Local schools hit hardest in state; seek fund change

By AMY HEIDEN
All of Huron County and the Thumb Area, school districts are seeing their revenues decline as farm land values continue their free fall.

Schools are being faced with tough choices—possible staff cuts, transportation cuts, elimination of extracurricular activities or reduced academic programs.

HAPPENING HERE: The Elkton - Pigeon - Bay Port “Lucas” School District is no different—in fact, according to a recent Michigan State University study, this is one of the hardest hit by declining land values anywhere in the state.

In 1998, the Lucas Board sought a 10-mill increase over the two mills that issue was defeated at the polls. This fall, a proposal of a 7.75-mill increase for one year, but this year that millage expires this year.

ENDING LAND VALUES: As the Lucas Board, in many districts, the value of the property has declined in recent years. Farmland in 1986 was valued at 27% of SEVs in the Lucas District, but proposed figures for 1998 show that figure falling to 26%.

Land values have dropped due in part to increased competition overseas for grain products, driving down commodity prices, leaving farmers with little cash to spare for land purchases.

Five years ago, prices for land were much higher because farmers had more money to spend. Farm land sold anywhere from $2000 to $2000 per acre, depending on demand.

New, land area is currently selling for about $100 an acre, and experts agree that prices may go even lower in the future. But those experts also say that a turnaround will come within the next two or three years and land values should stabilize.

MORE AHEAD: The study says property tax assessments must not be adjusted as fast as land values have fallen, so even if cuts in the tax base may still happen, assessments are usually made by a study of land sales within the last two years, but the county’s Equalization Department has been using a one-year figure recently, which are more current. So the district is probably two years away from any benefits from improvements in the farming industry and rising land prices, officials say.

STATE HELP: In poor districts, the state will make up for lost revenues, but “healthy” districts, with steady taxable property, are generally ineligible for state aid.

A district is considered “in-formula” if it meets state criteria, or “out-formula” if it misses criteria, to be eligible for state aid. A district is considered “in-formula” if SEVs in relation to student enrollment are low enough to qualify.

That year, the cut off figure was $61,000 to SEV per pupil. In the district are above that figure, the school district is considered “out-formula” and does not receive state aid.

The Lucas District in the 1986-87 school year had SEVs per pupil of $106,000, but that has fallen to $106,000 in recent years.

FINANCE REFORM: One of the hottest topics in the legislature presently is school finance reform.

Several proposals are being debated, with most calling for an increase in Michigan’s current 4% sales tax, to provide some form of property tax relief.

But Gov. James Blanchard says he will demand guarantees that schools will improve their curriculums before he will support a higher sales tax. The state Senate Friday passed a bill requiring all Michigan public schools to offer a core curriculum of basic courses, but only if a school finance reform bill is adopted that would increase funding for those required courses.

The school finance reform bill would raise the state sales tax by 1%, while reducing property taxes and increasing state aid to schools.

Members of the state House must approve the bill, then the questions will go before the voters, however, all previous votes have been made by the state Board of Education, and the majority of whose districts are “in-formula.”

Casievene youngster killed in a Sunday afternoon accident which demolished two cars at the Crescent Beach Road-M-24 intersection two miles southwest of Caseview.

Brian Gulash, son of Robert and Janet Gulash of Caseview, was a passenger in the family auto driven by his father, age 51, which was involved in the accident. The family was driving to a family dinner at Frankenmuth.

Also in the Gulash auto were Mrs. Gulash, age 51, Nathan Gulash, age 8 and Erika Gulash, age 5.

The vehicle was struck broadside by an euxouth auto driven by Richard Scheimmel, 19 of Madison Heights, who also missed the intersection through the stop sign on Crescent Beach Road. The impact was about 7 a.m., according to Michigan State Police. The case of the Bad Axe Post. Marcia Pike, 19 of Richmond, was a passenger in Scheimmel’s auto.

Both vehicles rolled over and rested on their tops, where police helped guide the persons inside to safety.

All seven persons in the accident were taken to S. Michigan Hospital, Pigeon, by Caseview Fire-Rescue and Scheimmel Ambulance, where Brian Gulash was pronounced dead about 1:15 p.m. All remaining persons were treated and released Sunday. Members of nearby Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, which had just announced its own fund-raising, assisted other motorists who stopped.

Brian Gulash was buckled into a child restraint seat, and the other Gulash vehicle passengers wore seat belts, according to reports. Neither Scheimmel nor his passenger, nor Robert Gulash were wearing seat belts.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Gulash are teachers at Caseview Public School.

Police said Scheimmel was unfamiliar with the area. No tickets have been issued, pending investigation, which is continuing.

DUTY APPEARS ON PAGE 13

Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, that is!

For SHE'S aolly good Fellow!

Florence Vollmer of Pigeon has been presented with a Paul Harris award by Rotary Past District Governor Karl Lep- pien and his wife, Helen, at the Monday, March 21 meeting of the Pigeon Rotary Club.

Leppien stated that the Paul Harris award is given in recognition of a $1,000 contribution to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

He said he and Mrs. Lep- pien were making the con tribution to Rotary Foundation to honor the many con tributions made to the Pigeon community.

YEARS OF HELP: Leppien called Mrs. Vollmer “the town angel who went without publicity” for the many things she has done to help the members of the community.

She and her husband operated the Vollmer Hotel for many years, and Mrs.

PROGRESS ADVANCE SERVING THE THUMB SINCE 1987

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1988

Volunteer has served in many community and church pro jects for half a century.

PURPOSE: Rotary Foundation is dedicated to promoting international understanding through education, fellowship and charity programs, scholarships, group study exchanges, special grants and health, hunger and humanity grants.

This year’s emphasis is the Polio Plus Program, which is committing itself to helping the world eradicate polio, at a cost of at least $130 billion.

MUCH RAISED: So far, the Pigeon Rotarians have come close to reaching their three-year goal of $25,000 for just six months, club spokesmen say.

Leppien noted the contribution in Mrs. Vollmer’s name to Rotary Foundation isn’t as important as the fact that in her honor.

Both men would be im- mune to over 8,000 children against polo.

VOL. 90, NO. 40 24 PAGES Pigeon, Elkton, Caseview, Bay Port and Osyedale, Michigan

May you and your family enjoy a happy and Blessed Easter
Ladies lead '88 Owen-Gage honor students

Jill Ann James, daughter of Edward and Norma James of Owego, was chosen as one of 11 students from the Southern Tier to be honored at the annual awards ceremony at the Owen-Gage High School. The awards are given to students who have excelled academically and in extracurricular activities.

REGIONAL NEWS ROUND-UP

MUTUAL: "BEST YEAR IN 100 YEARS"

The Mutual of Chemung says this was its best year in a hundred years. The company's President and CEO, John M. Walker, said the increase in sales was due to a combination of factors, including a strong economy and a focus on customer service.

The company's sales for the year were up by more than 10%, and its net income increased by nearly 20%. Walker said the company was well-positioned to continue its growth in the years ahead.

The news comes as Mutual of Chemung is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The company was founded in 1923 and has been a leading provider of insurance and financial services in the Southern Tier ever since.

CAPO BANK SALE SET

The sale of Capo Bank, the only bank in the Southern Tier, has been approved by state regulators. The bank, which is headquartered in Binghamton, announced that it has reached an agreement to be acquired by a holding company based in Cleveland, Ohio.

The deal is expected to close in the coming months, and Capo Bank's four branches will continue to operate as usual. The bank's customers will not see any changes in their accounts or services as a result of the sale.

BUCKS FIREs WIN MURFOUS CASH

The Binghamton High School football team won the Muffins-Miracle Classic, a game that benefits local charities. The team's victory means it will receive a $10,000 cash prize.

The Muffins-Miracle Classic is an annual event that has been held in the Southern Tier for over 30 years. It is a game between the Binghamton High School football team and a team from a neighboring school district.

The cash prize was awarded by the Muffins-Miracle Classic committee, which is a group of local business owners and community leaders.

COUNTY COUNCIL IN SCHOOLS

The Chenango County School District is introducing a new program that will allow students to take classes at the county government building. The program is called "The Classroom of the Future," and it will include courses in technology, business, and government.

The program is funded by a grant from the state Department of Education, and it is being implemented in collaboration with the county's public schools.

The Classroom of the Future is expected to launch in the fall of 2024, and it will be available to all students in the county.
We’re always so close to that line...
We're Asking YOU....

THIS WEEK'S "WE'RE ASKING YOU" QUESTION, ASKED BY RENE RICHTER AND KIRK MILLER: Do you plan any April Fool's tricks on your friends or family this Friday? Why or why not?

I plan on it, but haven't thought of anything yet. Janel Motz

Yes I am, but I'm keeping it secret so they'll be surprised. Dr. Steve Beadles

Yes I do. I've got a friend in Owendale who needs the inside O.D. and he's really going to get her. Chief Eich

I plan on it, but don't want to get caught. Jeff Wiechert

Yes, I do, on the local police force here. Lenny Wing

New OB equipment at Scheuer Hospital

The Cerebellum stethoscope, which is now being used at the Scheuer Hospital, is keeping pace with the ever-changing technological field with the addition of a sophisticated monitoring system. This new medical device, at a cost of about $9,000, provides the possibility of a long road ahead for the hospital to provide top-notch medical care.

On TUESDAY, the hospital's OB suite was awarded the equipment, which will be used in the hospital's OB. The new OB equipment will allow doctors to better monitor the baby's heartbeat during labor and delivery, making it easier to detect abnormalities.

Kiwanis serves up pancake meal

Kiwanis served pancakes and sausage for the annual Pancake Breakfast at the Kiwanis Club in Evart.

Bowling

New OB equipment at Scheuer Hospital

The Cerebellum stethoscope, which is now being used at the Scheuer Hospital, is keeping pace with the ever-changing technological field with the addition of a sophisticated monitoring system. This new medical device, at a cost of about $9,000, provides the possibility of a long road ahead for the hospital to provide top-notch medical care.

On TUESDAY, the hospital's OB suite was awarded the equipment, which will be used in the hospital's OB. The new OB equipment will allow doctors to better monitor the baby's heartbeat during labor and delivery, making it easier to detect abnormalities.

Kiwanis served pancakes and sausage for the annual Pancake Breakfast at the Kiwanis Club in Evart.

Bowling

New OB equipment at Scheuer Hospital

The Cerebellum stethoscope, which is now being used at the Scheuer Hospital, is keeping pace with the ever-changing technological field with the addition of a sophisticated monitoring system. This new medical device, at a cost of about $9,000, provides the possibility of a long road ahead for the hospital to provide top-notch medical care.

On TUESDAY, the hospital's OB suite was awarded the equipment, which will be used in the hospital's OB. The new OB equipment will allow doctors to better monitor the baby's heartbeat during labor and delivery, making it easier to detect abnormalities.

Kiwanis served pancakes and sausage for the annual Pancake Breakfast at the Kiwanis Club in Evart.

Bowling

New OB equipment at Scheuer Hospital

The Cerebellum stethoscope, which is now being used at the Scheuer Hospital, is keeping pace with the ever-changing technological field with the addition of a sophisticated monitoring system. This new medical device, at a cost of about $9,000, provides the possibility of a long road ahead for the hospital to provide top-notch medical care.

On TUESDAY, the hospital's OB suite was awarded the equipment, which will be used in the hospital's OB. The new OB equipment will allow doctors to better monitor the baby's heartbeat during labor and delivery, making it easier to detect abnormalities.

Kiwanis served pancakes and sausage for the annual Pancake Breakfast at the Kiwanis Club in Evart.

Bowling

New OB equipment at Scheuer Hospital

The Cerebellum stethoscope, which is now being used at the Scheuer Hospital, is keeping pace with the ever-changing technological field with the addition of a sophisticated monitoring system. This new medical device, at a cost of about $9,000, provides the possibility of a long road ahead for the hospital to provide top-notch medical care.

On TUESDAY, the hospital's OB suite was awarded the equipment, which will be used in the hospital's OB. The new OB equipment will allow doctors to better monitor the baby's heartbeat during labor and delivery, making it easier to detect abnormalities.

Kiwanis served pancakes and sausage for the annual Pancake Breakfast at the Kiwanis Club in Evart.
Pigeon: on the GROW again!

Pigeon EDC rolling on way to $50,000 start-up
New CPA office open for business
Active Fee's $1.1 million expansion
Bay Port State Bank breaks ground in Pigeon
Scheurer Hospital plans $1.75 million expansion

Annual Township Meetings
Few usually attend, but roads and general business are hot topics.

Pigeon EDC rolling on way to $50,000 start-up
New CPA office open for business
Active Fee's $1.1 million expansion
Bay Port State Bank breaks ground in Pigeon
Scheurer Hospital plans $1.75 million expansion

As this selection of news stories show, business in Pigeon is alive and on the GROW again!

There is no more versatile town around where the friendly people who wait on you are the owners and managers, where good quality merchandise is backed by conscientious stores - and where you always park free!

Come grow with us. For shopping information, call the Pigeon Chamber of Commerce at 433-3133, and for business facts, contact the Pigeon Economic Development Corporation at 433-3331. You'll be glad you did!
WIN THE BATTLE AGAINST HIGH FUEL BILLS.

BUY THE NEW UNICORE INTEGRATED HEATING SYSTEM.
- One burner heats air and water.
- 85% AFUE high efficiency boiler.
- First-cost savings—tax credit 20%.
- 30- and 40-gallon sizes.
- Systems over 24% on fuel bills.
- Long life warranty.
- Financing available.

GHELELER
FURNACES REFRIGERATION
GlowCore
Heating & Cooling Products

SHENANDOAH VA
For information on our products, call
1-800-366-6068

An Easter Message

To all our friends and families,

May your Easter remain with you throughout the year. Peace to all.

Don Dast, Manager

LEE AUTO ELECTRIC

Battery Chargers + Alternators
Starters + Generators
Batteries + Custom Battery Cables

- REPAIRS
- Same Day Service + All Makes + Models
- Specializing In Farm + Industrial

Don Dast, Manager

PIGEON LUMBER & SUPPLY CO., INC.

1025 E. Huron Avenue
Bad Axe • 269-6296

PIONEER IGA

Congratulations to Arlene Gingerich of Pigeon
Winner of one of 40 freezers given away by Banquet Frozen Foods across Michigan... In Recognition of "March Is Frozen Foods Month"

PIONEER

15 N. CASEVILLE RD. 483-2800

This advertisement represents a significant win for the HISD students and their families, who have shown great resilience and determination throughout the year. The community is proud of their achievements and is committed to supporting their ongoing success.

---

The Cosmopolitan students of the Huron High School Music Center entered into "Singing Battle" during the Annual Cosmopolitan Competition/Open House on Monday, Feb. 2. The program administrative assistant was very impressed for the quality of vocal and instrumental music performed by the talented students.

The students attended the Cosmopolitan competition on a fee basis and were honored for their musical talents.

The following judges participated in the Cosmopolitan competition:

- Karen K conferences
- John K conferences
- Paul K conferences
- Mary K conferences

The following judges participated in the Cosmopolitan competition:

- Karen K conferences
- John K conferences
- Paul K conferences
- Mary K conferences

Thanks for reading The Progress Advance.
The BEST newspaper in Central Huron County!

If you care about the center of Huron County, you should read The Progress Advance each Wednesday! Since 1887, this weekly paper has covered all the local news for and about this area. Sorry, we don't have any "wire" stories about Washington, Iran or Moscow, but we've won 31 Excellence Awards from the Michigan Press Association since 1879 – more than ANY other paper.

TRY THIS SPECIAL OFFER! Five Months (22 Issues) ONLY $1.99

YES! Send me The Progress Advance for the next Five Months. Enclosed is $1.99 in check or money order only, please. Start with this Wednesday's issue!

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY
STATE
ZIP

OFFER EXPIRES APRIL 1, 1988 NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY, IN HURON, TUSCOLA OR SANILAC COUNTIES.

Mail to: PROGRESS ADVANCE, P.O. Box 589, PIGEON, Mich., 48755

24 — The Progress Advance — Wednesday, March 30 to Tuesday, April 5, 1988

County offers respite services for caregivers

The following is a message from Huron County Health Department:

What would you do if you had the sole responsibility of caring for an elderly person in your home? Well, you would do just that, care for them and be there for them.

During that time, you probably wouldn't think too much about yourself and your well-being. You would be concerned primarily about the person you are caring for.

However, that constant care, supervision, companionship and responsibility will eventually begin to take a toll on you. Even though you say you don't mind taking care of your grandparent, your dad, your spouse or an aunt, it becomes a burden to you.

When was the last time you were able to go out to lunch with some friends, go down to the bowling alley, play some cards, get your hair done or just have some time to yourself? How often do you tell someone, "Well, I don't know who to call to watch Grandma. I guess I won't be able to go with you today."

The answer to this dilemma can be found in a program offered through the Huron County Health Department. It's called "Respite Care" and is a lifesaver for those families who have the responsibility of caring for their relatives or neighbors on a full-time basis.

Our Respite Care program allows the primary caregiver an opportunity to let someone else come into the home to provide the needs care, supervision and companionship to their loved one.

To qualify for the program, the household individual must be 60 years of age or older, and a resident of Huron, Tuscola or Sanilac County. There is no age requirement for the caregiver. We can come into the home for a minimum of 4 hours or for an entire weekend. Respite Care workers are available during the day, evenings and weekends.

You may be thinking, "This sounds pretty good, but how much does it cost?"

These services are free. Funding for this program comes from a grant through the Area Agency on Aging, at no cost to the client or their caregivers. However, donations and contributions are greatly appreciated so that additional services can be provided to more Thumb Area clients.

For more information about the Respite Care program, contact Cindy Lechowski or Judy Asker at the Huron County Health Department. Phone (517) 269-9871.

This service not only provides relief for the caregiver, it also gives the elderly person a change of pace, a difference to look forward to and someone else to talk to.

Fertilizer is your BEST INVESTMENT In 1988

Dollar for Dollar, money invested in Fertilizer is like "money in the Bank." April is the biggest Fertilizer Month of the Year, so see us today. Talk to Wes, the Co-op Argonomist, and he'll formulate the Blend for your farm, to give you the best yields!

Headquarters for Seed!

- Clover
- Beans
- Alfalfa
- Oats

Sugar Beet Fertilizer

Corn Fertilizer

Wheat Field Top Dressing

Time to Potash

Cooperative Elevator Company

Pick up your own Fertilizer and Save Delivery Charge!