 76 innings of work, while striking out 138.

Harris committed to play college softball for Madonna University in January.

“Like past years we are playing a very tough schedule,” Gainforth said. “We have opponents like Millington, Garber, Richmond, and Standish-Sterling on the schedule to prepare us for the upcoming season.”

Also returning for the Patriots is sophomore Gabby Crumm, who put together an impressive debut season with a .482 batting average that included 66 hits, 63 RBIs, 16 doubles and seven home runs as the cleanup hitter in the record-setting USA batting order.

USA has breezed up its nonconference schedule with ranked squads and familiar foes.

Despite being the top dog in the Greater Thumb Conference West Division for many years, the Patriots know there are teams looking to take their place.

“The GTW should be competitive this year,” Gainforth said. “Cass City will have a very balanced team with two good pitchers, and Lakers are bringing back a solid pitcher from last year.”

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We hope by Memorial Day and district play, we’ll be rolling and hope that playing in such a tough conference will better prepare us.

“We are a little too worried about right now. We are more at looking where we’ll be in six weeks,” Gainforth said.

Huck named Eurich, Rienorst, Wiederhold, Reinhardt and Kamron Klugi as players to watch out for this season.

The Patriots host the state district tournament that includes Akron-Fairgrove, All Saints and Cassville.

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By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor sbolsby@investomich.com

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Members of the Vassar varsity boys’ track team are, from front row from left, Nick Tallman, Chase Wilkinson, Logan Ramirez, Cragen Sanders, R.J. Dickie, Gage Jacobs and John Wilson; middle row, Jake Alwood, Jay Stolick, Landon Klinesmith, Landon Muska and Gordon Sommerfield Jr.; back row, assistant coach Jacobs and John Wilson; middle row, Jake Atwood, Ian Stoick, Landon Klinesmith, Tallman, Chase Wilkinson, Logan Ramirez, Craigen Sanders, R.J. Dickie, Gage By Tom Gilchrist | gilchrist@tcadvertiser.com

Vassar’s 4-by-100-meter relay team was runner-up in the 100-meter dash and long jump last season. Germain expects Davis to compete in some combination of the 100, 200, 400, 4-by-100, 4-by-400 relays, and 1,600-meter run.

Shindorf wins two individual titles last season in the Greater Thumb Conference West Division, capturing the 300-meter run and 1,800-meter run. She also was a member of the conference-winning 4-by-400 relay squad.

Germain figures Shindorf and Roberts, along with Mia Ferreira, should play key roles as returnees. He is optimistic about the abilities of newcomers Makenna McCloud, Jaya Wilson, Enelome Dombrowski, and assistant coach David Griesing. Missing are Audrey Kreiner, head coach Bill Germain, and assistant coaches Chelsie Gnatkowski, LaTanya Lintz and Stacy Estelle.

VASSAR VULCANS

Shindorf, Roberts could inspire Vassar fans

By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor
gilchrist@vassar.edu

VULCANS turn to Crist, Davis, Klinesmith

Germain welcomes Landon Klinesmith

VASSAR — There are 17 events in a Michigan high school track and field meet, so it’s important to fill the contests with athletes.

But, as Vassar boys’ track head coach Bill Germain can attest, you need the athletes first.

“We have good numbers this year and we’ll be able to fill all the events for the first time in a couple years,” German said of his Vulcans, who hope to improve on last season’s sixth-place finish in the seven-team Greater Thumb Conference West Division.

Vassar could know more about its prospects following The Hurd Invitational on Friday, when 16 schools compete at the Vassar High track complex.

“Our team has a great group of first-year kids and will grow through the season,” said Germain, Vassar High School’s athletic director and a 2000 Vassar High graduate.

“I think we’ll have a couple competitive teams,” Germain said. “We have good numbers this year and we’ll be able to fill all the events for the first time in a couple years.”

Another venerable Vulcan, senior football quaterback Marquavis Crist, opted to stay his high school career seeking a conference title in the high jump, where he ranked fifth in the conference in 2021.

Crist also will run in some combination of the 100, 200, 400, 4-by-100 relay and 4-by-400 relay.

“Another great athlete at Vassar, however, lost Takia Thorne, who finished third in the 100. Vassar, however, lost Takia Thorne, Elizabeth Hecht and Aubree White to graduation, and could use more athletes on a squad that placed fourth in the Greater Thumb West last year.

“We won’t have the depth for a lot of the relays, but we should be able to put together a couple competitive teams,” Germain said.

Crist also will run in some combination of the 100, 200, 400, 4-by-100 relay and 4-by-400 relay.

“Roberts won the conference long jump crown, and placed third in the 100. Vassar, however, lost Takia Thorne, Elizabeth Hecht and Aubree White to graduation, and could use more athletes on a squad that placed fourth in the Greater Thumb West last year.”

Germain welcomes Landon Klinesmith

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Members of the Vassar varsity girls’ team are, from front row from left, Mena Jimenez-Garcia, Kaylie Elliott, Jaya Wilson and Rykie Cobt; back row, assistant coach Jacob Griesing, Ashley Shindorf, Makena McCloud, Kendal Roberts, Mia Ferreira, Enelome Dombrowski, and assistant coach David Griesing. Missing are Aubree White, head coach Bill Germain, and assistant coaches Chelsie Gnatkowski, LaTanya Lintz and Stacy Estelle.

Members of the Vassar varsity girls’ track team are, front row from left, Mena Jimenez-Garcia, Kaylie Elliott, Jaya Wilson and Rykie Cobt; back row, assistant coach Jacob Griesing, Ashley Shindorf, Makena McCloud, Kendal Roberts, Mia Ferreira, Enelome Dombrowski, and assistant coach David Griesing. Missing are Aubree White, head coach Bill Germain, and assistant coaches Chelsie Gnatkowski, LaTanya Lintz and Stacy Estelle.

VASSAR — Mary Raney is the standard-bearer when it comes to top individual performances by a member of Vassar’s girls’ track program.

Raney, Vassar’s lone female state titlist, won the shot put in 2021 and the shot put and discus in 2023.

Ashley Shindorf and Kendal Roberts have a chance to make their marks this spring, and Vassar girls’ track coach Bill Germain expects impressive performances from both.

“Our team has a lot of potential for great individual performances,” Germain said.

“Shindorf won two individual titles last season in the Greater Thumb Conference West Division, capturing the 300-meter run and 1,800-meter run.

“Germain said. "Our team has a great group of first-year kids and will grow through the season," said Germain, Vassar High School's athletic director and a 2000 Vassar High graduate. "I think we’ll have a couple competitive teams," Germain said. "We have good numbers this year and we’ll be able to fill all the events for the first time in a couple years."
Hahn, Vulcans have big spring plans

VASSAR — Vassar varsity baseball coach Jason Hahn has a lot of players returning from last year’s team, and a lot of optimism.

“We lost quite a few seniors, but we have a couple newcomers, so I’m hoping to be young and building the program back up,” Hahn said. “He has a really live arm and throws it pretty hard, and has a good curveball,” Hahn said of Trevor Gleeson, who had a really good year, and Hahn expects the junior to be a big stick this spring. Another senior, Dustin Henderson, “will play all over the infield for us and he’ll get a lot of innings on the mound for us as well,” said Hahn, a 2002 Unionville-Sebewaing Area High School graduate.

“We had six sophomores pulled to the varsity – six guys who had never played junior varsity ball because of COVID-19 (canceling the 2020 season).”

“We had a struggle last year,” Hahn said. “I had another two or three freshmen I had to pull up to varsity, just because of (canceling the 2020 season).

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“Then I had another two or three freshmen I had to pull up to varsity, just because of lower numbers. So we were extremely young last year, but now, I return all of those guys from last year’s team.”

Senior Manee Mendham pitches, catches and plays third base for Vassar.

“We pulled him up as a freshman and he did really well, and we have really high expectations for him this year,” Hahn said. Nathan Whitney, a junior pitcher, “fixed some things this year in his throw” and struck out 10 Rattes batters in his first outing.

“We’re expecting a lot out of him, pitching-wise and hitting-wise,” Hahn said.

Utility infielder Rylan Mansueto bats in the cleanup spot and Hahn expects the junior to be a big stick this spring. Another senior, Dustin Henderson, “will play all over the infield for us and he’ll get a lot of innings on the mound for us,” said Hahn, a 2002 Unionville-Sebewaing Area High School graduate.

By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor
gilchrist@tcadvertiser.com

VASSAR — Vassar varsity baseball coach Jason Hahn has a lot of players returning from last year’s team, and a lot of optimism.

“I plan on finding players returning from last year’s team,” said Hahn, entering his sixth year as head coach of the Vulcans, who compete in the Greater Thumb Conference West Division.

“That is my expectation and that’s what all our kids talk about, too. They want to compete for the league title.”

During the 2021 season, the Vulcans compiled a 16-23 record, and exited the state tournament in an opening-game loss to Brown City.

“We had a struggle last year,” Hahn said. “I had another two or three freshmen I had to pull up to varsity, just because of lower numbers. So we were extremely young last year, but now, I return all of those guys from last year’s team.”

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