CARO — Sheriff Glen Skrent just wants something done about the Tuscola County Jail.

“I just hope we get something done,” Skrent told the county’s Board of Commissioners Monday at its Committee of the Whole session (where the commissioners can discuss ideas and issues but can take no action), “because doing nothing is not an option.”

The sheriff may get what he wants Thursday, when the commissioners are expected to act on a request to put a millage to fund a new jail on the November general election ballot.

The idea has been hanging in limbo since a Sept. 30 vote of 4-1 — District 5 Commissioner Dan Grimshaw voted against — that authorized controller/administrator Clayette Zechmeister, Skrent and attorney Eric Morris of the Saginaw law firm Braun Kendrick to work together to come up with a ballot proposal, with a millage, to be placed on one of the 2022 ballots to fund a new jail.

“Now is the time to start the process to replacing the 57-year-old jail,” said Cass City village manager Deb Powell, a member of the county’s jail study committee who also addressed the issue against – that authorized controller/administrator Clayette Zechmeister, Skrent and attorney Eric Morris of the Saginaw law firm Braun Kendrick to work together to come up with a ballot proposal, with a millage, to be placed on one of the 2022 ballots to fund a new jail.

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The Advertiser welcomes letters to the editor that comment on and further the public debate on topics of general interest. To submit a letter, please email your letter to SendNews@tcadvertiser.com. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number of the writer for verification purposes. Letters may not be published depending on the content.

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cass City looks to make up days, studies pay hikes

By Mark Hans

CASS CITY — Near the end of a seven-year students must have classroom they need to make up.

This year, Cass City Public Schools needs to make up days. In 2019 the district has used 9% since this year. That’s 3% of the six allowed by the state. State law allows public schools six “forgotten” days each school year. They can be used for school-based illness preparation and other acts of God.

“We are looking to collaborate with the union on ways to make those up,” Superintendent Allison Zimbah said, “The district also is surveying parents on how they’d prefer the time be recovered.”

Zimbah alerted the district’s board of education on March 21 that the administration is looking for ways to make up that time. Zimbah said the hours students spend in the classroom, will cover the half day, but they’ll still have to make up the three days.

“We can ask for forgiveness for these days,” Zimbah said, “but with the learning loss and where we are with that, it is a push this year to get kids back where they academically, so we are working through that.”

For the past three days, however, weren’t lost to snow or illness. Instead they were caused by threats of violence against the school district that arose after the Nov. 30 shootings at Oxford High School that left three students dead and four people injured.

While coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) isn’t the threat to the school day that it was in the previous two school years, the district still is dealing with the disease. After spring break, the school board decided, the district will have additional COVID-19 protocols. It will mean more students at one time in the cafeteria, and more students on the playground at one time.

“It will allow flexibility with our paraprofessionals and our social workers,” Zimbah said, “and getting them back to doing what they need to do working.”

While the changes were discussed, she said, the alterations aren’t final and will be tweaked and changed as needed up to the end of spring break.

“We are continuing, like the state,” she said, “to try to get back to normal.”

The board also:

· Accepted the resignation of board member Dave Oustenoki, effective at the March 21 meeting. Oustenoki had been a board member for 14 years. The district is accepting letters of interest and will have a special board meeting to interview candidates. The person chosen will serve until the November election, when that seat will be on the ballot.

· Announced the resignation of board member David Oustenoki, effective at the March 21 meeting. Oustenoki had been a board member for 14 years. The district is accepting letters of interest and will have a special board meeting to interview candidates. The person chosen will serve until the November election, when that seat will be on the ballot.

· Awarded bid for white boards to Bridges Audio Visual of Marcellus and a portable-address system to High-Tech AV of Royal Oak, at costs of $270,000 and $54,998.67, respectively. Bridges will provide the districts with 104 white boards to be used at the junior/senior high school and some at the elementary school.

· Learned Zimbah is putting together a committee to make recommendations for pay for administrators, hourly staff and support staff. Zimbah said she’d like to raise wages starting in the next school year.

· Set Zimbah’s evaluation for June 30. The superintendent normally is evaluated in the fall but, because she had just started in August, it was put off until after the completion of this school year.

TUSCOLA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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GIANT SCREEN LAFS

“HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 4”

Tuscola Today.com
Couple hope to hit home run with new business

TUSCOLA COUNTY

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Known as 6544 Main Events, features batting cages, pool tables and an ax-throwing area.

“We got this building when we were working on the Petal N Bean for storage,” Matthew Anthony said. “We owned it for a couple of years and decided to make something out of it that was unique to the area. We wanted to build something that isn’t available anywhere else in the Thumb area.”

As-throwing has become a popular new trend for social outings and date nights, but before the arrival of 6544 Main Events, the closest location to enjoy it was in the Saginaw area.

“The ax-throwing has been a really big draw,” Matthew Anthony said. “Last summer we had our eyes open for other activities that would fit the area and that was a big one.”

Despite being open for more than three months, Anthony noted they’re not finishing adding family-friendly options at 6544 Main Events.

“Even through we opened in December, I haven’t pushed hard at promoting the place because I’m still working on some stuff,” he said. “When I get the next phase done, I’m planning on having an area for cornhole, darts and other stuff. I’d like to have it to the point where maybe we can have karaoke or something.”

Currently, 6544 Main Events offers food including hot dogs, nachos and pizza, but Anthony plans to expand that menu and offer more tables and seating to create a more inviting atmosphere.

Anthony plans to expand that menu. “We are here waiting for people to come in, but we’ll book nearly any time for events,” Anthony said. “As of right now, you can book the entire room or the whole facility. We’ve already had big events where they rented the entire facility and I have people renting it for open houses and businesses (renting it) for their employees or customers.”

For more information on reserving the building, call 989-912-2158 or visit the website 6544main.com.

Matthew Anthony, who graduated from Cass City High School, stressed that he may pursue creating leagues for activities that would fit the area and that he may pursue creating leagues for those interested in playing with Legos and stuff.

“I don’t want to alienate anyone,” he said. “I’d be more well-rounded to have people renting it for open houses and businesses (renting it) for their employees or customers.”

The Anthony family was honored March 11 at the annual Cass City Chamber of Commerce dinner with an economic development award for their work in bringing businesses to the village of Cass City.

For more information on events and developments at their latest business venture, visit the 6544 Main Events Facebook and Instagram pages.

Food is offered at 6544 Main Events in Cass City and includes hot dogs, pizza and nachos with some seating options. Owner Matt Anthony is working on adding square footage and more seating options while adding other food options and his liquor license.

Many local baseball players use the batting cage area at 6544 Main Events in Cass City. Local baseball players competed in a “King of the Cage” tournament recently that involved baseball players from first grade through varsity level.

Couretly photo | The Advertiser

6544 Main Events located at 6544 Main St. in Cass City currently features two pool tables with the hopes of adding a pool league to the area in the near future.
TUSCOLA COUNTY

Caro Schools eases pandemic restrictions

The board also:
■ Hired Kathleen Curtis as the girls’ varsity soccer coach.
■ Learned that both Kingston and Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools are interested in a cooperative agreement for wrestling in 2022-23.
■ Had a closed session student disciplinary hearing before expelling two students for 180 days. Each student may petition the board for reinstatement after 150 school days.

30 or 40 years because it would lower the per-year cost to taxpayers. But the county could also wind up with a 3 percent interest rate, Zechmeister said, which would mean a much higher millage rate.

“It’s a hard pill to swallow,” Skrent said, “but every year that pill just gets bigger and bigger and there is nothing we can do about it.”

“What is important now is for the community to take advantage of the current study and updated information to make data-driven decisions,” Powell said. “Reasonable minds can differ but I think we can find common ground. A new jail is too important of an issue for any one person, board or a committee to decide. It is a matter to be decided by the people.”

Just remodelling the existing jail isn’t an option, Skrent told the commissioners, because of the cost of the jail and inability to use the facility for years during a remodel. Just changing the windows in the A and B wings, Skrent said, would cost upwards of $13 for every $100,000, the old windows are reinstalled in to cement. Then there are the much-different needs of today’s jails.

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“No escape?

Glen Skrent wants a ballot question passed to Tuscola County voters to see if they’ll pay for a new jail.
Dayton Twp. faces higher garbage costs

By Mark Haney | shinsey
haney@tcadvertiser.com

DAYTON TWP. — The cost of garbage is creating problems for Dayton Township.

The board learned March 7 at its regular monthly meeting, that Waste Management is raising its rate by 4 percent to $20.72 per household for township-wide garbage service.

The problem is, the township only is assessing $203 per household this year for garbage service.

Instead of approving the rate change, the board voted to table any discussion or action until its April session, saying the rate has to match what the township or action until its April session, saying the rate has to match what the township

The board also:

■ Referred to Supervisor Bob Cook a request by a Hurds Corner Road resident who wants to construct a pole building on his property in order to start a business.
■ Was asked by a neighbor to shut off the old light in the township hall parking lot now that the hall has the two new light-emitting diode (LED) wallpacks on the building shining in the parking lot. Clerk Tony Shaver is going to contact DTE Energy to see if it will shut off that light.
■ Learned Cook will try to find someone to fill an open seat on the Mayville District Public Library board.
■ Learned from Mayville fire chief Terry Blackmer that the per-run fee charged by the Mayville Fire Dept. was increased to help cover costs.
■ Approved the appointment of a Public Act 116 farmland preservation agreement for Laracha Farms.
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■ Approved the appointment of a construction board of appeals.
■ Moved $11,657.71 from the contingency fund and put $1,282.09 toward attorney costs, $83, followed by bright expense, $352 for the board of review, $585 toward insurance and bonds, $588 for the planning commission, $8,691.95 for street lighting and $53.51 toward taxes to balance the 2021-22 budget.

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Tuscola Twp. to add columbariums to cemetery

By Mark Haney | shinsey
haney@tcadvertiser.com

TUSCOLA TWP. — Tuscola Township is making more changes at the township cemetery.

The township recently had a sea wall built along the Cass River to repair some of the erosion caused by the Memorial Day floods of 2019, then took steps to move several burial sites away from the river in the event of another such high-water event.

Now the township is creating space for more, but different, burials.

The board voted March 2 at a special meeting, to purchase four 48-niche gray columbariums from Heritage Monuments of Chesaning for $92,500. Each niche can hold the cremated remains of one person.

The contract includes site work, a concrete foundation, black dirt/grass seed, and the columbariums.

Then, at the board’s March 22 regular session, the pay for sexton Wayne Nelson was raised to $20 an hour. Also receiving raises as part of the township’s 2022-23 budget was the custodian, to $160 a month, election workers, to $15 an hour, and the election chairperson, to $18 an hour.

The board approved the new budget as part of that same meeting.

The board also:

■ Decided to repave Jay Road, from Cornell Road to the Vassar city limits, and Riverview Road, from Pinkerton to Pinkerton roads.
■ Approved a Public Act 116 farmland preservation agreement for Laracha Farms.
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Standings through the Elite 8:

1.) Richelle Ryers - 64 points
2.) Dave Green - 61 points
3.) Derek Dodge - 58 points
4.) Wally Prusi - 56 points
4.) Robert Rockefeller - 56 points
6.) Samantha Bishop - 48 points
7.) Rose D’Alessandro - 40 points
8.) Bob Tobey - 36 points
8.) Joe Turner - 36 points
8.) Todd Squires - 36 points
Lead concerns for gardeners: Mitigating risk

BY DANIEL O’KEEFE / Michigan State University Extension

Lead naturally occurs in small quantities in the soil. Additional factors such as pollutants and lead-contaminated products can increase the concentration of this highly toxic metal to levels that can be hazardous. In Flint, Michigan, irrigation with lead-contaminated water did not show a significant increase in soil lead levels. Still, the lead already present in soils can persist for long periods. It is important to consider previous land use in your gardening plans.

If you are not sure what was on or near your garden site previously, Michigan State University Extension recommends getting your soil tested. Residential areas with historic lead paint use, industrial areas and high traffic roadways potentially have increased soil lead levels. In undisturbed soils, concentrations are generally highest in the top 5 inches of the soil surface. This risk is not only present with vegetable gardening in high lead soils but is also a concern to gardeners with landscape beds.

The concern with lead-contaminated gardens is primarily about contact and inhalation of the soils. The risk is more significant in areas with higher lead concentrations, so it is important to get your soil tested to understand the lead levels in your garden. Children have a much higher risk of being affected by lead, and the neurological effects can sometimes be severe. Whether growing a food garden, an ornamental garden, planting trees, or working on the soil, precautions should be taken to reduce your risk of exposure.

If you are a gardener and lead contamination is a concern in your area, you can minimize the risk of exposure to yourself and others by taking the following precautions.

**For a food garden**
- Depending on your results, choose suitable items to grow.
- Avoid growing root crops such as carrots, beets, and greens, and brassicas, especially root vegetables and leafy greens.
- Remove soil particles and dust from vegetables. Peel your root vegetables, remove the outer layers of leafy vegetables, and wash all fruits and vegetables thoroughly in clean, filtered water.
- Do not grow edible produce if soil lead levels exceed the recommended guidelines. Cover the existing soil with a barrier and build a raised bed for produce, especially root vegetables and leafy greens.
- Plants grown in high-lead soils have the potential to accumulate lead in their roots. Avoid composting root crops that have been grown in high lead conditions with poor soil quality. This can contaminate your compost pile.

**For an ornamental garden or yard**
- If lead levels in your soil are above the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) recommended 400 parts per million (ppm), prevent children from playing or gardening in that soil, and do not leave bare soil accessible.
- Allocate a specific play area for children with a sandbox or covered substitute to minimize exposure to soil. Keep this play area away from old painted buildings.
- Use a dense layer of soil in your yard and keep kid’s play areas away from bare soil.
- Avoid tracking dirt into your home.

**CROP PRICES**

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**WEISS NORTHSTAR**

540 N Main St. | Frankenmuth | 989-652-6151 m Weissnorthstar.com

**WEISS NORTHSTAR**

540 N Main St. | Frankenmuth | 989-652-6151 m Weissnorthstar.com

**TOWING & RECOVERY**

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<td>Natural Gas</td>
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**ANCHOR COVE CHURCH**
Sun 10:00 AM
Van Rides Available
Celebrate Recovery
Fridays 6:30 - 8:30 pm
www.anchorcovechurch.com
201 E. Sanilac Rd. 989-672-2262

**Christ Lutheran Church**
323 S. Rosalie Rd., Reese  Ph. (989) 668-3281
Pastor Mark Girchick
Sunday Traditional Service: 9:00 AM
Contemporary Service: 11:00 AM
Wednesday Services: 4 PM
Check website for Sermons. God’s Blessings.

**St. Christopher Parish**
290 N. Ohmer Rd. (M-46) Richville, MI 48758
989.868.4791 ~ Corner of Van Buren & M-46 Richville, MI 48758

**SUTTON SUNSHINE**
290 N. Colwood Rd. • Caro, MI
989-673-6695

**WELS**
290 N. Colwood Rd. • Caro, MI
989-673-6695

**St. Luke’s Lutheran Church**
201 E. Sanilac Ave. (M-71) in Vassar
(989)-673-6682 • www.stlukesvassar.org
Worship: Sundays at 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School/Class: Sundays at 10:15 A.M. (September-May)

**WISHER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
5375 N. Vassar Rd. • Alcona, MI
989-673-3454

**Trinity Lutheran Church**
St. Paul Lutheran Church
1809 S. Main St., Fairgrove
989.672-2261

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**
1840 Colwood Rd. Caro, MI 48723

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**
9935 North St., Reese • 989-668-9921
Worship: Sunday 8:15 am and 10:45 am with Communion
Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 am
Midday 12:00 pm with Communion
Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, lcms.org

**Community of Christ**
3890 E. M-24, Caro, MI 48723
Pastor: Myron Bernhardt & Sandra Dorman
989-992-2322
Pastor: Joelle Utton
3615 North Rd., Mayville, MI 48744
989.843.1371
Church school all ages 9:45 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM

**First Presbyterian Church of Caro**
213 N. Alcona, Caro 989-673-6630
Rev. Dr. Anthony Tomasino, Pastor

**Mayville United Methodist Church**
601 E. Otmer Rd. (M-24A), Mayville
989-643-6151 Pastor Nate Jeffords
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.

**Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA**
885 Seganne St., Vassar
989-823-8293 Pastor Paulette Connery
Worship Service & Child Ed. Sunday 10:30 A.M.

**Carol United Methodist Church**
1809 S. Main St., Fairgrove
989-673-6414
Rev. Dr. Anthony Tomasino, Pastor

**Reformation United Methodist Church**
1840 Colwood Rd. Caro, MI 48723

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**
1809 S. Main St., Fairgrove 989.672-2261

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**
1840 Colwood Rd. Caro, MI 48723

**Grace Lutheran Church**
885 Seganne St., Vassar 989-823-8293 Pastor Paulette Connery

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Worship Service & Child Ed. Sunday 10:30 A.M.
ROXANNA KAY DILLON
GRAND LEDGE
(FOREMINALLY OF CARO)

Surrounded by the love of her family, Roxanna Kay Dillon peacefully passed away on April 22, 2022, at 3:06 p.m. at St. Joseph Mercy East, in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Roxanna was born on November 15, 1943, in Lansing, the daughter of Kenneth and Margaret (Stroebel) Connors. Roxanna was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, John W. Krumnauer, and her brother Joseph W. Connors, Jr.

Roxanna was the beloved daughter of the late John W. Connors and Margaret (Stroebel) Connors. She was a graduate of Grand Ledge High School, Class of 1961. Roxanna was a devoted Catholic and a member of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in Grand Ledge. She worked at the Cambridge Manor Nursing Home for 15 years, and she also worked for Upjohn in Grand Ledge. Roxanna enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, and she loved music, especially country music. She was a member of the Michigan State Tenor Singers, and she was also a member of the Michigan State Teacher's Association. Roxanna was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Roxanna is survived by her husband of 57 years, John W. Krumnauer; her children, Johnathan (Tracy) Krumnauer of Bay City, and Amy (Jason) Krumnauer of Port Huron; her grandchildren, Sydney, Tristan, and Ryan Krumnauer; and her great-grandchildren, Declan and Penelope Krumnauer. Roxanna is also survived by her sisters, Margaret (Donald) Herrick, Mary (Bill) Herrick, and Rachel (Steve) Gavil. Roxanna is also survived by her parents, Margaret (Stroebel) Connors and Kenneth Connors, and her brother Joseph W. Connors, Jr.

Roxanna was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, John W. Krumnauer, and her brother, Joseph W. Connors, Jr.

Roxanna's family will receive visitors at Cederberg Funeral Home of Frankenmuth, 590 N. Franklin Street on Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and at church on Saturday, March 31, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. until the time of the service. Roxanna's family will be present to receive friends at Cederberg Funeral Home of Frankenmuth on Saturday from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Roxanna's family will be present to receive friends at Cederberg Funeral Home of Frankenmuth on Saturday from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

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JOYCE MAXINE GILMORE

Joyce M. Gilmore, 88, of Mayville, unexpectedly passed away on Thursday, March 24, 2022. She was born to Philip and Mary (Hackel) Huizar on December 26, 1933, age 88 years, of Kingston, Michigan. Joyce graduated from Kingston High School in 1951 and was employed by the Kingston Drug Store until 1966. She stayed home to raise her children, Paul and Michael, until 1978 when she went to work for Kingston Public Schools as a school bus driver. Joyce retired from this job in 1995. She was a long-time member of Kingston United Methodist Church. Joyce loved to cook, especially large family dinners. Her perfect seven-egg eggs had just the right touch of Joyce's love and care. She maintained a tidy kitchen, made many dish towels, dish clothes, and even occasional Yule trees. Joyce loved to watch crime TV shows, knew every song and actor, and sometimes left notes on a jigsaw puzzle, crossword puzzle, or TV show. Joyce would also watch television especially of The Bachelor or Survivor TV shows. She was a member of the Polish-American Club of Caro, where she worked their bingo; the Caro Moose Lodge, F.O.E. of Vassar, and the Mayville Auxiliary. Joy was a generous person whose door was always open. She enjoyed the anticipation of winning with one-dollar scratch off lottery tickets.

Joyce is survived by her daughters: Kelli (Wesley) Huizar of Frankfort, Michigan, Julie (Erich) Thornton of Mayville, granddaughters: Ashlyia (Jacob) Decker of Tecumseh, Michigan, Tori Thornton; great-grandchildren: Penelope Doxel, Lindger Donor, Ryder Baurer; brother: Helen (Lyle) Donor of Vassar, Michigan, sister-in-law, Violet Huizar of Alber. Joyce was preceded in death by her husband, Norm Huizar; siblings: Velma (Emil) Richter, Donald (Darlene) Bauer; sister, Helen Sefton of Kingston; brother-in-law, Clifford Putnam; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

JOYCE MAXINE GILMORE

Joyce was a generous person whose door was always open. She enjoyed cooking and baking, but was known for the amazing candy she made. Working in her garden with her flowers and a few vegetables was a serene place for her to enjoy. Emma was the “mom” to her siblings and taught them how to work hard and fish and ride the muckmuck, among other things. She loved her family and took great care of them. In her free time, Emma enjoyed crocheting blankets, and making baby carriages. She will be greatly missed.

Left to cherish Emma’s memory are her siblings: Daniel Huizar, Vera Aguirre, Robert and Nel Huizar, Nancy Grant, and great-grandchildren. Emma was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers: William Ben Huizar, Henry Huizar, Joyce M. Gilmore, sister; Lena Huizar; and step-siblings: Pastor Arnold Huizar, Helga Schluckebier and Genevieve Doris Thornton.

Arrangements will be held at Soaring Eagle Casino. She also enjoyed cooking and hiking, but was known for the amazing candy she made. Working in her garden with her flowers and a few vegetables was a serene place for her to enjoy. Emma was the “mom” to her siblings and taught them how to work hard and fish and ride the muckmuck, among other things. She loved her family and took great care of them. In her free time, Emma enjoyed crocheting blankets, and making baby carriages. She will be greatly missed.

Left to cherish Emma’s memory are her siblings: Daniel Huizar, Vera Aguirre, Robert and Nel Huizar, Nancy Grant, and great-grandchildren. Emma was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers: William Ben Huizar, Henry Huizar, Joyce M. Gilmore, sister; Lena Huizar; and step-siblings: Pastor Arnold Huizar, Helga Schluckebier and Genevieve Doris Thornton.

Arrangements will be handled from Country Funeral Home, Kingston, Michigan. The family would like to extend a special thanks to the staff at Covenant Glen of Frankenmuth and Grace Hospice for their loving care of LeRoy. Funeral services will be held on Monday, March 28, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, 345 S. Van Buren Road, Richville, Michigan. Rev. Wes Gillaspie officiated with burial in St. Michael’s Lutheran Church Cemetery.

LeRoy R. Schluckebier was born to his heavenly Father on February 1, 1943, in Caro, Michigan, and attended Akron-Fairport Schools. He worked as a laborer for a local factory in Elkton. Tim enjoyed watching baseball and football. He loved sport cars and was often seen carrying his car with extra caution on windy days. The family was assisted with these arrangements by the Ranford Collum Family Funeral Home of Caro. Friends may share memories, thoughts, and prayers online at RanfordColum.com.
**TUSCOLA COUNTY COURT NEWS**

**DISTRICT COURT**

Kelly Marie-Eberline Cherry, 60, of Caro, is charged with embezzlement of between $1,000 and $20,000 from an agent or trustee. 

Colton John Laskowski, 18, of Caro, is charged with malicious destruction of between $1,000 and $20,000 of trees, shrubs, crops, grass, turf or soil.

Dylan Lee Haranski, 22, of Burton, is charged with domestic violence (third offense) andaggravated assault.

James Dominick Domanski, 54, of Caro, is charged with operating while intoxicated (third offense). 

Brendon Jerry Nelson, of Whitmore Lake, is charged with assaulting/obstructing/interfering with electronic communications and domestic violence. A sentencing date will be set.

Neal Marie McCormick, of Millington, is charged with third-degree child abuse, fourth-degree child abuse and domestic violence. 

Robert Leroy Wilson, 43, of Millington, is charged with first-degree home invasion and domestic violence.

Christopher Allen Dick, 43, of Caro, is charged with domestic violence (third offense).

Daniel Scott Zazaga, of Caro, is charged with first-degree home invasion, assault with a dangerous weapon and two counts of possession of a firearm while committing or attempting to commit a felony.

Traci Michelle Thornton, 30, of Caro, is charged with two counts of third-degree child abuse and two counts of domestic violence (second offense). 

Daniel Wayne Gibson II, of Vassar, is charged with third-degree child abuse and domestic violence (second offense).

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**COURT CIRCUS**

Stewart Samuel Patterson, 23, of Caro, was sentenced to 97 days in jail – deferred – with credit for two days served for operating while intoxicated (second offense). He is to be placed on two years of probation and was ordered to pay $1,258 in costs and assessments.

William Robert Brooks, 23, of Cass City, was sentenced to 90 days in jail with credit for three days served for assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder or by strangulation, and domestic violence. He was ordered to pay $427 in costs and assessments.

William Murray Coon II, 37, of Burton, was sentenced to one year in jail with credit for two days served for unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle. Upon release, he is to be placed on three years of probation and was ordered to pay $1,508 in costs and assessments.

Zachary Shannon Stochel, 33, of Columbiaville, was sentenced to one year in jail – deferred – with credit for two days served for two counts of assault with intent to deliver to great bodily harm less than murder or by strangulation. He is to be placed on five years of probation and was ordered to pay $725 in costs and assessments.

Craig Robert Haynes Jr., 39, of Cass City, pleaded guilty to operating while intoxicated (third offense). A sentencing date will be set.

Kyla Maumau Urban, 27, of Caro, pleaded no contest to possession of methamphetamine and two counts of assaulting/obstructing a police officer. A sentencing date will be set.

Richardo William Lanning, 64, of Grand Marais, was sentenced to two years in jail – deferred – with credit for two days served for possession of less than 25 grams of heroin or another narcotic (second offense). He is to be placed on two years of probation and was ordered to pay $1,508 in costs and assessments.

Adam Daniel Mannville, 42, of Caro, pleaded no contest to possession of methamphetamine/ecstasy and attempting to maintain a drug vehicle. A sentencing date will be set.

**Preparing for a Wet Spring**

by Larry Michael

email: lmichael@rummelinsurance.com

Phone: 989-655-4104

A number of years ago, I gave an insurance presentation to some high schoolers. I was doing my best to be witty, avoiding jargon, using some“real world” examples, rewarding for participation, etc. At one point, someone said “...insurance is kinda like gam-bing?” Right about that time in the conversation, some Twinkees would really come in handy. It’s just ugly and extremely disruptive. After listening for a while, I then need to ask how the talk were going. “I can’t understand,” someone replied. “What do you mean?” I asked. “I can’t understand!” (and eventually) “Look, risk doesn’t mean some bad life-changing financial losses.” He replied by asking for another Twinkee. I had one too. Insurance can protect us from bad, life-changing financial losses – but not all financial losses are “covered” by insurance the way we’d think. For example, let’s look at wet basements. At the agency, when we get a call from someone with a “flooded” basement, they’re usually pretty ranting. Ringtones with high sentimental value are ruined, and their basement might smells. It’s just ugly and extremely disruptive. After listening for a while, I then need to ask how the water got into their basement. “What? Why does it matter how the water got into my basement?” Right about that time in the conversation, some Twinkees would really come in handy. Plus, they probably float!

Here’s the nectar short version on the home owner policy and water damage inside the home: If the water is from pluming, weather, dirtworks, etc. the home owner policy would respond. Water from backed up drains and sump pump failures are covered if the “Water and Sewer Backup” coverage was added to the policy. If the water came from a basement window because a storm flooded your yard, that where Flood Policies respond.

Here’s how to protect yourself from the wet basement blues:

(1) Keep things you really care about at least a foot off the basement floor.
(2) Recognize that sump pumps don’t last forever. Test your pumps by dumping water into your sump to make sure your pump turns on and actually pumps out water.

(3) Check your downspouts and make sure they’re still attached.
(4) Make sure your yard slopes away from your house.
(5) Have a good conversation with your insurance agent about how your home owner policy should respond to a wet basement.

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**UNIONVILLE-SEBEWAING AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Unionville-Sebewaing Area Elementary is currently accepting incoming kindergarten students for the 2022-2023 school year. Students must be five by September 1st to be eligible for kindergarten. 

Please visit our website: www.think-usa.org for more information or call our elementary office at 989-893-9147.

Screening dates for those registered will be coming soon! We will contact you with more information when screening dates are scheduled.
It was business as usual for Caro’s Adelyn Moore during the 2021-22 high school girls’ basketball season. The 5-foot-10 junior became the second girl in Thumb Sportswriters’ Association history to win the Player of the Year award three times in a row.

Moore was voted unanimously as the Player of the Year by the 11-member TSA, composed of area sports writers, broadcasters, videographers, and photographers. She joins former Marlette High School and Thumb Area University State standout Jenna Hinch as the only three-time award winner in girls’ basketball.

Reese senior Aydan Dalak placed second in Player of the Year voting while Deckerville senior Karly Kappen finished third. Cass City’s Saylar Cuthrell and Kingston’s Abby Walker each received votes while Kate Clancy of Bad Axe and Delaney St. George of Kingston received one vote each.

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**FROM 81**

Player: Karly Kappen
School: Deckerville
Grade: Senior
Position: Guard
Highlights: Averaged 17.2 points, 9.2 rebounds and 6.1 steals per game; scored a season-high 30 points and swiped a season-high 10 steals against Caseville; class salutatorian; first-team all-North Central Thumb League Stars Division.

Player: Kate Clancy
School: Bad Axe
Grade: Senior
Position: Guard
Highlights: Averaged 11 points, seven rebounds, 3.8 assists and 2.7 steals per game; scored a season high 24 points against Capac; first-team all-Greater Thumb West.

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**Past All-Thumb girls’ basketball award winners**

**COACH OF THE YEAR:**
2006: Al DeMott, Sandusky
2007-08: Fred Mroczek, Marlette
2008-09: Cindy Burton, Brown City
2009-10: Cindy Burton, Brown City, Don Pitts, Port Hope
2010-11: Danny Gruber, Reese
2011-12: Danny Gruber, Reese
2012-13: Danny Gruber, Reese
2013-14: Danny Gruber, Reese
2014-15: Al DeMott, Sandusky

**Player of the Year:**
2006: Rhonda Gusa, Harbor Beach
2007-08: Marissa DeMott, Sandusky
2008-09: Alicia Leipprandt, Ubly
2009-10: Marissa DeMott, Sandusky; Kristen Greene, Brown City
2010-11: Jenna Hirsch, Marlette
2011-12: Jenna Hirsch, Marlette
2012-13: Jenna Hirsch, Marlette
2013-14: Reyna Frost, Reese
2014-15: Reyna Frost, Reese
2015-16: Mariah Cook EPBP; Haley Nelson, Sandusky
2016-17: Kendal Muxlow, Brown City
2017-18: Sayge Culiford, Cass City
2018-19: Kendal Muxlow, Brown City
2019-20: Adelyn Moore, Caro
2020-21: Adelyn Moore, Caro
2021-22: Adelyn Moore, Caro

**Athlete of the Season:**
2006: Rhonda Gusa, Harbor Beach
2007-08: Marissa DeMott, Sandusky
2008-09: Alicia Leipprandt, Ubly
2009-10: Marissa DeMott, Sandusky; Kristen Greene, Brown City
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**Defensive Player of the Year:**
2009-10: Marissa DeMott, Sandusky
2010-11: Sarah Spiekerman, Reese
2011-12: Reyna Frost, Reese
2012-13: Reyna Frost, Reese
2013-14: Reyna Frost, Reese
2014-15: Reyna Frost, Reese
2015-16: Emily Fleichmann, Reese
2016-17: Breyton Meeks, Bad Axe
2017-18: Camryn MacGuire, Kingston
2018-19: Camryn MacGuire, Kingston
2019-20: Adelyn Moore, Caro
2020-21: Adelyn Moore, Caro
2021-22: Adelyn Moore, Caro

**Team of the Year:**
2006: Sandusky
2007-08: Marlette
2008-09: Brown City
2009-10: Brown City
2010-11: Reese
2011-12: Reese
2012-13: Reese
2013-14: Reese
2014-15: Cross-Lex
2015-16: Reese
2016-17: Sandusky
2017-18: Kingston
2018-19: Kingston
2019-20: Caro
2020-21: Reese
2021-22: Sandusky

**2006-15: Lindsay Blizer, USA**
2015-16: Joel Pickell, Reese
2017-18: Al DeMott, Sandusky
2017-18: Jay Green, Kingston
2018-19: Jay Green, Kingston
2019-20: Joel Lippinoud, Ubly
2020-21: Kurt Dennis, Bad Axe
2021-22: Kurt Long, CPS
FREE Standard Limited-time offer.

989-286-3385
JE Installations Purchase option. Limited-time offer.
†Free standard installation applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with the

Get high-speed Internet Fast Speeds

TuscolaToday.com Wednesday, March 30, 2022,
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Estate of VIOLET A. HORNFELD, Decedent, died on 02/14/2022, at 6101 W Plank Road, Deford, Michigan 48741, and VIOLET A. HORNFELD Family Trust, dated 11/07/2007, are hereby notified that the Estate of VIOLET A. HORNFELD Family Trust, dated 11/07/2007, has been formed and may be served by the undersigned, C. HORNFELD, Successor Trustee, of 2471 Wiltard Road, Clio, Michigan 48420, or Zolton Law Offices, of 100 East School Street, Frankenmuth, Michigan 48734, within 4 months after the date of this notice.

This day of 2022, DARRELL D. ZOLTEN, Petitioner, filed a petition in Probate Court for發表 an appointment of Successor Trustee.

The threshold date for any person other than in-person with the Local Clerk is Monday, April 18, 2022.

THE MOTHER OF THE DECEDENT IS VIOLET A. HORNFELD, Date of Birth: 11/13/1919, who was born on 12/23/1952, died on 02/24/2022. They lived consecutively, and proof of publication shall be in the court by the plaintiff to be entered against you. A copy of the order shall be published once each consecutive week in this case. A copy of the order shall be published once each consecutive week in this case. A copy of the order shall be published once each consecutive week in this case. A copy of the order shall be published once each consecutive week in this case.

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Citations shall in the local newspapers of the Village of Kingston, Michigan described as:
Dr. W. J. Black, M.D.
Successor Trustee, of 2167 West Willard Road, Clio, Michigan 48420.

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Dr. W. J. Black, M.D.
Successor Trustee, of 2167 West Willard Road, Clio, Michigan 48420.
March 25th 12 p.m. Glenn Cora, Celtic
limited to availability. PLEASE NOTE:
charging a fee for their event. Space is
RY #421

ALL COMMUNITY  CALENDAR

CREDITORS

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIA-

City Clerk, 317 S. State St., Caro, MI 48723

ties. Please send completed City of Caro
employment and letter of interest to:
City Clerk, 317 S. State St., Caro, MI 48723 or via email to clerk@caro.org not later than April 1, 2022 at 3:00 P.M. EDT.

HIRING NOTICE CITY OF CARO

HPWDA SEASONAL MAINTENANCE TEAM LEADER

City of Caro has one opening for a Seasonal
Maintenance Team Leader for 20 hours per week at:
$15 per hour for approximately six months. Diner employed at public works. Current Kinship Care, hulls/harbors/amps lead by Remae Benn and

GRANDCHILDREN RAISING

Grandchildren: Kinship Care

Currently Accepting

New Mixed Age Grandchildren

Visit: www.tccomi.com

Tuscola County

Consolidated

Taught by Lisa Tolin

We are a family friendly club encouraging

use of in-home services whenever possible.

HIRING NOTICE CITY OF CARO

DPW/SEASONAL MAINTENANCE TEAM LEADER

City of Caro Department of Public Works
has three openings for seasonal laborers
for 20 hours per week at $13 per hour for
approximately six months. Duties include
cleaning, maintenance, assisting with

HERBICIDE APPLICATION NOTICE

TUSCALA COUNTY

Consumers Energy, 1945 W. Parnall Rd, Jackson, MI announces that it is planning to apply
herbicides to its right-of-way in order to maintain the reliability of its gas pipeline system.

The herbicides will be applied with hand pumped backpack sprayers. The crews will se-
llectively apply herbicides to woody tree species throughout the pipeline right-of-way as need-

Herbicides that will be used are a combination of the following: Garlon 3A (active ingredient:
Triclopyr), Milestone (Al: Alachloramid), Excelon XR (Al: Mefufuron Methyl), 4H Ultra
(Al: Triclopyr) and Blazer (Al: Isoproturon Banzl of Mefufuron), with 95% to 98% water as a
diluent.

The application is scheduled for April 1st through December 31st in Tuscola County.

All treatments will be completed according to label requirements and all state and federal
requirements. Please keep people and pets off treated areas until sprays have dried. There are

People of any age whose primary residence is located in the Thumb area. For more
information, call 1-800-230-4085.

DON’T LIVE LAKESIDE

Thoughts of Risky Business: The effects of drinking. There are regular meetings in

HERITAGE AND CIVIC

Tuscola Today Calendar

PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETINGS/ EVENTS

FRIENDS OF MUSIC SERIES:

March 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Friends of Music, ensemble, held at Presbyterian Church of Caro.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIA-

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Player versatility a spring showcase for Tigers

By Jason Beck | @MLBTigers

Tigers fans have been dreaming for the past few weeks about Riley Greene and Spencer Torkelson homing back-to-back against Triple-A bullpens. On Monday, they came within feet of providing fans at Joker Marchant Stadium a sneak preview of what’s to come at Comerica Park.

The Tigers’ dynamic duo of up-and-coming prospects combined for 739 feet of drives at the Big League Pavillon as of Monday afternoon. It also gave the Tigers’ top two prospects a possible glimpse into their future at shortstop, right field or a couple of other spots.

Greene and Torkelson have been in Spring Training for less than two weeks old, Torkelson said, “Then a haircut.”

Tork is sneaky fast, I’m telling you. Once he gets going, it’s like a deer running. They then promptly busted out laughing. This is what it has been like for them in this Spring Training so far, according to a piece in The Detroit News. "They still have things to do to make this team. I can’t put it any simpler than that."

Still, with the at-bats they’re posting, hitting probably isn’t on the to-do list.

Jason Beck has covered the Tigers for MLive since 2006 and has Blog and follow him on Twitter @jbeckettigers.

Tigers Central
Detroit Tigers baseball is brought to you locally on 1360 AM WXYK by the following sponsors:

By Jason Beck | @MLBTigers

Monday's drive hit the base of the wall and bounced back toward the grass for his father, Chuck, to catch. "I told my dad it’s going to be a couple of hours late, earlier, Greene jumped at Semples first-pitch fastball and lofted it into the Tigers’ bullpen beyond the right field fence and onto the second base of the spring. The 360-foot drive had just a 384-foot fly out in his previous at-bat.

"New guy," Greene said. "If he was here last year, I would have him just find a spot and sit there. But he’s going to be more free-swinger than not early in the season. That’s how he has always been. As the at-bats get longer, I think he contact with two strikes has been really good, and it’s been nice to see. And obviously, he can ambush pitchers.

"Again, across the league, there’s been a lot of talk about pitchers putting the ball over the plate with runners on base. That’s a huge strategy for hitters to try to be a good teammate, give high-fives, cash checks, whatever. It’s a long season, and you have to be a team player."

"When you get a running start, you can get to it."

"I’ve talked to a lot of people about it," Hinch said. "I want to make this team. I can’t put it any simpler than that.

"I don’t want to be a part of the team."

"It’s unfair to him how we threw him in at shortstop."

"I would tell you that all of my vet work is done including being fixed! Please call Jane at (810) 908-1888 for more information and adoption details. “Like” Cass River Pet FriendZ on Facebook and visit www.petfriendz.com

---

ª 2022 by Jason Beck
1. **LANGUAGE**: What is a demonym?

2. **MEDICAL**: What’s the common name of a condition called otitis externa?

3. **GEOGRAPHY**: Which large body of water lies to the south of Ukraine?

4. **FOOD & DRINK**: Which nut is used to make marzipan?

5. **LITERATURE**: Who is the author of the poem “The Gift Outright,” which was read at President John Kennedy’s inauguration in 1961?

6. **MEASUREMENTS**: What is an octant?

7. **GEOLOGY**: Which mineral is the softest on the Mohs Scale?

8. **ANIMAL KINGDOM**: What is the name of a porcupine’s baby?

9. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**: What is the name of Barbie’s younger sister, introduced in 1964?

10. **HISTORY**: In which country did the Easter Rising take place in 1916?

---

**Answers**

1. A term used to describe the natives or residents of a country, state or city

2. Swimmer’s ear

3. Black Sea

4. Almonds

5. Robert Frost

6. One-eighth of a circle, or 45 degrees

7. Talc

8. Porcupette

9. Skipper

10. Ireland
Mother-Son Duo Runs Candle Business

In the beginning of 2020, Margaret Pappas established her candle business, entering the market with a special partner: her 8-year-old son with autism. Originally, Pappas made her candles as a hobby that also served as an escape from her daily stress. When her son, Dylan, found a rainbow and a little dog, which he created through painting, she realized this to be a significant outlet for her son to explore his imagination and exercise his creativity; a means to tailor our lives to make his life more comfortable and more harmonious.

Creating designs for Anesti Home has been an excellent outlet for Dylan to explore his imagination and exercise his creativity; according to their website, this has “restored his confidence in himself, that he can do all things with love, guidance and patience.” The duo donates 10 percent of their proceeds from Anesti Home to a variety of organizations focused on mental health and autism. “I just want to create some more awareness around autism,” said Pappas.

Throughout this process, Dylan regained a lot of self-confidence, which he had lost while struggling in school prior to receiving his diagnosis. “Before then [the diagnosis] everything was a battle, even just getting him support at school,” said Pappas, relating a story to Neos. “Once we had the assessment, everything made sense. We needed to change the way we approached him and tailor our lives to make his life more comfortable and more harmonious.”

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In the beginning of 2020, Margaret Pappas started joining her during her art sessions, they turned into opportunities for “mummy-Dylan time.”

Pappas began selling her candles to friends and family members in order to help fund her son’s medical expenses, and her creations are now available on her website, Anesti Home. She left her job to fully commit herself to caring for Dylan, who requires significant support, especially with the added disruptions brought on by COVID-19. Now, she is able to earn enough money through Anesti Home to introduce occupational therapy, feeding therapy and a social skills group to Dylan’s schedule.

Dylan has contributed significantly to the business, proving himself to be a talented business partner to his mother. With sensitivities to certain fragrances, he selected 10 scents from a perfumer that did not cause him discomfort. Pappas, enthusiastically approved of his decisions: “His choices are just lovely,” she told Neos. In addition to assisting with the candle packaging, Dylan also contributed artistically to Anesti Home’s packaging.

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Kingston senior Jacob Rayl flexes after winning a Michigan High School Powerlifting Association state championship at Lake Orion High School on Feb. 26. Rayl defeated his opponent by five pounds in the 242-pound weight class.

By Scott Bolsby | sports@tcadvertiser.com

Kingston’s Rayl lifts his way to state title

“I had always lifted with the intent of improving for football and I had never considered doing it competitively. However, this past fall I began experimenting with deadlifts in the weight room and realized it was time to join powerlifting.”

Rayl, who will be graduating as class valedictorian, had plenty of thanks to pass around for his teammate and fellow powerlifter Hunter Vennevy and family. He also praised Matt Fields who has constantly worked with Rayl in the weight room to help him improve.

“Hunter and his family convinced me to join powerlifting and coached me along the way,” Rayl said. “Coach Fields has put a lot of hard work and money towards providing my teammate and I with one of the best weight rooms in the Thumb.”

Fields stressed how lucky he has been to have someone with Rayl’s drive both in and out of the weight room.

“He is a once in a career kid in terms of work ethic,” Fields said. “Jacob won a state championship in his first year of competition and when Jacob sets his mind to accomplish something, there is absolutely no doubt in my mind he will accomplish it no matter how impossible the task may seem.”

Two junior varsity powerlifters competed the following weekend at Henry Ford II High School in Sterling Heights including Vennevy and Preston Lupa. Lupa took sixth with a total weight of 550 in the 114-pound weight class.

Kingston – Kingston senior Jacob Rayl has plenty of strength.

It’s apparent when watching him tackle the opposing player as middle linebacker, or breaking through the line for tough yardage as a tailback or when he boxes out with the toughest of opponents in basketball.

He was able to fully put his strength on display winning a state title at the 2022 Michigan High School Powerlifting Association state finals on Feb. 26 at Lake Orion High School.

The 5-foot-10 senior edged out his competitor, Austin Whibrew of Clio/Willow- lexington, by five pounds with a final total of 1,270 pounds.

Although not officially sanctioned by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, the MHSPLA holds a state final in a different location each year to crown state champions.

Rayl lifted 450 in the squat, 275 in bench, 545 in deadlift to win the 242-pound weight class state championship.

Despite always being in the weight room for football it wasn’t until his senior year that Rayl decided to compete. “I have been committed in the weight room since about eighth grade,” he said. “Room room for football it wasn’t until his senior year that Rayl decided to compete. “I have been committed in the weight room since about eighth grade,” he said.

“Every high school athlete’s dream is to be remembered,” he said. “I hope I have done that by inspiring many younger student-athletes to work hard. Because throughout my experiences, I have learned that with hard work, anything is possible.”

Kingston’s Rayl lifts his way to state title

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CARO — Folks in Caro may be familiar with business owners Mark Ransford and Damian Wasik because of their day jobs. But they may not realize it’s job No. 2 that’s been transforming the downtown of their city for the past dozen years.

In 2009, a simple phone call between the owners of Ransford Collon Funeral Home and Bell Wasik Buick GMC kick-started what would become a real estate partnership – Ransford and Wasik L.L.C.

The two businessmen knew each other – Wasik is a 1996 Caro High School grad while Ransford graduated from the school in 1998 – but were not close friends. They had a passion in common, however: preservation of the downtown area of their hometown.

“We were in the middle of a recession, and everything in downtown Caro was for sale or could have been for sale,” Ransford said. “So there was an opportunity for us to invest.”

The real estate venture began when Ransford heard from officials with the city of Caro and the Tuscola County Economic Development Corp. about a Hooper Street business that was looking to expand into a larger building.

Excel Group, which operated a call center, planned on doubling its workforce from about 30 to more than 60 employees. And local officials wanted those jobs to remain in Caro.

“They had a location in Hillsdale, but wanted to stay here,” Ransford said. “Someone needed to provide a building, and Excel would take care of the infrastructure.”

So Ransford picked up the telephone. “I called (Wasik) and said, ‘I think there’s an opportunity here, would you like to take a shot with me? We can save 65 jobs,’” Ransford said. “We both feel passionately about downtown being the heart of Caro. That’s what we want to protect.

“We decided to do it.”

The duo purchased the building at 217 N. State St., and Excel leased it. The call center left in 2017 and the building is now home to the Caro Community Schools Alternative Education program.

That initial transaction, however, launched Ransford and Wasik L.L.C. The businessmen would continue to be a part of the real estate business with a focus on downtown Caro.

Their company owns several properties in Caro, some of which they lease out, and some that they’re looking to sell.

“Real estate is just a passion,” Wasik said. “It’s our town. It took a certain amount of calculated risk to take on the old buildings, because some people want to run their business in Caro, but don’t necessarily want to be the property owner. So we kind of fill that need.”

Recently, Ransford and Wasik brokered a deal to bring a Marshalls department store to Caro. The business, which has more than 1,000 stores in the United States, is coming to the building that formerly housed Farmer Jack (near the intersection of M-81 and M-24).

A new Aldi store, though unrelated to a Ransford and Wasik property, is being built on the east side of Caro. And another retail
This is the 35th anniversary of the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation. During these years we have had a lot of success helping businesses thrive and also helping new businesses enter our county with their best foot forward. Tuscola County is pro-business, and we look forward to serving those who seek new opportunities here in our neighborhood.

The Tuscola County EDC is an independent corporation governed under the cooperation of all of the supporting local units of government and has its own bylaws and articles of incorporation. Most of the financial support of the Tuscola County EDC comes from the local municipal governments. We also count on very important donations from businesses and citizens who we have helped, and who we can help in the future. We are all in this together.

Board members are part of this community. They are Entrepreneurs, Bankers, Marketing Professionals, Electric County Officials, Small Business Owners, Gas and Electrical Company Staff, Agriculture Professionals, and Veterans. Their experience and knowledge continue to be an asset to many companies, old and new. They have all been selected by the EDC Board with the acceptance of the County Commissioners. I have served on this board for 7 years, and as the chair for the last 4 of them. It’s an honor to serve with them and serve our community.

I don’t dive too deeply on all of our challenges we have faced over the last couple years, but partnerships and working together are so important. Especially now. Our motto of “Progress through Cooperation” is a testament of our commitment to the growth of our great community and those we serve.

We have access to low interest loans to retain businesses, and to start new businesses. Come see us if you’re looking to add an additional piece of equipment, or a new piece to add to your existing manufacturing business. Or maybe you’re looking to start a new business and need access to funding to help with some costs. We welcome you to check out our advanced and confidential services.

The Tuscola County EDC, the Village of Millington and the Village of Cass City rolled out the red carpet in September of last year for Michigan EDC CEO Quentin Messer, Jr who were given at both DYNA Products and Walbro. Mr. Messer chose to visit Tuscola County as one of the first tours in Michigan after taking his new job as CEO of the Michigan EDC.

Walbro and their employees. Lots of great, pro business things continue to happen in Tuscola County. The Tuscola County EDC economic and business history was made in November of last year at the POET Bio-processing Plant in Corunna, MI. The first successful ethanol processing plant was the organic process in Michigan 20 years of doing business and benefiting Farmers from Tuscola County in the last decade.

I also want to congratulate the new owner of the Second Theater in Cass City. The EDC made the decision this month to donate the movie theater property to The Strand Theatre that will meet and greet in Cass City with Governor Whitmer today and into the future.

The Tuscola County EDC, the Village of Millington and the Village of Cass City are a testament of our commitment to the growth of our great community and those we serve.

Cheers to the existing partnerships, and the new ones we will form in the next coming year!

We also want to say Congratulations to the staff and management at POET – the first successful ethanol processing plant in Michigan and the use of corn. The Tuscola County EDC will be a source of knowledge and networks have appreciated your efforts.

Tuscola EDC and Walbro LLC have recognized your support and efforts. It is an honor to serve with them and serve our community. The Tuscola EDC and Walbro LLC have recognized your support and efforts. It is an honor to serve with them and serve our community.

A letter of thanks from Walbro EDTC Board Chair Gary Fritz

Dear Steve Erickson, Executive Director of Communications Director Tuscola County EDC 141 S. Almen Cass City, MI 48723

On behalf of the Cass City Walbro LLC team and myself, thank you for all your support during 2021. Your guidance, assistance and collaboration have truly been of great importance to Walbro LLC to continue to be a vital part of the Cass City, Tuscola County, and Michigan economy today and in the future.

The EDC’s Tuscola County EDC has been a great choice and a good fit for Walbro LLC. Construction has been a good choice and a good fit for Walbro LLC. The project location of the Multi-layer Press via rail. Communication with local freight companies and businesses, which had rail spurs, were initiated by the Tuscola EDC. The EDC worked closely with DTE, Walbro LLC, Cass City, and Walbro LLC. The press was delivered in December and now in operation.

On behalf of the Cass City Walbro LLC team and myself, thank you for all your support during 2021. Your guidance, assistance and collaboration have truly been of great importance to Walbro LLC to continue to be a vital part of the Cass City, Tuscola County, and Michigan economy today and in the future.

Resolution of DTE power load capacity issue for Walbro LLC/Cass City. DTE had originally indicated that Walbro LLC could not support the additional power load requirement for the expansion project. Tuscola EDC rolled out to their network and assisted Walbro LLC getting a commitment from DTE that they could indeed support the additional power load requirements at no additional investment.

Another outcome of this was Debbie Powell, Cass City Village Manager has committed to holding a monthly meeting with participation from DTE, Walbro LLC, Tuscola EDC, and other businesses in the county to address current and future power load needs.

Recommendation of Panfund Construction Company out of Saginaw, Michigan for the building expansion to Cass City facility. Walbro LLC was on a tight timeframe and many construction contractors had been delayed…even to this day. Tuscola EDC recommended Panfund Construction. Construction has been a good choice and a good fit for Walbro LLC. The project location of the Multi-layer Press via rail. Communication with local freight companies and businesses, which had rail spurs, were initiated by the Tuscola EDC. The EDC worked closely with DTE, Walbro LLC, Cass City, and Walbro LLC. The press was delivered in December and now in operation.

Again, on behalf of the Cass City Walbro LLC team and myself, thank you for all your support during 2021. Your guidance, assistance and collaboration have truly been of great importance to Walbro LLC to continue to be a vital part of the Cass City, Tuscola County, and Michigan economy today and into the future. The project location of the Multi-layer Press via rail. Communication with local freight companies and businesses, which had rail spurs, were initiated by the Tuscola EDC. The EDC worked closely with DTE, Walbro LLC, Cass City, and Walbro LLC. The press was delivered in December and now in operation.

Sincerely,

Barry Atkinson
Vice President/Lead Walbro, LLC
600 Garfield Field
Cass City, MI 48723

The Tuscola County EDC, the Village of Millington and the Village of Cass City rolled out the red carpet in September of last year for Michigan EDC CEO Quentin Messer, Jr. who were given at both DYNA Products and Walbro LLC in Cass City. One of the highlights of the EDC was learning about the very anticipated expansion project at Walbro in Cass City where 350 Jobs will be retained and 40 new jobs will be created. The timing of the manufacturing of the Multi-layer Press via rail. Communication with local freight companies and businesses, which had rail spurs, were initiated by the Tuscola EDC. The EDC worked closely with DTE, Walbro LLC, Cass City, and Walbro LLC. The press was delivered in December and now in operation.

Construction of the new building addition at Walbro in Cass City was completed in January of 2022 at an end cost of $12 million. The project is considered to be the most challenging and most successful project for the Tuscola County EDC over the past year.

A Message from EDC Board Chair Gary Fritz

By Gary Fritz

EDC Board Chair

Tuscola County EDC, the Village of Millington and the Village of Cass City rolled out the red carpet in September of last year for Michigan EDC CEO Quentin Messer, Jr. who were given at both DYNA Products and Walbro LLC in Cass City. One of the highlights of the EDC was learning about the very anticipated expansion project at Walbro in Cass City where 350 Jobs will be retained and 40 new jobs will be created. The timing of the manufacturing of the Multi-layer Press via rail. Communication with local freight companies and businesses, which had rail spurs, were initiated by the Tuscola EDC. The EDC worked closely with DTE, Walbro LLC, Cass City, and Walbro LLC. The press was delivered in December and now in operation.

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2021 was a banner year for the Tuscola County EDC with more than $2.5 million of grants being awarded to businesses and to properties in its local communities. The largest award was for Walbro LLC of Cass City which received a $1.5 million enhancement grant from the State of Michigan for its major expansion project to be completed this year. EDC staff worked with State Senator Kevin Daley and Representative Phil Green to include the grant for Walbro in the new state budget. Up until the time of the funding being approved, Walbro management officials had been contacted by other states that wanted the manufacturing company to locate and expand outside of Michigan. Thanks to this enhancement grant and other incentives at the local, county and state level, Walbro made the decision to expand in Cass City.

Walbro also received a performance-based grant for the hiring of a large number of new employees from the Michigan EDC. The Walbro project was approved for tax abatement over a 12-year period by the Cass City Village Council. Tuscola County EDC staff members were involved in every step of the process with lots of intergovernmental cooperation taking place along the way.

The EDC also received another $600,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. This funding will allow and pay for Phase One and Two environmental assessment work to be done on property in Tuscola county as well as Huron and Sanilac County. This grant from the EPA to the EDC is the third grant of its kind to be awarded over the last several years. This grant funding has been very successful getting parcels of land back on the tax roll, and also with the retention and creation of jobs. Six assessment projects have been approved over the last few months. For more information on how property owners can benefit from this program, please contact the EDC office at 989-673-2849.

Economic Development Corporation

Dedicated and service-minded staff members with GST Michigan Works did a great job several times over the past year meeting job seekers from Tuscola County – this time at the VG’s parking lot in Caro during the Feed Your Career event. The EDC appreciates working with Michigan Works to assist with job placement and job training programs to benefit both job seekers and job providers. The EDC coordinates in-person retention calls to major employers on a regular basis with reps from Michigan Works, the Michigan EDC, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and local municipal managers.

The EDC was established in 1984 and staff was hired by the EDC Board of Directors in 1985, with the goal of retaining and creating new jobs by businesses locating and expanding in Tuscola County. The EDC is very appreciative of allocations and donations made to the agency by local units of government, businesses and individuals who want to see Tuscola County continue to grow all segments of the economy. We thank you for your ongoing support !

The EDC Board approves an annual budget and publishes an annual financial report showing a summary of revenue and expenses. The financial report for the year ending June 30, 2021 is published in this special tab.

Overview of EDC financial statement

Annual Financial Report -- Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation

EDC Board members serve as volunteers who are appointed to staggered six-year terms by the County Board of Commissioners and represent all segments of the economy. The Board meets monthly at various business locations throughout the County. This group picture of the current Board of Directors was taken earlier this month at the Brentwood in Caro.

Donations $93,700
Interest on Account $15,544
Local Government Allocation $281,108
State Grant Administration $259,189.44
FCU - COVID Grant $257,998.51
EPA Brownfield Grant $15,018.68

Interest Income - Loans $1,432.50
Supplies & Postage $379.52
Telephone $2,443.30
Rental Income $4,161.00
Medical Disbursement $3,021.69
Interest on Account $15,544

Misc. Income $5,022.14
Interest Income - Loans $451.24
Total Employment Loan Income $25,045.00

Total REVENUES $275,193.44

Misc. Income $5,022.14
Interest Income - Loans $451.24
Total Employment Loan Income $25,045.00

Total REVENUES $323,193.44

Interest Income - Loans $451.24
Total Employment Loan Income $25,045.00

Total REVENUES $323,193.44

EDC staff members were pleased to help welcome the Michigan EDC Community Assistance Team – CAT Team. In downtown Millington in August of last year to review possible future projects involving the MEDC. The day started with an in depth meeting with local officials and the EDC at the Millington Municipal Building. The Village of Millington was recently designated a Redevelopment Ready Community, or RRC, by the MEDC with input provided by the Tuscola County EDC. Millington is the only community in Tuscola County to receive the RRC designation from the MEDC.

Overview of EDC financial statement

Annual Financial Report -- Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation

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Down on State Street: Businessmen take pride in hometown

Most downtown buildings, especially along State Street (M-81), are old. And the architecture reflects the age. But Ransford and Wasik view that positively. “The old buildings are beautiful, but very expensive. So you have to get it right because they’re big enough that they swallow cash,” Wasik said. “Putting it all together is tricky, but we’ve done that together quite a few times.”

“Probably our most fun stories are the ones where we pulled up our sleeves and got to work. Unfortunately, we have so many commitments that it has become more difficult to be hands-on. The men’s real estate company is transforming the basement of the building at 362 N. State St. into a records storage area for Tuscola County government. The first floor of the building is home to Continental Home Center.”

“The construction is happening; there is 8,500 square feet for storage,” Ransford said. “All the courts have their own vault, which houses the county board of commissioners’ chambers, treasurer’s office and other county departments, was owned by the real estate company. ‘We renovated and leased it to the county, who later bought it,’ Ransford said. ‘Ownership should go back to the people who are truly invested in the community.’”

Ransford and Wasik’s staff includes a director and controller. “Our full-time property manager, maintenance and Wasik view that positively. “Ownership should go back to the people who are truly invested in the community.”

Ransford and Wasik’s staff includes a director and controller. “Without the right management in place, you can top out very quickly,” Wasik said. “They make us look good,” Ransford added. After graduating from high school, Wasik studied at Michigan Technological University, where he received an engineering degree. He decided to work for his father at Bell Wasik – the family business – before searching for an engineering job, but has remained at the dealership, taking over for his dad. Wasik is married to wife, Robbin, and the couple have four children. Ransford graduated from the University of Michigan before attending mortuary school at Wayne State University. He and wife, Laynie, are parents to three boys. Ransford and Wasik – which also owns residential housing in the area – will continue focusing on its hometown commitment.

“We wanted to provide a backstop so Caro didn’t slide into oblivion,” Ransford said. “And we’re not the only ones – there are other investors.”

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‘Fresh’ success: Ben’s Fresh Market meeting a need

Cass City had not had its own grocery store for a number of years when Ben’s Fresh Market opened there in late 2020. Owner Jim Zyrowski, a Thumb-area resident, said the region’s shoppers appreciate the store’s fresh produce.

Z Bison Trading Company.” Jim also mentioned that they plan to do some mega sales soon.

“With the markets the way they are, prices continually go up, and we understand that families are under a very tight budget and we are constantly looking for ways to offer the hottest specials storewide,” he said.

The origins of the business name come from late Ben Zyrowski – Jim’s father – who grew up on a small dairy farm along Rossman Road near Kingston in Tuscola County.

“Dad went into the Army, and when he came back he worked at a meat packing plant in Walled Lake,” Zyrowski said. “Later he went on to get a job at an A&P plant in Walled Lake,” Zyrowski said. “We feel there’s a legacy there because I’ve been a meat cutter basically my whole life, much like my dad was, and Erla’s Food Center was the place to buy meats.

“Erla family has welcomed us, and Chuck Erla has been a really good friend to me,” Zyrowski said. “We feel there’s a legacy there because I’ve been a meat cutter basically my whole life, much like my dad was, and Erla’s Food Center was the place to buy meats.

SEE BEN’S | C9
Founded three years ago, the Thumb Community Health Partnership has grown to work with 20 organizations addressing behavioral-health issues and chronic diseases.

TCHP serves residents in Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac and Lapeer counties; and Caro’s community mental health departments in County Behavioral Health Systems; Sanilac and Tuscola counties; Tuscola Bay Health Center in Bad Axe; the Caro-McLaren Thumb Area hospitals; and Marlette; McKenzie Health System Dales General Hospital in Cass City; partners.

One of the latest successful TCHP programs, “Man Therapy” launched in February of 2021, focused on the mental health of men. Program coordinator Kari Granz noted how “Man Therapy,” offers a different approach in reaching men by including humorous and practical mental health information.

“The website, mantherapy.org, offers help,” Granz said. “It features an anonymous 20-point head inspection, stories of men who have gone through tough times and a list of services including some available right here in the Thumb.”

Eighty-one community groups, businesses and individuals joined the call to address men’s mental health, including Hemins Group in Bad Axe, Nature’s Finest Taxidermy of Minden City, and P.C.U.P.S (Prostate Cancer Understanding & Prevention Screenings), which have shared “Man Therapy” at events and within their businesses.

“Having these community organizations help spread the word about men’s mental health, and reach men, has started to break down mental health stigma,” Granz said. “It has changed the conversation around mental health.”

Granz noted there were 31 deaths by suicide in the Thumb area in 2021, with 27 of those being men.

TCHP also has launched the 10-week online program, “Women 2 Women,” that allows women to gain the tools and support to help manage their health.

“During the program we have a health coach who meets with the participants weekly, offers an opportunity for the women to share their experiences and monitors their progress over 10 weeks,” Granz said.

The next “Women 2 Women” program starts on April 19, and has openings; women can sign up and find more information by visiting thumbhealth.org.

The next project to help individuals throughout the Thumb allows women to gain the tools and support to help manage their health.

“The partnership is working on creating unified and consistent messaging about health issues across the Thumb so we can make a bigger impact,” Granz said. “An example of this messaging is the launching of ‘My Body, My Mind,’ which is a public service campaign about taking care of both our physical and mental health.

Those messages will be on billboards and the radio across the Thumb this spring.”

For more information about TCHP visit thumbhealth.org, or visit its Facebook page “Thumb Community Health Partnership.”

Those interested in any programs can contact Granz through email at tchpmore@gmail.com.
Emil Rummel Insurance Agency rolls up its sleeves to serve individuals, farmers, community

By John Schneider | john@tcadvertiser.com

FRANKENMUTH Springs, and summers in Frankenmuth are filled with family-friendly events. And anytime something’s happening in the city, Emil Rummel Insurance Agency is likely a part of it.

“I don’t know of one we don’t support,” said Larry Michael, company president and treasurer. “It would be uncommon to go to a community event here and not see Rummel involved.”

Charity work is a staple part of the insurance agency. And it’s not just about donating dollars; employees are encouraged to be generous with their time.

“One of the things that makes Frankenmuth unique is that, if you’re going to succeed in this town, you need to be a part of it,” Michael said. “It’s one thing to write a check, but our involvement goes beyond that. We sit on local boards, we join in with the laborers as they put up tents, as they play music, as they serve beer …”

Speaking to The Advertiser on Thursday, Emil Rummel Vice President Andrew Ahlschwede said it had already been a busy week.

“This week I’ve had two board meetings for things not associated with our business, but with our service to the community,” Ahlschwede said. “We all participate, that’s part of the deal. The community’s success is our success.”

Emil Rummel was founded by its namesake in 1950. It moved to its current location, 522 S. Main St. in Frankenmuth, in the late 1990s, not long after the 1996 Frankenmuth tornado roared through town.

“(Then president Gary Rummel’s) home was destroyed,” said Jake Rummel, a fourth-generation employee. “He had a small house here, where he lived for a while after the tornado. He decided to build on this location and he lived on the third floor.”

Jake Rummel’s father Greg, who passed away in May at the age of 53, was president and CEO as the third generation of the Rummel family. Jake Rummel graduated from Hillsdale College and joined the agency last summer.

“I’m born and raised in Frankenmuth and I grew up around the agency,” said Jake Rummel, 23. “And the family ties go beyond my father’s side of the family. My maternal grandfather, Mike Larges, was a vice president here for decades.”

SEE EMIL RUMMEL | C8

Photo by John Cook | The Advertiser

Pictured are members of the Emil Rummel Insurance Agency’s Frankenmuth staff. From left: Stacey Proton (commercial manager), Jake Rummel (secretary), Larry Michael (president and treasurer) and Kylie Woolworth (assistant director). The agency was founded in 1950 and now has a staff of 40-plus employees spread throughout its four locations.

Jake Rummel is a fourth-generation member of his family to work for the Emil Rummel Insurance Agency. The three photos to the left of Rummel are of (from left to right), great-grandfather and company founder Emil Rummel, grandfather Gary Rummel and father Greg Rummel.
Emil Rummel serves community

The word “family” is used loosely at Emil Rummel, since all employees, whether related by or not, are treated like kin.

“It’s a family atmosphere, whether you’re working on calls coming in or are out helping a customer,” said Commercial Manager Stacey Proton. “There are times when we’re in a customer’s basement, sleeves (and pants) rolled up, sucking out water. That’s what we do here.”

The family climate also extends to customers.

“Our policy is ‘one client at a time,’” Michael said. “It is very common for us to have two or three generations of the same family. And it’s not because of our wicked billboard or our monster website, it’s the interaction we have with customers all day long.”

Emil Rummel has expanded to Saginaw, Vassar (141 S. Main St.) and Caro (1100 E. Caro Road). The agency employs more than 40, with about half working at the Frankenmuth home office.

Emil Rummel does not provide insurance itself, but rather works with many insurance companies to find the best individual plan for its customers.

“We represent a lot of different companies,” Michael said. “We go through a painstaking process to see what insurance companies are really best for you. If there is an insurance company who isn’t getting the job done, we kiss them goodbye and find you a new one.”

Clients put their trust in Emil Rummel, Ahlschwede said.

“One of the greatest compliments we hear on a regular basis is when people call us after hours with an issue,” he said. “We’re at home and we don’t have every bit of information readily available. So we ask, ‘what’s your insurance company so we can file a complaint?’ They say I have Rummel insurance.

“That’s a brand. It’s a result of the hard work of every employee, and everyone who’s come before. It’s the tradition that was first carried out by Emil.”

Emil Rummel services everything from businesses to farmers to individuals.

“Half of our business comes from regular folks,” Michael said. “The rest is commercial. We insure probably more farms than anywhere in the state.

“Our job is to protect your financial future.”

“I’ll tell you why I’m here, it’s about the relationships,” said Kylie Woolworth, an assistant director with the agency. “The reality is this place isn’t perfect, it has its challenges, but we always bounce back because we are a family. To be a part of something like this is exciting.”

And that family mentality extends beyond the office.

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[Image of Emil Rummel Insurance]

Emil Rummel Insurance has been a staple Frankenmuth business since 1950. Its current headquarters, at 522 S. Main St., was constructed in 1998. The business, which supports community events, also has locations in Saginaw, Vassar and Caro.

Emil Rummel Insurance has been a staple Frankenmuth business since 1950. Its current headquarters, at 522 S. Main St., was constructed in 1998. The business, which supports community events, also has locations in Saginaw, Vassar and Caro.
“If Chuck ever has a suggestion or an idea or a way to help out, he always calls me.”

Cass City had not had its own grocery store for a number of years when Ben’s Fresh Market opened there in late 2020. “It was very difficult for senior citizens and even families in this community to shop for food, because there were no perishable products (such as meats, fruits and vegetables),” Zyrowski said.

Jim was happy to add that although Ben’s Fresh Market had been open for slightly more than a year in December, they had the opportunity to share their success with the community, making a $2,500 donation to the park in the village fund at Christmas time. “Our goal is to give back when we can,” he said.

The Cass City store also offers some of the latest technology including online shopping, curbside pickup, and self-checkouts.

“With our ‘click-and-collect’ online shopping program a person clicks (online: shop.benssupercenter.com) on products to order, we collect it at the store for them, and have their order ready for pick up when they arrive,” Zyrowski said.

“The customer can call or text to say they are at the store, we load them up and away they go! They don’t even have to come in the store.”

Ben’s Fresh Market is open from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

Current ad flyers and online shopping are available at shop.benssupercenter.com.
Lighthouse seeks to rehab clients, offer more independence

By Alex Szwarc | For the Advertiser
alex@tcadvertiser.com

CARO — Seeing residents at the outpatient stage of treatment gives the staff at Lighthouse Neurological Rehabilitation Center great joy.

“As we progress, we do outpatient therapy as well,” Brenda Pomeroy, Lighthouse marketing coordinator and family liaison, said. “For residential and outpatient treatment, when you see somebody that was told they would never walk again, and we rehabilitate them to get them there, that is why it’s a joy to come here every day.”

Pomeroy has worked at Lighthouse for seven years.

The center is located at 1655 E. Caro Road (M-81) in Caro. In addition to the Tuscola County location, Lighthouse has a facility near Traverse City.

Its mission, described in a quote from Lighthouse founder Dorothea Wilson, is to provide phenomenal care, treating each resident and client as Wilson and her late husband, Jim, wanted their son to be treated.

Pomeroy said, “The reason the Wilsons started Lighthouse was due to an auto accident that their son was in.”

The business has since branched out to offer rehabilitation for spinal cord injuries and neurological disorders, and now offers outpatient services.

Services and programs offered include inpatient and outpatient services, respite care and therapies like physical, occupational, speech and recreational.

Earlier this year, Lighthouse in Caro opened a family visiting center, equipped with a jukebox, large screen TV, and game tables like foosball and ping pong. Family members can reserve a time to use it when visiting with loved ones. Currently, there are 82 residential clients at Lighthouse in Caro.
Lighthouse seeks to rehab clients, offer more independence

Clients at Lighthouse Neurological Rehabilitation Center in Caro take advantage of various facilities, including this pool.

A client at Lighthouse Neurological Rehabilitation Center in Caro folds a box for KW Industries. The box will hold automobile parts from an area company.

Care and physical, occupational, speech and recreational therapies.

Statistics from 2020 for the Caro facility indicate there were 176 clients, 102 of whom were adult clients, spending an average of four hours of therapy work per person per day. Forty percent of adults at Lighthouse are between ages 41 and 65. Fifty-eight percent of adults have difficulties in executing activities based on nature, duration, and quality of those activities.

Since 1989, Lighthouse has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, or CARF, Pomeroy said. “That agency comes out to facilities like Lighthouse and we go through very detailed questions, reviews and interviews among staff, therapists and all employees,” Pomeroy said. “They give us certification to continue treating and be the service that we are.”

CARF reviews Lighthouse’s residential and outpatient programs.

The Lighthouse Caro facility counts more than 300 employees. Positions consist of physical therapist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, music therapist, social worker, physiologist, recreational therapist and respiratory therapist.

“A benefit of our facility is all those disciplines are under one roof,” Pomeroy said. “If someone comes in for a service, we will work with the physicians and make sure they get those services if needed. When our clients come in and get the evaluation, they just have to come here and get all of those disciplines under one roof.”

Currently, there are 82 residential clients at Lighthouse in Caro. That number is on the decline, according to Pomeroy. “We can serve over 100 clients, but due to COVID and how we weren’t able to do normal assessments, it made it different for admissions,” she said. “Changes to the auto no-fault law have affected who we can admit for residential. We’ve had to make some changes, but are blessed to overcome those changes. I foresee our numbers going up in the next year.”

When residential clients are admitted, Pomeroy said the goal is to rehabilitate them to the next step, which hopefully is home. “Our rehabilitation aides, home managers, rehab specialists and medical technicians are a great group of employees,” Pomeroy said. “They care for residents 24/7. Our goal is always to rehabilitate and get them back home or in an independent environment.”

For residents who may not have a next step, she explained they are at the facility long-term. She gave an example of one resident in Caro who has been at the Lighthouse since it opened.

Pomeroy said the Traverse City location has a few cabins where family members can stay overnight during the rehabilitation process.

In Caro, loved ones can’t stay overnight, but arrangements can be made if necessary. Earlier this year, the Caro site opened a family visiting center, equipped with a jukebox, large screen TV, and game tables like foosball and ping pong.

“Family members can come and mark out a time to use it,” Pomeroy said. “They can have fun while visiting with loved ones.”

For more information, visit lighthouserehab.com.

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* This service is offered for non-life threatening medical conditions.

Photo by John Cook | The Advertiser

Clients at Lighthouse Neurological Rehabilitation Center in Caro take advantage of various facilities, including this pool.

Photo by John Cook | The Advertiser

A client at Lighthouse Neurological Rehabilitation Center in Caro folds a box for KW Industries. The box will hold automobile parts from an area company.

Lighthouse seeks to rehab clients, offer more independence

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Photo by John Cook | The Advertiser

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Lighthouse seeks to rehab clients, offer more independence

Clients at Lighthouse Neurological Rehabilitation Center in Caro take advantage of various facilities, including this pool.
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FAIRGROVE TWP. — Lifelong Tuscola County residents Beth and Matt Kirk have been demoted. Well, not really. The husband and wife, former varsity sports coaches at Caro High School, had to make some decisions in 2013 when they decided to purchase Fairgrove-area business Victor Drag Co.

“She had been talking about being self-employed at some point,” Beth Kirk said. “And when (Victor Drag owner Victor Trisch) approached Matt and told him he was selling the business, we thought ‘This could be the time to do it.’”

So in January 2013, the Kirks purchased the farm supply business which had existed for about 50 years. They named the new business Kirk’s Supply, and have relocated it from along Gilford Road to 3995 Fairgrove Road.

“This was a place I’d grown up with my whole life, with the peanuts and the Carhartt,” Matt Kirk said. “I was in there one day and Vic was talking about wanting to retire, so that got me interested and we went from there.”

This meant business ownership took top priority for the couple. Beth and Matt Kirk have been demoted from coaching varsity sports to concentrate on the business, but are now coaching their two children, ages 8 and 5, in their youth sports.
New name, more options: My Member Insurance Agency arrives in Sebewaing

By John Schumacher | jschumacher@tcadvertiser.com

SEBEWAING — A longtime Huron County insurance agency has new ownership, but there are now more options for its customers.

Since 1963, Dennis Haist — who owned Dennis Haist Insurance Agency as Sebewaing — was a community staple. He retired a few years ago and sold the insurance agency — at 41 E. Main St. — to his daughter, Laura LaBair, and her business partner Ruth Elbers.

The agency went through another change last summer when it was purchased by Saginaw County-based My Member Insurance Agency.

“It’s been a smooth transition,” LaBair said. “There are different management systems, but with the combined insurance companies we have a lot more companies available for our customers. “We’re better together.”

My Member Insurance retained the entire staff of the Haist agency, including Senior Vice President LaBair, who has been with the company for 30 years. My Member Insurance is headquartered in Saginaw Township, at 7331 Great Lakes Road. It also has locations in Midland, Elkton and Cass City.

Discussions began a year ago between My Member CEO Eric Neumeyer, and LaBair and Elbers.

“Ruthie was looking to not work as much,” LaBair said. “So the opportunity to sell was there and the timing was right.”

Neumeyer said expanding into the Thumb region was the right move.

“We realized as an agency we wanted to expand into the Thumb because our membership base extends out here,” he said. “So it made sense to have a presence in Huron County. We wanted to make sure we’re able to service our customers who live out this way. “We know people want to do business locally.”

Once the sale was completed last summer, construction crews went to work renovating the building at 41 E. Main St. The biggest physical change to the property was including space for two businesses.

“Ruthie was looking to not work as much,” LaBair said. “So it was logical for us to have a credit union location go in here as well, because we have space, and they don’t have a presence here in Sebewaing. So we remodeled the whole building and made it a joint credit union/insurance agency.”

Neumeyer said customers can rest assured they don’t need to change a thing, unless they want to take advantage of the insurance agency, as My Member brings additional insurance companies to the mix while the Haist Agency retained the companies it works with for years.

“We’ve been a growing insurance agency for a while,” Neumeyer said. “We do all kinds of insurance, personal insurance, commercial insurance, all kinds of benefits, life (insurance), disability, we cover farmers and municipalities. We represent a lot of regional and national companies.

Insurance Agency arrives in Sebewaing

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Osentoski celebrates 50 years of real estate

By John Schneider

The business is a family affair for the Osentoski clan. Dave’s sons, Tavis and Evan Osentoski, work full-time, and Dave’s daughter, Danielle Rolando — who has a separate full-time job — helps out when she can.

Dave’s wife, Barb, who passed away in 2017, pushed the business into the stratosphere, Evan Osentoski said. “Mom lived it, breathed it and slept it for 50-plus years,” he said. “Her staff easily had over 200 years of sales experience, and a lot of that is from family members.”

Technology — websites such as eBay — have cut into the live auctioneering industry, but Osentoski Realty and Auctioneering remains in demand. “It’s a dying art,” said Evan Osentoski. “You don’t see many live sales in the area as much with the online platforms. A lot of times people go to the live auctions to see and chat with neighbors, maybe catch up with friends they haven’t seen in a while.”

Dave Osentoski’s children, along with his brother Marty Osentoski and his family, control the auctioneering aspect of the business.

“It’s a dying art,” said Evan Osentoski. “You don’t see many live sales in the area as much with the online platforms. A lot of times people go to the live auctions to see and chat with neighbors, maybe catch up with friends they haven’t seen in a while.”

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Council Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Frankenmuth City Council
7:00 p.m.

Mayville School
Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Vassar School
Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Akron-Fairgrove School
Board Meeting - 7 p.m.

Caro School Board Meeting - 7 p.m.

Frankenmuth School Board Meeting - 6 p.m.

Marlette School Board Meeting - 7 p.m.

Millington Council Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

USA School Board Meeting - 7 p.m.

Kingston Council Meeting - 7 p.m.

Cass City Council Meeting - 6 p.m.

Kingston School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

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Village of Mayville (regular meeting)
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Kingston School Board
Meeting - 7:00 pm

Cass City Council Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Kingston Village Council Meeting - 7:00 pm

Cass City School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

Village of Unionville
Unionville Council Meeting - 7 p.m.
Cass City School Board Meeting - 7 p.m.

Columbus Board Meeting

Easter Sunday

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**School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm**

**Fremont Township Board Meeting - 7 p.m.**

**Gillford Township Trustees Meeting - 7:30 p.m.**

**Vassar Friends of the Library meeting 6 p.m. at the library**

**Tuscola County Commissioners Full Board Meeting - 8:00 a.m.**

**Akron Township Board Meeting - 7 p.m.**

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Kirk’s Supply owners relish move from varsity to youth sports

FROM D1

priority, and soon Matt Kirk relinquished coaching varsity soccer at Caro and Beth (Streefer) Kirk stepped away from coaching varsity soccer at Caro and Beth – former Caro High School athletic director – was new to the career.

“My education is in exercise science and business, not so much in farm equipment,” Matt Kirk said. “So I had a ton of learning to do.”

Between the farm supply store and landscaping business, the Kirks employs about five workers, some of whom work for both businesses.

Popular products at Kirk’s Supply include: County Clipper lawn mowers, Interstate batteries, Carhartt clothing and accessories, Argo amphibious all-terrain vehicles – and fresh-roasted peanuts.

Carhartt products are especially popular, Beth Kirk said. If a particular Carhartt item is not in stock, it can be ordered.

With less than a year until Kirk’s Supply celebrates its 10-year anniversary, the Kirks are embracing the “demotion” in their coaching careers.

“We’ve both gone from coaching varsity to coaching our own kids,” Beth Kirk said. “And we’re enjoying every minute of it."

The roaster was made in 1856, and can roast up to 18 pounds of peanuts at a time. Folks can purchase bags of roasted, salted or Cajun peanuts for $6 a bag.

Kirk’s Supply is located next door to Kirk’s Creative Landscaping, which Matt Kirk has owned since 2000. A business and marketing major in college, Matt Kirk worked in the landscaping industry upon graduation for a short time, then opened his own business.

And with spring around the corner, Kirk’s Creative Landscaping is about to get busy.

“We already have over half the summer booked,” Matt Kirk said. “We mainly do landscaping, like brick patios and walkways, retaining walls and foundation plans. We also do bermas, hydrangeas and waterfalls.”

While Matt Kirk was an established business owner, Beth – a former Caro High School athletic director – was new to the career.

During the day, they help customers with their farming needs. Beth Kirk calls the business a “mom-and-pop version of a farm supply store.” Inside, folks can find anything from four-wheelers to clothing to lawn mowers.

And, of course, peanuts. Victoria Drag, which was located at 4026 Gifford Road in Evagrove Township, was known for its fresh-roasted peanuts. While the present building that houses Kirk’s Supply was under construction, the Kirks operated out of the Victoria Drag building for a few months. When they moved to the new location at 2995 Fagusroove Road, they brought the peanut roaster with them.

“Oh yeah, we had to keep selling the roasted peanuts,” Beth Kirk said.

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Osentoski celebrates 50 years of real estate

While it’s not uncommon for 100 folks or more to gather at a live auction, a huge crowd at the Elwin and Joyce Richardson farm machinery sale in Sanilac County on Saturday, March 19 proved there is still a market for an in-person event.

“It was just one of those fabulous days,” Dave Osentoski said. “He had so much equipment; it looked like a John Deere field day. They showed out in droves. That doesn’t mean it’s going to happen next time, but people must really miss live auctions because you don’t get that many people at a sale.”

Dave Osentoski, 73, estimated 1,000 people attended the event. “And they were from all over,” he said. “We sold equipment to people from New York, Indiana, Ohio, Canada, Wisconsin.”

Evan Osentoski said the auctioneering and real estate businesses complement each other.

“We wear different hats at different times,” he said. “It’s a roller coaster. There are a lot of ups, and a lot of downs. But at the end of the day, we’re helping these families find their forever home, the place where they’ll raise their kids. “They are inviting you into their most intimate place and placing their trust in you. That’s why we do this.”

The business was founded in Bad Axe, but its headquarters is now at 528 N. State St. (M-81) in Caro. Osentoski also has offices in Kingston and Cass City.

This photo shows some of the crowd that showed up at a March 19 live auction in Sanilac County. David Osentoski, owner of Osentoski Realty and Auctioneering, estimated 1,000 people arrived for the farm equipment sale hosted by Elwin and Joyce Richardson. The auction portion of the company was founded in 1950 while Dave and mother Marie started the real estate portion of the business in 1972.

FROM | D3

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“Dell’s Auction Service is the hands-on owner of longtime Thumb business Osentoski Realty and Auctioneering. The real estate portion of the business is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The family auction crew for Osentoski Realty and Auctioneering poses for a photo. Dave Osentoski, third from left, said there’s still a market for in-person auctions.

“The business was founded in Bad Axe, but its headquarters is now at 528 N. State St. (M-81) in Caro. Osentoski also has offices in Kingston and Cass City.

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Farm Depot’s in tall clover, wins Five-Star award from Agco Corp.

Farm Depot, at 275 Columbia St. in Caro, was one of only 19 Agco Corp. dealers to receive a Five-Star rating in 2021 – from among several thousand Agco dealers in North America. Farm Depot is part of the Laethem Farm Service Co., which opened in Fairgrove in 1944, and designation from Agco, said Mike Laethem, Farm Depot manager.

“I am proud of the work our entire staff has done to earn it. We’ve worked hard to provide the highest-quality customer service, and we’re proud to stand among the best dealers in the U.S. and Canada,” Anderson Buckes, Agco Corp.’s North American director of distribution development and strategy, congratulated Farm Depot “for their dedication and achievement, and we thank them for the world-class service they provide their customers.”

Agco Corp., based in Duluth, Ga., designs, manufactures and distributes agricultural machinery and agricultural technology. It manufactures tractors, combine harvesters, machinery and agricultural technology. It manufactures and distributes agricultural customers. “Farm Depot has operated as an agricultural dealership for more than 77 years, and has locations in Caro, Ionia and Schoolcraft. It sells new and used agricultural, commercial, lawn, and hobby equipment. New Farm Depot has earned Agco Corp. Circle of Excellence status, an award given to the corporation’s top 20 volume dealers. “Farm Depot has come a long way from the day Dick Laethem opened the doors in 1944 as the Laethem Farm Service Co. in Fairgrove,” stated the press release from the dealership.

“Times were very different then. The phone number was ‘17’ and the John Deere and Caterpillar tractors sat on the dirt floor of the store. Today, the showrooms are large and the equipment is Fendt, Challenger, RoGator, TerraGator, Massey Ferguson, Krone, Kubota, Kioti, and many more.”

Mark and Mike Laethem are Dick Laethem’s grandsons, and Mike’s son, Blake, is the fourth generation working in the family business. The Laethems figure there’s a key reason for their business longevity. “Their success is due, in large part, to the attention that they pay to their customers and these customers’ needs,” the press release stated.

“Mark and Mike Laethem are happy to provide their talents and expertise to growers using the time-honored and successful Laethem tradition. The Laethem brothers have served farmers in Tuscola County and throughout Michigan for more than 75 combined years.”

The Laethems stress that they value the opportunity to create a long-term relationship with their customers, by giving them “the best customer service available.”

“When you are ready to invest in your new tractor or other agricultural equipment, our knowledgeable sales, finance, service and parts departments are prepared to make sure your experience is outstanding – from assisting while you pay to their choice to ongoing maintenance and customization,” the press release stated.

For more information on Farm Depot and its products and services, visit www.farmdepot.biz, call 989-625-5501 or email sales@farmdepot.biz.
Genisys Credit Union Vassar branch employees (from left): Judy Schoelenin (branch manager), Tyler Harper, Jennifer Schmidt and Dawn Currie (account services representative).

“Everybody gets involved,” Schoelenin said. “They really listen to the employees here and myself.” Schoelenin said. “They treat the employees like family, they treat the members like family and they treat the community like family.

Genisys has 28 branches in Michigan, three in Minnesota and one in Pennsylvania. The nearest branch to Vassar is in Claro.

“We are incredibly proud and honored to receive this recognition because it embodies our purpose – ‘Where You Come First’ – which is central to everything we do,” Jackie Buchanan, president and CEO of Genisys Credit Union, said about the award from Energage.

“Everybody gets involved,” Schoelenin said. “They really listen to the employees here and myself.” Schoelenin said. “We say, ‘This is what’s going on.’ So they truly listen to the voice of the community to see where they are needed.

“Everybody gets involved,” Schoelenin said. “We donate small to big. We volunteer for (Vassar’s) Relay for Life, the Pumpkin Roll, the Keep Vassar Beautiful project… Genisys really invests in the community.” Genisys has 28 branches in Michigan, three in Minnesota and one in Pennsylvania.

Roll, the Keep Vassar Beautiful project… Genisys really invests in the community. Genisys has 28 branches in Michigan, three in Minnesota and one in Pennsylvania.
Agnuswood, with strong roots, still seeks to ‘flourish’

Autumnwood of Deckerville has received a 5-Star rating for several consecutive years from the federal Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The rating is the highest given by the federal agency.

By Tom Gilchrist | dev@tcadvertiser.com

DECKERVILLE — If Autumnwood of Deckerville has thrived as a nursing home through the years, Darren Heilig has witnessed it.

“I feel like over the years, Autumnwood has come a long way,” said Heilig, social service director at Autumnwood, at 3387 Ella St. in Deckerville — where he has worked for 32 years.

The provider of long-term nursing care and short-term rehabilitation services — which also operates a memory care unit — opened in 1985. Four years later, Heilig landed a job there.

“We faced our struggles back in the 1990s as we were learning, and growing, and changing corporate hands,” Heilig said. “We’ve been owned by multiple corporations over the years, and we’ve been owned by some that didn’t care much about us up here in Deckerville.

“Ciena Healthcare Corp. took over in 1999, and since then we have grown and flourished, and have come such a long way from where we were.”

Autumnwood, for the past several years, has received a five-star rating from the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said Sarah Cleary, Autumnwood’s admissions and marketing director.

Nursing homes with a five-star rating “are considered to have much above average quality,” while nursing homes with a one-star rating are “considered to have much below average quality,” according to www.cms.gov.

Autumnwood houses 80 beds, including a 26-bed memory care unit — known as The Orchard — where a person must enter a passcode on a keypad to enter or exit the unit.

“Locked units,” such as the memory care unit at Autumnwood, no longer operate in several Thumb-area communities. The Orchard houses “exit-seeking” residents — most of them diagnosed with dementia who seek to leave the facility.

“We have a sister facility in Port Huron, and when they have any patients that are trying to troop or exit they send them to us,” Cleary said. “They don’t have a memory care unit like we do.”

Two of Cleary’s grandparents spent their final years at The Orchard.

“I’ve had both of them pass (away), here, actually,” she said. “My grandmother did not have dementia, but had a stroke.

“The activities in our dementia unit are completely different than out in the A wing or B wing. We have nurses and CENAs (competency-evaluated nursing assistants) that are staffed only in the dementia unit.

“They don’t come out to work in the A wing or B wing unless needed. There are two nurses and usually three CENAs, and an activities person, in the dementia unit, no matter how many residents are living there.”

While the logistics of meal time in a nursing home have changed drastically due to restrictions connected to the COVID-19 pandemic, Cleary vouches for Autumnwood’s cuisine.


“Heilig, also a certified dietary manager, hopes dining and social events at the nursing home can regain some panache, and sense of commodity.

“This place used to be just bustling and bustling with activities, and our meal service was high standard, with pre-set tables and sit-down service, with orders taken at the table, and a beverage cart and a dessert cart, and a salad bar,” Heilig said.

“But COVID restrictions have pretty much squashed that. We had a pastry chef who would create these beautiful desserts and we had Happy Hour gatherings six days a week, so they could come down and feel like they’re at their local tavern and have a drink, and have some pretzels.

“Here, we’re trying to bring some of our group activities, but they’re still socially distant and it’s no as exciting as it was. But hopefully, we’ll get back to that. This is a wonderful place to be, but hopefully we can continue to flourish as we get over some of these hurdles.”

Those seeking more information about Autumnwood of Deckerville can call 810-376-2145.

Photo by John Cook | The Advertiser

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