TUSCOLA COUNTY

Thank you for being a subscriber:

By Mark Haney | haney@tcadvertiser.com

Koylton Township moves ahead with marijuana laws

Koylton Township is two miles west of Caro, in Indianfields Township. There is a water line that runs through the property, from the city of Caro water supply to the Caro Center state mental health facility, 2000 Chambers Road, which is on state land surrounded by Indianfields Township.

For the medical facility to tap into the waterline, both Indianfields Township and the city of Caro must come to an agreement on terms of service and effectively sign a franchise agreement. Caro officials drafted a franchise agreement and presented it to the Indianfields Township board at the township board’s Jan. 10 meeting. The board voted to sign off on the agreement, after it was examined by the township attorney.

But last week, township lawyer William K. Fahey contacted Indianfields Township Supervisor William Campbell and recommended he not sign the franchise agreement.

“We’re not going to sign it,” Campbell said. “What they’re proposing is an unlawful franchise agreement. Now we’re back square one.”

The water issue came about after each municipality’s original suggestion was mixed by the other. The city wanted to annex the medical facility’s property into Caro, which was shot down by Indianfields Township. Township officials wished to amend the 2020 franchise agreement between the two that paved the way for city water being piped through township land to the Caro Center.

SEE WATER | A4

TUSCOLA COUNTY

‘Back to square one’

Water agreement for new medical facility stalls

By Joan Swannen

The sprawling complex is one result of those two elections.

The problem is an unintended side effect of the 2018 vote to legalize medical marijuana and personal use. State law allows for the growth of marijuana for both purposes, but with fines.

The problem is that by state residents to legalize medical marijuana and the 2018 vote to legalize recreational marijuana. Those decisions made it legal for people to grow, possess and/or purchase marijuana. The marijuana grown for personal use around the county are one result of those two elections.

SEE KOYLTON | A5

Fifth marijuana dispensary now open in Vassar area

By Joan Swannen

Staff members at Star Budz Provisioning Center, 7035 State Road in Vassar Township (from left): Julia Slusher, co-owner Anthony Shango, Jarid Birch and Josie Parsell. The store opened on November 22 and sells recreational and medical marijuana.

Fifth marijuana dispensary now open in Vassar area

Star Budz opened Nov. 22 at 7035 State Road in Vassar Township, a couple of miles south of Vassar. It is owned by the Shango family, owner of Lapeer County business Shango’s Frozen Wax, Co-owner Anthony Shango, son of patriarch Sam Shango, runs Star Budz.

SEE FIFTH | A5

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The Advertiser

Sparks rebound from first loss of the season to stay unbeaten in conference play

SEE SPORTS | B1

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VASSAR TWP. — When members of the Vassar Township Parks and Recreation committee met in December, they assumed park maintenance duties about two years ago, township board members said what would happen if one of their number failed to do the work.

That time has come.

At the board’s Jan. 11 session, parks and recreation committee members raised questions about what to do when new members of their body don’t want to do the work. The jobs include clearing the pavement after a storm, inspecting the playground equipment regularly, mowing the lawn, cleaning the port-a-johns regularly, setting up for events, etc. In return, the township pays a per-employee — a daily rate — to each worker.

At the time in December 2019, when the arrangement was made, the committee consisted of Russ Fall, Tamie Tester, Dawn Marie, Janice Zawed, township board member Tom Boerhding and township planning commission member Dan Zaunia. It now includes Zaunia, Tester, Fall, Troy Euth, Daryse Feather, Shawn McDonell and Boerhding, who resigned his position as board’s liaison. The arrangement was made because the township board balked at paying for a parks manager. At the time, Supervisor Bruce Feather said the township only had $3,000 a year to spend on park maintenance. A manager, he said, would cost the township more than that.

Shangoing the workload, Fall said at the time, was the best option.

“Then their time is up and they don’t want to do it...”

When members of the Vassar Township Planning Commission members don’t want to do those jobs, and filling spots on the committee, meaningful work.

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When members of the Vassar Township Planning Commission members don’t want to do those jobs, and filling spots on the committee, meaningful work.
Garrett Morey, who extensively renovated the former McKatm's Pub in Millington and transformed it into Benny's Bierhalle, stands near 16 taps, all delivering beer or cider to customers.

“Hopefully, this will be a great stop on the way north along M-15,” Ben Allendorfer said. The pub features “smaller batches of beer” so customers can rotate brands quickly, so people can try different things,” he said. Last week the pub sold three beers made in Germany.

“My personal favorite is that Saugetuck Brewing Co. Neapolitan (Milk Stout) Nitro,” said Tonya Allendorfer. “It’s a smoother taste and not so carbonated.” While one tap offers Goose Island Bourbon County Brand Stout – with 15.2 percent alcohol – another provides Bud Light.

“That Bourbon County Brand is one of the stronger ones I’ve seen on tap, and I’ve been to a lot of breweries,” said Bob Yono, 42, of Vassar, a part-time bartender at Benny’s Bierhalle. Yono indicated the pub has the feel of a tavern in a college town or big suburb. “It has a very nice vibe,” Yono said. “It doesn’t feel like I’m in Millington.”

The tavern “even has plugs all the way along the wall where customers can charge their phones,” said Martha Swartz, a customer at Thursday’s opening of the business.

Benny’s Bierhalle is open from 2 p.m. to midnight Monday through Thursday, from noon to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to midnight Sunday. The pub became one offering live music.

“Anybody who wants to come play is welcome,” Ben Allendorfer said. “I’m bringing in bands from Detroit and Bay City, but it’s all going to be stripped-down, acoustic styles.”

“The transformation is amazing,” said Lisa Thibe, 55, of Millington, visiting the bar when it opened Thursday.

“I’ve been here since it was Walt’s Bar, which was before it became McKatm’s Pub.”

“I think we’re going to grab a lot of people heading north,” added Garrett Morey, left, and Ben Allendorfer are owners of Benny’s Bierhalle at 8507 State Road (M-15) in downtown Millington. Morey Brothers Improvements, operated by Garrett and Derek Morey, renovated the business, the former McKatm’s Pub.
Water agreement for new medical facility stalls

But Caro city attorneys cautioned against it. “We considered that,” said Caro City Manager Matthew Lane. “But our attorneys advised us that because (the Caro Center franchise agreement) was voted on by the people, it isn’t something we wanted to get involved with.”

Construction on the 42,000-square-foot facility began with a groundbreaking ceremony in November 2020. The health care building will feature specialty outpatient services, including physical therapy, pharmacy, family medicine, chiropractic, urology, X-ray, labs, aesthetics and urgent care.

The facility is being constructed, and will be owned, by Putman Development, a business owned by William Putman II and family. Putman has said that all of the space in the facility is spoken for, with about half being leased by McLaren Health Systems.

Caro and Indianfields have gotten serious about coming to a deal to provide water for the complex during the past couple of months. City officials formed a committee to draft a franchise agreement with about half being leased by McLaren Health Systems.

Fahey found issue with it, pointing out one of the points as being “unlawful.”

Point 3 states that the city has no obligation to provide water to the medical facility. “This agreement permits the city to transact a public water utility business center. ‘This agreement permits the city to provide water service to the property, but it does not obligate the city to provide water service to other properties in the township. The city’s provision of water service to the property will be governed by a separate written agreement with the owner(s) of the property,’ it reads. “This is not a standard provision at all,” Fahey wrote in an email to Campbell. “And I recommend that the township investigate the terms of the city’s agreement with Putman Medical Project before it grants this franchise. Normally, a utility that receives a franchise has a public duty to serve the property, not a mere private contract duty.”

As written, the paragraph of the agreement would allow the city to negotiate water costs with the facility owners before deciding whether or not to provide water.

In January 2020, a franchise agreement was signed by Caro and Indianfields officials to allow city water to be used at the Caro Center. The agreement contains a stipulation that it can be amended to include other homes or businesses of both sides agree.

Fahey recommends the township board stick to the original agreement, and simply amend it to include the medical facility.

In the August 2020 election, Indianfields Township residents voted 478-172 in favor of a water franchise agreement that would allow the Caro Center – and as no other entities – to receive Caro water through the pipeline.

Campbell has said a vote by the township board could overturn the election results. But Lane said it’s not that simple.

Now the two sides are back to the drawing board.

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Number of felony arrests in Caro went up in 2021

By John Schwinden
jschwinden@caromirror.com

CARO — The Caro Police Department reported that it recorded 109 felony arrests in 2021. That is 65 percent more than in 2020, when 66 felony arrests were made by the department.

Chief Brian Newcomb said the COVID-19 pandemic likely played a part in the rise of serious crimes.

“I’m not really surprised,” Newcomb said at the January 17 Caro City Council meeting. “There’s a lot of anger out there and people are acting out. I think everyone’s been impacted by COVID-19 and the resulting social restrictions and it’s showing in the way they act.”

Newcomb presented the council with the department’s 2021 statistics at the meeting. The 109 felony arrests are the most by Caro PD since 2010, when there were 118 felony arrests. By contrast, there were 251 misdemeanor arrests in 2021 which was down from 156 in 2020 and the lowest total in at least 25 years.

Newcomb said that the police department employs six full-time officers, three part-time officers and three crossing guards.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE 2021 POLICE REPORT:

• Caro officers completed training in several fields, including: HAZMAT safety, tactical firearm shooting, handcuff, shotgun and patrol weapon qualification, Taser update training; First aid/CPR/AED update; and basic weapons training.

• A total of 35,359 miles was driven by police cruiser, with 13,515 miles recorded by a separate written agreement with the Michigan Emergency Response Commission.

The Caro Police Department’s five-year plan.

By Mark Haney | Reporter

GILFORD TWP. — Being a part of the Michigan Renewable Energy Collaborative is getting a little pricey for Gilford Township.

The township board had to vote Jan. 17 to move $3,000 from elections funds to attorney fees to cover higher-than-budgeted legal fees related to MREC’s continued litigation over the property tax assessments.

The collaborative represents local governments that host wind farms, like Gilford Township, in the ongoing tax litigation with farms such as DTE Energy and Consumers Energy.

“I feel it is good money spent, though,” Supervisor Jim Stockmeyer said. “I recommend that the township keep fighting because we believe in it.”

The township board voted to allocate the money for attorney fees, which were $3,605 for the summer on the township’s unpaved roads.

The moratorium might not be needed for a full year, he added, but that will give the township time to plan and follow through with the project.

Board members discussed the plan with members of the Tuscola County Fair Board.

“It was great to have those opinions involved in the process,” Smith said.

SEEN NUMBER | A5

Litigation caused budget change for Gilford Twp.

L-R: Alious Stewart, Najib Willmorn, Abigail Thompson, Madison Kather, Madayon LaCroft and Kenneth Love

TUSCOLA COUNTY

From A2

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Litigation caused budget change for Gilford Twp.

By Mark Haney | Reporter

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SEEN NUMBER | A5
TUSCOLA COUNTY

Fifth marijuana dispensary now open in Vassar area

FROM A1

“IT’S GOING really well, everyone’s been really welcoming and friendly. It’s a nice area,” Anthony Shango said.

Shango said the philosophy is of the business is great deals and friendly service. Staff at Star Budz knows that since Michigan residents voted to legalize recreational marijuana in the 2018 general election, a lot of community members are just getting into the world of cannabis.

“People should know their boundaries if they want to dabble into it,” Anthony Shango said. “Research the pros and cons and start slowly. And we can help with that.”

Star Budz is the fifth store in the Vassar area to sell recreational marijuana. The facility sells both recreational and medical marijuana. To buy medical marijuana, customers need a card from a doctor. Anyone 21 and over can purchase products, customers need a card from a medical marijuana. To buy medical marijuana.

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“We try to keep stuff as close to normal street prices as we can because we understand that there’s a stigma of going in to marijuana stores and spending a lot of money for miniscule amounts,” he said.

“THAT’S WHY we keep prices down,” Shango said. “We’re building our collection away the pain.”

Creams are also a popular product Anthony Shango said. “They’re great for pain,” he said. “You rub them on an area that hurts, and you don’t get physically high, they just take away the pain.”

Low prices are a staple of the business, Birch said. “We try to keep stuff as close to normal street prices as we can because we understand that there’s a stigma of going in to marijuana stores and spending a lot of money for miniscule amounts,” he said.

“That’s why we keep prices down.”

Shango family plans to open a new processing facility in the Mount Morris is also on tap soon.

Star Budz is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Koylton Township moves ahead with marijuana laws

FROM A1

Those stores, however, are regulated and licensed by the state, and have the approval of their local government. So are the places that grow, process, test and transport legal marijuana.

In addition the new landscape allows individuals to grow plants for their own use. Each residence is allowed to grow 12 plants, regardless of how many adults live there. Medical caregivers can grow 12 plants for each patient—up to five—they care for.

The planning commission and the township board also are looking at other ways to control the growth of marijuana.

“We can limit the places where marijuana can be grown,” Kramer said. “We can’t stop it, but we can limit where it can be grown.”

Star Budz Provisioning Center, 7035 State Road in Vassar Township, opened in November and is the fifth store in the Vassar area that sells recreational marijuana.

Number of felony arrests in Caro went up in 2021

FROM A4

The council voted unanimously to adopt the master plan.

The council also did the following at its January 17 meeting:

• Voted to give City Manager Matthew Lane authority to send proposals to the Michigan Department of Transportation for grants in connection with MDOT’s Small Urban Program Project.

• Voted to accept a franchise agreement that was written by city officials that would provide water to a medical facility being built in Indianfields Township, just outside of Caro. The acceptance would be continent on Indianfields Township officials signing the agreement, which township Supervisor William Campbell later said he would not do.

• Proposed changing the starting time of the regular council meetings from 7:30 p.m. to either 6:30 or 7 p.m. The council voted to table the discussion to a future meeting.

• Lane announced the Caro Chamber of Commerce is considering joining the Michigan Chamber of Commerce for the first time. The Caro Chamber is also celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, and is looking to host some special events.

• Planning commission liaison Bob Eschenbacher told the council that used vehicle dealership RightWay Auto Sales plans to lease the property of the former Caro Family Video, 744 S. State St. The dealership would use the large parking lot for inventory and some of the building for office space.

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<td>1</td>
<td>Village of Mayville (whole meeting) Council Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Frankenmuth City Council 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Kingston School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Owendale - Gagetown School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Cass City Council Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Fairgrove Council Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Gagetown Council Meeting - 7 p.m. Vassar City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. Marlette City Council Meeting 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Mayville School Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Vassar School Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Village of Atwater Council Meeting - 7 p.m. Marlette School Board Meeting - 7 p.m. Marlborough School Board Meeting - 7 p.m. Touch Grove Community Meeting - 7:00 p.m. USIA School Board Meeting - 7 p.m. Kagin City Council Meeting - 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Aeron-Fairgrove School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Fairgrove School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Marlborough School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Marlborough Council Meeting - 7 p.m. Marlborough School Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Reese City Council Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Reese School Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Tuscola County Commissioners Meeting of the Whole - 7:00 pm. USA School Board Meeting - 7 p.m. Kingston Court Meeting - 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Village of Aeron Council Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Village of Mayville (regular meeting) Council Meeting - 7:00 pm.</td>
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<td>Cass City School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Cass City Council Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Gadowing Village Council Meeting - 7 p.m. Unionville Council Meeting - 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>President’s Day Cass City School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Cass City Council Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Cass City School Board Meeting - 7 p.m. Tuscola County Commissioners Meeting of the Whole - 8:00 a.m.</td>
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**FEBRUARY**
$225M in NRCS conservation funds available for new projects

USDA is making $225 million available for conservation projects through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) — a federal program that leverages collective resources to find solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land.

First authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill, RCPP has leveraged partner contributions of more than $1 for every $1 invested by USDA, resulting in nearly $3 billion collectively invested in natural resource conservation on private lands. In that time, RCPP has made 579 awards involving over 3,000 partner organizations.

In Michigan, we’re fortunate that our entire state is considered a priority area by NRCS when they review project applications because of our position in the Great Lakes watershed, which helps groups be successful when applying for RCPP projects,” said Laura Campbell, MIFB senior conservation and regulatory relations director. “RCPP has made 579 awards involving over 3,000 partner organizations.

More than 15 RCPP projects have been funded in Michigan since 2014, including projects to reduce loss of nutrients and sediment in the Western Lake Erie Basin and in the St. Joseph River watershed which NRCS partnered on — along with a number of sediment reduction projects in the Saginaw Bay region, and multiple forestry-related projects in northern Michigan.

There are two types of funding opportunities under RCPP: RCPP Classic and RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA). RCPP Classic projects are implemented using NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners and communities, in collaboration with project partners. Through RCPP AFA, partners have more flexibility in working directly with agricultural producers to support the development of new conservation structures and approaches that would not otherwise be available under RCPP Classic.

Projects that meet criteria for an AFA, as highlighted by the 2018 Farm Bill, include:

- Projects that seek large-scale infrastructure investment that generate conservation benefits for agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forest owners.
- RCPP programs are an opportunity many partners — especially those who may not have had a lot of involvement with NRCS in the past — to participate in programs designed to help farmers and forestry professionals with their stewardship goals,” Campbell said.

Partners are expected to offer value-added contributions to amplify the impact of RCPP funding on an amount equal to or greater than the NRCS investment.

Funding is open to agriculture and silviculture associations, non-government organizations, Indian tribes, state and local governments, conservation districts and universities, among others.

Private landowners can apply to participate in an RCPP project in their region through awarded partners or at their local USDA service center.

USDA is accepting project proposals for both components of RCPP through 11:59 p.m. on April 13, 2022. View the funding opportunity on grants.gov for RCPP Classic and RCPP AFA. An informational webinar for RCPP applicants is scheduled for 1-3 p.m. ET on Jan. 20, 2022. Visit the NRCS website for information on how to participate.
Reese studies wages for workers

By Mark Haney | Reporter
haney@advertiser.com

RESEES — The village of Reese has eight employees and Tom Raymond wants to keep them all.

The village manager already has lost one, who recently resigned. And he had another who has been out with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

“When you lose someone who has institutional knowledge of your government,” he said, “and they have the wherewithal and you trust them and then you lose them, you have to start over from scratch.”

The village has three employees in the Department of Public Works, two in the police department and three in the office — including him.

“That’s one of our problems,” he said. “We don’t even have room in the department for someone to advance, unless the top person leaves.

“But you do want to keep them happy and keep them here.”

The best staff and the possible loss of key employees concern Raymond because village officials are negotiating wages with workers.

“One of these people leave, I mean, just the knowledge that they have of your community (is lost),” he said.

The village council voted Jan. 10 to establish a wage study committee to look into what steps to take. That committee met this week to begin its work.

The council also is looking to spend its American Recovery Plan Act money — $14,000 — on a sewer project, estimated at about $70,000. There’s also about $100,000 in the village’s sewer fund to pay toward that.

Raymond said he’s attended a

SEE REESE | A10

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, The Advertiser — A9
Wrongful death lawsuit filed against woman involved in fatal crash

By John Soukup
jsoukup@advertiser.com

SAGINAW — A Vassar woman awaiting trial on charges she killed a motorist while intoxicated causing death in connection with a southbound tractor.

The lawsuit names 40-year-old Kylie Carr of Reese, as the vehicle's owner, is also negligent in

The crash happened about four miles northwest of Buelfield and just west of the Tuscola County/Saginaw County border. According to the MSP investigation, Kylie Carr had consumed alcohol in her system at the time of the crash. Rivers was slowed down for the stop sign, traveling between 12 and 28 miles per hour while the vehicle driven by Kylie Carr was traveling between 66 and 82 miles per hour when it impacted the Malibu. The speed limit on Vassar Road is 55 miles per hour. Carr is charged with operating while intoxicated causing death in connection with the incident, a felony with a maximum prison sentence of 15 years.

Carr had been out on a $10,000 bond, but was taken into custody on Jan. 13 and her bond was revoked. According to court records, in November, Carr tested positive for cocaine, and a warrant was issued for her arrest. She failed to show up for Dec. 8 court hearing.

Carr, who remains lodged in the Saginaw County Jail, is scheduled for a preliminary exam on Feb. 16 in front of district court Judge A.T. Frank.

In November, a lawsuit against Kylie Carr and Charles Carr was filed. The suit doesn’t specify the relationship between the defendants, but states that Charles Carr, as the vehicle’s owner, is also negligent in the crash. The suit names Catherine Patillo as the plaintiff on behalf of Rivers’ estate. The suit alleges Rivers’ estate has the right to monetary damages due to: The pain Rivers suffered between the time of the crash and his death; the loss of Rivers’ income and services; loss of societal contributions; and exemplary damages. The lawsuit is pending.

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Piano recital up next for friends of music series

CARO — Pianist Dr. Wendy Wan-Hong Hsing Chu is scheduled to perform in Caro. Chu, of Taiwan, has performed at Caro First Presbyterian Church’s “Friends of Music” series. The recital is free to the public and will begin at noon at the church, 203 N. Alam St.

Hsing Chu, who has earned her Master of Music degree in piano performance and music education from Central Michigan University, where she was the winner of the concerto competition, Chu has taught at Michigan State University, CMU, Saginaw Valley State University, and Delta College.

The recital is free to the public and will begin at noon at the church, 203 N. Alam St. Carr, of Reese, is the vehicle’s owner, is also negligent in

number of conferences on how to spend the ARPA funds. “And I’ve come to the conclusion,” Raymond said, “I spent it all on a sewer project, I don’t have to worry about anything.”

But, Raymond said, he’d still like to file for some additional funding to help with the cost of that project.

“If we can pare that project down cost- wise and get it done with some help,” he said, “then I want to get in line in quickly before they commit to other projects.”

Fremont Twp. Gets second Shot at two roads

FREMONT TWP. — Fremont Township is making plans. The township board learned Jan. 13 that Supervisor Matt Blatt has asked the Tuscola County Road Commission for bids for new gravel on Waterman Road, from Lis to Washburn roads, on Chambers Road from Main to Waterman road, and on Chambers Road, from Blackmore to Saginaw roads.

Blatt told the board he should have bids back around March. He also told the board that the road commission is holding back the price given the township for work on O’Brien and Car Lake roads — two projects the road commission was unable to complete in 2021.

The township wants a chip-and-seal (liquid asphalt topped with a layer of crushed limestone) and/or a fog seal (a second layer of liquid asphalt on top of a chip-and-seal) for O’Brien Road, from Washburn to Chambers roads and for Car Lake Road, from Blackmore to Milford roads. Those prices were quoted last year at $34,451.08 and $17,347.44, respectively.

The township wants a chip-and-seal for the same roads. The township is seeking a charter for the truant officer. The township wants a charter when the weather warms up.

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TUSCOLA COUNTY COURT NEWS

DISTRICT COURT
Anthony Matthew Housington, 28, of Clifford, is charged with operating while intoxicated (third offense), operating while license suspended/revoked/denied and domestic violence.

Charles David Allen III, 34, of Deford, is charged with assaulting/resisting/obstructing a police officer.

Aaron Nathan Ward, 33, of Millington, is charged with assaulting/resisting/obstructing a police officer causing injury.

Ryan Macshane Sloan, 44, of Fairgrove, is charged with aggravated stalking.

Thomas Allan Kerkau, 44, of Reese, is charged with operating while intoxicated (third offense), operating while license suspended/revoked/denied and possession of a forged controlled substance (second offense) and possession of a prescription narcotic for another.

Erin Kathryn Baldwin, 38, of Saline, is charged with attempted larceny.

Mitchell McGeshick, 44, of Watersmeet, is charged with practicing law without a license.

Gary Lee Ramirez, 24, of Saginaw, is charged with operating while intoxicated (third offense) and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Charles David Allen III, 34, of Deford, is charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder.

CIRCUIT COURT
Ryan Macshane Sloan, 44, of Fairgrove, was sentenced to 30 days in jail – deferred – with credit for two days served for operating while impaired (third offense). Upon release he is to be placed on two years of probation and was ordered to pay $758 in costs and assessments.

Aaron Nathan Ward, 33, of Millington, was sentenced to 180 days in jail with credit for one day served for cashing a check – deferred – with credit for one day served for cashing a check. He is to be placed on three years of probation and was ordered to pay $1,258 in costs and assessments.

Charles David Allen III, 34, of Deford, was sentenced to 180 days in jail – 30 to be served now, the rest deferred – with credit for two days served for operating while intoxicated (third offense). Upon release, he will be placed on one year of probation and was ordered to pay $326 in costs and assessments.

Gary Lee Ramirez, 24, of Saginaw, was sentenced to 30 months to 10 years in prison with credit for 183 days served for assault with a dangerous weapon and assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder or by strangulation. He was ordered to pay $326 in costs and assessments.

Erin Kathryn Baldwin, 38, of Saline, was sentenced to one year in jail – deferred – with credit for two days served for attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud (second offense), possession of a controlled substance (second offense) and possession of a forged controlled substance prescription. She is to be placed on one year of probation and was ordered to pay $1,576 in costs and assessments.

Mitchell McGeshick, 44, of Watersmeet, was sentenced to 180 days in jail – to be served now, the mit deferred – with credit for two days served for operating while intoxicated (third offense). Upon release, he will be placed on three years of probation and was ordered to pay $758 in costs and assessments.

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TUSCOLA COUNTY COURT NEWS

Arbela Township Board learns fire gear costs
By Max Haney | Reporter
haney@tcadvertiser.com

ARBELA TWP. — Supporting the Millington-Arabela Fire Dept. is going to cost Arbela Township.

The township board, at its Jan. 10 session, learned how much turnout gear and a rescue truck is going to cost the department and, in turn, the township.

The fire board, which includes representatives of Millington and Arbela townships, had opened the single bid for a rescue truck on Dec. 28. The fire board had asked six firms to offer bids but only Rosenbauer, a maker of fire trucks with offices in Lyons, South Dakota; Wyoming, Minnesota, and Fremont, Nebraska, offered one. That bid was for $739,165.

The township's 40 percent share of that truck will be $315,666.

The fire department also is purchasing 25 sets of turnout gear - the clothing and equipment each firefighter wears to a fire. That is going to cost the department $119,000 – or $4,760 per set. The township’s share would be $47,600.

Except the fire department managed to secure a $40,000 grant from the Frankenmuth Credit Union. That knocked the final price down to $79,000 – or $3,160 per set. The township's share would be $31,600.

That same fire department is going to purchase a rescue truck on Dec. 28. The fire board, which includes representatives of Millington and Arbela townships, had opened the single bid for a rescue truck on Dec. 28. The fire board had asked six firms to offer bids but only Rosenbauer, a maker of fire trucks with offices in Lyons, South Dakota; Wyoming, Minnesota, and Fremont, Nebraska, offered one. That bid was for $739,165.

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**FLOYD HENRY VOLLWEILER JR. MARYVILLE**

Floyd Henry Vollweiler, 88, passed away peacefully on January 24, 2022, at his home in Maryville, Illinois. He was born on November 16, 1933, to William and Delores Vollweiler. He graduated from North Branch High School with the Class of 1951. He married Margaret Ann Teeple in Maryville, Illinois, on June 13, 1957. They were parents of two sons, Floyd Jr. and Wesley. Floyd was employed as a forklift operator for Ford Motor Company in Detroit and a forklift driver for Alorica in Maryville for over 30 years. He enjoyed model trains, reading, and politics. He attended the Pleasant View Free Methodist Church. A memorial service will be held on January 27, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at the Ransford Collon Funeral Home in Maryville. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Ransford Collon Funeral Home.

**FREDERICK WALTER GALSTERER TUSCOLA**

Fredrick Walter Galsterer, 89, of Tuscola, Illinois, went home to heaven by her brother Ramiro Rodriguez. In addition to her loving husband, Larry; children, Gilbert (Tina) Varela, Jr., Janie, and Michelle, and Peter Choate; one nephew; and five nieces.

He was predeceased in death by his parents, Maria Gonzalez (Gonzalez) Rodriguez, Maria attended Caro High School and went on to obtain her radiology license. He worked as a bar manager for Maryville Community Schools. He ended his career as a semi-truck driver for Diver's Construction in Maryville.

He attended the Pleasant View Free Methodist Church. As a member of the Maryville Lions Club, he helped serve at the Annual Alumni Dinner and enjoyed the holidays dressed as Santa for the Christmas in the Village.

Floyd died on December 31, 2021, at his home in Maryville. He was last employed at Alorica- Energy Center and would pray for anyone and everyone that was in need. Maria’s giving spirit carried on in her volunteering at the hospital and at the church pantry. She loved to shop and always looked like she walked right out of a magazine. Maria never met a stranger and always helped where needed. Her kind, loving, and faithful ways will be missed, yet lovingly remembered for years to come.

Maria leaves to cherish her memory, her loving husband, Larry; children, Gilbert (Tina) Varela, Jr., Janie Varela, and Michelle Varela; and grandchildren, Tiffany (Joshua) Harrison, Alana Clinton, Brice, and Bassy Tufa; and Sori Vollweiler, two brothers, William (Bobby) Clinton, Texas, and Donald (Margaret) of Ohio; and one sister, Cheryl Derrick of Lapeer, Michigan.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Maria Vollweiler; one sister, Doris Maples in 2017. A Memorial Service will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Family Discretionary Fund in honor of her memories, thoughts, and prayers online at www.RansfordCollon.com.
To the rescue: Tech Center begins training EMTs

By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor
gilchrist@tuscolaisd.org

CARO — The Tuscola Technology Center is giving a shot in the arm to the effort to recruit emergency medical technicians—or EMTs.

“This (EMT job) is a full-time career, that comes with a state license,” said Stephanie Scheib of Mobile Medical Response, which is helping to launch the new course at the Technology Center, 1401 Cleaver Road in Caro.

Organizers hope to begin the course in February or March.

“There’s a nationwide shortage of EMTs (emergency medical service professionals) right now,” Scheib said. “They’re saying that over the next few years that it is going to be worse if we don’t start getting people in these positions.

“I think part of the problem is that people don’t really understand what it is that EMTs and paramedics do. We’re trying to boost the public awareness about what it is that we do. Paramedics, for example, can apply a splint on a broken bone, start (intravenous) IV lines and administer medications.”

Tina Adam, facilitator of lifelong learning at the Tuscola Technology Center, wants area residents to realize they can register for the four-month course to become an EMT.

Adam, in December, accepted a $12,000 grant from the Tuscola County Community Foundation to help launch the new program. John W. Hunter, community foundation executive director, presented the check from the William and Ruth Junktta Foundation.

The technology center is “going to become a satellite location underneath us,” said Scheib, referring to the Great Lakes Bay Consortium for EMS Education, based in Saginaw.

The new class in Caro is designed for students at least 18 years of age who are interested in becoming EMTs. The goal is to learn knowledge and skills needed to provide basic life-saving care.

A student will use skills in both the ambulance and clinical settings, receiving 233 training hours.

“Students will be in class and they’ll also be out doing ambulance runs with folks,” Adam said. “So they will get both experiences.”

Those interested in the course may email Adam at tadam@tuscolaisd.org, or call her at 989-673-5100, ext. 38379.

Some students signing up for the course could receive free tuition, books, uniforms and other costs, if they qualify for that via the Michigan Works! service for job-seekers.

“Local fire departments and ambulance services have already reached out, saying they have folks ready to send as soon as we’re ready to go,” Adam said.

Students will receive “advanced training in medical emergencies,” teaching them to adapt correct procedures and timely measures “to provide outstanding care to all patients in emergency situations,” according to the course description.

Scheib said classes occur regularly in Saginaw to train EMTs. But the Caro-based course could fulfill a need.

“It’s a lot more convenient for people in the Thumb region to be able to get there than to have to drive all the way to Saginaw for training,” said Todd Laventure, Tuscola Technology Center principal.

“For some, that’s the barrier that keeps them out of it,” Laventure, Tuscola Technology Center principal, and Stephanie Scheib from Mobile Medical Response, course, at the technology center in Caro, to train EMTs. Todd Laventure, left, Tuscola Technology Center principal, and Stephanie Scheib from Mobile Medical Response, second from left, also attended the check presentation.

The plan is to hire a Mobile Medical Response official to teach the Caro class.

“The four-year college degree isn’t necessarily your ticket to that juicy job anymore,” stressed Hunter, of the community foundation.

“Sometimes, completing these programs here is a better route. If kids are just looking at making big money, the trades and different technical skills are more valuable right now, in some areas, than getting that four-year degree or that master’s degree.”

“With a lot less debt,” Laventure added.

Laventure praised Adam for her work in creating new programs for area residents pursuing a career, or hobby.

“We used to have a very robust lifelong learning program here, offering the community a whole bunch of programs,” Laventure said. “Some of them were career-oriented, while others were just for fun – such as learning to play guitar, or learning different crafts.

“We’re trying to build that back up. We run a swim program for little kids, teaching them to swim; we utilize the pool next door at Highland Pines School.”

A holiday wreath-making class, taught by Kay Trebrick, “was a hit,” Adam said.

“There will be a baking and cooking class coming up in February, as well,” added Adam.

EXPERT CANCER CARE NOW IN CARO.

McLaren CARO REGION HAS EXPANDED ITS SERVICES TO INCLUDE WORLD-CLASS CANCER CARE.

Someday Roy, MD
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Katie Lange, FNP-BC
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Some infusion options may be available in Caro, with full-service infusion centers conveniently located in Bay City and Bad Axe.

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David Bergman, MD, provides expertise in radiation oncology located in Bay City.

Visit Karmanos.org/CareCloseToHome to learn more about the cutting-edge cancer care available with Karmanos.

401 N. Hooper St. Caro, MI 48732 | (989) 672-5079
Severs, Felske help their ‘Muth teams split

By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor

The Eagles opened with a match against the Bobcats in the first Baker game 14-5 and the second, 215-96. The Eagles won the second Baker game 1,004-845. The Eagles were paced by senior anchorman Cam Severs, who threw a 224-90 win. John Giens also topped the Eagles in the second Peterson game 1,004-845.

The Eagles were defeated by senior anchorman Cam Severs, who threw a 224-90 win. The Bobcats took the second Baker game 1,004-845. Michael Carter added 188 and 215. Michael Carter added 188 and 215 games.

The Eagles were defeated by senior anchorman Cam Severs, who threw a 224-90 win. Hunter Schmitzer rolled 193 and 171 games.

In girls’ action at Valley Lanes, the Eagles opened with a match against undersized John Giens. Frankenmuth fell behind early with 144- 84 and 208-112 Baker losses. The Bobcats capitalized Peterson games, winning the first one 786-598, and the second, 846- 596. The Bobcats took the match 30-0.

Frankenmuth duded with Garber in the second contest, defeating the Dukes 18. 14. The Eagles won the first Baker game 121-105 and tied in the second Baker game at 117. The Eagles won the overall Baker series with a 238-222 advantage.

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Peterson games when the Eagles jumped out to a lead early, but the Bobcats pulled out a 976-940 win. John Giens also topped the Eagles in the second Peterson game 1,004-845.

The Eagles opened the day with a 21-9 loss to John Giens, falling to the Bobcats 208-187 in the first Baker game before grabbing the win in the second Baker game, 214-186.

Frankenmuth took a 6-4 lead into the Peterson games when the Eagles jumped out to a lead early, but the Bobcats pulled out a 976-940 win. John Giens also topped the Eagles in the second Peterson game 1,004-845.
Vassar gymnastics grows, ready for next level

FROM B2

doing gymnastics at the high school level,” Weldon said. “The Central AD said "let's jump on board and get this with the team and it was approved fast.

"That got approved, the Central AD posted it on their Facebook page, and I think within two days I had about ten responses from athletes who were interested."

The Vulcans, who had one competitor qualify for the Michigan High School Athletic Association finals, aim to increase that number this season, and with an increase in athletes, that possibility is strong.

"Our goal as a team is to make it to states which I don't think a team from Vassar has ever done that, and I think we can honestly be in the mix," Weldon said. "It all depends on the girls and how hard they work and train. Individually I would like to have four or five girls get to the next level.

The lone competitor was senior Sydney Histed who also was named the senior gymnast of the year by the Michigan High School Athletic Coaches Association. She returns this year in a coaching role to help the girls.

"So I do think having Sidney do well last season shed new light on the program because they saw how competitive Vassar gymnastics could be," Weldon said. "I think maybe trusting the coaches as well, gymnastics could be," Weldon said. "I have some challenges ahead of me this season," she said. "But I have faith in the girls returning from last year will help us be more competitive this year, because of the depth," she said. "They know if they want to earn and keep their spot on the top squad, they must work hard for it."

Weldon was named the Coach of the Year for the Michigan High School Athletic Coaches Association. She returns this year in a coaching role to help the girls.

"I think the girls returning from last year did a great last summer, Weldon said. "We got a $10,000 grant from the Tuscola County Community Foundation and it was nice that we were considered and even more so that we got it. We added a new bar and some matting to help with training."

Weldon hopes the addition of new equipment will help girls to work even harder and help get them to the next level.

"I think the girls returning from last year will help us be more competitive this year, because of the depth," she said. "They know if they want to earn and keep their spot on the top squad, they must work hard for it."

"I have some challenges ahead of me this season," the coach said. "But I have faith in the girls to get to that point."

Severs, Felske help their 'Muth teams split

FROM B1

In Peterson games, Frankfort fell in the opening game 672-638, before the Eagles slipped by Garber with a 628-626 win.

Akon-Fairgrove girls’ show grit in road victory

FROM B1

Player of the Week

AUSTIN LONG

VASSAR | BASKETBALL

SCORED TEAM-HIGH 16 POINTS IN LOSS TO BAD AXE

Player of the Week

BAILEY CORMLEY

NORTH BRANCH | BASKETBALL

SCORED TEAM-HIGH 16 POINTS IN LOSS TO NORTH BRANCH

Player of the Week

BLAKE SIZEMORE

CARO | WRESTLING

WENT 2-0 ON SENIOR NIGHT AGAINST MEMPHIS AND CAPAC

Player of the Week

BRAD COLEMAN

MILLINGTON | BASKETBALL

SCORED TEAM-HIGH 16 POINTS IN WIN OVER BALLOBRICK MILL AND KILBLOK

Rolling high games for the Eagles were Juize Felske, who threw 165 and 161 scores, while Tia Bierlein tossed 142 and 137 pears.

The boys’ and girls’ squads return to action Saturday at Altria Lakes in Essexville.
**EMPLOYMENT**

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**Classifieds**

- All ladies are invited to attend the Frankenmuth Area Christian Women's Connection "Sweet, Sweet Love" Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, February 9 from 11:30 to 2 pm at Zehnder's Restaurant in Frankenmuth. The cost of the luncheon is $14.00. A special social feature will be presented by Amy Callahan, Assis- tant Bakery Manager at Zehnder's. She will be decorating an edible cake from explaining the various techniques used. The guest soloist will be Joanne Tenant of Saginaw. The special guest speaker will be Mary Halbrick from Fremont. She will be sharing her story of "cooking for love in All The Wrong Places", telling what real love looks like and how it can be found. Please reserve by Tuesday, February 1. For luncheon reservations or more information please call Alice at (989) 823-5867.


**Events**

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**Classifieds**

- Success in "Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places", telling what real love looks like and how it can be found. Please reserve by Tuesday, February 1. For luncheon reservations or more information please call Alice at (989) 823-5867.

- **Events**


- Area Christian Women's Connection "Sweet, Sweet Love" Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, February 9 from 11:30 to 2 pm at Zehnder's Restaurant in Frankenmuth. The cost of the luncheon is $14.00. A special social feature will be presented by Amy Callahan, Assistant Bakery Manager at Zehnder's. She will be decorating an edible cake from explaining the various techniques used. The guest soloist will be Joannes Tenant of Saginaw. The special guest speaker will be Mary Halbrick from Fremont. She will be sharing her story of "cooking for love in All The Wrong Places", telling what real love looks like and how it can be found. Please reserve by Tuesday, February 1. For luncheon reservations or more information please call Alice at (989) 823-5867.

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Discover a Local Gem
Advertise your business weekly in our service directory
Call today for more details 899-673-3181
Sealed bids will be received Thursday, February 3rd, 2022, at the office of the Board of Tuscola at 989-233-7472 or highwayengineer@tuscolaroad.org with any questions.

www.tuscolaroad.org. Please contact Brent Dankert, P.E., Tuscola County Highway Engineer

Duane Weber, Member

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

The Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and to readvertise or to next general or special township election.

"Disagreement of Intent to Incorporate as a Charter Township." The petition must be signed by subscribed in the Michigan Election Law (MCL 168.488), and the heading must indicate may adopt the resolution to incorporate as a charter township.

1. Adopt by majority vote a resolution opposed to incorporation as a charter township.

2. Adopt by majority vote a resolution of intent to approve incorporation as a charter township by resolution. At least 60 days after the adoption of the resolution of intent, the township board may adopt the resolution to incorporate as a charter township.

3. Adopt by majority vote a resolution to place before the electorate at the next regular or special township election the question of incorporation as a charter township.

The township board may also choose to take no action.

If Option 2 is adopted by the township board, the citizens of the township have the right to file a "Right to Referendum Petition." This petition must be filed before the final adoption of the resolution to incorporate as a charter township.

The petition must follow, in general form, the nominating petition form as prescribed in the Michigan Election Law (MCL 168.488), and the heading must indicate "Disagreement of Intent to Incorporate as a Charter Township." The petition must be signed by not less than 10% of the number of electors of the township voting for township supervisor at the last election in which a supervisor was elected.

If the petition is successful, the question of incorporation will be placed on the ballot at the next general or special township election.
Phoebe J. Moore, PC, 243 N. State St., Caro, MI 48723, Attn: Phoebe J. Moore. The offer must be in writing, the name of: JACEN L. Thane to change the name of: JACEN L. Thane to change
the date of publication of said notice to the date of publication of said notice to
the date of publication of said notice to
(A) The Charter Township of Almer (“GRANTOR”) hereby grants to Thumb Electric Cooperative, a Michigan Domestic Non-Profit Corporation, its successors and assigns (“GRANTEE”) the right, power and authority to use the streets, alleys, avenues, ways and other public places (“Public Ways”) of GRANTOR as now constituted and as it may be hereafter extended, for the purpose of building, equipping, maintaining, extending, owning and operating a fiber network system (the “Fiber System”) for the generation, transmission, distribution, and sale of broadband internet service as well as for such other purposes as fiber may be used, in and to said GRANTOR, and to the public generally, and to provide broadband fiber service to connections and systems in other localities, with all equipment and apparatus necessary and convenient for such purpose upon, across, over, and under each and every of said streets, alleys, avenues, ways and other public places and grounds.

(B) GRANTOR further grants to GRANTEE, its successors and assigns, the right, power, and authority to use the streets, alleys, avenues, ways and other public places of GRANTOR as now constituted and as it may be hereafter extended, for the purpose of building, equipping, maintaining, extending, owning and operating a fiber network system (the “Fiber System”) for the generation, transmission, distribution, and sale of broadband internet service as well as for such other purposes as fiber may be used, in and to said GRANTOR, and to the public generally, and to provide broadband fiber service to connections and systems in other localities, with all equipment and apparatus necessary and convenient for such purpose upon, across, over, and under each and every of said streets, alleys, avenues, ways and other public places and grounds.

This Franchise Agreement and the grant contained herein recognizes that GRANTEE, previously and currently operates facilities and provides electric service within certain areas of Charter Township of Almer and that nothing in this Franchise Agreement shall impair or adversely affect in any manner the existing and continuing right of GRANTEE to conduct and expand its operations within those areas of the Charter Township of Almer where GRANTEE operates.

(D) The GRANTOR further grants to the GRANTEE the right, power and authority to construct and maintain equipment related to both electrical and broadband services in the following circumstances where such construction is necessary to connect the GRANTEE’S customers to facilities owned and operated by an authorized public utility under a franchise with the GRANTOR and located within the boundary limits of the Charter Township of Almer.

SECTION 2. TERM
This franchise shall be for the term of thirty (30) years.

SECTION 3. CONSIDERATION
In consideration of the rights, powers, and authority granted, the GRANTEE shall faithfully perform all obligations required by this franchise.

SECTION 4. CONDITIONS
GRANTEE shall have the right to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations for the sale, delivery, and metering of its electric energy and broadband service and the conduct of its business and may reserve in such rules and regulations the right to disconnect service to customers where GRANTEE’S equipment are found to have been tampered with, or who have failed to pay for any service, and to enter upon the premises of its customers at all reasonable times for the purpose of inspecting or repairing equipment, for reading meters or for removing wires, meters, switches, appliances, or other equipment. This is provided that such rules and regulations shall not be in conflict with law or the rules and regulations from time to time made by any applicable regularly constituted regulatory authority.

GRANTEE covenants and agrees in consideration hereof, that it will maintain service in and to GRANTOR under the rules and regulations specifically imposed by any applicable regularly constituted regulatory authority. However, in accepting this Franchise Agreement, GRANTEE does not guarantee continuous service at all times and shall be relieved temporarily from its obligation to furnish such services continuously in case of any disability caused by an act of God or by the elements, or strikes, or lock-outs, or by any temporary breakdown or failure of machinery, transmission or distribution lines, appliances or apparatus, or by any causes beyond the control of GRANTEE, but does agree in such cases to exercise due diligence in repair of such machinery, transmission or distribution lines, appliances and apparatus, and to resume operation of same without unnecessary delay.

As an electric power marketer and supplier of electricity and electrical services, the GRANTEE will not impair, obstruct or attempt to control any street, alley, bridge, highway, waterway or other public place or place of public assembly, or place intended to be, or actually being, a public place, and will have the right to make buildings and structures and equipment shall be so placed on either side of the highways as not to unnecessarily interfere with the use thereof for highway purposes. All of GRANTEE’s wires carrying electricity shall be securely fastened so as not to endanger or injure persons or property in said highways. The GRANTEE shall have the right to trim trees if necessary in the conducting of such business, subject, however, to the supervision of the highway authorities.

SECTION 5. VACATION OR RELOCATION
The Grantee may, upon Grantor’s approval, the Grantee to vacate or relocate any portion of the Electric System or Fiber System at the Grantee’s expense if such vacation or relocation is necessary to secure the public health and welfare or is otherwise required by the Grantor in the exercise of a governmental function.

SECTION 6. HOLD HARMLESS
GRANTEE covenants and agrees that it will indemnify and hold GRANTOR free and clear of any claims for damages or otherwise caused by the negligence of the GRANTEE in the construction, operation, or maintenance of its property within the Charter Township of Almer. It is understood and agreed that, in the event of claims being presented or prosecuted against GRANTOR, the GRANTEE shall have the right to defend such claims and to settle and discharge same in such manner as it may see fit. To this end, GRANTOR agrees to notify the GRANTEE of such claims and to furnish to it such information and assistance as may be necessary in defense thereof.

SECTION 7. FRANCHISE NOT EXCLUSIVE
The rights, power, and authority granted by this franchise are not exclusive.

SECTION 8. RATES
The rights, power, and authority granted by this franchise are not exclusive.

SECTION 9. REVOCATION
The franchise granted by this ordinance is subject to revocation upon sixty (60) days written notice by the party desiring such revocation.

SECTION 10. JURISDICTION
The GRANTOR shall be and remain subject to all ordinances, rules and regulations of the GRANTOR now in effect or which might subsequently be adopted for the regulation of land uses or for the protection of the health, safety, and general welfare of the public; provided, however, that nothing shall be construed as a waiver by the GRANTOR of any of its existing or future rights under state or federal law or a limitation upon the existing or future powers of the GRANTOR pursuant to its charter or state or federal law.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE
This ordinance shall take effect on June 8th, 2021, provided, however, it shall cease and be of no effect after thirty (30) days from its adoption unless within said period the Grantee shall accept the same in writing filed with the Township Clerk. Upon acceptance and publication, this ordinance shall constitute a contract between the GRANTOR and the GRANTEE.

Approved at Charter Township of Almer meeting June 8, 2021

Dated: June 8th, 2021

In the Township of

Charter Township of Almer Supervisor
James Mantey

Charter Township of Almer Clerk
Peggy Reavey

Dated: June 8th, 2021

Celebrated Memorial Day as a Nation
Celebrated Memorial Day as a Nation
MEETINGS/EVENTS
FRIENDS OF MUSIC SERIES: January 28th 12 p.m. Wendy Cho - Piano held at Presbyterian Church of Caro.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 8421 meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 4 p.m. at the Unionville - American Legion Hall.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 411 meets the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at 234 W. Mason St., Marysville.

CARO AMERICAN LEGION POST 7 meetings are the first Tuesday of each month.
CARO CHAPTER 96 Royal Arch Masons meet the second Thursday of each month in the Masonic Temple, 15th N. State St., Caro.
CARO LIONS CLUB meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at the Brentwood. Membership applications available at 989-673-3558 or for more information, TOPS MI 0221 chapter meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Baybyle Beauty Academy. Call Janon at 989-551-6361 for more information.

TOPS CLUB 1212 VASSAR meets Wednesday at 1547 Greenfield, 1070 Lapeer Rd. Wine from 9-9 p.m. meetings from 9-10 a.m. For more information, contact Stanley at 989-825-9607 or Diana at 989-225-3467.

ANNS CLUB 1647 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets Thursdays at the Brentwood, Caro, from 9-11 a.m. For more information, call Cecelia at 989-673-4023 or Connie at 989-673-6414.

VETERAN TO VETERAN (VET TO VET) meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the VGC's plaza next to former Ace Hardware Build. These meetings provide a chance to talk to other veterans about their experiences while serving and bring veterans together to learn about available benefits. Refreshments are provided. For more information, call 989-673-4023.

VFW POST MONTHLY MEETING: VFW Post 4164, Caro, second Monday, 7:30 p.m.; VFW Post 3644, Cass City, second Monday, 7 p.m.; VFW Post 10844, Marysville, second Monday, 7 p.m.; VFW Post 7486, Fairgrove, first Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall in Akron; VFW Post 4837, Martelle, third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. American Legion Post 27 meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 110 W. Frank Street, Caro.

SELF HELP
ALZHEIMER AND FAMILY CAREGIVER support and education group meets the second Sunday of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Huron Development Commission Intergenerational Building, 430 Montague Ave. in Caro. For more information, contact Susan at 989-673-4121.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP (AFG) - help if your life is being affected - because someone else's excessive drinking. There are regular meetings in the Thumb area. For more information, call the MI Thumb Area AFG at 989-617-5478. (CARO) meeting every Monday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 335 S. State St., Caro. (VASSAR) meets Monday at 7:30 at Grace Lutheran Church. For more information, contact Mary at 989-673-4121.

BINGO
Wed. 8-10 p.m., 6-9 p.m.

Progressive Jack Pot
Early Birds
CARO VFW 1850 N. CARO RD, CARO

CARO VFW POST 4164, Caro, 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m.; VFW Post 4164, Caro, 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m. at American Legion Hall. The community calendar is available in full at: TuscolaToday.com/Calendar

NOTICE TO CITY OF CARO RESIDENTS BOARD OPENINGS NOTICE
The City of Caro is accepting applications for the following Boards and Committees:

- Parks and Recreation Committee – 3-year term – 2 members (Small board of members representing the City of Caro)
- Planning Commission – 3-year term – 1 member (Small representative group of citizens in the City of Caro)
- Board of Directors for the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation
- Tuscola County Education Foundation
- Tuscola County Historical Society
- Tuscola County Tourism Commission
- Tuscola County Business Association

Applications are available on the City of Caro website, www.tcccmi.com/organizations/boards/government-forms.

Please email to info@tcccmi.com or mail to the City Clerk's Office, 301 S. State St., Caro, MI 48723.

Accepting application until February 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

OFFICE OPENINGS NOTICE

The City of Caro is accepting applications for the following positions:

- Planning Commission – 2-year term – 1 member (Small representative group of citizens in the City of Caro)
- Board of Directors for the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation
- Tuscola County Education Foundation
- Tuscola County Historical Society
- Tuscola County Tourism Commission
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Please email to info@tcccmi.com or mail to the City Clerk's Office, 301 S. State St., Caro, MI 48723.

Accepting application until February 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.
**ALL AREA HONOR ROLLS**

Special recognition to all students who made it on the honor roll!

**6TH GRADE**
- Blaise Beadle
- Brady Guthrie
- Sophia Haraway
- Sydney Smith
- Lilly Tyszkowski
- Lena Whalen
- Audley Wood

**7TH GRADE**
- Carla Bidewicz
- Allianna Bisner
- Anthony Carpenter
- Jacob Cichade
- Emma Dowling
- Chloe Foster
- Elina Krat
- Gavin Guthrie
- Senna Shred
- Genevieve Sophik
- Wyatt Turner

**8TH GRADE**
- Madison Brink
- Damien Rue
- Brady Sade

**9TH GRADE**
- Markie Guthrie
- Miller Hendrick
- Lily Potter

**10TH GRADE**
- Alexander Kuzi
- Marki Morris
- Gavin Prime
- Eliah Schmiege

**11TH GRADE**
- Vaughn Beavers
- Todd Brink
- Wyatt Brink
- Kylee Crosby

**12TH GRADE**
- Cayden Karpovich
- Erin Pedriham
- Yaw Poka

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**Agri-Valley Communications Inc**

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Special Financing Available Subject to Credit Approval

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**ARTIST OF THE MONTH**

**VASSAR HIGH SCHOOL**

10TH GRADE

**Hailey Paquette**

Medium Urban Marker

---

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By Scott Bolsby | sports@tcadvertiser.com

Seminary. on Tuesday at Saginaw Michigan Lutheran added seven rebounds.

while Lilly Sherman had seven points and eight points and grabbed five rebounds swiped three steals. Vanessa Selich scored Division game.

By Scott Bolsby | Reese stays unbeaten in conference play

East Division win over rival Sandusky. score a 42-39 Greater Thumb Conference basketball team used a strong second half to tonight as they host Cass City.

points, Jake Rau and Levi Foco chipped quarter.

19 at halftime and 69-30 entering the fourth quarter. 10 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Hemlock continued to lead quarter before the Huskies took the lead in the second quarter with a 20-16 advantage, Hemlock continued to lead with a 36-23 advantage entering the fourth quarter.

Brad Coleman led the Cardinals with 15 points in the win. Millington (5-5, 2-5) returned home for a matchup against Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary on Tuesday.

Phillips 22 points guides Caro to win over USA

CARO – Marik Phillips' double-digit effort guided Caro to a 43-35 win here on Friday in the first game of a doubleheader against Unionville-Sebewaing.

The Tigers led 10-6 after the first quarter, 24-13 at halftime and 35-25 entering the final stanza. Phillips scored 22 points while Evan Laupniad chipped in with nine points. Adam Musul led the Patriots with 11 points. Caro (3-5, 1-3) and USA (6-8, 3-0) both return to action on Friday. The Tigers travel to Bad Axe while the Patriots are at Reese.

Fessler's 17 points not enough as Catholics fall

Vikings downed by Tigers

Sanilac Twp. – Despite tying the game 12-12 at halftime, the Akron-Fairgrove girls' basketball team fell 31-22 to Caro's 10-point victory. The Vikings trailed 10-4 in the first quarter before outscoring the Tigers 8-2 in the third quarter before outscoring the Tigers 8-2 in the third quarter. "We got off to great start and had good contributions from everyone tonight," Kingstons coach Dave Lester said. "This was a much-needed win for our team." Geister had 15 for the Cardinals, Ethan Green chipped in with 13 and Lawson Lyons helped with 10.

Jayden Biskner led the Wildcats with 13. Kingston (3-5, 4-5) returned to action at Geneseo on Tuesday while Mayville (1-8, 0-3) hosted North Huron on Tuesday.

KINGSTON – Carter Geister led the way in the scoring department as Kingston scored a 63-31 win over North Central Thumb League Stars Division rival Mayville. Kingston led 32-9 at halftime and outscored the Wildcats 21-12 in the third quarter.
Michigan Farm Bureau 2021 Young Farmer Achievement Award winner Ashley Kennedy is being recognized for her accomplishments as she advanced to the top 10 finalists for the national award at American Farm Bureau Federation’s annual conference in Atlanta. The Young Farmer Achievement Award recognizes successful young farmers who derive most of their income from an owned production agriculture enterprise and showcases their achievements in the business of farming.

Kennedy milks 240 head alongside her husband Eric at their farm outside Bad Axe, which also boasts about 600 replacement heifers, 60 steers and 240 acres of corn and hay. In her 28-page application for the award, Kennedy shared all the details of her operation, including a deep dive into her farm’s finances, which are a key aspect of the judges’ review.

Kennedy handles everything from herd care and employee management to recordkeeping and field work. Technology plays a big role in the operation’s prosperity, with four robotic milkers and automated feeding systems. “Building the feeder barn meant completely changing how we manage calves,” Kennedy said. “I hope that my story can show that automation can help small- and medium-size farms keep operating.”

The farm is a study in measured generational transition, with Kennedy and her husband gradually taking ownership one component at a time, along with taking on equipment investments and building projects. Future goals include further diversification and moving toward more direct-to-consumer marketing of niche products like heirloom beans and Wagyu beef. “I’ve learned so much through this process, and it’s truly an honor to be considered with so many other talented farmers from across the country,” Kennedy added.

As the state winner, Kennedy received a Kubota tractor; a $1,000 AgroLiquid gift certificate; up to $1,000 of business/estate consultation from Clark Hill; and an all-expense paid trip to the AFBF Annual Meeting to compete in the national competition, sponsored by the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture.
Agriculture in the News

USDA to measure financial well-being of area farmers

For 2021, all cotton production is up 21 percent from 2020, at 17.6 million 480-pound bales. The U.S. yield is estimated at 489 pounds per acre, up 2 pounds from last year’s yield. Harvested area, at 9.79 million acres, is up 16 percent from a year earlier.

Also released today were the Winter Wheat and Canola Seedings and Grain Stocks reports. The Winter Wheat and Canola Seedings report provides the first indicator of this year’s winter wheat acreage. Planted area for harvest in 2022 is estimated at 34.4 million acres, up 2 percent from 2021. In the Grain Stocks report, corn stored as of Dec. 1, 2021, was estimated to be up 3 percent from December 1, 2020. Soybean stocks were up 7 percent from a year earlier. Corn stored in all positions totaled 1.39 billion bushels, compared with 8.80 million bushels a year earlier. Nationally, corn stored in all positions on December 1, 2021, totaled 11.6 billion bushels, up 3 percent from December 1, 2020. Of the total stocks, 7.23 billion bushels were on farms, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, 4.41 billion bushels, were up 4 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2021 indicated disappearance was 4.70 billion bushels, compared with 4.11 billion bushels during the same period last year. Soybeans stored in all positions on December 1, 2021, totaled 3.15 billion bushels, up 7 percent from December 1, 2020. Soybean stocks stored on farms totaled 1.52 billion bushels, up 16 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, 3.63 billion bushels, were down 1 percent from last December. Indicated disappearance for September - November 2021 totaled 1.54 billion bushels, down 14 percent from the same period a year earlier. All wheat stored in all positions on December 1, 2021, totaled 1.39 billion bushels, down 18 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks were estimated at 236 million bushels, down 43 percent from last December. Off-farm stocks, 1.12 billion bushels, were down 1 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2021 indicated disappearance was 394 million bushels, 16 percent below the same period a year earlier.

Corn and soybean production up in 2021

Increased acreage and higher yields for corn and soybeans led to record-high soybean production and near-record corn production, according to the 2021 Crop Production Annual Summary released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

U.S. corn growers produced 15.1 billion bushels, up 7 percent from 2020 and the second highest on record. Corn yield in the United States is estimated at a record high 177.0 bushels per acre, 5.6 bushels above the 2020 yield of 171.4 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain, at 85.4 million acres, is up 4 percent from 2020.

Soybean production for 2021 totaled a record-high 4.44 billion bushels, up 5 percent from 2020. With record high yields in 21 states, the average soybean yield is estimated at 51.4 bushels per acre, 0.4 bushel above 2020 and the second highest on record.

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On December 1, 2021, Michigan corn stocks totaled 264 million bushels, 3 percent higher than a year earlier, according to Mark D. Johnson, Director, USDA NASS, Great Lakes Regional Office. About 66 percent of the corn was stored on farms.

The first quarter disappearance was 106 million bushels, compared with 85.0 million bushels a year earlier. Soybeans stocks on December 1, 2021, were 78.3 million bushels. That was 7 percent higher than stocks a year earlier. Farm stocks of soybeans were 35.0 million bushels. The first quarter indicated disappearance was 43.1 million bushels, with 43.1 million bushels a year ago. Wheat stocks on December 1, 2021, were 3.15 billion bushels, 13 percent above a year ago. Second quarter indicated disappearance was 6.76 million bushels, compared with 8.10 billion bushels a year earlier. Nationally, corn stored in all positions on December 1, 2021, totaled 11.6 billion bushels, up 3 percent from December 1, 2020. Of the total stocks, 7.23 billion bushels were on farms, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, 4.41 billion bushels, were up 4 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2021 indicated disappearance was 4.70 billion bushels, compared with 4.11 billion bushels during the same period last year. Soybeans stored in all positions on December 1, 2021, totaled 3.15 billion bushels, up 7 percent from December 1, 2020. Soybean stocks stored on farms totaled 1.52 billion bushels, up 16 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, 3.63 billion bushels, were down 1 percent from last December. Indicated disappearance for September - November 2021 totaled 1.54 billion bushels, down 14 percent from the same period a year earlier. All wheat stored in all positions on December 1, 2021, totaled 1.39 billion bushels, down 18 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks were estimated at 236 million bushels, down 43 percent from last December. Off-farm stocks, 1.12 billion bushels, were down 1 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2021 indicated disappearance was 394 million bushels, 16 percent below the same period a year earlier.
Rise of Plant-Based Milk & It's Role in the Industry

According to the USDA, Economic Research Service's (ERS) food availability data, Americans have been drinking less and less fluid cow’s milk on a per-person basis since the mid-1940s. However, the rate of decline has increased recently. Between 1995 and 2020, ERS data show that the per-person U.S. supply of cow’s milk available for consumption fell at an average annual rate of 3.1 percent. From 2010 to 2017, per capita availability fell at an average annual rate of almost 2.5 percent.

Plant-based milk alternatives may play a role. Grocery store shelves and refrigerated cases offer a variety of non-dairy beverages with package labels that include the word “milk.” Industry statistics show almond-based products are the most popular. Also available are cashew, pea, soy, and rice options. ERS researchers used National Consumer Panel data from the private market research company IRI for 2013 through 2017 to investigate whether sales of plant-based milk alternatives are contributing to—but not a one-to-one in recent years. In other words, the rate of replacement is estimated to be about 90 percent still bought cow’s milk. Even among those who bought plant-based milk alternatives, 90 percent still bought cow’s milk. However, the researchers also found sales of cow’s milk fell at an average rate of 0.038 gallon per household per week in 2017. By contrast, purchases of almond, soy, and other plant-based products increased 16 percent from 0.028 gallon to 0.038 gallon per household per week.

A statistical model’s estimation further showed that increased sales of plant-based alternatives are negatively affecting households’ purchases of cow’s milk. The rate of replacement is estimated to be about one-to-one in recent years. In other words, every gallon of plant-based product bought by a household could be replacing an equal-sized sale by dairy suppliers. Even so, the increase in sales over 2013 to 2017 of plant-based options rose. Weekly sales of plant-based options rose. Weekly sales of plant-based options rose. The all-winter wheat area planted for harvest this year was the tenth smallest on record but would be the largest seeded area since 36,149,000 acres in 2016. All-winter wheat seedings were lower from 2017 to 2021, and in FY09, 1910, 1911 and 1913.

Planted acreage is up from last year across most of the growing region," NASS said. "The largest increases in planted acreage are estimated in Kansas and Texas, while the largest decreases are estimated in Colorado and New Mexico."

The USDA estimated the 2022 soft red wheat planted area at 7.07 million acres, 6% larger than the 2021 planted area at 6.65 million acres. Compared with last year, the largest acreage increases are expected in Missouri, North Carolina, and Ohio, while the largest acreage decreases are expected in Maryland and Michigan." NASS explained. The estimated winter wheat area in 2022 was 3.56 million acres, up 2% from 2021.

Winter wheat seedings 10th smallest on record

The National Agricultural Statistics Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated area planted to winter wheat for harvest in 2022 at 34,977,000 acres, up 749,000 acres, or 2.2%, from 33,468,000 acres in 2021 and compared with 30,450,000 acres in 2020. The estimate contained in the annual Winter Wheat and Canola Seedings report issued Jan. 12 compared with the average of pre-export trade estimates at 34,255,000 acres. The all-winter wheat area planted for harvest this year was the tenth smallest on record but would be the largest seeded area since 36,149,000 acres in 2016. All-winter wheat seedings were lower from 2017 to 2021, and in FY09, 1910, 1911 and 1913.

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Managing nutrients to minimize cost of production, retain farm profits

By Joannem LaPorte | MIU Extension

As producers turn their attention toward the 2022 growing season, there are increasing concerns about input prices and impacts to farm profits. Questions about availability of key inputs and what they will cost are largely unknown.

Despite uncertainties, farms can position themselves to minimize costs of production and retain farm profits. Minimizing costs starts with understanding current market conditions, including inputs and commodities.

You need to know what expected prices are before you can identify options to minimize costs. Once identified, you need to analyze which options are best for your farm.

Understanding market conditions

In order to maximize prices received, understanding market conditions now and into the future is needed. Many economists agree that current prices for commodities will continue favorably into next year’s harvest.

However, once we reach harvest, prices are expected to decline as global supply and demand moves toward pre-2021 norms.

The USDA estimates corn producers will receive an average of $4.80 per bushel for grain harvested in 2022 and sold throughout 2023. A similar trend exists for soybeans as the USDA expects a 2022/2023 price of $10.50 per bushel. For soybeans, prices may reach into other input purchases, such as chemicals. Supply limitations of such as chemicals. Supply limitations of inputs such as urea or alfalfa, at current retail prices, a 30-pound nitrogen credit is worth almost $36 per acre. Using USDA’s corn price of $4.80 per bushel, that’s over six bushels of corn.

Manure applications may offer costs savings as well. Even at a charge of $0.01 per gallon, an application of 3,500 gallons could save an additional $320 per acre. That’s another four bushels of corn added on to the nitrogen credits! A nutrient analysis is recommended to ensure a true comparison of savings against commercial fertilizer. Incursion timing is also important to minimize volatilization and increase nutrient retention. For more information, visit Michigan’s Right to Farm homepage.

Knowing expected prices of key input purchases

As you think about how declining commodity prices will affect your farm’s profitability, it is important to understand another important trend about prices. When commodity prices are trending upwards, input prices tend to follow quickly.

Factors affecting prices are commodity markets, global supply and demand, and domestic supply chain constraints leading to uncertainty about product availability. These factors have led fertilizer retailers to hesitate releasing spring prices or limiting quantities to as little as 20%-30% of a farm’s previous year or adopting new practices when demands are high.

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Analyzing best options for your farm

Knowing what options you have is one part of minimizing costs. The key is deciding which options will work best for your farm and its current situation.

To find which options are best for your farm, start with your soil. Soil sampling is critically important to reducing fertilizer costs. You need to know what you’ve got to work with before considering any other decisions.

As you think about yield goals, consider how reasonable those goals are to meet. Are they based on historical trends or wishful thinking? It is always best to focus on a goal that is within your farm’s potential. Remember, you are basing your cost planning on what yield you want to achieve.

As you consider all options to reducing costs. These options can include changes in planting intentions, renting out acres, or adopting new practices to reduce fuel or chemical usage.
### Fruit Trees

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### Apple

### Plum

### Other

### Strawberry

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### Blueberries

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### Asparagus

### Conifer Husky Transplants

### Conifer Transplants

### Conifer/Husky Transplants

### Deciduous Trees

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### Shrub

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</table>

### Misc.

### Shopping Cart

### TO PAY WITH

### ORDER TOTAL

**Deadline:** March 31, 2022

### Contact Information

Name: [Tuscola Conservation District](https://www.tuscolacd.com)
Address: Tuscola Conservation District, 1075 Cleaver Rd., Caro, MI 48723
Phone: 989-673-8174 x3
Cost and soybean production costs will increase to record levels in 2022 due to high commodity prices, inflationary pressures, and supply disruptions. But by far, the cost with the most significant increase will be fertilizer, with the level of fertilizer prices for spring unknown at this point.

Break-even prices to cover total costs for 2022 are projected at $4.73 per bushel for corn and $11.06 per bushel for soybeans. Compared to historical levels, these break-even prices are very high. While current fall bids are above break-even levels, the high break-even levels present risks.

Figure 1 shows total costs for corn produced on high-productivity farmland in Central Illinois. Historical data comes from Illinois Farm Business Farm Management (FBFM). Bars for each year show non-land costs of $915 by $149 per acre and rising projected at record levels, exceeding 2021 costs and $309 in cash rent. Total costs are at $1,064 per acre, with $755 in non-land costs plus average cash rent.

The projected trend yield for 2022 (225 bushels per acre for corn and 71 bushels per acre for soybeans) is used to calculate a projected yield for 2022. Historical yields from 2000 to 2021 are used to calculate a projected yield for 2022. The projected trend yield for 2022 ($4.73 per bushel (see Figure 2)) is used to calculate break-even prices to cover total costs less other revenue. In many years, farmers have had significant revenue from commodity title payments (e.g., Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage), crop insurance, and ad hoc federal payments. These payments reduce the level of revenue needed to break even. For 2022, other revenue is not budgeted, as prices are well above levels that would trigger commodity title payments and yields at trend will not trigger crop insurance indemnity payments. As a result, both break-even price definitions will have the same value for corn in 2022 of $4.73 per bushel.

Having prices at break-even levels will not result in financial stability. Net income will equal zero. Positive incomes are needed to cover necessary family living expenses and provide funds for debt repayments and capital replacement. Break-even price to cover total costs equals total costs divided by yield. Total costs for corn are shown in Figure 1.

For 2022, total costs for corn are projected at $1,064 per acre, with $755 in non-land costs and $309 in cash rent. Total costs are projected at record levels, exceeding 2021 costs of $915 by $149 per acre and rising above $1,000 per acre for the first time.

Record levels of costs then will lead to much higher break-even prices. Break-even prices are calculated for two measures: break-even price to cover total costs equals total costs divided by yield. Total costs for corn are shown in Figure 1.

High break-even price levels highlight the risk associated with crop production in 2022. Current fall bids — $5 per bushel for corn and $12 for soybeans — are above break-even levels. However, commodity prices will need to remain at historically high levels for profitable crop production to occur. Pricing some grain at current levels would not be prudent.
Agricultural industries are not immune from supply chain hiccups. Just as other industries and consumers are experiencing supply chain interruptions, farmers and ranchers are in the same boat. All sectors are experiencing this frustration in the supply world in areas of product availability, manufacturing delays and price increases. Agriculture producers need to prioritize input needs and put a plan in place to secure those inputs. Procrastination is something that most of us are guilty of at some point in time; however now is not the time to delay in acquiring the inputs we need to operate and prepare our products for market.

In a recent article, University of Nebraska Lincoln professor Erkut Sönmez indicates these supply chain issues will not be going away anytime soon. This may require you to become more aggressive at sourcing inputs and supplies. Most have experienced issues in marketing the past 21+ months as packers could not harvest and process carcasses due to heavy demand. We are still facing these challenges, especially at local packers across the country.

Currently, fertilizers, vaccines, and cattle identification products, have been affected by our supply chain challenges. Fertile's prices have skyrocketed, vaccines are often on back order or not available, and cattle tags continue to be delayed just about every two to three months.

To obtain an accurate measurement of the U.S. swine industry, NASS surveyed roughly 6,300 operators across the nation during the first half of December. Other key findings in the report were:

- Of the 74.2 million hogs and pigs, 68.0 million were market hogs, while 6.18 million were kept for breeding.
- Iowa hog producers accounted for the largest inventory at 8.90 million head. North Carolina was third with 8.00 million head.
- To obtain an accurate measurement of the U.S. swine industry, NASS surveyed roughly 6,300 operators across the nation during the first half of December.

Supply chain challenges for beef production

By Kevin Gould and Kable Thurlow | Michigan State University

Nation’s hog inventory down 4 percent

As of Dec. 1, there were 74.2 million hogs and pigs on U.S. farms, down 4% from December 2020 and down 3% from Sept. 1, 2021, according to the Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report published today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

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- To obtain an accurate measurement of the U.S. swine industry, NASS surveyed roughly 6,300 operators across the nation during the first half of December.
Star of the West set to acquire Brown Milling, Inc.

FRANKENMUTH — Star of the West Milling Co. today announced it is acquiring Brown Milling Inc., a family-owned grain handler and marketing, crop nutrient supply and the use of agronomic technology.

Brown Milling started in 1965 when Ed Brown acquired a mobile feed grinding business, growing it over the years as a family enterprise and expanding into the fertilizer business in 1970 at its Delwin location. The acquisition of Kibbey Feed & Grains in 1983, Superior Fertilizer in 1987 and Shepherd Elevator in 1991 positioned Brown Milling Inc., a grain handler and agronomy supplier headquartered in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

“Brown Milling has strived to be the best full-service farm supply provider for our customers while also providing the finest service, and I have no doubt Star of the West will carry forward that tradition,” said Brown. “Our family is proud of our company’s legacy, with Ed Brown purchasing a little mobile feed business and growing from there. He started a family journey that has been both challenging and rewarding. We are sure that he would be happy with the choice we have made here.”

Star of the West is a 151-year-old company with headquarters in Frankenmuth, Michigan. It began as a flour mill, and now operates five mills in four states including Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and New York. The company has expanded from its flour roots to include five agronomy locations, thirteen elevators for receiving crops, dry bean and food-grade processing facilities.

Brown announced Dec. 9 that it is acquiring Browns-based company with headquarters in Frankenmuth, Michigan, and has been operated by the Brown family since the early 1980’s, a joint interest in what was Northern Star Minerals, Inc., a fertilizer distribution company. They have achieved success in many of the same areas, including wheat handling and marketing, crop nutrient supply and the use of agronomic technology.

President of Brown Milling, Inc. “Our family enterprise and expanding into the fertilizer business in 1970 at Mt. Pleasant, MI. Our two companies have served our respective customers and employees with pride, and this match will keep central Michigan farmers and to our employees. Star of the West Milling and Brown Milling have served our respective agriculture moving forward.”

This acquisition is the second announced by Star of the West in recent weeks. The company announced it is acquiring Brown Milling, Inc., a grain handler and agronomy services provider in Central Michigan.

Today’s announcement positions Star of the West and Brown Milling have been both challenging and rewarding. We have achieved success in many of the same areas, including wheat handling and marketing, crop nutrient supply and the use of agronomic technology.

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WASHINGTON D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced various actions to increase available supplies of raw and refined sugar to the U.S. market. The actions include: (1) increasing the fiscal year 2022 (FY22) overall allotment quantity (OAQ); (2) transferring allocations among beet processors; and (3) increasing raw cane sugar imports from Mexico. Action items (1) and (2) are being undertaken to allow all beet processors to market all of their FY22 beet sugar supply. Currently, some beet processors anticipate that their FY22 beet sugar supply will exceed their FY22 marketing allotment, a phenomenon known as “blocked stocks.”

Abstention by USDA, beet processors with blocked stocks would be unable to market their entire FY22 beet sugar supply. Action item (3) was undertaken on Nov. 23, 2021 to add more raw cane sugar to the U.S. market.

Increasing the fiscal year 2022 (FY22) Overall Allotment Quantity (OAQ): USDA is increasing the FY22 OAQ to 10,802,657 STRY, an increase of 235,149; an increase of 235,149 percent of the OAQ (3,871,244 STRY, an increase of 35,049 percent of the OAQ). The resulting increase of 235,149 percent of the OAQ is currently estimated to be about 220,600 STRY lower than in FY21 while raw cane sugar TRQ was increased to about 165,000 STRY lower. Thus, FY22 raw cane sugar availability is significantly reduced as compared to FY21. In addition, there are growing concerns about increased sugar imports from non-traditional users of such sugar as described in Section V.B.4.a of the CVD Agreement. According to DOC, in the past 11 years, the FY21 overall OAQ is estimated to be about 180,000 STRY lower than in FY21 while raw cane sugar TRQ was increased. As a result, the U.S. market is likely to experience a sugar TRQ imports are estimated to be about 180,000 STRY lower. Thus, FY22 raw cane sugar availability is significantly reduced as compared to FY21. In addition, there is growing concern about increased sugar imports from non-traditional users of such sugar as described in Section V.B.4.a of the CVD Agreement.

Accordingly, DOC increased Mexico’s Export Limit by 150,000 short tons raw value of Other Sugar to be exported no later than March 31, 2022. Accordingly, DOC increased Mexico’s Export Limit by 150,000 short tons raw value of Other Sugar to be exported no later than March 31, 2022. DOC, in consultation with the Department of Commerce (DOC) and the International Trade Commission, are reviewing the CVD Agreement, the additional sugar must have a polarity of less than 99.5 degrees, as amended and measured on a dry basis. We note that the restrictions set forth under Section V.C. of the CVD Agreement do not apply to this additional sugar.

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Excess sugar beets from the 2021 harvest may be an opportunity for great cattle feed

By Jerad Jaborek | Michigan State University

Michigan ranks fourth in total U.S. sugar beet production, producing 4,750,000 tons in the most recent October 2021 sugar beet production projections made by the USDA Economic Research Service. Estimates 4,750,000 tons of sugar beets to be produced in this year - a 9.17% increase from last year.

Recently, Michigan Sugar announced that they are instructing Michigan sugar beet producers to leave up to 5% of their sugar beets unharvested due to the anticipated record yield (36 tons per acre) of the 2021 sugar beet crop and an opportunity to participate in a voluntary buyback program for an additional 5,000 acres. With about 163,000 acres of sugar beets planted in 2021, this would result in 8,150 acres plus the 5,000 acres possible in the buyback program, for approximately 437,400 tons of unharvested sugar beets.

Instead of letting these sugar beets rot in the field, why not use them for cattle feed? Whole sugar beets have a high moisture (20-30% dry matter) and energy content (81% TDN, 6.56 NEL, Mcal/lb), but relatively low crude protein content (5.7%). Remember to have a feed analysis completed to determine the nutrient composition of your sugar beet crop before feeding. This year has been particularly wet and has likely altered the nutrient composition of the sugar beets to an extent (i.e., less sugar). Sugar beets can have a relatively high ash content depending on the amount of soil that remains attached, so washing may be necessary.

Regardless, sugar beets offer an excellent energy source in the diet of cattle. BEWARE, whole sugar beets must be processed to reduce their size and prevent choking by cattle. Processing sugar beets to reduce the size and possibility of choking can be done by turning the sugar beets through a wood chipper or forage harvester. Sugar beets can also be divided over on concrete or allowed greater mixing times in some mixer wagons to process the sugar beets to a smaller size. After processing, sugar beets can be ensiled with chopped straw, or other dried ingredients, to produce sugar beet silage. Dry ingredients should be added with the chopped sugar beets to achieve the appropriate moisture content (~65%) needed for ensiling.

In a Journal of Agricultural Studies paper published a study in Applied Animal Science where they ensiled sugar beets with straw and offered this beet silage to gestating beef cows, growing crossbred beef steers, and finishing crossbred beef steers. Replacing dry rolled corn with 20% beet silage resulted in no differences in body weight or body condition score for cows. Feeding sugar beet silage (52% sugar beets and 28% straw) at 61% of the diet compared with corn (39%) and straw (17%) to growing crossbred beef steers resulted in a reduced dry matter intake, but a slight improvement in feed efficiency.

During the finishing phase, replacing corn and straw with sugar beet silage at 21% and 42% reduced average daily gain, feed efficiency, and carcass fat deposition (back fat and subcutaneous fat) but increased dry matter intake. A possible explanation for the reduction in performance is the increased amount of sugar in the diet with a greater inclusion of sugar beets at 45% may have caused physical limitations on how much dry matter they could consume. Therefore, chopped sugar beets should be processed to be supplied up to 20 to 30% of the diet without negative consequences on feedlot cattle performance.

In this study, the addition of sugar beets may have increased diet palatability and dry matter intake at 15 and 30% sugar beet inclusion rates (16.9 and 16.7 pounds per day versus 15% and 15.7 and 16.0 pounds per day). The addition of sugar beets may have increased diet palatability and dry matter intake at 15 and 30% sugar beet inclusion rates (16.9 and 16.7 pounds per day versus 15% and 15.7 and 16.0 pounds per day). The addition of sugar beets may have increased diet palatability and dry matter intake at 15 and 30% sugar beet inclusion rates (16.9 and 16.7 pounds per day versus 15% and 15.7 and 16.0 pounds per day). The addition of sugar beets may have increased diet palatability and dry matter intake at 15 and 30% sugar beet inclusion rates (16.9 and 16.7 pounds per day versus 15% and 15.7 and 16.0 pounds per day).

The addition of sugar beets (18.0, 22.6, 25.8, 27.9 pounds per day). However, on a dry matter basis, feed intake was greater for the 15 and 30% sugar beet inclusion rates (16.9 and 16.7 pounds per day versus 15% and 15.7 and 16.0 pounds per day). The addition of sugar beets may have increased diet palatability and dry matter intake at 15 and 30% sugar beet inclusion rates (16.9 and 16.7 pounds per day versus 15% and 15.7 and 16.0 pounds per day).

The addition of sugar beets to replace rolled barley at 0, 15, 30, or 45% of the diet in a dry matter basis. The four diets varied significantly in dry matter percentage (87.4, 74.9, 64.7, 57.3%) due to the substantial moisture in the sugar beets. Average daily gain and feed efficiency were similar. As-fed feed intake increased linearly with the addition of more sugar beets (18.0, 22.6, 25.8, 27.9 pounds per day). However, on a dry matter basis, feed intake was greater for the 15 and 30% sugar beet inclusion rates (16.9 and 16.7 pounds per day versus 15% and 15.7 and 16.0 pounds per day). The addition of sugar beets may have increased diet palatability and dry matter intake at 15 and 30% sugar beet inclusion rates (16.9 and 16.7 pounds per day versus 15% and 15.7 and 16.0 pounds per day).

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Making air travel more sustainable with soy-fuel

Scientists with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Peoria, Illinois, have developed a way to make a jet fuel biofuel from soybean oil. Fatty acids from soybean oil can be turned into an array of industrial products normally made from petroleum, including fuel, oils and paints. One appeal of plant-based biofuels is that they recycle carbon found in the atmosphere. This makes plants a far more renewable resource than petroleum and other fossil fuels, which add carbon to the atmosphere as they are extracted from the earth and used.

However, soy jet fuels developed to date contain insufficient amounts of “aromatic” components, which impart desirable density to fuel and help keep jet engine seals and work properly. The current shortcoming of aromatics in soy jet fuel means it can be blended with conventional jet fuels derived from petroleum, explained Ken Doll, a research chemist with the ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research in Peoria. Blends using biofuels are one of the ways the aviation industry is working to reduce its “carbon footprint” or total emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide (which amounts to 900 million tons in 2018).

One approach to making soy jet fuel relies on the use of a precious metal called ruthenium to catalyze reactions that chemically modify the structure and properties of the oil’s unsaturated fatty acids. The problem with this approach is that it relies on the use of a precious metal called ruthenium to catalyze reactions. Ken Doll, ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research

The researchers are now looking for an industrial partner to scale-up the process and evaluate its commercial potential further. Their research also supports a broader effort at the ARS center in Peoria to develop value-added products, including biofuels.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists are practicing “tough love” when it comes to preparing wheat for the climate challenges ahead.

In growth-chamber experiments, the researchers observed that certain Fusarium strains. In subsequent experiments, the researchers observed similar responses in an additional nine resistant and six susceptible varieties. For the researchers, such results underscore a need for action on two key fronts. One is to systematically evaluate the high CO2 responses of U.S. wheat varieties that share the same genetic sources of resistance to blight—outbreedings of which are expected to worsen as global climate change conditions become more pronounced. The second course of action is to scrutinize existing collections of wheat germplasm or wild relatives of the cereal crop for traits that could be passed into affected varieties to bolster their climate-resilience, preserving desired grain nutrient levels and blight resistance. The team also is studying how the fungus itself behaves in wheat plants exposed to high CO2 levels, observing that the severity of blight and production of mycotoxins like decaying wheat varieties also vary based on climate change.

Additionally, the team’s findings will inform breeding efforts to improve wheat’s climate-resilience and help guide growers to adopt crop management strategies that could offset wheat’s metabolic responses to high CO2 levels and, in turn, the likelihood of mycotoxin contamination. “We are currently working with a number of universities, wheat breeders to identify climate-resilient, Fusarium head blight-resistant lines in order to address this food safety and security issue,” said Hay, whose ARS collaborators include Vaughn, Susan McCann, Nilgiravas Jhula-Evangelista, Michael Bowman, Bob Dunn, Jennifer Teresi and Mark Berhow.

The team published its findings today in the journal Scientific Reports and is preparing a second paper on the work.

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