

This is a sample version of the electronic edition. This sample is a collection of a few stories we have inside this week's issue, but it will show you how you can read the Cass City Chronicle online. For any questions, contact us Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at (989) 872-2010.

Note: The Cass City Chronicle's actual front page will look different than the sample provided here.

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earn recognition

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seeking kidney donor

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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

Complete coverage of the Cass City community and surrounding areas since 1899

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 46

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012

75 CENTS ~ 16 PAGES

Owen-Gage PTO holding Chocolate Affair Feb. 11

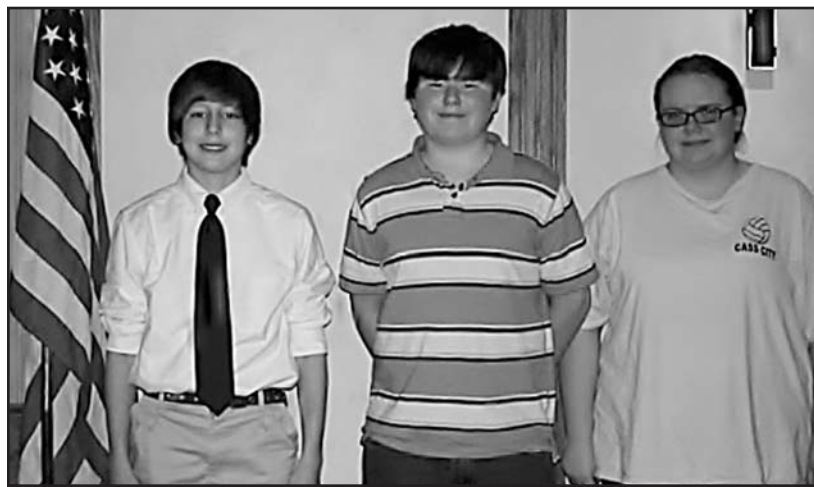
The Owen-Gage Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) is inviting residents from throughout the Thumb to attend its Chocolate Affair event, Saturday, Feb. 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Owen-Gage School cafeteria and gym in Owendale.

All proceeds will go to student organizations and classes.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for 50 cents each or \$10 for 25 tickets. Bring in 2 cans of food to the event and you will receive a free game ticket — the donated food items will be passed on to area food pantries.

The day will offer something for all ages, including door prize raffles at noon, 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m., as well as a flip video camera raffle (\$1 per ticket — drawing at 1:30 p.m. Also planned are a cake walk, games, free craft table, a bake-off (chocolate must be an ingredient in all entries, and entry forms must be turned in to the school office by Friday, Feb. 10), face painting, bounce houses, a photo booth and concessions.

More information is available by calling the school office at (989) 678-4141.



STUDENTS (left to right) Devon Kluger, Chandler Cryderman and Sally Groombridge recently participated in the Knights of Columbus Area 6 Spelling Bee held in Imlay City. They represented Cass City Middle School, competing against each other along with 6 other spellers. Kluger finished fifth overall, while Groombridge placed sixth and Cryderman, fourth.



RED HAWK Shane Rasmussen pressures Laker Nick Post in the back court during GTW play in Cass City.

CC trades league decisions

Cass City was held to a season-low in points Friday, allowing host Reese to remain perfect in Greater Thumb West play.

With the 51-24 decision, the Rockets improve to 4-0 in the GTW, while the Red Hawks fall to 2-3, 6-6 overall.

Cass City shot just 28 percent from the floor and converted only 5 of 13 tries from the stripe.

The visitors trailed 20-11 after one quarter. They were held to 4 points in both the second and third periods, and were limited to an Ethan Nicol trey from the field in the final 8 minutes.

Adam Janson was the game's only double digit scorer and tossed in 13 points to lead Reese.

Morgan Erla with 5 points led Cass City.

LAKER GAME

On Wednesday, Cass City rallied for a 45-30 win over guest Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port.

The Red Hawks trailed 18-13 entering the final half, but outscored the Lakers 32-12 for the remainder of the night.

Orban, who scored Cass City's first 11 points, finished with a game-high 20 markers.

Laker Jared Schuette recorded 9 points in vain.

CASS CITY - Orban 3-4 (2-3) 20; Schenk 2-0 (2-2) 6; King 0-2 (0-0) 6; Rasmussen 1-0 (1-1) 3; Zaleski 1-0 (0-0) 2; Erla 2-0 (0-2) 4; Israelson 2-0 (0-0) 4.
TOTALS - 11-6 (5-8) 45.

LAKERS - Post 1-0 (0-0) 2; Gascho 1-1 (0-0) 5; Binder 4-0 (0-2) 8; Schuette 0-3 (0-0) 9; Zwemmer 3-0 (0-4) 6.
TOTALS - 9-4 (0-6) 30.

CASS CITY - Orban 1-0 (2-6) 4; Nicol 0-1 (0-1) 3; Schenk 1-0 (2-2) 4; Rasmussen 1-0 (0-0) 2; Zaleski 1-0 (0-0) 2; Erla 2-0 (1-1) 5; Israelson 2-0 (0-0) 4.
TOTALS - 8-1 (5-10) 24.

REESE - Lefler 1-0 (0-0) 2; Volz 1-0 (0-0) 2; Guerrero 1-0 (3-4) 5; Frost 4-0 (1-1) 9; Gruber 1-0 (0-0) 2; VanPetten 2-0 (0-1) 4; Peyok 1-0 (0-0) 2; Naert 0-0 (4-7) 4; Campbell 4-0 (0-0) 8; Janson 1-3 (2-4) 13.
TOTALS - 16-3 (10-17) 51.

Love for Lexi

Benefit dinner Saturday for 6-year-old with tumor

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Area residents are invited to attend a fundraiser this weekend to support a local family whose 6-year-old daughter is battling a terminal brain tumor.

The "Love for Lexi Benefit Dinner and Auction" is scheduled for Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m. at Cass City High School. Admission is \$7 per adult and \$3 per child (ages 12 and under). Take-outs will be available. The event will feature live music, silent and live auctions and a movie for the children at 6 p.m.

The proceeds will go to benefit Lexi Smith, daughter of Randy and Heidi Smith and granddaughter of Rick and Donna Hartwick and Randy and Jackie Smith.

The Smiths' world was turned upside down in a matter of weeks. Lexi began to experience physical difficulties — a growing weakness on the left side of her body, which led to her diagnosis. Doctors told the family that she has an inoperable Pontine Glioma brain stem tumor.

"To do surgery, it would kill her," Heidi Smith said during an interview last month. She added doctors suggested radiation treatments, which have now been completed.

"Our 2 options were to just let her come home and let it (tumor) just take its course, and to do radiation, which could give her a couple of good months," Smith said. "It's just buying us time, pretty much, but there isn't a cure for it."

Smith indicated Sunday that Lexi's treatments were successful

in helping her to feel better.

"She's doing well, pretty much what we expected. We're grateful she's feeling good," she said. "It's remarkably better — quickly, in 6 weeks, she's pretty much back to normal. But it's different for everybody; usually between 3 and 8 months is when the symptoms come back, and when the symptoms come back, it's a fast decline."

Smith noted that an organization known as Rainbow Connection will be sending the family on an expense-paid vacation to Disney World in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 7. "So, she's pretty excited about that."

Smith said she and her husband and other family members are grateful for the outpouring of support shown by their friends and neighbors. "It helps to know that so many people care. It doesn't help the pain, but it helps knowing the community is there," she said.

Support for the Smiths has grown with the formation several weeks ago of a committee determined to organize a community-wide benefit dinner.

"I think we were all so dumbstruck when it (Lexi's diagnosis) happened. We all sat there wanting to do something, but not knowing what to do," commented Shari Bock, who is serving as chairperson of the committee.

Bock, who is employed as food service director for the Cass City Public Schools, pointed out that the effort involves a host of groups, with sponsors that include Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Women's Life chapters 848 and 877, the Cass City Lions Club, Cass City Public Schools and Erla's Foods. Local Girl Scouts and VIP Salon in Cass



A BENEFIT dinner and auction will be held Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m. at Cass City High School. All proceeds will go to benefit the family of 6-year-old Lexi Smith, daughter of Heidi and Randy Smith, Cass City. Lexi, a first grade student at Campbell Elementary School, has been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

City have also been actively involved in the fundraiser, she noted. "It's a great committee. They're working wonders," Bock said. "Everybody is just doing wonderful things."

The response has been nothing short of amazing, according to Bock. "There are so many people who have given. It's just remarkable how our community is pulling together," she said.

The anticipated success of Saturday's event has already sparked some other plans. In fact, Bock said, the committee is looking at hosting another fundraiser in the future, with plans to set up a scholarship fund in Lexi's name. "It would be specifically for a sick child who has a catastrophic illness or (has been involved

in an) accident," she explained.

For now, however, the volunteers are focusing on doing all they can to lift some of the Smith family's financial burden so they can focus on what's most important in their lives.

"They need to make a lifetime of memories in a short amount of time. It's heartbreaking; you just cherish what you have that much more. It makes me appreciate my grandkids even more than I do," Bock said. "It could happen to any of us at any time."

At the same time, she added, the Smiths have faced their daughter's illness with an unbelievable amount of courage.

"They're so strong," she said. "They're a wonderful family."

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