Local chambers plan annual meetings

The Pigeon Chamber of Commerce invites its members to the group’s annual meeting this Thursday, Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. dinner meeting at Greenfield Restaurant, Pigeon. On the agenda will be a 1969 wrap-up, plans for 1970 promotions and budget, Farmers’ Festival 1970, elections of board members and more.

Starting this year after years of service on the board are Elmer Beckman, Debbi McBride, Dennis Dienar and Jim King, in addition to retiring President Neil Eichler.

Elected to the board for three-year terms will be Joe Nicoll of Scheurer Hospital, Carol Henry of Cooperative Elevator and Sally Kummer of Thumb Publications.

State Sen. James A. Barcia will be special guest speaker for the Bay Port Chamber of Commerce’s annual meeting on Monday, Jan. 15 at The Specialty House Restaurant, Bay Port.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased from Mrs. M. Miller, Mrs. Glenn (Audrey) Hems or Henry Everhard.

Meyersiek becomes sixth funeral home owner

By AMY HEIDEN

In its nearly 90-year history, Meyersiek’s only funeral home has had only five owners, and a commitment to serving area families with the highest of standards.

And new owners Scott and Sue Meyersiek say they plan to continue that commitment at the newly-renamed Meyersiek-Bussena Funeral Home.

The Meyersieks purchased the funeral home last month from Elmer and Joyce Bussena, who have owned the business since 1969. Bussena will continue to be active in the business, he says, working as he’s pleased.

“Joyce and I plan to stay here in Pigeon, and hopefully, we’ll do some traveling and I’ll catch up on my reading,” he said.

The Bussenas will also use their new free time to enjoy their three grandchildren, he added.

Elmer and Joyce Bussena bought the funeral home in 1969 from Joseph Shepherd, who had owned the firm since 1963.

They moved to Pigeon from the east Detroit area in 1965, where they had managed the former homes since graduating from Wayne State University in 1962.

Meyersiek (now Bussena) at that time added an additional 12,000 square feet to their current building.

The business blend and have been active members of the community and their association goes back 10 years earlier, when Meyersiek began working at the funeral home Bussena managed in the Detroit area.

Meyersiek said he maintains work at the funeral home, and was employed there in full-time capacities while he attended Wayne State.

LOOKING BACK: Meyersiek-Bussena’s history as a funeral home goes back to 1969, when W.A. Schrieber opened Schrieber Furniture and Undertaking on South Main Street. Schrieber owned the firm until 1928, when Loen Bates, son-in-law of Mr. Schrieber, took over the business.

Joseph Shepherd began working with Bates in 1927, and continued his association after Herman Winkel purchased the furniture and undertaking business.

Then, in 1945, Shepherd and his wife Emma purchased the firm and the name was changed to J.O. Shepherd Furniture and Undertaking.

Three years later, the firm moved to its site once occupied by J & B Plumbing and Heating, now Pigeon Chiropractic Clinic.

In 1956, the firm moved to the present location at 7405 Paul Street, and in 1953, the funeral chapel was added.

The Seylers told the funeral home to the Bussenas on Sept. 1, 1969, and the name was changed to Seyler-Bussena Funeral Home.

Joseph Shepherd continued to be active in the firm until his death in 1973.

In 1972, an addition was built on the funeral home which enlarged the chapel, added a casket display room, flower room and garage.

The Meyersiek plan no dramatic changes at the funeral home, other than some minor redecorating changes.

Sue Meyersiek will be more involved in the business, especially in the office and helping with funeral services. They will continue to offer Funeral Pre-Need Insurance and the Medical Air Services Association memberships.

“We’re eager and excited to be a part of this,” Meyersiek said. “We’ve waited a long time for this. It’s what we’ve been working toward for the last ten years.”

Laker Board ponders Thumb C ‘no vote’

By AMY HEIDEN

The primary topic of conversation at Monday night’s Elkon - Bay Port Laker School Board meeting was the denial of the district’s request to join the Thumb C Conferene, for athletic events.

In a meeting last week of Thumb C officials, three of the five school districts seeking to join the TCC — Bad Axe, Marlette and Deckerville — were given preliminary approval to transfer from the Thumb B Association to the expanding TCC.

The other two schools which applied — Laker and Cass City — were turned down by the TCC. The Laker Board has recently sought to join the TCC to better manage travel time, cost of competing schools and competition.

UNEVEN NUMBER: Acceptance of the three new schools into the TCC would increase the number of conference members to nine — Unionville - Sebewaing Area, Ubly, Harbor Beach, Sandlucky, Reese, Mayville plus apparent new members Bad Axe, Marlette and Deckerville.

Observers say the present nine-school TCC lineup is less desirable than an even-numbered league, to induce "byes" games. Likewise, any decrease in the size of the Thumb B league would mean fewer non-league opponents, such as Harbor Beach, USA or Bad Axe.

While Deckerville would leave the North Central D League, the transfer of the other two schools from the Thumb B would leave that long-term league with six members: three Class B schools — Cass, Millington and Vassar — plus three Class C schools — Laker, Cass City and North Branch.

Laker Board members are puzzled by the denial of their application to the TCC. “I’m kind of concerned and disappointed with losing some of our long-term neighborhood rivalries,” said Supt. Bob Drury. “I have no against the Thumb B. In fact, I’ve been a very stable league.

I’d like to continue participation in the Thumb B if it stays the same,” Drury said.

He also noted that final decisions on the transfers are expected to be made at the school board meetings later this month.

"We’ll continue to push for admittance in Thumb C as long as we can,” he said. “But they consider our league proximity and comparable athletic programs, and I’m not sure we miss out on any of those areas.

Memorials to the schools and persons involved say the Laker strength in basketball, baseball and volleyball during the past 10 years may have helped the current TCC members to vote down the Laker request. Likewise, Cass City is a strong competitor in those sports, and Laker Athletic Director Dana Coonher is also puzzled by the TCC denial.

"I don’t know what criteria they used to decide," he said. The only thing I have to go on is what appears in one of the papers last week, stating there are four things — close proximity of schools, size, sports programs and athletics.

"And I feel that one of those things, we did measure up.

Please turn to Page 16
Three churches share their faith 'on paper'

MEYERSICK - BUSEMA FUNERAL HOME
2436 Wall Street - Pigeon, Michigan 49877 - 909-473-4724

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY:

With great appreciation, I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Meyersick - Bussema Funeral Home, Pigeon, Michigan. Equally important and the announcement of the retirement of Elmer J. Bussema, Proprietor of the Shelton - Bussema Funeral Home, Pigeon, Michigan, since September of 1969.

Professionally, I want to extend my appreciation to Elmer J. Bussema for his dedicated service to the community. I am honored to carry on his tradition in the most proficient manner. It is my hope that this transition will be seamless and that you will continue to support me in my endeavors.

Elmer J. Bussema

The Progress-Advocate

3. Valentine's Day in Michigan

The Progress-Advocate

4. Thumb Weekly News Round-Up

WERTZ HEADS HURON COUNTY

Huron County Commissioners' Chairman, Robert Wertz, dedicated his first day of the term to meeting with County officials and members of the community on Tuesday. Wertz, who has been in office since January, said his main focus will be on the county's budget and ensuring that all services are running smoothly.

Wertz also mentioned the importance of maintaining a strong relationship with the state legislators and the governor. He emphasized the need for effective communication and collaboration to address the challenges faced by the county.

The Progress-Advocate

5. Huron Sets $5.83 MM Budget

Huron County Board of Commissioners approved a budget of $5.83 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The budget includes $3.63 million for operations, $1.9 million for capital projects, and $0.3 million for reserves. The budget also includes a 3% pay increase for county employees.

The Progress-Advocate

COUNTY COURTS

In the case of Doe v. Doe, the judge ordered the county to provide services to the plaintiff. The case involves a dispute over the delivery of a parcel, which was never received by the plaintiff. The court ruled in favor of the plaintiff, ordering the county to provide compensation.

The Progress-Advocate
article at the end of the month.

Rabbi, is there a blessing?

Blessed are you, Lord our God, who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us to overcome the seven tumblers.

LE MISERABLES

Over the holiday season, I was fortunate enough to see the production of "Les Miserables" at the Palace Theater in New York City. The show, directed by the renowned Trevor Nunn, features a cast of over 100 actors and is based on Victor Hugo's classic novel.

The set design was breathtaking, with elaborate stage machinery and elaborate costumes that transported us back to the 19th century. The music was powerful and moving, with such iconic songs as "Do You Hear the People Sing?" and "Dreams of El Dorado."

The performances were outstanding, with standout roles played by the lead actors. In particular, the character of Jean Valjean, played by Tom Hanks, was truly remarkable.

Overall, "Les Miserables" is a masterpiece of stagecraft, and I highly recommend it to anyone who loves music and theatre.

FROM UNDER THE WILLOW

By ANDREW KODER

When I was a child, I used to love to read "The Secret Garden." The story of Mary Lennox, who discovers a hidden garden, has always been one of my favorites.

Recently, I re-read the book and was struck by how relevant it is today. The story is about a young girl who is taken away from her family and sent to live in a cold, gray house. She is lonely and miserable, but one day she stumbles upon a secret garden hidden behind a door.

The garden is full of life and color, and Mary slowly begins to recover from her grief and sadness. She learns to love and appreciate the beauty of nature, and the garden becomes a symbol of hope and renewal.

The lessons of "The Secret Garden" are as relevant today as they were when the book was written. We often find ourselves in dark places, away from the light and color of life, but we must remember that there is always hope. We must find the hidden gardens in our lives, the places of beauty and wonder that can help us heal and grow.

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IT'S "SNOW" TIME

Are you ready for a winter wonderland?

Top left: Snowy landscape with a tree in the foreground. Snowflakes are falling gently, creating a festive and magical atmosphere. Top right: A winter scene with a pine tree and a snow-covered log. The sky is cloudy and the ground is covered in snow.

Bottom left: A child playing in the snow with a carrot and a spoon. The child is wearing a red coat and a hat. Bottom right: A woman walking in the snow with a dog. The dog is wearing a red collar and is pulling a sled.

Remember to stay warm and enjoy the beauty of winter.
**Lake-Chandler news notes**

By MILDRED BALLENGH

Christmas guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Potsman were Mr. and Mrs. Al (Lynn) Retlewski and children Bonnie, Greg and Evie Sue of Cadillac, Mike and Pat Keefer, Vera Jamiason, Charlotte Holzworth, Hubert Schork, Rose Snively, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Potzman and sons Nick and Kyle, all of Caseville.

Bette Southworth spent Christmas weekend with her son Michael and son Bradley in Lansing. Her other grandson, Leon, Sean Southworth of the Air Force, California, was also visiting his father.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Neil of New York spent the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Reihling.

Friday dinner guests were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kuhl of Elkton.

Dick and Marsha Fritz and sons Steven and Michael of Oakkoah, Wis., spent the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fritz and Ona Iae Ewald.

Mr. and Mrs. William McBride and son Fred spent a few days over Christmas at the Ironwood home of Lake Orton.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Licht and Michael spent a week over Christmas in Florida with their son and brother, David Licht. Mrs. Ada Binder, with Dobbie and Mr. and Mrs. Cal Reichling returned home to Bridgton, Fla., after visiting relatives here. They spent Christmas with their daughter, Cindy, and Nancy Heidrich and family.

Dick and Cathy McBride spent the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McBride.

Bruce and Evelyn Potsman, their daughter Lynn Retlewski and family, Bonnie, Greg and Evie Sue spent Tuesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Potsman at Bridgton.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed Southworth of Atlanta, Ga., spent Christmas and New Year's Day with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Southworth.

Mrs. Bette Southworth, Mr. and Mrs. George Southworth, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leipprandt and daughter Jules of Pigeon and Mr. and Mrs. Duane Southworth of Flint met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Walkerfield in Adrian for a belated Christmas gathering.

Christmas Eve guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ewald were Mr. and Mrs. Dick Fritz and sons of Oakkoah, Wis., Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fritz and daughter Jackie of Elkton.

Jerry and Judy McBride of Lake Orton were Friday overnight guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. William McBride and attended the wedding of Judy Foy and Tracy Poland, both of Bad Axe.

Fred McBride spent New Year's Day with Mr. and Mrs. David McBride and sons of Bad Axe.

Mrs. Lynn Retlewski and children Bonnie, Greg and Evie Sue returned home to Cadillac after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Potsman.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed Southworth of Atlanta, Ga., spent Friday and Saturday with their grandmother, Mr. and Mrs. George Southworth. On Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Southworth entertained the family of Greensfield's in their home. Guests included Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leipprandt and daughter Jules of Pigeon, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Southworth of Flint, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Southworth of Flint, Mr. and Mrs. Kay Southworth and family, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Leipprandt and daughter, all of Elkton.

Raymond Eroff, a student at Michigan Tech University at Houghton, attended the Christmas vacation with his parents, Ray and Tenda Eroff.

Mrs. Marion Komar and Mrs. Ann Schueller visited Sunday with Mrs. Lucy Penick and daughter at the Four Seasons Health Center in Bad Axe.