TUSCOLA COUNTY

Statute of no limitations

Vassar township to let market forces control marijuana growth

By Mark Haney | Reporter
haney@tudotmitter.com

VASSAR TWP. — Vassar Township can leave the number of marijuana businesses that operate within its borders, or it can let the market decide which ones survive and which don’t.

That was the advice the township board received Jan. 11 from Tom Reif, a marijuana consultant the board hired to update its ordinances governing marijuana. The township’s planning commission had reviewed the proposed amendments, which altered the regulations governing commercial marijuana, both adult-use and medical. Most of the changes updated and clarified some wording, bringing the adult-use rules in line with those governing medical marijuana.

Treasurer John Stack, who cast the lone vote against the amendments, asked if the changes put a cap on how many facilities the township will allow. The current rules allow for unlimited marijuana businesses. The only limit is five provisionning centers.

And only one is operating in the township.

“The only thing I’m concerned about — and I’m really shocked at planning commission never went back on — is unlimited and bringing it to a number now,” Stack said.

“Because that is not a planning commission decision,” said board member Ben Partridge, the board’s liaison to the planning commission. “That is a board decision.”

The amendment calls on the board to review those numbers each year and allows the board, as needed, to make adjustments.

“It’s an open question, but you can change those numbers at any time, at any meeting of the township board,” Reif said. “You don’t have to have a public hearing. You don’t have to have anything going there.”

The township benefits from the licensing fees of $5,000 per permit per year as well as from the businesses bringing in construction contractors to build and maintain the businesses.

SEE VASSAR | A2

TUSCOLA COUNTY

‘Grenade’ wasn’t live, bomb squad says

By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor
gilchrist@tcadvertiser.com

ELLINGTON TWP. — Relatives clearing out the home of a deceased loved one Wednesday found what they thought could be a grenade, but the device wasn’t.

A state trooper from the Caro post responded to a scene.

The Michigan State Police Bomb Squad checked the object at the property on North Graf Road, at the address. It responds, statewide, to about 500 calls for service each year.

Each regional team can use bomb suits, X-ray equipment, a robot and an explosive containment transport vessel when it responds to a scene.

“You can change those numbers at any time, at any meeting of the township board,” Reif said. “You don’t have to have a public hearing. You don’t have to have anything going there.”

Firefighter, official, family man dies at 79

By John Schneider

CARO — Fred Galsterer wore many hats. He was a soldier/collge graduate firefighter/sports official/bus driver/council member/coach.

But his favorite hat was that of a father/husband/grandfather.

Galsterer, who many in the community knew for his decades as a Caro firefighter and local sports official, died Tuesday at age 79.

“Fred is one of those guys who you never hear a bad thing about,” said Caro Fire Chief Randall Heckroth. “It didn’t matter where you went, people knew Fred or knew about him. And they knew him for his kindness.”

Friederik Walter Galsterer was born in Saginaw on Dec. 11, 1942, to the late Walter and Lenore (Gallagher) Galsterer. He grew up in Frankenmuth and graduated from Frankenmuth High School in 1961.

He is survived by wife Miriam (Mimi) five children, their spouses, and 19 grandchildren.

On Jan. 2, 1975, Galsterer joined the Vassar Fire Department.

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Banker stole dead man’s Social Security funds

By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor
gilchrist@tudotmitter.com

ELLINGTON TWP. — A Caro-area resident has pleaded guilty to stealing $109,967 in Social Security benefits from a dead man’s account.

Jeffrey Piecka, 46, whose address is at an apartment in a farmhouse along North Graf Road in Almer Township, stole the funds from a man who died in Scotland in 2007.

Court documents indicate Piecka will spend at least two years in federal prison — and likely more time than that — when sentenced at 2 p.m. March 31 in U.S. District Court in Bay City.

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On Jan. 2, 1975, Galsterer joined the Vassar Fire Department.
Kingston fathers and sons to the number of 126, united Wednesday evening in their seventh annual ball in Castle Hall, entertaining the $190,000 paid for factory help.

The biggest sugar campaign in the history of the Caro plant is drawing to a close, exceeding by five or six weeks the record season of 1910.

About 120,000 tons of beets have been processed, for which the company has paid growers three-quarters of a million dollars, besides the $190,000 paid for factory help.

One of the great social events of the season was held Thursday evening when the Knights of Pythias held their sixth annual ball in Castle Hall, entertaining about 300 of their friends.

A five course dinner was held in the dining room of the Methodist Episcopal church and was served in excellent style by the Ladies Aid society.

The sale of ticket to the musicale at the C. O. Thomas home tonight was discontinued on Monday, enough having been disposed of to equal the accommodations of the house.

Elkman wants a tax mill and its citizens have decided to offer a bonus to anyone who will locate one there. Over three hundred acres of tax mill are promised for the season, and $350 is paid per acre.

Thurman Monday when Charlie Montague was skidding tops on the Montague land across the river horses started up suddenly, throwing him so as to break his leg and dislocate his ankle, so he will be laid up for several weeks.

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Charles and Clara Spaulding are in school here again.

Old Slaughterhouse — This is the old kind of kitchen house located on the E. Gun Club Rd., just off M-24 south of Caro. According to the one time state wide sheriff, George Hughes, the last one and only one slaughtered here last 12 to 14 years ago. From the January 18, 1968 edition of The Advertiser.

The Advertiser welcomes letters to the editor that comment on and further the public’s knowledge of a topic of general interest. To submit a letter, please email your letter to SendNews@theadvertiser.com. All letters must be signed with a typable name, address and phone number. Submissions that exceed 200 words are less likely to be considered for publication in the print edition of the Advertiser. We reserve the right to edit for length or clarity. Letters may not be published depending on the content.

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Tuscola County gets a new 911 director

By Mark Haney | Reporter
haney@tcadvertiser.com

CARO — Sandy Nielsen is going to get her wish.

The outgoing director of Tuscola County Central Dispatch is going to get a couple of months to work with her replacement before she retires on April 1.

The county’s Board of Commissioners voted Thursday to approve Jonathan Ramirez as Nielsen’s successor as central dispatch director. He’s scheduled to start Feb. 7 in his new role. He’ll be earning $65,820.80 a year.

Ramirez, a county road patrol deputy and former corrections officer at the county jail, was chosen from among four candidates by a selection committee of controller/administrator Clayette Zechmeister, human resources director Shelly Lutz, Michigan State Police Lt. Brian McComb, Vassar police chief Ben Nielsen and former corrections officer at the sheriff’s department.

She alerted the 911 Authority Board of her intention to retire on Nov. 9.

“It definitely has been my passion and my commitment,” she said when announcing her plan to retire. “I absolutely love it. I really, really do. I absolutely love it but it is just time for me to be able to give myself 100 percent to my family.”

Even after she helps her replacement get settled, Nielsen said she won’t be gone.

“I’m not going to just disappear,” she said. “I’m going to apply for a job, you know. And I absolutely love it and love it and love it.”

Nielsen has spent 32 years at central dispatch, the last seven as its director. She started when central dispatch was in the basement of the jail and was part of the sheriff’s department.

She said the 911 Authority Board of her intention to retire on Nov. 9.

“People in the Unionville area speak so highly of you,” District 1 Commissioner Tom Young said to Ramirez. “They appreciate you being there.”

Nielsen previously said she wanted to be able to work with her replacement for at least 3-4 weeks before she retires. The time of this hiring grants that wish.

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Even after she helps her replacement get settled, Nielsen said she won’t be gone.

“I’m not going to just disappear,” she said. “I plan to try to stay active.”

By the end of this next five-year plan, he said, “we’ll have moved a huge majority of our roads back to fair and good.” But that mix is contingent on residents approving additional millage for the roads.

“We’re going to ask the people of Almer Township for more millage because we can’t do a single thing different unless we ask,” Manley said. “There’s no wrong answer. If they don’t want the millage then, okay, we’ll do the best we can with what we have.

In the meantime, Manley also is looking for other funding sources.

“I’m scrounging around to see if there are any other sources of road money from grant money,” he said. “We have found a couple we are going to apply for, but can you imagine how much competition there is for those grants?”

The board also:

■ Had the first reading on its new solar ordinance. The second reading and possible passage will come next month.

■ Had the first reading of the revised tower ordinance. The revision includes rules allowing for residential and agriculture towers as well as those governing commercial towers. The second reading and possible passage of the amendments also will come at the board’s February session.

■ Learned vandalism continues to be an issue at Dan’s Farm Park, 1401 Cameron Road. The township, Manley said, may have to employ some additional security cameras around the park to deter such activity.
Jeffrey Piecka, who pleaded guilty to stealing $169,967 in Social Security funds from a dead man, listed an address in an apartment in this home in Tuscola County’s Almer Township. Piecka stands to be sentenced on March 31 in U.S. District Court in Bay City.

Piecka worked as manager of the JPMorgan Chase Bank’s Davison Donegal Branch, in Burton in Genesee County, from 2008 to 2013, according to court documents.

The theft of funds from the bank account of the late William Sneddon, who died in Scotland in 2007, occurred from 2012 into 2016, Piecka pleaded guilty in November 2021, to theft of government funds, and to aggravated identity theft.

Piecka “initiated a 'Chase Quickpay Electronic Transfer' to himself, forged online bill payments to credit card companies, a utility company, his apartment complex and his car lender,” according to the plea agreement.

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“Nobody knows the exact dates of his promotions,” Heckroth said. “But he was active right up until the end.”

In November, Galsterer was diagnosed with cancer. At that time, he was still a regular on fire runs and worked as a school bus driver. “He wasn’t shy about going on runs,” Heckroth said. “He was busy during those 47 years. I’ve been doing the math and he could have been a 100 percent fireman.” In 2021, he went on 150 of a possible 300 runs.”

After Galsterer was discharged to help his country with the Vietnam War imminently, Galsterer enlisted in the U.S. Navy and spent four years as a seaman tender, where he was trained as an air traffic controller. Before heading overseas, in December 1964, he married Mimi. They recently celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary.

While working for JPMorgan Chase, Piecka searched for open bank accounts with little account activity, according to his plea agreement.

“More than anything, he will be remembered as a happy and optimistic man who adored his children and grandchildren,” Heckroth said. “He remained to the end and steadfast supporter.”

He found an account – that of Sneddon’s – that was not being used and Piecka suspected the owner was deceased. Piecka then manipulated the bank account to create an online account access for himself, and “rewired significant sums of money from the account by various means,” according to the plea agreement.

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Galsterer’s children, according to his obituary: “Fred’s children also learned the Galsterer way; work hard, play hard, and make sure you’re on the pew on Sunday.”

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By Mark Haney | Reporter

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Millington looks to add to school security

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Millington looks to add to school security

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Two programs to help USA students set to be offered

By Mark Haney | Reporter

SEBEWAING TWP. —— 

SEBEWAING ACADEMY

Southwest Enrollment Program (SEP)

To school security

School district officials are in discussions with the Millington Police Dept. and village of Millington officials about adding a school resource officer to the police force. The schools also have added the NightLock systems – which was credited for saving lives at Oxford High School during the mass shooting that left four students dead and seven other people injured – to every classroom in the district. And the district is in the process of adding and expanding the use of the district’s security camera system.

Most of these measures, Superintendent Kroswek said, are in the works for a while. Talks about a school resource officer began in August, he said, with an eye toward building the cost into both the school district’s and police department’s budgets. But the Oxford school shooting accelerated things.

The district’s plan, No. 10 on the board of education’s monthly session, is for an everyday officer in the schools – whenever the schools are in session – who also will handle any attendance problems students may be having, before they turn into truancy. The school district and the village police are working out the details, the job description and an agreement between the school district and the village police.

The district plans to use a state Department of Education 31A grant and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESPER) money to fund the officer. Section 31a of the state School Aid Act provides funding for eligible schools for, among other purposes, attendance school security. Kroswek said. “We can’t think them enough for jumping on this.”

The district is spending $28,822 with Harper Alarm of Vassar for the camera improvements – $7,530 to upgrade the bus garage cameras and $21,292 to improve the cameras at the high school. The work has begun, Kroswek said, and Harper Alarm is still upgrading some areas of the high school and upgrading the system around the bud garage.

When complete, Kroswek said all administrative and local law enforcement will have access to the school security system on smart phones. The systems will be connected to the police force.

“The LifeLock systems were purchased from the Mount Morris firm and installed over the holiday break. They were $49.99 apiece, about $5,000 total, which was paid by donations from the Terrence S. Kaiser and Barbara A. Kaiser Foundation. Another $1,600 was raised from district parents by Shane Holzwarth to fund installation.

“Without their concern and support,” Kroswek said in a memo to school board members, “we would not be able to have moved so quickly with the security upgrades.”

Every classroom, and some other key rooms, have them now.

“For the cost of these, and the security they provide,” Kroswek said, “it is incredible.”

On the first Friday after the holiday break the district had a lockdown drill. The principals tested the devices and, even after using their keys to unlock the doors, they couldn’t get in.

“It would have been an allowable sinking fund expense, but I think they (the parents and the foundation) were all more concerned about something about school security,” Kroswek said. “We can’t think them enough for jumping on this.”

The district’s two schools – the elementary and the middle/high school – both are using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESPER) funds to offer programs that begin this month to help students catch up on learning lost due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, or for any other reason. The two principals – Tyler Blake and Chuck Arnold, respectively – told the board of education about the programs at the Jan. 10 session.

Starting Jan. 24, the elementary school will offer a six-week boot camp for reading intervention for grade 2–5 students. The district is spending $28,822 with Harper Alarm of Vassar for the camera improvements – $7,530 to upgrade the bus garage cameras and $21,292 to improve the cameras at the high school. The work has begun, Kroswek said, and Harper Alarm is still upgrading some areas of the high school and upgrading the system around the bud garage.

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Two programs to help USA Students set to be offered

FROM A5

Mathew Slough, vice president Gary Shreve, secretary Michael Sherman and treasurer Angela Germain – while keeping Knosek, Garman and business consultant Steven Lemer as signatures on financial accounts, and Frankenmuth Credit Union as the district’s depository. The board kept Knosek as the district’s chief executive officer; East Lansing-based Thrun Law Firm as the district’s attorneys, and designated Pamela Leves, Shelly Wooldridge and Knosek to post the public notices for board meetings. Those three also were designated to take over the roles of treasurer or secretary of the board if needed.

Millington looks to add to school security

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Thank You for your dedicated service to Bronner’s
CHRISTmas Wonderland!

35 years
Tammy Hall
Chris Miller
Sarah Schlegel
Charlotte Hakes
Mikki Barnard
Rhonda Blanton
Alicia Heartwell
Jen Mays

30 years
Denise Lothringer
Miranda Palm
Dan Schiefer

25 years
Jodi Burgess
Diane Day
Melissa Krueger
Denise Lothringer
Miranda Palm
Dan Schiefer

20 years
Not Pictured: Mike Wachowicz, Mary Aspin

15 years
Erin Beller
Christine Blake
Aimes Cook
Jennifer Frank
Debbie Gurry
Norman Hase
Renee Heinlein
Lisa Hochfammer
Karen Lynch
Donna Moses
Mary Reinbold
Bonnie Schlegel
Diane Stacy
Laura Williams
Not Pictured: Cheryl Kelley

10 years
Leslie Brown
Lou Anne Burnwell
Barb Cramer
Misti Dickey
Barb Haas
Jean Jackson
Sharon Lasota
Sally Maliszewski
Dana Matter
Donna Miller
Austin Pfund
Connie Boschow
Lutina Walter
Courtney Dace
Jackie Ferguson
Heather Hasenbrucker

5 years
Jacob Hoist
Bill Kircher
Beth LaPratt
Tina Lawrence
Karen Lutke
Carl Miller

Not Pictured: Lisa Barajas, Joy Dise, Sandra Edgley, Christine Flynn,
Sue Hopkins, Donna Jacobson, Sue Kazit, Renee Martinez,
Jeana Matuszak, Christine Nugent & Corina Williams

Not Pictured: Theresa Balderon, Liz Delino, Dovelyn Darkoe & Kelli Harck

25-35 years
Not Pictured: Theresa Balderon, Liz Delino, Dovelyn Darkoe & Kelli Harck

Not Pictured: Theresa Balderon, Liz Delino, Dovelyn Darkoe & Kelli Harck
CARO — Gas prices in Michigan are down 3 cents compared to last week. Drivers are now paying an average of $3.15 per gallon for regular unleaded, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). Michigan drivers are now paying an average of $3.15 per gallon for regular unleaded. This price is 1 cent less than this time last month but still 82 cents more than this time last year.

Motorists are paying an average of $47 for a full 15-gallon tank of gasoline, a discount of about $4 from when prices were their highest last November. According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), total domestic gasoline stocks rose by 7.9 million bbl to 240.7 million bbl. On the other hand, gasoline demand decreased from 8.17 million b/d to 7.91 million b/d. Winter weather and the COVID-19 omicron variant are the likely culprits behind this demand dip. At the close of Thursday’s formal trading session, WTI decreased by 32 cents to settle at $82.12. Although crude prices dipped slightly due to demand concerns, crude prices increased earlier last week after the EIA reported that total domestic crude stocks decreased by 4.6 million bbl to 413.3 million bbl. The current stock level is approximately 14.3 percent lower than during the first week of January 2021, contributing to pressure on domestic crude prices.

“Despite a decrease in demand, high crude prices above $80 a barrel continue to keep pump prices elevated,” said Adrienne Woodland, spokesperson, AAA-The Auto Club Group. Compared to last week, Metro Detroit’s average daily gas price decreased slightly. Metro Detroit’s current average is $3.21 per gallon. This price is 2 cents less than last week’s average and 89 cents more than this same time last year.

Quick Stats

- Most expensive gas price averages: Marquette ($3.29), Metro Detroit ($3.21), Ann Arbor ($3.19)
- Least expensive gas price averages: Grand Rapids ($3.06), Saginaw ($3.06), Lansing ($3.11)

Oil Market Dynamics

At the close of Friday’s formal trading session, WTI increased by $1.70 to settle at $83.82. Crude prices rose last week after the EIA reported that total domestic crude stocks decreased by 4.6 million bbl to 413.3 million bbl. The current stock level is approximately 14.3 percent lower than during the first week of January 2021, contributing to pressure on domestic crude prices. For this week, crude prices could continue to climb if EIA’s next report shows another decrease in total inventory.
By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor

Saturday, January 22, 2022

BASKETBALL

VASSAR — The two Thumb area gymnastic squads squared off here on Thursday in a dual meet, as the Vassar co-op squad defeated Cass City co-op 132.85-122.6.

In vault competition, Vassar’s Danielle Wilbredi and Natalie Wilbredi both scored 8.7, Haley Strunk earned an 8.65, Piper O’Keeffe tallied an 8.6 while Mallory Hughes scored 8.5. Cass City’s Faith Hooper and Grace Suggitt took sixth and seventh places with a score of 8.45 each. Vassar’s Tayler Nadolinski placed first in the uneven bars with an 8.825 and Danielle Wilbredi scored 7.975. Cass City’s Suggitt took third with a score of 7.85. Danielle Wilbredi earned first on the balance beam for Vassar with an 8.6 while Haley Strunk scored 8.55. Suggitt was the Red Hawks top performer on the beam with a score of 8.525. Vassar’s Haley Strunk placed top in the floor exercise with an 8.5 and Emma Hughes earned 8.525. Cass City took second. Faith Hooper was Cass City’s top floor performer with an 8.03.

CARO — Shortlanded Caro and Cass City competed here on Wednesday against Capac and Memphis in Greater Thumb Conference action. Cass City, who lacked its head coach Adam Dorland along with some wrestlers due to covid protocol, went 1-1 on the day with a 48-19 win in the first match over Memphis, but fell to Capac, 36-36 after criteria determined the winner.

Criteria wins include a tie-breaker system that include a team losing points if a coach or wrestler has compiled penalties and the team with the most match wins and no voids during the match. The Caro team, who were missing three wrestlers, finished the evening at home with an 0-2 record including losses to Memphis (36-15) and Capac (42-15).

“We only had six kids going tonight,” Caro senior Blake Sizemore noted after the match.

Caro honors lone senior in GTC meet

Caro senior Blake Sizemore competes in his second match of the night during senior night. Sizemore scored two wins on the night as the lone senior for the Tigers.

Vassar gymnast takes top spot in Thumb battle

The Cass City girls’ basketball team pose with the sign after defeating Caro 52-37 in a Greater Thumb West showdown.

Heavy hearted Red Hawks win M-81 Clash

By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor

CASS CITY — Cass City sophomore Saylar Cuthrell played with a heavy heart in Tuesday’s annual M-81 Clash game against Caro.

Early Tuesday morning, Cuthrell and family said goodbye to her grandfather Freddy Galsterer, who passed away at the age of 79.

“There’s nothing more my grandpa would have wanted than for me to play tonight,” Cuthrell said. “Tonight was all for him. He’s has been my No. 1 fan through it all.”

Cuthrell and the Red Hawks claimed the 52-37 win over its’ Greater Thumb Conference West Division rival, taking home the sign for another season.

“His was the sign for another season. He’s has been my No. 1 fan through it all,” Cuthrell said. “Tonight was all for him. He’s has been my No. 1 fan through it all.”

Cuthrell noted after the game advice she forever carries from her grandpa while on the court.

“He would always tell me to work hard through tough times and be a strong leader,” she said. “He also told me to know the game and share your knowledge with teammates. “He also never failed to tell me I was beautiful and that he loved me.”

Grandpa.

Cuthrell added, “Tonight was all for him. He’s has been my No. 1 fan through it all.”

CARO DAIRY QUEEN

By Scott Bolsby | Photo Editor

Photo by John Cook | The Advertiser

Caro honors lone senior in GTC meet

Photo by Scott Bolsby | The Advertiser

Vassar gymnast Haley Strunk competes during the uneven bars portion of Thursday’s competition against Cass City. Strunk placed fifth in the bars with a score of 7.4.
Vassar gymnast takes top spot in Thumb battle

Danielle Witbrodt took first in all-around with a score of 33.15, Strunk earned a 33.1 for second and O’Rourke rounded out the top three with a 32.725. Faith Hooper placed fourth for Cass City with a 31.9 while Brianna McKee was fifth with a score of 29.325.

Caro honors lone senior in GTC meet

which isn’t ideal, but I’m just so proud of them,” Caro coach Rocco Borg said. “We’ve made huge strides from our first meet in Vassar to now, it may not seem that way from a spectator’s point of view, but we are, and we just have to keep working on that.”

Earning wins in Caro’s first match against Memphis were Trace Sleczak (125-pound), Todd Bailey (135), Blayne Farris (140) and Blake Sizemore (160).

Earning wins for Cass City in the opening match against Memphis were Cameron Gottschalk (145), Cooper Mallory (215) and Ethan Kampo (285).

Cass City returns to the mat today at the Mio Invite while Caro competes at Cass City on Wednesday.

Photo by John Cook | The Advertiser

Cass City senior Cam Gottschalk wins his second match of the day via pinfall against Capac in the 140-pound weight class.
Rabbit hunting is a great way to thoroughly enjoy the wintertime Michigan Outdoors with Tom Lounsbury

Rabbit hunting is a question, very popular hunting pastime in Michigan, which offers bountiful opportunities statewide during the winter months. There is no question that I spend more time afield each year rabbit hunting, especially for local cottontail rabbits and also snowshoe hares elsewhere whenever the opportunity presents itself than any other game animals, something I’ve been avidly doing since I was a farm kid.

The cottontail is the first game animal I ever har vested and I will always remember when, after finishing my morning chores of gathering eggs in the henhouse, I flushed a rabbit near the corncrib. It immediately ran in great leaps to the nearby orchard and disappeared. I quickly took the buck of gathered eggs to our farmhouse and get permission from my mother to go after the rabbit with my single-shot .410 shotgun. I was only allowed to take two shells, as according to her, that was more than enough ammunition to shoot one rabbit.

There was a fresh dusting of snow that morning, and I eagerly located the tracks started by the cottontail through the corncrib, put a shell into the .410, and began following them. I was amazed at how far a fast-flying cottontail could leap with each bound, but they were easy tracks to follow into the orchard, with the tracks ending at a pile of pruned apple branches, and there were no tracks leading out. I would like to point at this point, folks, I had just begun carrying my grandfather’s single-shot .410 during the earlier annual pheasant season, and had learned how to fluidly shoulder and fire it, somewhat instinctively circle back. The baying of the beagles turning back to the standers, and a happy chorus of a pack of beagles singing away on a fresh scent during a cold and frosty winter’s day is truly a very entertaining.

For this, I enjoy having a group of hunters involved, and preparing what I call an old-fashioned rabbit drive, with standers placed at funnels (aka “pinch-points”) in the heavy cover, and having drivers moving the rabbits to the standers. This can entail only hunters performing the driving part, or as in my case, I train my own entire kitchen, including bounds, fidlings, and even a yappy little rat terrier! Dogs, no matter their breed, definitely increase the odds in ousting rabbits out of their hiding spots, and performing a well-planned rabbit hunting drive remains to be the most productive rabbit hunting technique I have ever experienced.

Of course, the most popular rabbit hunting technique is using beagles, a dog breed which is literally synonymous with rabbit hunting. The versatile beagle breed was developed with primarily rabbit hunting in mind, and have a set range (and typically circle around after being jumped by beagles), they can be surprisingly fast-flying and moving targets. There were always plenty of visiting pheasant hunters which taught me that hounds are good, and some of them were always shooting at the same rock that I was, and they naturally assumed a little kid with a .410 didn’t come close to hitting the rooster with those hard-shooting shells. They were probably right, and I didn’t argue matters because I was plenty happy to be carrying that big .410, and didn’t come close to hitting the rooster with my .410 at “port arms”, and gave matters underneath the small brush-pile, I held because I was plenty happy to be carrying that big .410, and didn’t argue matters according to her, that was more than enough ammunition to shoot one rabbit.

The cottontail rabbit offers excellent, fast-flying and moving targets. There were always plenty of visiting pheasant hunters which taught me that hounds are good, and some of them were always shooting at the same rock that I was, and they naturally assumed a little kid with a .410 didn’t come close to hitting the rooster with those hard-shooting shells. They were probably right, and I didn’t argue matters because I was plenty happy to be carrying that big .410, and didn’t argue matters according to her, that was more than enough ammunition to shoot one rabbit.

And I became an avid and devoted rabbit hunter! Actually, one of my favorite rabbit hunting techniques amount to being tracking an individual rabbit down after a fresh snowfall. Typically do this solo, but it can also be done with an extra hunter or two flanking the tracker. For this I prefer a rifle, or even a handgund, in .22 caliber; I also often use my .17 caliber scoped GAMO air rifle, but a favorite is my traditional, caplock muzzleloader, a .32 caliber Cased .410 Rifles. It put together from a kit, way back when. Spotting the rabbit and head-shooting it while it is still stationary is the primary goal, but running shots can be frequent, which is quite challenging with a rifle to keep it entertaining.

Now for farm, when I first began developing wildlife habitat, even including my yard, I took future rabbit hunting into consideration, and created certain areas into what I call “rabbitland”. For this, I enjoy having a group of hunters involved, and preparing what I call an old-fashioned rabbit drive, with standers placed at funnels (aka “pinch-points”) in the heavy cover, and having drivers moving the rabbits to the standers. This can entail only hunters performing the driving part, or as in my case, I train my own entire kitchen, including bounds, fidlings, and even a yappy little rat terrier! Dogs, no matter their breed, definitely increase the odds in ousting rabbits out of their hiding spots, and performing a well-planned rabbit hunting drive remains to be the most productive rabbit hunting technique I have ever experienced.

Because of the usually moving targets in heavy cover, I prefer a shotgun for both rabbit drives and while using beagles. For this, I use small-boxes, and my favorites are .410 (using number 4 birdshot) and 28 ga. (using number 4, 5 or 6 birdshot). My favorite all around “rabbit gun” is a 28 ga Remington Express 870 pump with a fixed modifed choke (it is also my favorite “pheasant gun”). Although rabbits are thin-skinned and fine-boned, they can be surprisingly tenacious, and I don’t like using birdshot finer than number 6.

A couple years ago, I discovered some very unique 28 ga roundballs (made in the USA) that, features a 1/4 ounce load of number 4 (lead) birdshot in a 2 ½ inch shell. After patterning it with my Remington 870, I went back and purchased several more boxes to have on hand. Although I don’t use the shot on rabbits, I believe it provides a very effective and short shotting for headshots (my main focus point) on rabbits (and squirrels, too) without excessively “peppering” matters with birdshot. It works for me, anyway.

The cottontail rabbit offers excellent, fat-free table fare in a wide variety of delicious recipes (hauppenteller is a family favorite) and can be used in something as simple as “rabbit noodle soup”. I know rabbit offers a wintertime flavor my whole family enjoys. No matter what technique is used, I look forward to, and thoroughly enjoy, my wintertime rabbit hunting adventures in Michigan.

Photo by Tom Lounsbury | The Advertiser

A pack of happy beagles and a sagile covered with cottontails means a happy day in the wintertime outdoors.

Contact in Caro for more information
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Michigan Outdoors with Tom Lounsbury

Michigan Outdoors with Tom Lounsbury

Three Walker family generations (L-R) - Bob, Hugh and Ryan, after a successful rabbit drive in the Thumb.
1. FOOD & DRINK: What grain is the Japanese wine sake made from?

2. MEDICAL: What is the common name for the condition called aphonia?

3. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a gastropoda?

4. HISTORY: In what city was the United States' Declaration of Independence signed?

5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What word does the “R” movie rating stand for?

6. MUSIC: How old was Mozart when he began composing music?

7. MOVIES: Who voiced Mufasa in the animated movie “The Lion King”?

8. ASTRONOMY: What is the largest moon orbiting a planet in our solar system?

9. TELEVISION: What is the family’s last name in drama series “Blue Bloods”?

10. U.S. STATES: Which state goes by the nickname “Green Mountain State”?

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Answers

1. Rice
2. Complete loss of voice
3. A snail
4. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
5. Restricted
6. 5 years old
7. James Earl Jones
8. Ganymede
9. Reagan
10. Vermont

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MEETINGS/ EVENTS

FRIENDS OF MUSIC SERIES: January 28th 12 p.m. Wendy Chu – Piano held at the Presbyterian Church of Caro. January 28th at 248 W. Main St., Mayville.

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

CARO CHAPTER #96 CAROLINOS meets the first Tuesday of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Human Development Commission, 430 Montague Ave. in Caro. For more information, contact Susie at 989-673-4121.

Al-Anon Family Group (AFG) – Find help if your life is being affected because of someone else’s excessive drinking. There are regular meetings in the Thumb area. For more information, contact the MI Thumb Area AFG at 989-912-5478. (CAFO) meeting every Monday and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Tuscola, State St. Tuscola.

BINGO CARO LIONS CLUB CARO CHAPTER #96 MEETING – 1st Tuesday of each month from 6-7:30 p.m. every fourth Thursday at Marlette Methodist Church, 1109 S. Maple St. Caro. For more information, contact Merry at 989-673-4121.

Alcoholics Anonymous – meetings, schedules, and/or information for Huron and Tuscola Counties go to www.tauc.ws; schedules, and/or information for Huron and Tuscola Counties go to www.tauc.ws; schedules, and/or information for Huron and Tuscola Counties go to www.tauc.ws; schedules, and/or information for Huron and Tuscola Counties go to www.tauc.ws.

Self Help Society – the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. American Legion Post #7 meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 110 W. Frank Street, Caro.

Rabbi’s Cottage Support Group (CARO) held from 6-7:30 p.m. every fourth Thursday at the Caro Area District Library. This is an opportunity to receive emotional support, develop feelings and discuss solutions to some of the big issues in life in a safe environment. The first meeting is held on the first Thursday of each month and Tuscola, State St. Tuscola.

CARIO AMERICAN LEGION POST 181 meets the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at 248 W. Main St., Mayville.

CARO AMERICAN LEGION POST 181 meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

CARO CHAPTER #96 RY #421 CITY OF CARO CLERK Accepting applications until February 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. 317 S. State St., Caro, MI 48723. Please email to rpapp@carocity.net. Applications are available on the City of Caro website, www.carocity.org, or may be obtained at City Hall.

NOTICE TO CITY OF CARO RESIDENTS BOARD OPENINGS NOTICE

The City of Caro is accepting applications for the following Boards & Committees:

Planning Commission – 3-year term – 2 members

Parking and Recreation Committee – 3-year term – 2 members

[Small consist of members representing the City of Caro]

Applicants are available on the City of Caro website, www.carocity.org/reports/announcements. For more information, please email to civic@carocity.net, fax to 989-673-7130 or mail to the City Clerk’s Office, 515 1st St., Caro, MI 48723.

Applying accepted until February 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

If you’re looking for that special kitty, then I just might be the one you’ve been waiting for. Allow me to tell you a little bit about me. I’m 3 months old & up to date on vet work including being fixed! I love to play with rope in diam, chasing the electric fence, and trying to catch a feather on a wand. I’m also very loving so when I’m tired of playing perhaps I can be your lap warmer. Please call or text my foster mom at (989) 670-6717 to find out more about me and maybe bring me home with you. “Like” Cass River Pet Friends2 on Facebook and visit http://www.petfriends2.com

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE TUSCOLA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

TUSCOLA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION – 1733 S. MERTZ RD, CARO, M 48723

Sealed bids will be received Thursday, February 3rd, 2022, at the office of the Tuscola County Road Commissioners at 1733 S. Mertz Rd., Caro, Michigan for the following item(s) bid(s): 810-853-9329

8:45 AM HAA Meeting

To be accepted on the Road Commission forms in a plainly marked and sealed envelope. No electronic bids will be accepted. Specifications are available at line at www.tauc.ws or may be obtained at City Hall, 1709 Main St., Caro, MI 48723, or contact the office at 989-325-0319. The Board reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals and to readvertise or to resolicit the interest of the proposers without further notice.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS

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John Laurie, Chairman
Lynn Borcherding, Vice-Chairman
Julie Matuszak, Member
Lynn Borcherding, Member

Let us do the work and help you find a new home.

1-2 p.m. Family members and close friends of those living with MS are also encour aged to attend. For more information, call Laura Brown at (989) 973-5851.

Tuscola County Multiple Sclerosis self- help group meets on the second Monday of each month at Mayville United Methodist Church, 601 E. Ohmer Rd. (M-24) from 1-2 p.m. Family members and close friends of those living with MS are also encour aged to attend. For more information, call Robert Brown at (989) 673-8231 or Ann Kallmuenz at (989) 673-8231.

The community calendar is updated weekly. TuscolaToday.com/Calendar
Frankenmuth knocks off top-ranked Chemics

FRANKENMUTH – Three double-digit scorers helped Division 2 honorable mention Frankenmuth knock off Division 1 No. 1 Midland Dow here on Tuesday. The Eagles led 13-9 after the first quarter but a strong second quarter by Dow tied the game 25-25 entering halftime. The Eagles held a 33-32 lead entering the final stanza but Dow tied the game in the fourth quarter leading to the overtime period. The Eagles went out to outscore the Chargers 11-8 in the first overtime frame to score the win.

Emma Kerkut scored a team-high 19 points, Zoey Penulis chipped in with 18 points and Mia McLaughling helped with 16. McLaughling recorded a triple-double by adding 11 rebounds, she also dished out five assists while Penulis had four assists. Frankenmuth (9-1, 5-0) will be in action on Friday at Alma in a Tri-Valley Conference 10 Division showdown.

B10 — Saturday, January 22, 2022, The Advertiser

Vassar falls to Bad Axe

VASSAR – The Vassar girls’ basketball team’s losing streak hit four games here on Thursday in a 35-20 loss to Bad Axe. The Hatchets led the Vikings 15-5 after the first quarter, 22-7 at halftime and 30-12 heading into the final stanza.

Emilee Bickel led Vassar with nine points, Jenna Cevico chipped in with six points and Kendal Roberts had five. Vassar (4-5, 0-4) returns to action on Tuesday as they host Laker.

Kingston trio scores 15 apiece in win over Mayville

KINGSTON – Three Kingston players scored 15 points in a rout of Mayville here on Thursday. The Cardinals led 14-3 after the first quarter, 37-10 at halftime and 59-14 entering the final stanza in the North Central Thumb League Slaus Division matchup.

Abby Walker, Isable Hurd and Delaney St. George scored 15 points each. Walker grabbed 12 rebounds and dished out five assists. Carly Hoog led the Wildcats with nine points.

Kingston (8-3, 4-0) travel to Geneseo on Tuesday while Mayville (4-7, 1-4) hosts North Huron.

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— Jane Ann S., Operator > Process Technician

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By Scott Holman | Sports Editor

sports@advertiser.com

By Patti Elmer | Special

sports@advertiser.com

B10 — Saturday, January 22, 2022, The Advertiser

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I love the people here. They can depend on me and I can depend on them. The place is clean, the work is easy, and I’m always doing something new.

— Josh Smith, Packer > Process Tech > Process Tech

Assistant > Operator

Regency Plastics isn’t just a place you come to earn a paycheck: it’s a place to develop your skills and build your career.

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