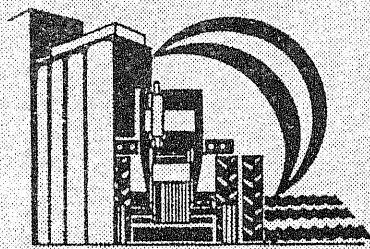


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SEVING THE THUMB SINCE 1897

VOL. 90, NO. 25 36 PAGES Pigeon, Elkton, Caseville, Bay Port and Owendale, Michigan WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16, 1987
(TAX CUTTER GUIDE) THROUGH TUESDAY, DEC. 22, 1987

IT'S WRITING CONTEST
TIME IN THE WESTERN THUMB!

Your entries are STILL welcome
in our ninth annual "Christmas
Memories" WRITING CONTEST!
Be sure we have yours by 12
noon this Saturday. Then, watch
for them all in our BIG Christmas
Issue next week!

Laker Board fights negative tax letters *Where do your letters go?*

By AMY HEIDEN

Laker School District officials are upset about what they consider unfair statements made in a letter written to Lake Township taxpayers by Township supervisor Joe Feger, which was enclosed with tax notices.

LATCHKEY STARTS: The Laker Board also announced the district's after-school Latchkey program will begin Jan. 4, if a sufficient number of children are enrolled. The program offers supervision for children after school until 6 p.m.

Brunet said he has visited other Latchkey operations in the state and noted the Laker program will be able to charge far less than other set-ups.

"We don't want to make any money on the program, just break even," Brunet said. He also said at least 25 children needed to be enrolled in both the Elkton and Pigeon centers for the program to get off the ground.

"I think it's a good program. We have two very qualified supervisors to plan activities. Tracy Posade, who will oversee activities in Elkton, has an Associate's degree in child care, and Linda King, Pigeon's supervisor, has years of experience also," said Brunet.

AIDS TRAINING: Brunet informed the Board that the state will soon mandate AIDS education in schools, noting a model curriculum had been set up by the state.

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 31

Little Johnny sends a Christmas card to his grandmother in Saginaw.

A local business sends a sales flyer to a potential customer. Both are mailed at the Pigeon Post Office, and promptly both are forgotten in the confident thought that their mail will be delivered.

The whole process is taken for granted. But what does happen to the mail once it's dropped into a collection box, here or anywhere else?

According to Pigeon Postmaster Martin Thiel, local mail will never leave the building until it's delivered.

Once collected, the mail is cancelled (run through a machine to void the stamp with an ink pattern) - then either put into post office boxes or given to a rural route driver for delivery.

FROM HERE TO THERE: But mail to anywhere else in Michigan or the United States is trayed and sent to Saginaw for processing.

At the Saginaw Section Center, letters with typewritten addresses are read automatically by a sorting machine and sorted by Zip Code.

Anything handwritten is sorted by a person, who sorts at the rate of one letter per second.

"Considering how little time that person has to read each address, it's amazing how few errors they make," says Thiel. Mail for delivery within the boundaries of Michigan is trucked to the proper facility, while out of state mail is flown.

NO POSTAGE? Suppose little Johnny, in putting a stamp on his letter, tears the stamp so that only a little piece gets on the envelope.

"It will go if the stamp says 22 cents on it," Thiel says. "Any amount of postage on a letter, and we'll send it through, but with postage due."

If a letter is sent with no postage at all, the letter is returned to the sender with a request for postage. "Only during the holidays will we send mail with postage due," explains Thiel.

ILLEGIBLE HANDWRITING: Jeannine Ziehm, who Thiel described as his "right-hand person" at the Pigeon Post Office, holds up a letter with nearly illegible handwriting.

"We make every effort to find out where it goes. We won't send a piece of mail back unless we're absolutely stumped," Ziehm explains that after working at the post office for so many years, "you get pretty good at deciphering handwriting."



PRESORTING: "Right-hand girl" Jeannine Ziehm pre-sorts letters. Some of this mail will go into Post Office boxes, some will go to the route drivers, and others are "holdouts" - which is mail held for pickup by an employe of a firm.

AMY HEIDEN PHOTOS

If Postal employes can't read a name or if a Zip Code is wrong, mail could be delayed for a day or two, but every effort goes into getting the mail to its rightful owner, they agree.

DEAD LETTER: If a piece of mail has no return address on it, and still cannot be delivered after exhausting all other efforts, the mail will be sent to the dead letter office in Chicago. "No mail is ever opened here," explains Thiel. "In Chicago, they'll open it to try to determine who sent it. If they can't find out, only then does the letter get thrown away."

ROUTE DELIVERIES: Mail given to the rural route drivers is sorted by address into pigeon holes at each driver's station. After the mail arrives in the Post Office from Saginaw and is presorted by Thiel and Ziehm, it usually takes two or three hours to further sort the mail by name.

Richard Dast, who has been delivering mail on Pigeon Rural Route 2 since 1961, says he averages about five hours a day driving time on his route, which has 280 boxes.

"Most of my customers are pretty good. I haven't had much trouble at all on my route. Once there was a dead chicken in a box, and once some rotten eggs, but that's about it."

The other route, which takes in Crescent Beach Road and the Sand Point area, varies from nearly 700 in the summer to 530 in the winter months.

Two Pigeon winners!



Week #4 Winner:
VICKIE KANYAK



Week #4 Winner:
SHIRLEY KASSERMAN

- SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 3 -



"MESSIAH" IS COMING: The Laker Community Chorus will present Handel's "Messiah" in concert this Sunday, Dec. 20, at 3 p.m. at the Laker auditorium.

Robert Story of Bay City will be the director, and Pam Dubey of Pigeon will be the accompanist.

The "Messiah" is written in three parts. Part I begins with Jesus' coming and birth and ends with a foreshadow of what is to come. Part II details Christ's crucifixion and the famous Hallelujah Chorus

celebrates the kingship of Christ.

Part III tells of the benefits of Christ's sacrifice - reconciliation, redemption and victory over death.

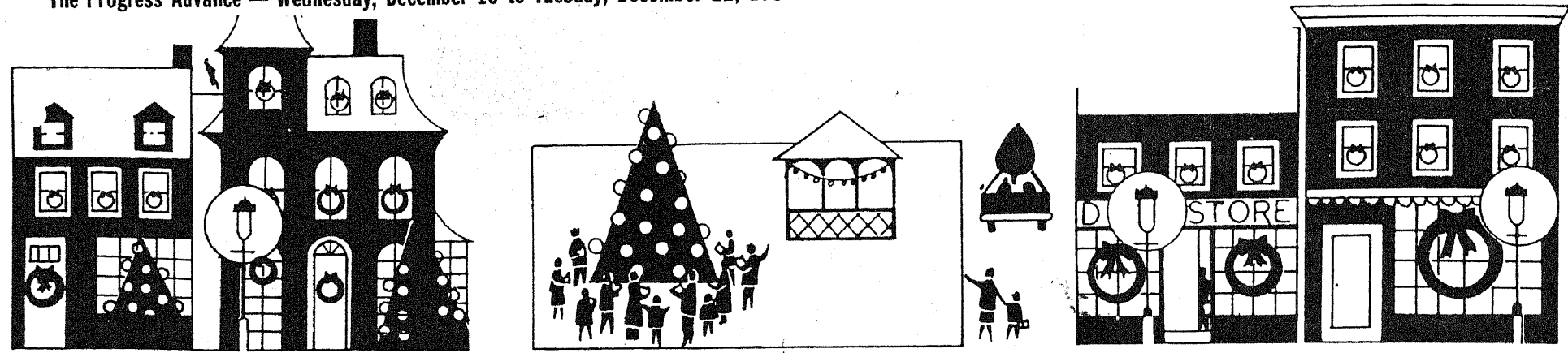
The 35-voice Community Chorus, shown here in practice, will present selections from each section of the "Messiah." And, scripture readings between selections will provide continuity.

Admission is free, and a free will offering will be taken.

AMY HEIDEN PHOTO

INSIDE: SAVE MONEY! Our annual "Tax Cutter" Guide has TONS of tips!

SEE CENTER PAGES FOR ALL THE DETAILS!



WE'RE ALL DECKED OUT!

For Pigeon's Christmas Season

Win A New Car!

FREE Bean Soup

FREE Horse Rides

Visit With Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus Saturday

Shop Locally And Save Time And Money!

SHOP IN PIGEON And Win A Chance At A 1988 Automobile!
 — Final Drawing December 19 —
10 Names Will Be Drawn Each Saturday At 4 p.m.

Contest Rules:

1. You Must Be 18 Years Old To Enter
2. Only One Person In An Immediate Family Is Eligible For The Final Drawing
3. You Or Your Spouse **MUST** Be Present To Win A Chance!
4. No Purchase Necessary

A New Chance To Win Each Week!!

Win A New Car!

Musical Entertainment

Bargains Through-Out Town

Shop Locally And Save Time And Money!

Children, Teen & Adult Drawings Weekly

Adult Christmas Car Give-Away
 Tickets Available From Chamber Merchants
 Be Present Each Saturday For YOUR Chance To Win!!

Ten names will be drawn & 2 finalists will go into the December 19 drawing. New chance to win every week!!

Santa will make someone's dream come true with a new 1988 car this Saturday. Be there!

Children's & Teen Drawings December 5-12-19 4:00 P.M.

Children may fill out tickets prior to the drawing and deposit them in Santa's mailbox downtown. Teens will receive tickets at participating merchants and winners will be announced at the drawing.

Sponsored By The Pigeon Chamber Of Commerce

...And now there are 8 Pigeon finalists!



Week #1 Winner: **BOB ARMBRUSTER** Week #1 Winner: **TERRILL McILHARGIE**
 Week #2 Winner: **MIKE GAETH** Week #2 Winner: **LAWRENCE OHLROGGE**
 Week #3 Winner: **ELIZABETH PATTERSON** Week #3 Winner: **KEITH ROTH**

The largest crowd in Pigeon shopping history is expected Saturday afternoon, when the Pigeon Chamber of Commerce makes Christmas especially bright for one lucky shopper by giving away a new 1988 auto.

About 1400 persons were present last Saturday at the fourth of five semi-finalist drawings — a number greater than Pigeon's total population.

This Saturday, upwards of 2000 persons are expected at the 4 p.m. drawing, when the final two of 10 semi-finalists are selected and the auto is awarded to one of the 10.

"It's exciting, and it's a reward for people who shop here in Pigeon," says Chamber President Mike LePage, describing the growing turnout each Saturday.

"The more purchases made in town, the more entries you get and the greater your chances of winning."

YOUR CHOICE: The grand prize winner will receive his or her choice of a 1988 Chrysler or Chevrolet model, purchased through Pigeon Motor Sales or McCormick Motor Sales.

The cars are on display at the municipal building downtown.

LAST WEEK: Two adults were chosen as semi-finalists number seven and eight for the new car drawing. Vickie Kanyak of Caseville got her ticket at Gettel's of Pigeon, while Shirley Kasseraman of Elktion received hers at Dietzel Electric, Inc.

The other eight finalists whose keys did not open the locks (and places where tickets were earned) are:

Cathy Esch of Elktion (Pigeon IGA), Glenn Perry of Saginaw (Village Variety), Luke Yoder of Pigeon (Pigeon Lumber), Elmer Licht (Pigeon Inn), Yvette Kasseraman of Pigeon (Damm's, Inc.), Dwight Jacobs of Pigeon (Pigeon IGA), Jean Grandsden and Karen Lindeman, both of Pigeon (and both getting tickets at Pigeon Lumber).

TEEN WINNERS: Youngsters who earned \$10 in shopping cash are: Aaron Sweeney of Bad Axe, Russ Ginther of Bay Port, Kelly Kreimes of Caseville and Laniel McGath of Pigeon.

Teens can win a TV set this Saturday in the final 1987 drawing.

TOY PRIZES: Kory Schnake of Bay Port won the bicycle given away Saturday.

Toy winners are: Sarah Clabuesch, Jason Diebel, Kelly Damm, Tressa Schulze and Scott Walsh, all of Pigeon; Christopher Otto of Champaign, Ill.; Kristopher Kreh of Elktion, Karl Kern and Ed Bieri, both of Bay Port, Allen Roze of Gagetown and Sarah Walz of Bay Port, Kelly Kreimes of

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT!

It's a Print Extra AP Style

Truth, justice Stop the Presses! Now is the time for Galley

Latchkey program to start Jan. 4

Responding to needs of parents in the Laker District, the Laker School Board has instituted a Latchkey Program at Elktion and Pigeon Elementary Schools, with participating students from Bay Port being bused to the Pigeon Center.

According to Laker officials, the program is designed to provide after-school activities in grades K-5 until 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

A fee a \$1.00 per night will be charged, regardless of the time the service is used, officials add.

Laker Schools Supt. Harry Brunet says the program is designed to be self-supporting, and that an evaluation will be made in three months.

Officials also said that no child will be allowed to leave the building alone or to walk home alone.

LEADERS: Tracy Posade of Elktion has been hired as supervisor of the Elktion program.

Thumb Weekly News Round-Up

HURON, TUSCOLA RAID SAVINGS

Both Huron and Tuscola Counties must dip into their shrinking fund balances as they attempt to have expenses match income in their 1988 fiscal year budgets.

HURON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS must add about \$150,000 to balance the proposed \$5.6 million budget, versus expected revenues of \$5.44 million. Several departments have seen their spending plans cut back — including a proposed \$117,000 reduction in Sheriff Richard Stokan's operations.

A public hearing on the budget is set for the next Commissioners' meeting, on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

TUSCOLA COUNTY, nearly \$1 million from county reserves is needed to balance the \$5.69 million budget planned for next year. Expenditures outweigh anticipated income by more than \$957,000 primarily because of the loss of federal revenue sharing funds, plus an estimated \$320,000 decline in tax revenues.

No direct budget cuts have been outlined, but Sheriff Paul Berry's road patrols may be trimmed or eliminated if the spring millage election fails.

A public hearing is set for Tuesday, Dec. 22, to further discuss the planned budget.

Tuscola judges' salaries have been finalized for 1988. Circuit Judge Patrick Joslyn's pay will be \$92,000 and District Judge Richard Kern's salary is \$83,820. Probate Judge W. Wallace Kent's salary is set at \$81,583.

ROAD COMMISSION CUTBACKS

Huron County Road Commission is also seeing trimmer days, as the 1988 budget approved last week is nearly \$2 million less than the \$10.2 million spending plan in operation for 1987.

Only 13 miles of primary roads will be resurfaced this coming year, in the \$8.4 million budget. That's down from 33 miles reworked in 1987.

The decline is due largely to the loss of more than \$350,000 in monies from the county's general fund, not earmarked for roadwork in 1988.

CONTRACT OK'ED, THEN LAYOFFS

Huron County's biggest employer had good news then bad news in the past week. Allied Industrial Workers Local 623 at Active Industries of Elktion Thursday narrowly approved a three-year contract, and company officials say the 1000 jobs on three shifts at the plant should be assured.

Then, on Monday, more than 400 of Active's 760 union members were laid off for one to three months, due to a backlog of automotive parts built up in anticipation of the contract vote.

The layoffs are temporary, and new work jobs are now being bid, officials say.

COURT PROCEEDINGS

In 73rd District Court, First Division (Huron County), Judge John Schubel heard these pleas and made these determinations recently:

■ **CORRECTION:** Donald L. Plonta, 31 of Kinde, pled guilty to aggravated assault, following an Oct. 3 incident involving another male on Main Street, Kinde, as investigated by Kinde Police; sentenced to one year in jail. This was incorrectly reported two weeks ago.

■ Arthur J. Bulla, 27 of Caro, pled guilty to driving with license suspended, following an Oct. 19 incident in Port Austin; sentenced to 10 days in jail.



SHE'S A WINNER: Mrs. Carol Faist was the lucky winner of a quilt hand-made by the Scheurer Hospital Auxiliary in a drawing conducted at the Laker Craft Bazaar Dec. 5.

Over \$475 was raised in the raffle, and the proceeds will be used to buy needed equipment for the hospital.

Pictured is quilt winner Carol Faist, left, and Hospital Auxiliary President Phyllis Gettel.

AMY HEIDEN PHOTO

LOTTERY WOES — Michigan's Lottery has sold about \$7.2 billion in tickets in its first 15 years, and about 223 million winners have received lots of cash, a little cash or a free ticket in that time.

I bought a green 50-cent Lottery ticket the first week they went on sale back on Nov. 13, 1972. In fact, the Lottery Club I helped form at The Saginaw News invested about \$1100 in the first Lottery year — and got back \$50 in winnings!

The state has received almost \$3 billion in revenues from the Lottery since that year. Lottery net revenues presented to the state School Aid Fund have exceeded \$800 million in the past two years.

Now, Lottery folks smilingly say, the Lottery's annual contribution to education equals about \$130 per Michigan household.

How many state folks are now millionaires, thanks to the Lottery? A total of 274...

— 30 —

GOOD QUESTION — Tony Foster of Caseville is always an interesting fellow to talk with. He's got a good question which we'll share here:

"Have you ever noticed that driving from Sleeper State Park (near where the Fosters live) toward Caseville, the speed limit is 50 mph?" Tony asked me.

"But, driving east from Caseville toward Sleeper the signs all read 55. Now, then, which is it, 50 or 55?"

Does anyone have an answer?

— 30 —

TREE-MENDOUS JOB — Michigan led the nation last year by producing 5 million Christmas trees, but appears headed for second place this holiday season.

Oregon (which grew 4.6 million trees last year) should harvest 5.8 million trees in 1987, followed by Michigan with 5.3 million harvested, according to the National Christmas Tree Association.

And, 33 million trees will be harvested in less than four weeks this season nationwide, the group says.

— 30 —

WISH I'D SAID THAT — "Raising children is like holding a wet bar of soap. Too firm a grasp and it shoots from your hand; too loose a grasp and it slides away.

"A gentle but firm grasp keeps it in your control!"

Progress-Advance

sports of the week

Lakers start league play on wrong (losing) foot...

By TIM BLAKENEY

Going into Friday night's game and suffering from a few rug burns, the Lakers could not withstand the heat of the red hot Vulcans.

Vassar started the game by firing up a point shot from the top of the key. After that, everything went fast except the score, as the Green and White lost 59-46.

It was a wild game with sloppy ball handling and poor passing. Loose balls were bounding around like a squib-kicked football. It was obvious that McLellan is still in the process of tuning up the Green Machine.

The Lakers trailed throughout the majority of the first half, but somehow managed to go to the locker room with a one-point lead. Vassar wasn't allowed a single shot from the foul line throughout the first half. On the other hand, Lakers made it to the one and one, but couldn't make the shot, shooting only two for 10.

Shortly after the half-time break, the home team lost the lead for good. The three-point play was used in the final two minutes as desperation to catch up before time ran out. After outside shooter Jay Anthes fouled out, Vassar increased the lead into double figures.

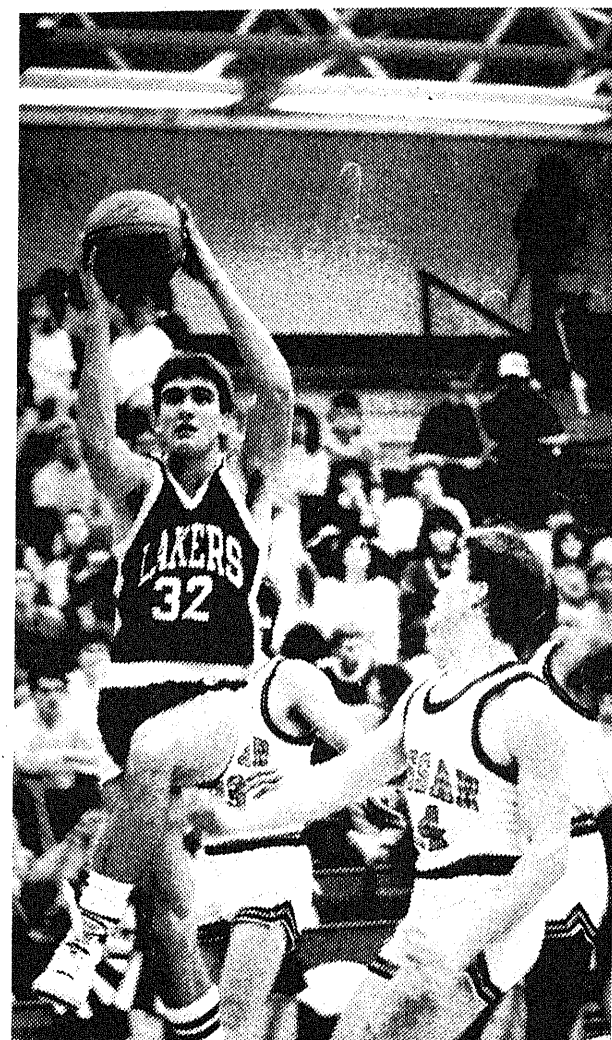
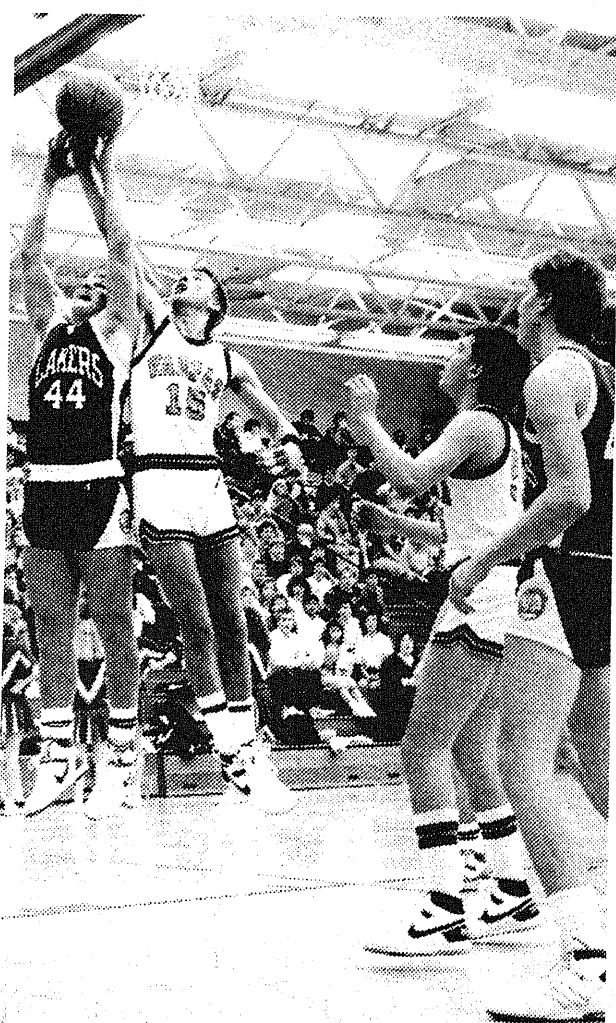
While the Lakers were trying to even the score in sets of three, the Vulcans were going into a stall as the clock ticked down.

POINTS: Paul Elenbaum led the scoring attack with 12. Kendall Wertz had eight, Jay Anthes and Mark Kretzschmer had seven each, Kel Hill had six, Dean Roestel four and Jeff Sturm two.

Next on the Laker schedule is the Bad Axe Hatchets on Friday, at home.

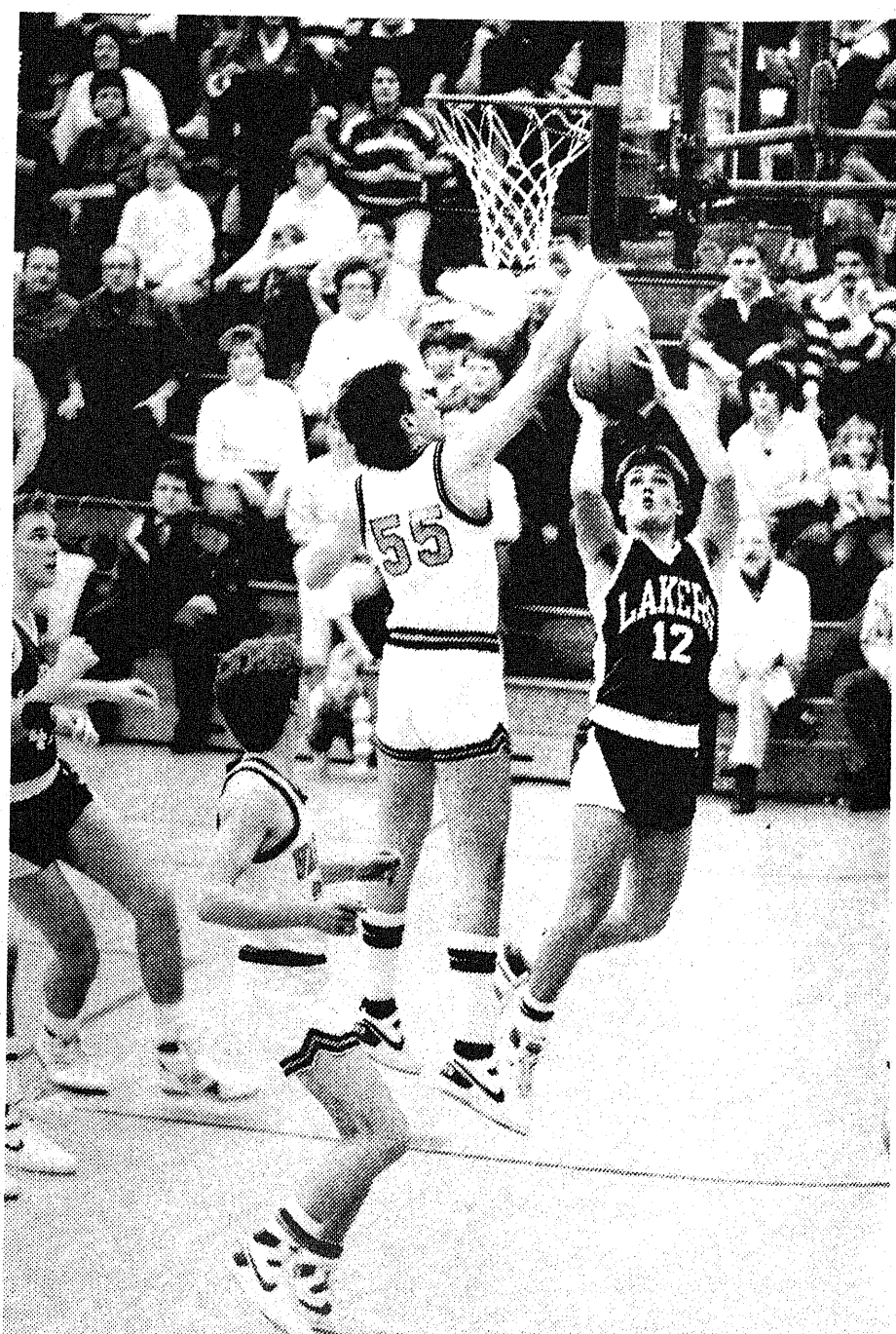
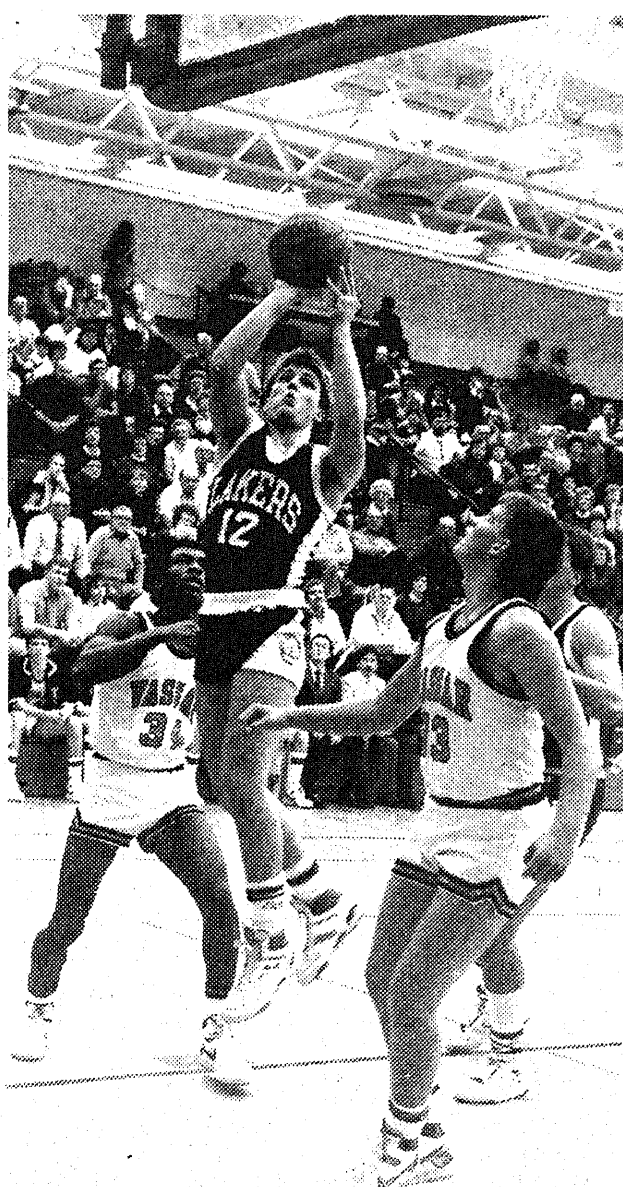
JVs FALL: Losing by double-digit figures, the Laker junior varsity squad is having a hard time getting started. Forty-eight points was not enough as Valley Lutheran shot for 59. Billy McLellan led the scoring with 13 points. Sean House and Brian Bushey added 11 apiece. All the Jayvees could get Friday night was 29 against 46 for the Vulcans. McLellan was the leading scorer for the green with 10 points.

GREAT START, FRESHMEN: The ninth graders came out on top of Valley Lutheran 62-57 and kept the drive going to beat Vassar, 50-46. Dan Gonzales was the big shooter with 16 on Tuesday and 18 Friday. Over the two games, Kevin Fritz totaled 23 and Rick Duffy 22.



LAKER B'BALL ACTION: ABOVE LEFT, Laker Kendall Wertz (44) and Vassar's Mike Gohsman (15) struggle for a rebound. ABOVE RIGHT, Paul Elenbaum moves through traffic for a layup. BELOW LEFT AND RIGHT, Mark Kretzschmer (12) is all over the place in shooting against the tough Vulcan squad. He scored seven points in the 59-46 loss.

PHOTOS BY RICH SWARTZENDRUBER AND PAULA KLOSOWSKI



Meet our Sports Editor !

Tim Blakeney, Special Education teacher at Laker High, has joined The Progress-Advance staff as Sports Editor.



TIM BLAKENEY

A native of New Boston, Mich., and a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, he says is enjoying his third year at Lakers.

An avid Laker sports fan, Blakeney has previously coached wrestling at the high school, but counts baseball and softball as his personal favorites.

In 1985, he played fast-pitch softball for a Marlette team and plans to get back into playing in the coming summer.

Blakeney and his wife Janet, an aide at Pigeon Elementary School, presently live in Caseville, but plan to move to Pigeon as soon as their new house, currently under construction, is finished.

Lakers sweep Valley Lutheran 'under carpet'

By TIM BLAKENEY

There were a few things lacking in the boys' first basketball on Tuesday, Dec. 8: the sound of the ball bouncing and the squeaking of the Nikes against the hardwood floor. Even the hardwood floor was missing. Instead of the traditional wood planked court, Valley Lutheran has a carpeted gym.

The Lakers were at a slight disadvantage because of the carpet. Coach Bill McLellan says, "Dribbling is difficult on their floor."

But a carpet handicap was not enough for Valley Lutheran as the Lakers defeated them 67-58.

At the end of the first period, the Lakers were down by a couple points. They turned it around before the half with a two-point lead. After the intermission, the Green Machine came out scoring 42 points against Valley Lutheran's 35.

The strategy used by Coach McLellan's team was to work the ball to the inside. The insiders, Paul Elenbaum, Kendall Wertz and Kel Hill, managed to do at least one of two things. They either scored a field goal or drew a foul. Wertz had 25 points, Elenbaum 13 and Hill 10.

The fouls under the net aided the Lakers in shooting free throws early in each half. Lakers sank 23 of 34 from the line, while Valley Lutheran only shot six for eight. McLellan noted, "They didn't get to the line on us. We got there early."

Valley Lutheran's offensive approach was the exact opposite of the Lakers. They preferred to keep the ball outside the perimeter. It was the three-point play that kept them in the game. They hit eight for a total of 24.

Still not enough to avoid being swept under the carpet.

Laker wrestlers still afloat

By TIM BLAKENEY

Establishing a well-rounded wrestling program has been a struggle at Laker High School.

Wrestling sits in the shadows of football and basketball. Most successful wrestling programs work hand-in-hand with the football team. Not Lakers.

After the Laker wrestling team could only put six wrestlers on varsity mat at Cass City's dual last Wednesday night, the Athletic Department was forced to make a decision about what to do concerning the lack of wrestlers. They decided to cancel all dual meets for this year. Athletic Director Bob Drury says, "We cut because we weren't competitive. When you sponsor a team in the Thumb B, you're expected to compete." Lakers do not want to risk spoiling a good reputation with the Thumb B League.

Meanwhile, Coach Leo McArdle signed up two more and entered eight wrestlers in the Michigan Lutheran Seminary Invitational. McArdle plans an enrolling more by next week.

FINAL DUAL: Wednesday in the grapplers' first and last dual, 112-lb. Jason Gardner was pinned, 119-lb. J.D. Talaski defeated state qualifier Henry Smith, 126-lb. Frank Shively won with a decision, 138-lb. Wes Russell won 5-1, 145-lb. Kevin Truemner on top 2-0 and 155-lb. Chad Daniel lost with a pin.

With the Lakers spotting Cass City 36 points, the final score was 48-12.

AT MILS: At Michigan Lutheran Seminary's 11-team tournament, senior Kevin Truemner and junior J.D. Talaski took first, while Wes Russell settled for third. "Talaski, not happy with being seeded fourth, said, "I was disappointed. My record

was better, I should have been seeded higher." Talaski knocked off the number one seed in the second round of the tournament to get to the finals. He beat Gary Miles of Sandusky in the championship bout. Coming close several times, it has taken three years of hard work for Talaski to finally win his first tournament. There will be more to come, as he is only a junior.

FIRST PLACE: First place is "old stuff" for senior Kevin Truemner. After winning the same meet last year,

Truemner was sure to be seeded number one. He pinned his first opponent in 47 seconds and let the next one stay in the ring for 1:11 before sticking him to the mat. His win in the finals was not as easy as the first two.

To get third place, Wes Russell started out with a 22-second pin. He was pushed down to the consolation bracket in his next match, then won the last two.

Coach McArdle was pleased with the performance of slightly larger group.

Pioneer Cable settles in Laker Country!

"Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Laker Country and the wonderful world of cable television."

As all high school sports fans know (and there are many in this area), if you don't see a play you may never see it again. Often heard comments in the high school spectator seats are, "I missed it! I'd like to see that play again" or "What happened?"

Well, for the next Laker basketball game you go to (or have to miss), you can watch it the next day on Cable TV.

Pioneer Cablevision, Caseville, will be broadcasting Laker home basketball games and selected away games.

The company first discussed airing Laker games two

months ago. They made the final settlement with the Laker School District just in time for last Friday's home opener. Athletic Director Bob Drury said, "The only request we have is that the home athletic events be tape delayed." The reason for the tape delay is so that the actual attendance at games won't dwindle.

Not only is Pioneer Cablevision interested in broadcasting athletic events, but also plays, assemblies, class lectures and guest speakers. This can be a positive experience for the school as well as the community, Drury notes and adds, "We see a lot of potential in this."

And of course, the Laker School District welcomes Pioneer Cable into Laker Country!

Caseville School In the News

By BRANDY PLOE

JUNIORS BECKY DUBEY and **Krista Colgin** have been named "Students of the Week" for Nov. 1-7 for their assistance at a CHS dance when one of the DJs experienced respiratory problems.

Both girls applied techniques they learned in their Health Occupations class at the Huron Area Skill Center unit paramedics arrived.

Published Authors! An anthology of short stories was composed by the ninth and 10th grade Modern English Class at CHS. The book has 45 pages with stories ranging from romance, adventure, science fiction to mystery. Teacher Mrs. Lynn Mayes and her class entitled the book, "Caseville Goes Creative."

A POMPON routine to the song "Conga" was a sensational hit at the first boys' basketball game on Dec. 4. Led by Coach Mrs. Sharon Burnor, 12 girls will perform a different dance routine at the half-time of varsity games.

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FRIDAY NIGHT MEN'S LEAGUE

Pigeon Lanes.....39
Active Feed.....34
Co-op Elevator.....31
Albrecht Auction Service.....23
Caseville Fruit Market.....22
Silver Dollar.....19

High Team: Co-op 2551 (813-880), Pigeon Lanes 2523 (885-839), Albrecht 2463 (931) and Active Feed 2417 (842).

High individuals: M. Swartzendruber 638 (256), D. Dunn 550 (215-211), D. McAlpine 551, D. Dubs 550 (210), R. Nowaczynk 521 (231), D. Boening 521, E. Shephard 518, O. Reed 517, C. Basinger 512 (204) and T. Swartzendruber 510.

Splits: 310 M. Swartzendruber, D. McAlpine, 571 L. Henne, 27 T. Cunden, H. Trost, 3-5-10 H. Trost and 2-5-7 N. Henne.

Laker Volleyball squads ready for '88



VARSITY: Pictured in front row, from left in photo above are Jackie Ginter and Lisa Buschlen. Middle, Tricia Learman, Paula Klosowski, Brenda Buschlen, Sarah Anthes, Tami Peyerk and Mahalia Pratt.

Back row, Coach Vocky Rothfuss, Amanda Scott, Marilyn Kranz, Tracie Henne, Connie Schulz, Jenny Warren and Traci Beer.

JVS: Shown at left are, front row from left, Heather Clark and Kathy Bollenbacher. Middle, Kathy Buschlen, Tammy Smith, Tracy Roestel, Brenda Beyer and Lynn Roestel. Back, Coach Vicki Rothfuss, Ellen Peyerk, Anne Sturm, Melissa Haley, Amy Therrian and Jenny Henne. AMY HEIDEN PHOTOS



BASKETBALL

Caseville Winter Sports

Caseville Eagles Basketball Coach Shawn McGuire is counting on good rebounding ability to bring his team honors this year.

With the advantage of two 6'4" forwards, Jim and Jeremy Steinman, and 6'5" center Chris Perry, McGuire says "We can control the tempo of the game with our rebounding, if we keep out of foul trouble."

A graduate of Western Colorado College, McGuire is in his first year of coaching at Caseville.

He is also counting on the talents of returning starters Don Bixman, Jeff Malett, and Jeff Siegfried to bring success to the Eagles.

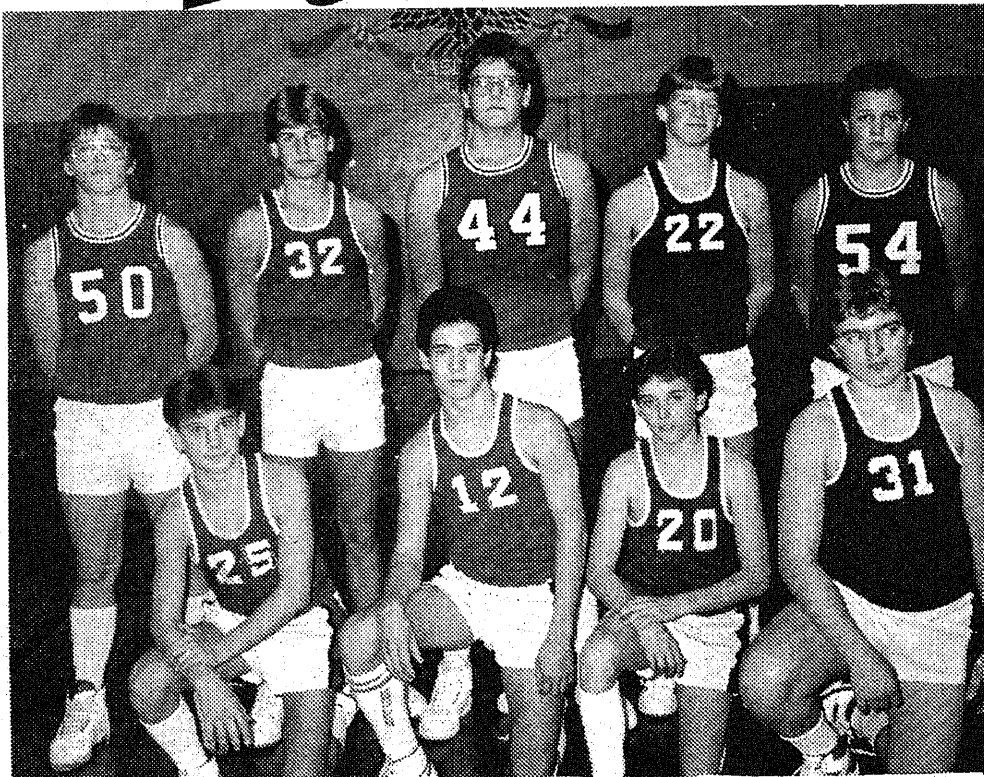
GO GO GO
Caseville
Eagles!!!



'87-'88 CASEVILLE VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM: Kneeling in front, from left, Jeff Malett and Frank LaFontaine.

Standing, Manager Dennis DeBeau, Charlie Morden, Troy Hartz, Jim Steinman, Chris Perry, Mike Henne, Don Bixman, Jeff Siegfried and Coach Shawn McGuire.

Missing from photo, Jeremy Steinman.



CASEVILLE JV BASKETBALL SQUAD: Kneeling, from left, Shawn Dunn, Dale Demotte, Todd Bond and Don Smith.

Standing, Bob Hoffman, Colby Cottick, Dan Bennett, Brian Kraus and Jeff Brunni.

Missing is Coach Bob Merlington.

Caseville Fall athletes honored

Caseville High School honored its athletes during the annual Fall Sports Awards program on Monday, Dec. 7.

The dinner was sponsored by the Class of 1991, under the direction of Mrs. Colleen Bednorek and Shawn McGuire, class advisors. The invocation and welcome address were given by George Bednorek, athletic director and high school principal.

The following awards were presented:

GOLF: (first year) Thomas Fibranz, Shawn Dunn, Jeffrey Brunni, Frank LaFontaine, Brian Kraus; (second year) Dale Demotte and Colby Cottick; Most Valuable Player, Colby Cottick; Most Improved Player, Thomas Fibranz; junior varsity, Daniel Depner and Michelle Connors.

JV GIRLS' BASKETBALL: Charlotte Bieri, Kimberly

Bailey, Penelope Murdoch, Machele Henne, Cheri Peter, Kari Jo Nevin, Teri Cassada, Teresa Hoffman and Kelli Kretzschmer; Most Valuable Players, Charlotte Bieri and Kimberly Bailey; Kari Jo Nevin and Kelli Kretzschmer; statisticians, Kelly Gembarski and Terri Power.

VARITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL: (first year) Amy Conrad, Carrie Zollner, Kelly Finley, Kirsten Hermanson and Brenda Lapka; (second year) Krista Colgin and Renee Simpson; (third year) Kimberly Madej; Most Valuable Player, Kim Madej; Most Improved Player, Kelly Finley; statisticians Teri Cassada and Terri Power; managers Marg Bailey and Jill Miller.

VARITY CHEERLEADING: (first year) Jodi Power, (second year) Vicky Karle; (football) Penelope Murdoch, Kari Jo Nevin, Kelly Gembarski, Christina Zlotkowski, Kimberly Bailey and Wendy Karle.

FOOTBALL: (first year) Christopher Bixman, Donald Bixman, Jeffrey Brunni, Jeffrey Oorbeck, Michael Crary, Brian Kraus and Donald Smith; (second year) Richard Simpson, Mark Mohr, Jeremy Steinman, Daniel Bennett and Jeffrey Malett; (third year) Gerald Langley, Michael Henne, Frank LaFontaine and N. Christopher Perry; Most Valuable Player, Jeffrey Oorbeck; Tony Dubey Inspirational Award, Brian Kraus; Oil Can Award, Mark Mohr; statisticians Amy Conrad and Krista Colgin; manager John Malett.

Caseville High School Principal George Bednorek thanked parents and friends of the athletic program for the support and for attending the program.

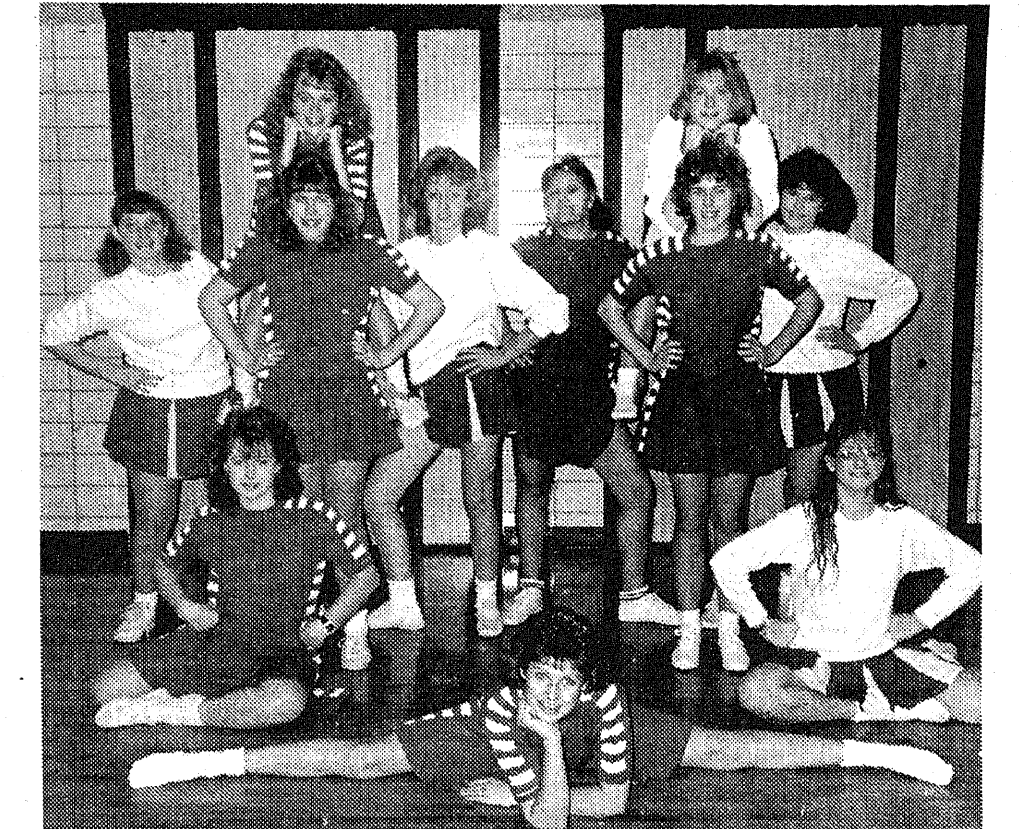
CHEERLEADING

Caseville Winter Sports



VARITY CHEERLEADERS: Bottom from left, Tina Konke, Krista Colgin, Kelly Finley, Penny Murdoch and Kari Jo Nevin.

In back, Captain Vicky Karle, Rebecca Dubey and Co-Captain AmySue Conrad.



JV CHEERLEADERS: Front, from left, Co-Captain Kelly Gembarski, Kelli Kretzschmer and Teresa Hoffman; middle, Wendy Karle, Terri Power, Becky Ousley, Christina Zlotkowski, Jodi Power and Kim Duffy; back row, Cheri Peter and Captain Kim Bailey.

PHOTOS BY AMY HEIDEN

Caseville Eagles 1987-88 Winter Sports Schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL		
Dec. 4	Port Hope	H 6:30
Dec. 11	Owen-Gage	A 6:30
Dec. 15	Akron-Fairgrove	H 6:15
Dec. 18	North Branch Wesleyan	A 6:00
Jan. 5	Peck	A 6:15
Jan. 8	Kingston	H 6:30
Jan. 12	Carsonville-Pt. Sanilac	A 6:15
Jan. 15	Deckerville	H 6:30
Jan. 19	North Huron	A 6:15
Jan. 22	Port Hope	H 6:30
Jan. 29	Owen-Gage	H 6:30
Feb. 2	Akron-Fairgrove	A 6:30
Feb. 5	North Branch Wesleyan	H 6:30
Feb. 9	Peck	H 6:15
Feb. 12	Kingston	A 6:30
Feb. 16	Carsonville-Pt. Sanilac	H 6:15
Feb. 19	Deckerville	A 6:30
Feb. 26	North Huron	H 6:30
Mar. 4	Port Hope	A 6:30
Mar. 7-12	Districts	

VOLLEYBALL		
Jan. 11	Bad Axe	A 6:30
Jan. 25	North Huron	H 6:15
Feb. 4	North Huron	A 6:15
Feb. 8	Deckerville	H 6:15
Feb. 11	Carsonville-Pt. Sanilac	A 6:15
Feb. 15	Akron-Fairgrove	H 6:15
Feb. 18	Port Hope	A 6:15
Feb. 22	Peck	H 6:15
Feb. 25	Kingston	A 6:15
Feb. 27	Caseville Invit. Tourney	H
Feb. 29	Owen-Gage	H 6:15
Mar. 5	Districts	

Jan. 26	Akron-Fairgrove	A 6:30
Jan. 28	North Huron	A 4:30
Feb. 1	Port Hope	H 6:00
Feb. 4	Akron-Fairgrove	H 6:30
Feb. 8	Akron-Fairgrove Tourney	A 4:00
Feb. 10	Akron-Fairgrove Tourney	A 4:00

**Games Played All Day

JUNIOR HIGH BOYS BASKETBALL

Jan. 11	North Huron	H 5:00
Jan. 14	Owen-Gage	H 6:00
Jan. 18	Port Hope	A 6:00

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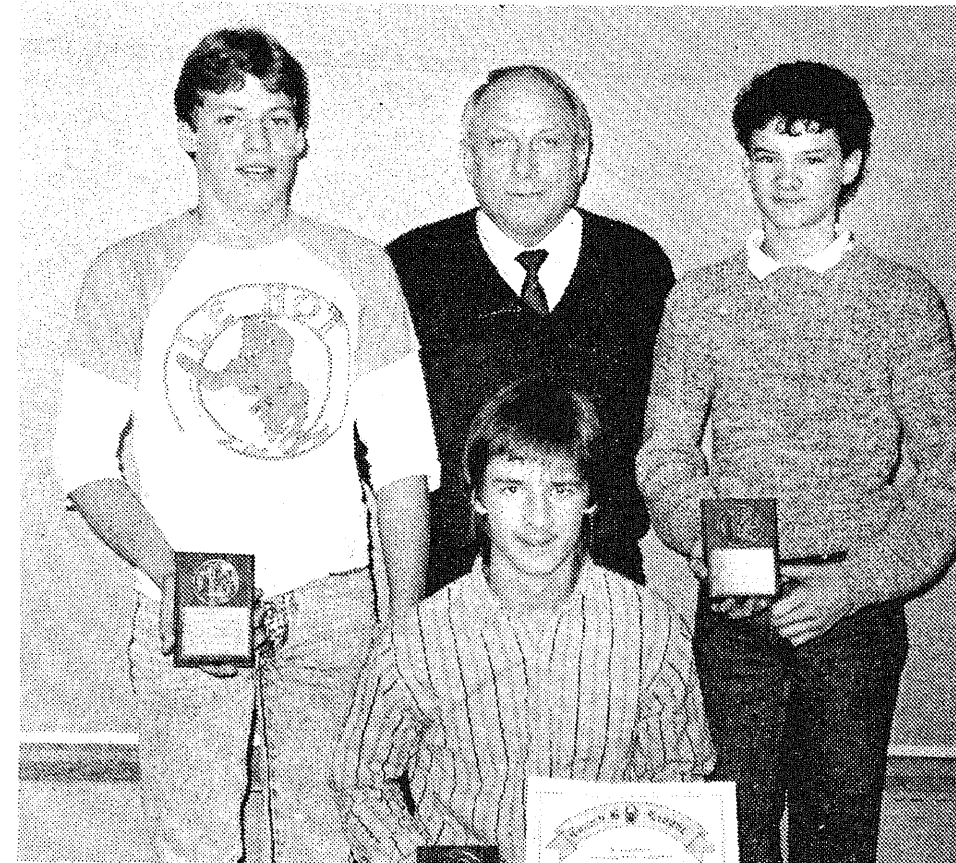
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Laker Fall athletes feted for accomplishments

THESE LAKER ATHLETES and all who participated in the Laker Fall Sports Program, parents and supporters of the Laker Sports teams, were recognized last Tuesday at the

annual Fall Sports Banquet at Laker High School. The following athletes earned special recognition:



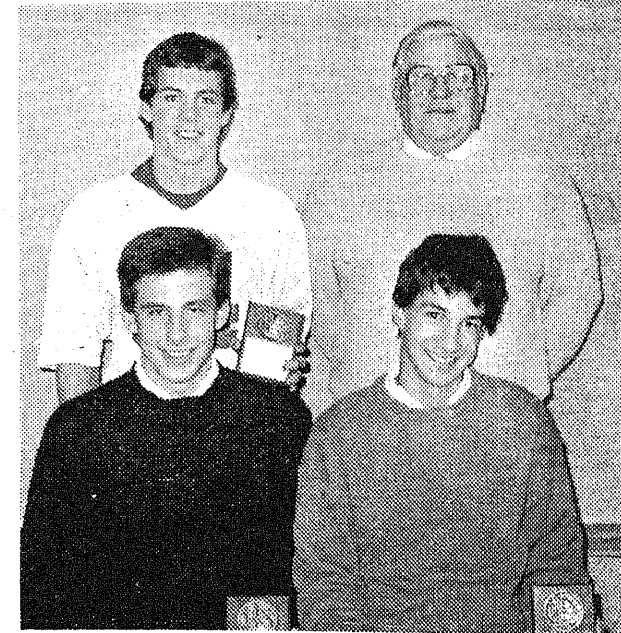
GIRLS' BASKETBALL: In front, Coach Paul Beachy; back row, Lisa Buschlen, Most Valuable; Vicki Winter, Most Determined and Connie Schulz, Most Improved.

ALL PHOTOS BY AMY CSANYI

SHOWN WITH GOLF COACH Duane Guenther are Steve Krohn, Most Determined, Brad Dubs, Most Valuable and Brian Williams, Most Improved.



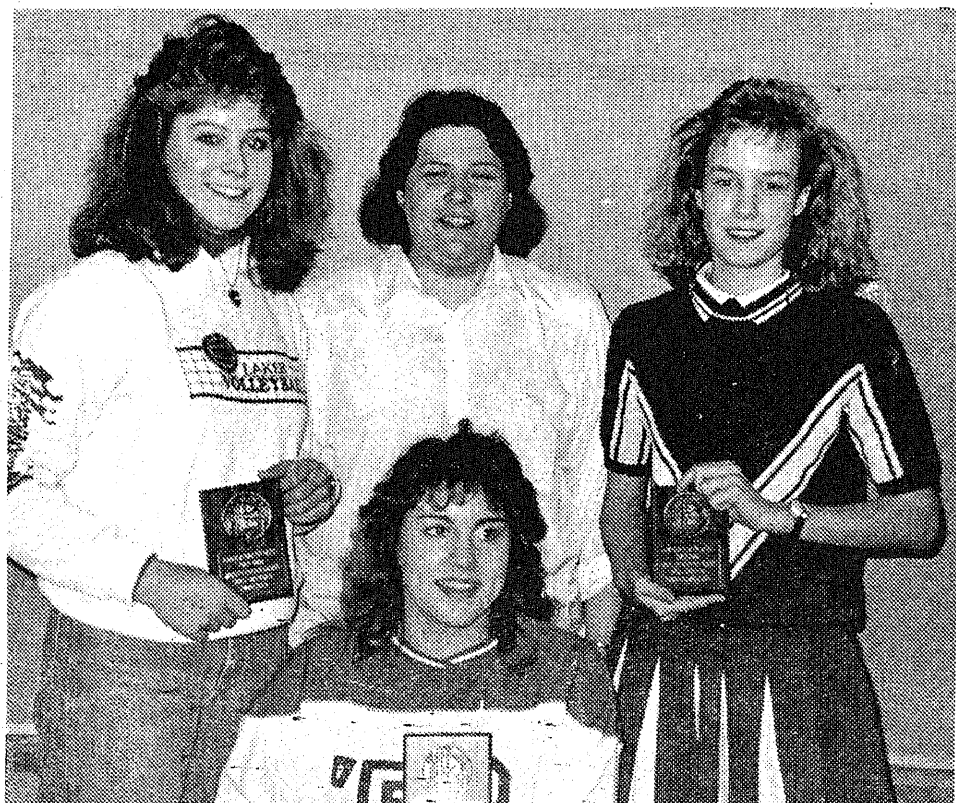
VARSITY FOOTBALL: In front, Kel Hill, Most Determined; back row, Jeff Sturm, Most Improved and Jay Anthes, Most Valuable.



JV FOOTBALL: In front, Brian Bushey, Most Improved and Billy McLellan, Most Valuable; back row, Dutch Seley and Coach Fran LoPage.



JV BASKETBALL: In front, Kathy Bollenbacher, Most Determined and Jodi Wisenbaugh, Most Improved; back row, Brenda Buschlen, Most Valuable and Coach Gordon Murphy.



VARSITY CHEERLEADERS: In front, Kris McBride, Most Valuable; back row, Traci Beer, Most Improved, Coach Lisa DiCamillo and Ginger Gabesch, Most Spirited.



JV CHEERLEADERS: In front, Malisa Burkeen, Most Valuable; back row, Brenda Muentener, Most Improved, Coach Lisa DiCamillo and Missy LaBelle, Most Spirited.

United in marriage

Karen Elizabeth Stout of Grandville and Mark Robert Quinn of Caseville pledged their lives together in Holy Matrimony before a congregation of 450 at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Ionia on Saturday, Nov. 28 at 2 p.m.

Father Ted LaMarre of Caseville, visiting priest from St. Roch Catholic Church, married the children of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Stout of Ionia and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Quinn of Caseville. The bride carried a bouquet of red carnations, white roses and stephanotis with ivy and baby's breath. The bride asked a friend, Gail Braun of Kalamazoo, to be maid of honor, wearing a red satin tea-length dress with a red lace overlay, a low back with red bow. She carried a nosegay with red carnations, white baby's breath strung with red and

white ribbons and lace. Included in the bridal party were bridesmaids Denise McDonough of Beaver Island, Cathy O'Mara of Saranac and Linda Phillips of Hubbardston, sisters of the bride; Teri Quinn of Kalamazoo, sister of the groom; Ellen Eustice of Sylvan Lake, Carol McBride of Northville and Joni McArthur of Orleans, all friends of the bride.

They were attired identically to the honor attendant, each wearing a red bow in her hair. Daniel Quinn of Uby served as best man for his brother, assisted by groomsmen Tim Quinn of Chicago, Ill., brother of the groom and friends Dan Fortsch and Jeff Vallier, both of Caseville, Dave Vallier of

Detroit, Jim Glassford of Plymouth, Wis., Jim Barrett of Tempe, Ariz. and Larry Watterworth of Lansing. The mother of the bride wore a red silk dress with a high neckline and bow. The mother of the groom chose a black dress for the wedding. The bride's parents hosted a reception at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Ionia, where the newlyweds greeted friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Quinn plan a December wedding trip to San Diego, Coronado and Carmel, Calif., before returning to their home in Grandville.

Special guests at the wedding were Lindsay McDonough, niece of the bride, who handed out wed-

It's a girl!

ding programs. Ann and Ken Felice of Ionia, aunt and uncle of the bride and George and Colleen Bednerek of Caseville, friends of the bride and groom and who also served as master and mistress of the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Smeader of Pigeon have welcomed a daughter, Shannon Nicole, following her birth on Sunday, Dec. 6 at Saginaw General Hospital. Shannon weighed 9 lbs. 11 oz. and measured 20 inches long at her 4:58 a.m. birth.

Maternal grandparents are Rev. and Mrs. Robert Garrett of Port Austin. Paternal grandparents are Eugene Smeader of Port Austin and Norma Lange of Mt. Clemens. Proud maternal great-grandparents are Verla Garrett of Saginaw, Jennie Paige of Jackson, Howard Paige of Pleasant Lake and paternal great-grandparents include Earl Smeader of Port Sanilac and Dorcas Ginn of Vanceburg, Ky. Shannon joins a brother, Joshua, age five, at home.

Care List

Patients in Scheurer Hospital, Pigeon, on Monday, Dec. 14:

PIGEON: Mary Ropp, Frank Bliszczak.

SEBEWAING: Leon Gruehn, Pearl Hallock.

CASEVILLE: Ann Power, Master Alex Denlar.

ELKTON: Minnie Miller, RAY PORT: Catherine Pantelis, David R. Thiek, Master Nathan Brown.



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Crop report shows variation in growing conditions in '87

Huron County's 1987 crop report was issued last week by the Cooperative Extension Service, directed by Jim LeCureux, agricultural agent who was engineer for organizing, researching, tabulating, computing and publishing the project.

Labeled officially as the 1987 Integrated Farm Management and Crop Production Report, the 34-page booklet reports on a variety of projects conducted during the year in Huron County by CES.

Among projects carried out, with MSU specialists, are surveys and studies of phosphorus reduction, nitrate levels in soils, sub-irrigation studies and tillage demonstration.

CORN REPORT: Concerning the corn program, LeCureux said that farmers are looking for consistently high-yielding

varieties produced under a variety of soil, weather and tillage conditions. "To find these results, we put our plots into a number of locations with varying conditions and observe which remain most productive," he stated.

To point out variables, LeCureux told that 1987 growing season was highly unusual, in that there were 2,658 growing degree days, which was more than 450 above the 10-year average of 2,200 degree days.

"That much more heat, coupled with a rainfall average far below the 10-year average, naturally causes more stress and lowers production," he added.

SIMILAR MOISTURE: As the rainfall in 1987 was 14 inches, compared with 17 inches on the average, the

difference was not great, he said.

However, about 2/3 of those 14 inches came in August and September, when pollinating had already occurred and the crop was already formed.

"The yield had been determined before we got the rain, so the added inches didn't influence the

crop very much," according to LeCureux.

"We saw corn that was eight feet tall, and another plant, a scant few feet away, was only three feet tall. That shows how great the variables were," he said.

Clearly, the rain came too late to help the crop, he summarized.

STUDYING: By having many plots, on various kinds of soil under different climatic conditions, LeCureux hopes to get a well-rounded picture of how the different varieties perform.

This was the first of a three-year study of corn production under extreme and varying conditions, and he expects to have many more solid reports after the entire study is completed.

WATER RESEARCH: Of considerable interest will be the sub-irrigation study which Huron CES conducted and reported in the booklet.

Two farms were involved in that project, the Jim Murdoch farm of Pigeon --

which has Shebeon and Kilmanagh loam soils and tile spacing of 60 feet -- and the Al and Don Long farm, Bad Axe -- with Kilmanagh loam, and where tile spacing is 25 feet.

On the Murdoch farm, 1.28 inches of water were applied, and on the Long farm 4.5 inches.

In the report, rainfall and applied water are compared, and yields are listed. LeCureux said that costs are now being balanced against returns, and then the material will be fed into a computer.

"What we're trying to do is to establish some economic break-even point to determine when and how far irrigation must go to provide the best margin of profit," he concluded.

'What a difference a year makes'

Sugar beet growers receive first payment for crop

With 55% of the 1987 sugar beet crop processed, growers in the Michigan Sugar Company area are receiving the initial payment of \$36.6 million for their beets.

Checks are traditionally sent out Dec. 15, based on \$21 per ton for the first payment, determined by sugar content which averaged 16% and sales revenues from pulp and molasses.

THE NUMBERS: Michigan Sugar Company growers harvested 85,000 acres in 1987, producing 1.74 million

tons of beets -- an increase of 365,000 tons over last year.

"1987 is a perfect example of what a difference one year can make," said Ernest Flegenheimer, company president.

"Last year growers couldn't harvest 17,000 acres of beets, due to flooding, and sugar content was lower, as well."

"This year we have seen a complete turnaround," he added, pointing out that the weather cooperated well and that factory operations have been extremely efficient.

RECORD DAY: The president said the company sliced an all-time record 14,355 tons of beets in 24 hours on Oct. 24.

It is expected that processing will be completed in early February.

Robert Young, vice-president of Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers Association, said that the positive news is echoed by growers. "This year is a definite improvement over last year," with about 20 tons of beets per acre, adding that the entire industry appears to be coming back well from the adversities of 1986.

Growers in the Sebewaing Plant district produced 530,000 tons of beets, about 80,000 tons more than in 1986.

Thumb club news

ELKTON SENIOR CITIZENS

President Mike Renn welcomed 34 members and guests to the Dec. 8 meeting of the Elkton Senior Citizens.

Ray English led in praying "The Lord's Prayer," preceding the potluck dinner.

Harold and Beatrice Gregor led group singing following dinner, opening with "God Bless America" and the pledge to the flag. Audrey Rimmer and Carl Kuntzman were honored with "The Birthday Song." Treasurer Fern English read a thank-you note from Interfaith's Council of A-Child Project and gave the November treasurer's report. Greetings from several Florida members were also announced.

Plans for the Christmas dinner on Dec. 15 were finalized. No meetings are scheduled on Dec. 22 or Dec. 29.

A special invitation to the Bad Axe meal site for the Christmas dinner on Dec. 17 and the birthday dinner on Dec. 18 was announced by President Renn.

Bessie and Roy Furness presented a program of instrumental music using the ukelele and harmonica, including square dance numbers and old favorites such as "Red Wing."

Mary Day is chairman for the Dec. 15 program.

ELKTON WOMAN'S CIVIC CLUB

The Elkton Woman's Civic Club met at the home of Della Trudgen on Thursday with 13 members present.

President Margaret Taylor opened the meeting with the Club Collect and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following a short business meeting, a Christmas Open Meeting was held with Della Trudgen as program chairman. With the theme, "You Are The Program," each member was asked to come prepared to have a part.

Rosa Mae Krohn gave the welcome with appropriate gestures. This was a welcome which her daughter had given at a church program 25 years ago.

Other numbers included original poems, songs, a guessing game, a skit using two Bing Crosby numbers presented by "Bing" and "The Andrew Sisters."

A short review of the book, "The Best Christmas Ever" was given by Phyllis Snider. The program concluded with the singing of "The 12 Days of Christmas."

The hostess served a traditional Christmas lunch. The club will recess during the winter months, resuming April 7 at the home of Nancy Rupprecht.





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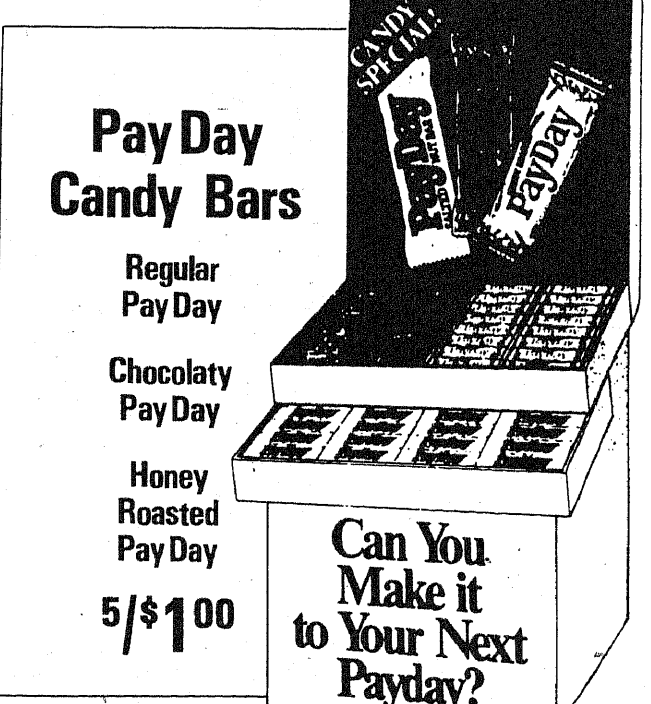
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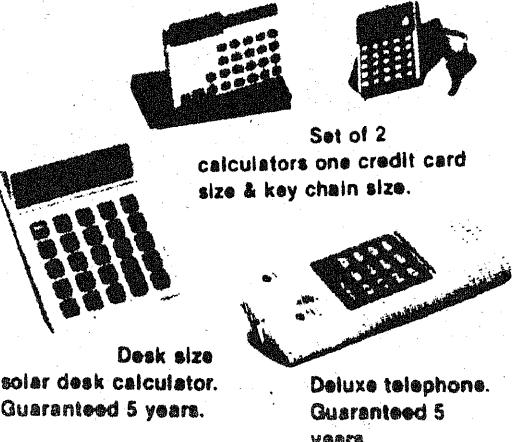
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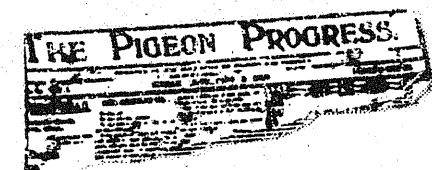
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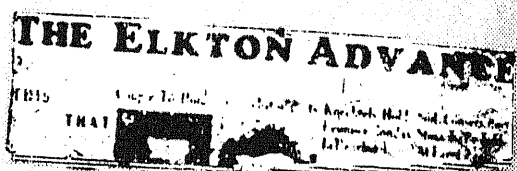
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The Past in Print...



90 YEARS AGO
DEC. 10, 1897
John Moore, who recently opened his cigar and candy store in Pigeon, is now serving hot coffee and lunches.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Link of Linkville visited at the John Link home, Pigeon, for several days this week.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Raworth, Pigeon, a daughter on Wednesday.

Frank Heineman, one of Pigeon's prominent farmers, is visiting in St. Clair County this week.

H.H. Gould, Bay Port, was in Pigeon Monday.

The Markets: wheat 86c; oats 20c; peas 35c; rye 40c; beans per bu. 60c; hay \$3 per ton; corn on ear 15c bu.; butter 16c; eggs 16c; lard 6c per lb.

80 YEARS AGO
DEC. 13, 1907
Henry and Herman Nischulz have returned to Pigeon from Oklahoma. They are well pleased with the country and expect to move there in the near future.

The barn on the William Steinman farm in McKinley Twp. was destroyed by fire Wednesday morning. Seven hogs, grain and winter feed were also destroyed.

300 railroad cars of sugar beets have been shipped from Owendale this season.

The Caro Sugar Co. has erected a weigh station at Patton's Crossing.

John Glosser and family, who moved to Detroit a few months ago, have returned to Pigeon to make their home.

Some prices quoted in Pigeon merchants' ads: 22 lbs. granulated sugar \$1; 24 lbs. light brown sugar \$1; 3 lb. pkg. raisins 11c; lb. pkg. currants 9c.

70 YEARS AGO
DEC. 14, 1917
Pigeon people raised \$316 for the YMCA war fund.

Babcock, the Pigeon junk man, is paying \$12 a ton for old iron and 5c a pound for old rubbers.

McElmurray & Elenbaum have taken over the agency of the Maxwell car at Pigeon.

Michigan's Ex-Governor Fred M. Warner was a business caller in Pigeon Wednesday.

Mrs. W.A. Schriber returned to Pigeon Saturday from a week's visit with her

daughter, Letha, in Ann Arbor.

60 YEARS AGO
DEC. 9, 1927
About 40 relatives gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Lucht Sr. of Pigeon Tuesday evening to help them celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They have seven children and 10 grandchildren.

Members of the Pigeon Methodist Sunday School gave William C. Soldan a surprise party in the church basement Monday evening in honor of his 47th birthday. He has been superintendent of the Sunday School for eight years.

Dr. and Mrs. F.C. Wiley of Pigeon were in Bay City on business Thursday.

The sending of Christmas cards is one of the newest of the customs associated with the celebration of Christmas and the Christmas card is celebrating its 81st birthday this year.

Five members of the Pigeon High football team placed on the All-Huron County Eleven. They are Paul, Schmidt, Wurtz, Wilfong and Leipprandt, Kretzschmer, Schumacher and Beck won places on the second team.

50 YEARS AGO
DEC. 10, 1937
New officers of the Wild Fowl Bay Chapter of the Izaak Walton League were elected at the banquet at Hotel Heasty, Pigeon, Monday evening. They are Dr. Henderson, Oakley W. Best, Dr. W.A. Belding, Clifton Bailey, Ray Thelan and Omar Shtler.

Mrs. Christopher Hildie, 95, nee Mary McLeod, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William Wolfe, Winsor Twp. She leaves two daughters and a son.

Mrs. George Diefenbach, 46, nee Clara Schmidt, formerly of Pigeon, died in Detroit. She is survived by three children.

A fire department was organized at Elkton this week. George Hartman was selected as fire chief and other members are Norman Anderson, Milton Knechtel, Al Knechtel, Kenneth Ginter, Oswald Lumpf, Del Protzman, Cecil Watterworth, Charles Miller and Joseph Roberts.

40 YEARS AGO
DEC. 12, 1947
All people in the Pigeon

area are invited to the Community Christmas program Thursday night, Dec. 18 in Pigeon High auditorium, sponsored by Pigeon School, the PTA and Village of Pigeon.

The Pigeon High School band will play and there will be an operetta and an all-grade chorus. Santa will have gift bags for the youngsters.

The newly formed Huron Clyde Hill Breeders Assn. for dairy herd improvement, made up of Alfred Sturm, E.T. Leipprandt and Ervin Buchholz, Pigeon, Henry Hewitt, Elkton and Carl Sieland, Caro, purchased a 50% interest in the bull Clyde Hill Rex Zuba Tidy Lad from the Clyde Hill farm herd of the Benedictine Order of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Mo.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Haist, Pigeon, entertained about 60 relatives and friends at their home in honor of their golden wedding anniversary.

Specials at Jean Allan Shoppe, Pigeon: one rack dresses, formerly \$7.95 at \$1.95; Hats \$1 and up; \$7.95 dresses, two for \$12.95; \$4.95 dresses, two for \$7.95. ADV.

James E. McBride, 92 of Chandler Twp., passed away Monday. Besides his widow, he leaves five sons and three daughters.

30 YEARS AGO
DEC. 12, 1957
Winners of the three main prizes Saturday in the first week of the Pigeon merchants' gift award program were Bette Dubs, bicycle; Ed Bergman, portable TV and Harold Ropp, tricycle.

Members of Pigeon Rotary Club will hold a Rotary Ann Christmas party next Monday evening at the Blue Water Inn, Caseville.

About 200 patrons of Route 2, Elkton, met Saturday in the Elkton School to honor Glen Wiley for his 39 years of service with the Post Office. Charles Krohn was master of ceremonies.

Area students named to the honor roll at Central Michigan College, Mt. Pleasant are Ruth Bedford of

Pigeon and Ruby Gremel of Sebewaing.

20 YEARS AGO
DEC. 14, 1967
An open house will be held Sunday, Dec. 17 at the Ed Bergman farm for the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Bergman, Pigeon. They have two daughters, two sons, 19 grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Officers of the newly chartered Caseville Kiwanis Club are George McKenna, Harold Lankey, Harry Lombard, Manley Fay and Melvin Dutcher.

Miss Cynthia Ankam, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Ankam, Pigeon, has graduated from Lansing Business University and is employed at Knapp's in Lansing.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Thick Sr., Pigeon, were surprised Nov. 28 by family members in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Miss Brook Ann Henne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Devere Henne, Bay Port and Brian A. Stock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stock, Sebewaing, were married Saturday, Dec. 2 in Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sebewaing.

44 YEARS AGO
DEC. 2, 1943
Sgt. Wilmer Spaeth has informed his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Renn and his brother Louis Spaeth, Elkton, of his safe arrival at an overseas destination.

News was received by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Severn, Elkton, that Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Ponton of Drakes Branch, Va., are parents of a son, born Tuesday, Nov. 30.

37 YEARS AGO
NOV. 30, 1950
Tuesday night Elkton High School basketball team played Uby here at home. Elkton won 44-34, in which Lyle Thompson sparked the drive with 12 points. Elmer Majeske was high scorer for the losers with 12 points also.

As part of his regular college training in elementary

Yule busy for Sweet Adelines

Local Sweet Adelines have been busy of late, entertaining residents of Four Seasons Nursing Home and the Huron County Medical Care Facility, both in Bad Axe, and members of the County District of Michigan Townships Association.

In addition, according to Marian Rathje of Lake Huron Chorus of Sweet Adelines, Inc., the chapter has also produced a quartet dubbed "Lakeshore Harmony."

Quartet members sang for the Pigeon Chamber of Commerce Sunday Open House and for the Lovelight Tree Lighting Ceremony at Huron Memorial Hospital, Bad Axe.

Future quartet dates include entertaining Sebewaing Rotary Club and St. Paul's Lutheran Ladies' Aid in Unionville.

The Lake Huron Chorus will not meet during December. Next rehearsal will be at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 4, at Huron County Medical Care Facility, Bad Axe.

Financial News & Information...
1987 Tax Cutter
Year-End Tax Planning That Can Save You Money...

With 1987 drawing to a close, your thoughts probably aren't on taxes. But they should be. A little bit of year-end tax planning could save you money come April 15.

And that is true despite tax reform. According to the Michigan Association of CPAs, the Tax Reform Act of 1986 did not eliminate all tax breaks. In fact, there are a number that remain intact. While it may be too late to take advantage of all the tax breaks, there are a few things you can do to save money on your taxes.

Contribute to your retirement plan. Both 401(k) plans and IRAs retain their tax deferred status with some new limitations. If a 401(k) plan is offered where you work, you can contribute up to a maximum of \$7,000 per year. That's down from \$30,000, but still represents a tidy deduction. If you're in the 28% bracket, you could save up to \$1,960 on your tax bill and generate tax-deferred interest income.

The IRA fared a bit worse under tax reform, but can still offer a way to shelter income from taxes.

If neither you nor your spouse (if married) are covered by a company pension plan, the rules remain the same: You can contribute (and deduct from your taxable income) up to \$2,000 of your earnings if single, \$2,250 if married and your spouse doesn't work, or \$4,000 if married and both you and your spouse earned at least \$2,000. If you are covered by a retirement plan at work but your adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$25,000 or less if single or \$40,000 or less if married, you can still take advantage of the full contribution and deduction.

If, however, one or both of you are covered by a retirement plan at work, and earn more than \$25,000 if single or \$40,000 if married, new rules apply. For every \$1,000 above those amounts, you lose \$200 in IRA deductions. So, if you are single, have an adjusted gross income of \$30,000 and contribute \$2,000 to an IRA, you can only deduct \$1,000. If your adjusted gross income is \$35,000 and you are single, or \$50,000 and you are married, you lose the IRA deduction completely.

Your best bet is to take a look at what you will probably earn for the year and base your contribution on the deductibility. Keep in mind that a married couple with an AGI of \$40,000 could save \$1,200 off their tax bill with a \$4,000 IRA contribution.

Accelerate Deductible Expenses. Certain expenses are still deductible under tax reform and it may be to your benefit to pre-pay some of those expenses.

Interest expense is a good example. As you may already know, "personal" interest deductions are being phased out over the next 4 years. If you have an auto loan, credit card balances or any other outstanding consumer loan, you may want to pay at least a part of these early. The interest on such loans is only 65% deductible this year, but the deduction drops to 40% next year. And the tax rates are lower next year so the deduction will be worth even less.

Tax reform eliminated the deduction for state and local sales tax, but property taxes on your home remain fully deductible. If it can help reduce your federal tax bill, you may want to pay at least a portion of next year's property taxes this year.

Medical and miscellaneous expenses may also help.

"Certain expenses are still deductible under tax reform and it may be to your benefit to pre-pay some of those expenses."

Some miscellaneous expenses can also be prepaid, although they are now deductible only to the extent that they exceed 2% of your adjusted gross income. Union or professional dues are a good example.

If none of these deductions is available to you, you can always make a charitable contribution. Remember, however, that charitable contributions are only deductible for those who itemize their deductions.

Before you make any move to reduce your taxes, CPAs advise you to consult your tax planner. He or she will best be able to tailor a tax strategy that will fit your needs.



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- Save as much as hundreds of thousands in taxes the first year alone depending on your income.
- Gain a perspective you may not now be receiving from your accountant and other financial advisors.

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Sebewaing Pigeon

Something To Think About

REASONS FOR AUTOPSY

Unlike the impression or yes, if some kind of foul play was involved, television, most autopsies are not performed because a coroner or medical examiner is charged with investigating all unnatural or suspicious deaths. He may be called if a person has died an unexpected, or unexpected, or the cause is bizarre, unexplained, or a rare or highly researched curd without a doctor disease. In such instances, present, or if there is suspicion of violence or murder, autopsy.

In some instances, an autopsy may be of help to the deceased's descendant's as when it affords early detection of a hereditary disposition toward a certain disease. Occasionally, a family will be unsure why a patient died. They will order an autopsy to see if physician negligence had anything to do with death;

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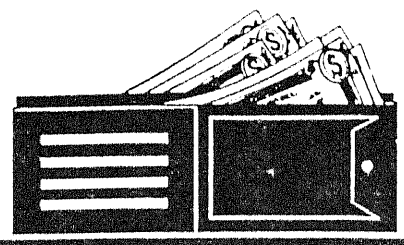
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Financial News & Information....

1987 Tax Cutter



Don't Let Spending Holiday Green Make You Blue....

If you haven't already begun your holiday shopping, you've probably at least started thinking about it - haven't you? Well, last year's Tax Reform Act (TRA) has given you something more to think about than what to get your Aunt Kathy.

According to the Michigan Association of CPAs, you might want to start thinking about how to pay for those holiday purchases in light of the phasing out of the income tax interest deduction for consumer debt.

This year, only 65% of consumer debt interest (from credit cards, auto loans, personal loans, etc.) is deductible. Next year it drops to 40%; in 1989, 20%;

10% in 1990, and is finally eliminated in 1991.

Before you start calculating 65% of the interest on your holiday purchases, be aware that the 40% figure goes into effect January 1. So if you don't pay your credit card bills in full by that date, you'll only be able to deduct 40% of our interest charges. And the deduction will be worth less because of generally lower tax rates.

HOW TO PAY

The best way to pay for holiday gifts is, of course, with cash. Better yet, pay with cash that you saved over the course of the year expressly for holiday shopping. Well, hindsight is 20-20. Still, if you can afford to pay with cash, you prob-

ably should - even if it means dipping into your savings a little more than you wanted to.

Keep in mind that even after tax considerations, an 18% credit card interest rate in 1987 will cost you about 14% if you are in the 35% tax bracket. Your savings would need to generate at least that 14% for it to make sense to use your credit card.

A home equity loan is a possibility; after all, the interest on it is generally still deductible. But think carefully about whether you want to put your home up as collateral for holiday gifts. Because that is, in effect, what you would be doing.

There are a few other drawbacks to using a home equity loan to pay for holiday shopping. First is the lead time required to obtain the loan. And there probably will be closing costs involved. In addition, the interest deduction on home equity loans may be limited and Congress may limit it still further in the

future.

The TRA allows you to deduct interest only on loans up to the original plus the cost of any improvements you have made. For example: If you purchased your home for \$50,000, made \$5,000 worth of improvements, and owe \$35,000, you could borrow up to \$20,000 and deduct the interest cost. The interest on any amount above the \$20,000 is only deductible if used for medical, educational or home improvement purposes.

If you've only recently purchased your home, you may not have built up that much equity on the original purchase price because most of your mortgage payment goes to pay interest. In short, a home equity loan may not be the way for you to pay for holiday shopping.

IF YOU MUST USE CREDIT

If credit is your only alternative, there are a number of steps you can take to make it less expen-

sive. First, if you use a credit card, use a card that has a low interest rate. Even though other interest rates are down, many credit cards still command 18% interest or more. But

there are some lower-cost cards out there. And be sure to pay your bill off as soon as possible. Paying the monthly minimum is tempting, but expensive.

Another possibility is a loan from a credit union if you belong to one. Generally, the credit union's interest rate will be lower than that of a credit card and probably lower than most banks.

USE YOUR HEAD

If you must use credit for your holiday shopping, also use your head. Every dollar you spend will eventually have to be paid back - with interest. Set spending limits for yourself and stick to them. Avoid the temptation to buy something just because you have a roll of money in your pocket or can put it on your credit card. And, while you're not at the mall, stop by your bank and open a holiday account. That way, you won't have to borrow to pay for next year's presents.



IRA'S

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9 1/4 %

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Have You Made Your IRA Contribution For 1987?

IRA Contributions For Tax-Year 1987 Can Be Made Until April 15, 1988. However, Is Your Contribution 100% Deductible?

If neither you or your spouse is an active participant in an employer-sponsored retirement plan, your IRA contribution is 100% deductible.

But if you or your spouse are active participants in an employer-sponsored retirement plan, your IRA contribution deduction is based on your adjusted gross income. The chart below is intended to act as a guide in giving you an estimate of the deductible amount of your contribution. Contact your tax consultant for further information.

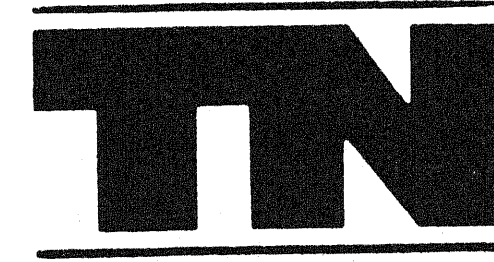
ESTIMATED TAX DEDUCTION FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS			
FILING STATUS		ALLOWABLE DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION	ALLOWABLE NONDEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION
SINGLE*	MARRIED JOINT*		
\$25,000	\$40,000	\$2,000	0
\$26,000	\$41,000	\$1,800	\$200
\$27,000	\$42,000	\$1,600	\$400
\$28,000	\$43,000	\$1,400	\$600
\$29,000	\$44,000	\$1,200	\$800
\$30,000	\$45,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
\$31,000	\$46,000	\$800	\$1,200
\$32,000	\$47,000	\$600	\$1,400
\$33,000	\$48,000	\$400	\$1,600
\$34,000	\$49,000	\$200	\$1,800
\$35,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$2,000

*Adjusted Gross income is your taxable income from all sources including any taxable Social Security benefits and adjusted for passive loss limitations.

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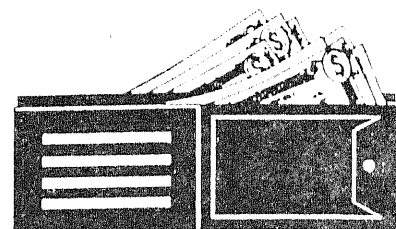
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Financial News & Information

1987 Tax Cutter



All Credit Cards Are Not Created Equal...

The offer sounds pretty good: A VISA or Mastercard with an annual percentage rate (APR) of only 14.5%, and an annual fee of \$20. But wait, here's another: no annual fee, but a 16% APR. Wait! Here's still another, and another and another.

It can all get confusing. As the deduction for credit card interest is phased out under tax reform, many banks are cutting card costs to attract new customers - or are they? Comparing different credit cards has become like comparing apples to oranges.

According to the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants, you may not need to compare different credit card offers. In all, all you may need to do is decide what is best for you, apples or oranges.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are 3 factors to consider in deciding whether a credit card fits your needs: annual percentage rate, annual fee and length of the "grace" period. The relative importance of each of these 3 greatly depends upon how you use your credit card.

As you probably already know, APR is the rate of interest a bank charges on your credit card balance. You probably also know that different banks charge different rates. What you may not know, however, is that the banks may also use different methods of calculating the interest

and that some methods cost you more than others.

The first method, and the best for you, is the adjusted balance method. With this method, the interest charge is based on the amount you owe after subtracting your payment from the previous balance. For example, if the monthly rate is 1.5% (18% annually) and your previous balance was \$500 and you pay \$400 on the account, the 1.5% interest on \$100 yields an interest charge of \$1.50 for the month.

The worst method for you

is the previous balance method in which you get no credit for payments made during the billing period. Instead, you are charged interest on your balance at the end of the previous month. So, using the same example, your interest cost for the month would be 1.5% of \$500 or \$7.50 - a full \$6 more than the adjusted balance method.

The average daily balance method falls somewhere in between the 2. In this case, the bank adds your balance for each day in the billing period

and then divides it by the number of days in the billing period. If you made that \$400 payment on the 15th day of a 30-day cycle, your total balances for the month are \$9,000 (15 days at \$500 plus 15 days at \$100.) Dividing the \$9,000 by 30 days, your average daily balance is \$300. As a result, your interest cost for the month is 1.5% of \$300 or \$4.50.

As you can see, the difference is interest costs can add up quickly if you carry a substantial balance on your card. To find out

how the interest on your card is determined, look at the section of your monthly statement where interest costs are calculated. It will state the method by which those costs are calculated. If you are looking at obtaining a new card, ask to see the installment agreement or call the bank's customer service department.

TIME ON YOUR SIDE

Another factor that can greatly affect your interest costs is the grace period allowed. The grace period is the time between when an item is posted to your

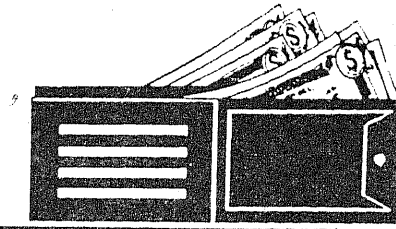
account and when interest is charged against it. Like interest rates and calculations, grace periods can vary greatly from bank to bank.

Some banks will start charging interest as soon as the item is posted to your account. If it gets posted on the first day, you'll be charged for a full month of interest before you even get a chance to pay for it. Look for a bank card that gives you a 25-day grace period. That

See CREDIT CARDS - On Next Page

Financial News & Information...

1987 Tax Cutter



Home Loan Points May Not Win You A Deduction...

If you bought or refinanced your home this year, you should be aware of the

rules surrounding the deductibility of certain costs incurred in the process of

financing house points.

According to the Michigan Association of CPAs, home mortgage or equity loan points are generally deductible over the life of the loan.

The term "points" is sometimes used to describe certain charges paid by a borrower. They are also called origination fees, maximum loan charges, or premium charges. If the payment of any of these charges is only for the use

of money, it could be deductible.

Points are treated as prepaid interest and are generally deducted over the period of the loan unless they are incurred on a loan to buy or improve your principal residence. In this case, points are deductible in the year paid, provided:

1. The loan is secured by your principal residence;
2. The charging of points is an established business practice in your geogra-

phic area in which the loan is made;

3. The points paid did not exceed the numbers of points generally charged in your area.

In order to get a deduction for points, the loan document should clearly establish that the points were not paid for any specific services that the lender performed in connection with your account under the loan contract. Separate charges should be indicated on the loan agreement. In addition, you should write a separate check for the points. Don't have the points paid out of the mortgage proceeds as they may then become deductible over the term of the loan.

To determine the annual deduction allowed for points spread over the life of the loan, the IRS, as a matter of "administrative convenience," allows most

See HOME DEDUCTION - On Next Page



CREDIT CARDS - Continued From Previous Page

way, you can pay your account in full each month without being charged for interest.

At one time, only travel and entertainment cards charged an annual fee, but no more. Generally bank credit cards now charge from \$15 to \$50 and more for the use of their cards. So, you need to shop around. A number of banks offer free cards that really are free. But beware: Some banks promise "no annual fee" but then charge a transaction fee for each purchase or a

monthly fee for any month in which the card is used. If you use your card frequently, the "no annual fee" charges can amount to more than you pay for an annual fee elsewhere.

WHAT IT ALL MEANS

Unless you can find a card that combines a low or no annual fee, a low interest rate and a long grace period, you must be willing to compromise a bit. If you consistently carry a balance on your card, you will primarily be concerned with a low interest rate. But also look for one with a

moderate annual fee and a grace period.

If, however, you tend to pay your balance each month, look for a card with a longer grace period and lower annual fee. The interest rate will be secondary. After all, you generally won't incur interest charges. A card kept primarily for emergencies or for check-cashing identification should have a low annual fee. If, in fact, you don't charge that frequently, you may want to get a card that charges a transaction fee instead.

To find the banks that charge the lowest interest rates, send \$1.50 in check or money order for the "Low Interest Rate List" to BankCard Holders of America, 333 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003. A "No Annual Fee List" is also available for \$1.50.

CPAs advise you to identify your needs before you choose a credit card and then select one that best fits those needs. And before ordering a card, be sure to read the credit agreement carefully.



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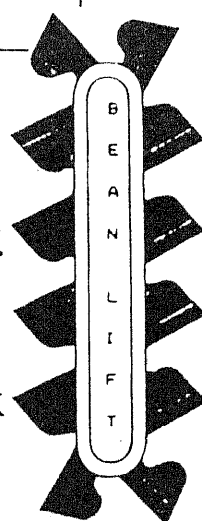
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