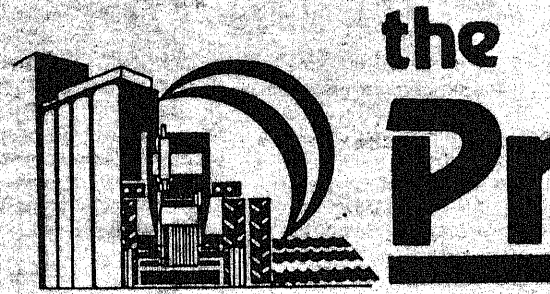


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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 1986
THROUGH TUESDAY, FEB. 11, 1986

VOL. 88, NO. 32 28 PAGES Pigeon, Elkton, Caseville, Bay Port and Owerango

Think about your Valentine soon in the Western Thumb!

Wild Game Dinner fun...
EXPLORE HOW IT'S DONE ON PAGES 2 & 13

11 'Retirement' years...
SEE PAGE 18

It's National Children's Dental Month now...
SEE PAGE 22

Tops in sports news...
SPORTS PAGES 24 & 25

Shuttle tragedy shocks area teachers, students

By RICH SWARTZENDRUBER

When the space shuttle Challenger exploded in a ball of flame just over a minute after liftoff last Tuesday, the shock of the tragedy caused an impression on most Americans that will never be forgotten. What added even more to the sense of loss for most people, including children, was the presence on board the spacecraft of a private citizen with whom they could identify -- a teacher.

High school instructor Christa McAuliffe was a member of the last Challenger crew which also included Francis "Dick" Scobee, Michael Smith, Judith Resnik, Ellison Onizuka, Arnold McNair and Gregory Jarvis.

In the Thumb area, students of all ages felt a special sense of loss due to the publicity preceding the ill-fated flight heralding the inclusion of a teacher on the 25th shuttle mission.

KIDS REACT: In the Laker School District, the impact on elementary children probably equalled or exceeded that of older student.

Elkton Elementary School Principal Lyn Stahl said children in grades one through six were aware a teacher was on the shuttle, and many were even familiar with McAuliffe's name because of a multitude of articles concerning the first teacher in space in "Weekly Reader" and other student periodicals.

The selection of a teacher as the first actual private citizen on the shuttle focused the attention of educators and students across the country.

"The kids could identify McAuliffe, but probably couldn't name one astronaut," says Stahl.

Contributing to children's shock was the safety record of NASA and the fact that space travel is a "fact of life" today. "You have to remember, they weren't born when man first walked on the moon," reminds Stahl.

The students in the upper elementary grades in Elkton, Pigeon and Bay Port watched replays of the shuttle explosion in stunned silence. Younger children didn't see the graphic



LIFE GOES ON: Students at Laker High attend classes while the flag flies at half-mast in memorial of the seven lives lost on the space shuttle.

television images, but were aware of the event by the end of the school day, says Pigeon/Bay Port Elementary Principal Ben Phillips.

Both Stahl and Phillips says they personally favor future shuttle missions and would both accept a chance to fly on the spacecraft, although Phillips admits he would have more second thoughts after the Challenger tragedy.

TOUGH JOB: Laker High School Principal Jim Ballard had the unenviable task of using the public address system to inform students about the "national tragedy," as he termed the event in his announcement.

"I felt it was a significant thing in the history of our country -- similar to John Kennedy's assassination," Ballard says. The shock of the news of both events usually causes people to remember exactly where they were and what they were doing when first informed of the incidents.

Ballard says he timed his announcement about one-half hour after the explosion so teachers and students would have about 15 minutes before the end of class to react to the news.

In addition to the loss of seven lives, the blow to people in America was keenly felt because the space program has come to symbolize the country's advanced technology and brain power, observes Ballard.

JOB FOR PROS? Laker High science teachers Dennis Gaskill and Doug Rees both feel the shuttle program should go ahead, although future missions should be manned by only trained astronauts.

"I think they were somewhat premature in putting a citizen up," Gaskill says.

Rees agrees, adding, "My feeling is possibly they should back off from the civilian astronaut for a couple years. Let's let the professionals do their job."

Neither teacher had spent time teaching about the shuttle program prior to this week.

"I guess I'm like everybody else. We had kind of taken (the shuttle program) for granted," Rees says.

SLIM ODDS: Current Air Force Academy cadet and 1985 Laker graduate Susan Kohr is the person who told teachers becoming an astronaut is a serious goal. Gaskill and Rees attribute the small numbers of people who set their sights on the space program to the rigors of the educational and physical training required. Because so few astronauts are selected, Rees notes a person has better odds of becoming a professional football player than a space traveler.

WOULD YOU GO? Of three Laker Junior High science teachers only Robert Dean wouldn't take advantage of a chance to go up in a shuttle. That, however, was also his feel-

ing before the Challenger explosion. On the other hand, his colleagues, Paul Beachy and John Blair both say they would ride the shuttle.

Dean likes to follow the shuttle program with his students, but says he won't have to stress the possible dangers of space travel in the near future because students now are well aware of the risks after seeing last week's tragedy. He admits that previous discussions didn't really consider the risks.

"We figured (NASA) had it pretty well perfected I guess. It seemed like it was getting to be old hat, but everyone's going to be watching on the next one," Dean says.

Laker senior Craig Kimmel has been interested enough in space travel to write to NASA for information several times. He also drew the stages of a shuttle flight on a poster for a class project three years ago in Beachy's earth science class.

NO LESSONS: In contrast to the Laker District, high school students at Caseville were probably more affected by the shuttle accident than the younger students in the district. This is largely due to the fact they planned to follow the lessons McAuliffe was going to present during the Challenger mission.

The tragic explosion is especially significant to Caseville High Principal Paul Ellinger, who saw Challenger sitting on the launch pad about a month ago at Cape Canaveral during a family visit to Florida. At that time he toured Kennedy Space Center and also picked up materials for the "lessons in space" which students never got the chance to use.

In shocked silence about 20-30 Caseville High students chose to watch television news coverage of the tragedy instead of eating lunch last Wednesday. Genuine concern for the astronauts was displayed by the teens by their comments and respectful silence, Ellinger says.

The memorial service for the seven crew members shown live on television was also viewed by the Caseville students.

As several teachers pointed out, the crew presented a very representative cross-section of America. In addition to both men and women, black, caucasian and oriental ancestry was involved in the seven Americans whose lives were snuffed out so quickly in the quest to expand mankind's knowledge of his universe.

Give blood when the Bloodmobile comes to Pigeon, Elkton Monday!

Blood Services
Wolverine Region

American Red Cross

THE RED CROSS



We're there when you need us.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Pigeon and Elkton next Monday, Feb. 10 -- at the Pigeon VFW Hall from 3 to 8 p.m. and at the Elkton Civic Center from 2 to 7 p.m.

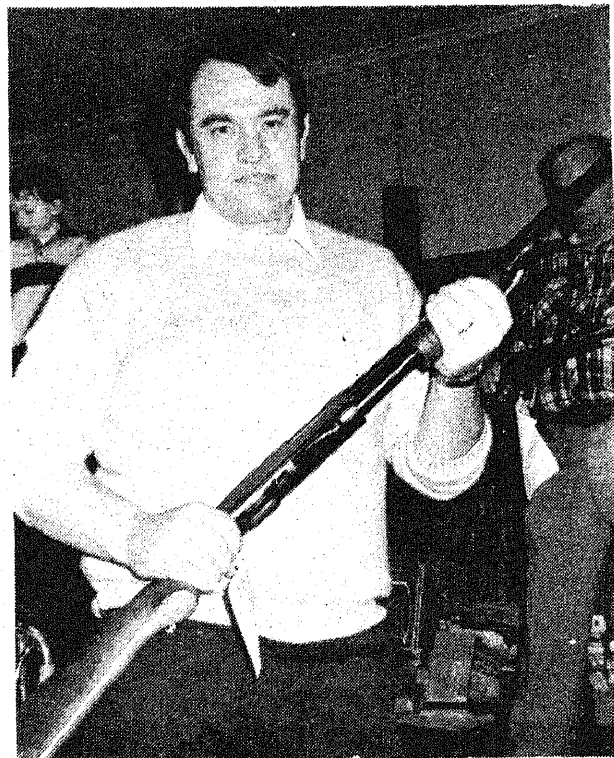
The Red Cross urges everyone who is able to do so to donate blood, sponsors say.

"We hope to have as good a turn-out as we did last time the Bloodmobile visited," says Kathy Swartzendruber, Pigeon coordinator.

Members of the Pigeon Junior Womans' Club will call to make appointments, but donors may visit anytime during the hours stated above.

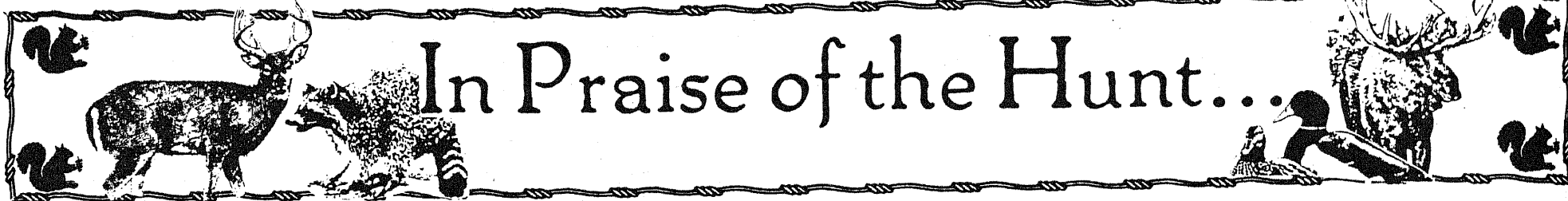
Elkton coordinator John Champagne encourages the many local contributors to again come in and help others.

Wild game winner



WINNER: Mike Krause of rural Bad Axe was the major gun winner during Saturday's annual Pigeon Conservation Club's Wild Game Dinner in Pigeon. Lots of folks ate plenty of interesting food.
FOR YUMMY DETAILS, SEE PAGE 2

ON CENTER PAGES: WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL "LOVE-Y" COUPLE, AS VALENTINE'S DAY NEARS?



In Praise of the Hunt...

Wild game on the menu at Pigeon dinner

What do rabbit, mountain goat, beaver, deer, turtle, muskrat and moose have in common? They're all considered wild game, and were on the menu Saturday night at the Pigeon Conservation Club's annual "Wildlife Pictures" event, featuring a meal, film presentation and gun drawing at the Pigeon VFW Hall. The dinner, which is a 300-person sell-out every year, draws sportsmen and their friends from across the state, and even a few out-of-

staters as well. According to Pigeon Conservation Club President Henry Trost, over half the diners are from out of the area. Pigeon native Alison Eicher, now a Detroit area resident, has become a "regular" at the dinner, and can be counted on to bring an "entourage" with him. This year approximately 15 Detroiters accompanied Eicher for the event. While some people might squirm at the idea of eating muskrat or beaver for din-

ner, most of those at Saturday's meal really enjoyed the main courses, which are served buffet-style. The wildgame, which is mostly donated from area hunters, receives a lot of tender-loving care from the kitchen crew before it ever lands on the buffet table. Heading up the cooking crew is Eleanor Dubs, who turns the meat into delicacies. Turtle soup, a long-time favorite, whets the palate for the other courses which include moose meatballs,

venison meatballs, rabbit, beaver, mountain goat and muskrat. They are all served up with generous helpings of potatoes, coleslaw, rolls and all the fixin's. Getting the meat ready for cooking is the job of the Pigeon Conservation Club members, before it is turned over to Mrs. Dubs and her cooking crew, who spend the better part of two days preparing it with sauces, spices and just plain slow cooking to keep in flavors. When asked about recipes

used in preparation, one of the cooks, Erma Rounds, said, "We just add a little of this and a little of that for flavor." Funds raised from the meal get turned back into the community through the Pigeon Conservation Club, according to President Trost. Assisting him in leadership this year are Vice President Virgil Bouck, Secretary Clare Dast and Treasurer John Kohr, Jr. According to John Schaefer of Pigeon, an avid

sportsman and a member of the local conservation chapter, the dinner, a 30-year tradition of the club, is so popular every year that if a person doesn't have a ticket a month before, he won't have the chance to go. It seems that no matter how the general population feels about eating such meats as muskrat, beaver and rabbit, the sportsmen of Michigan have found a delicious(?) way to celebrate their sport.



ERMA ROUNDS handles a roaster of Mountain Goat, a popular dish at MUCC dinners around the state.

PHOTOS BY RICH SWARTZENDRUBER and JOHN SCHAEFER

SOMEONE'S IN THE KITCHEN . . . Barbara Maxwell, right, is preparing rabbit, while kitchen workers, from left Alyce Kleinfeld, Vernita Vollmer, Julie Witkovsky and Bette Horn are busy with other dishes. Pictured in front ready for the table is a roaster of "marsh rabbit," also known as muskrat.



WILD GAME WORK: These members of the Pigeon Conservation Club did lots of exotic work with deer, marsh rabbit, mountain goat and other meat carving — but here they're adding their hand in another important department, peeling potatoes! From left are Henry Trost, Albert Schultze, Ray Licht, Bob Dubs and Frank Strauch. RICH SWARTZENDRUBER PHOTO

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT !!
It's a Print Extra AP Style
30- Now is the time for Truth, justice Stop the Presses Galley

OBSERVATIONS BY PUBLISHER MARK RUMMEL AND ANYBODY ELSE HE CAN GET TO WRITE 'EM!
A NATION MOURNS — Last Tuesday's sudden explosion of the space shuttle Challenger will evoke remembrances of "where we were" or "what we were doing" when we heard the terrible news. Many of us recall President Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22, 1963. Our space program doesn't fail, we all thought. After half-a-hundred manned rocket launches, we'd all come to EXPECT perfection. What a cruel and ironic world it is. Yes, our nation's space program must continue. And it will. Those people were pioneers and their dreams will be lived by others, successfully. We might not have realized it, but THEY knew they were pioneers. And risk-takers. And brave, yet edge-sitting explorers. And, President Reagan's remarks following the tragedy were some of the best, to-the-point words I've ever heard. A memorabilia, yet extremely tragic day... — 30 —

IT ALWAYS HAPPENS — Boy, I'm sure dedicated to this job. For at least the fourth time I can recall (since 1978), I "allow" myself to get sick on the weekend (so it doesn't interfere with work!) I came down with the ever-present flu Friday afternoon and was held down with it and a nasty cold all day Saturday and Sunday, plus half the day Monday — but was able to be back at it Monday p.m.... — 30 —

AD IDEAS — You'll probably be noticing a stepped-up promotional campaign on our own part for our own paper. We're using several messages in our own pages to remind people of the very excellent ad buy offered right here. The Progress-Advance contains NOTHING but local news, pictures and ads. We print and sell 3250 copies each week, nearly ALL local families see us regularly and that's 12,000 readers — right here near your store. We think that's a pretty good reason to advertise here. And you'll be hearing us say this more and more... — 30 —

TOP STATION? — WIOG-FM of Saginaw gained the largest audience numbers in recent Arbitron ratings, with a 26.6% share of Saginaw Valley listeners. That's the highest number among area stations ever, experts say. WIOG is the rock station which just paid \$4.5 million to acquire the 102.5 frequency now occupied by WGER-FM. That will raise WIOG's power from the present 3000 watts (barely received in Pigeon and Elkton on 106.3 freq.) to 86,000 watts — easily received in this half of Michigan! Next in listenership came WKQC-FM's country sound, and news-talk-music station WSGW-AM was third. Next, WGER's beautiful music format was in fourth place and WHNN-FM's rock programming came in fifth. — 30 —

WHAT'S A NAME — I've been keeping track of how U.S. news agencies spell the name of that Libyan tyrant Muammar Khadafy. Obviously, it doesn't translate well into English! Newsweek magazine spells it Kaddafi, while another magazine spells it's Quaddafi. NBC TV and CNN TV both spell it Khadafy, and Time spells it Gaddafi. And those are only the ones I've noticed! — 30 —

SPEAKING OF TV — David Letterman of "Late Night With David Letterman" on NBC TV is about twice as funny and four times as original as is late-night king Johnny Carson, in our book. I just wish Letterman wasn't on at 12:30 a.m. — since I need my "beauty" sleep (plenty of it!) You can tell others think the same thing, since Letterman is featured on the cover of this week's Newsweek magazine. — 30 —

GOOD IDEA — A bill now in the U.S. Senate would close all polling places in the U.S. at the same time in the 1988 Presidential Elections. That's 9 p.m. in the east, 8 in the central time zone and 7 p.m. mountain zone. That way, the TV "predictions" wouldn't impact far-west voters, as they've done in past years. States would be free to set their own starting times. Hope our lawmakers pass this one... — 30 —

WISH I'D SAID THAT — "The difference between literature and journalism is that journalism is unreadable, and literature is not read!" Oscar Wilde

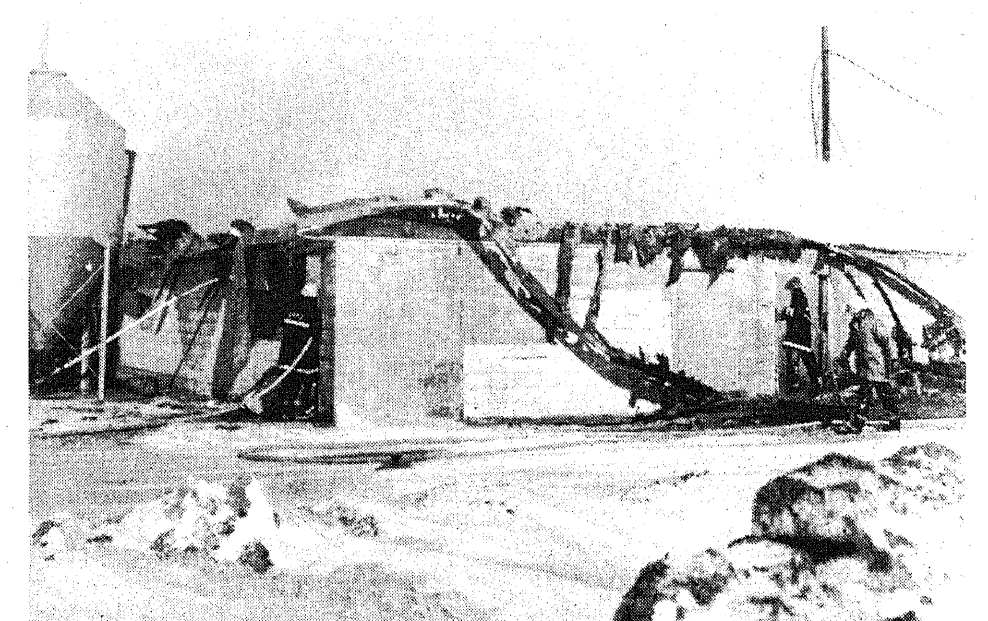
Want 3 in Caseville elections

Three candidates are being sought to fill the election roster for Caseville's general rule village election on Monday, March 10. Three seats on the Village Council are up for nomination, but only one incumbent — Forrest Williams — submitted nominating petitions by last Friday's deadline, according to Deputy Village Clerk Lee Ann Kundering.

Two newcomers, George Berdnorek and Anna Lee Morideth, also submitted petitions on time — but Caseville's charter requires at least two candidates for each election seat, so three others must be appointed. That will be discussed at Monday's Council meeting in the Village-Township hall. All are non-partisan candidates, also according to charter.

PRESIDENCY: Three persons are seeking the Village President's post being vacated by incumbent Janice Prill, who is not seeking re-election. They are former President Robert Peter, plus Krista Jensen and former Police Chief Robert Cassada. **CLERK:** Longtime Village Clerk Deloris Steinman also isn't seeking another term and three persons are after that position. Deputy Clerk Lee Ann Kundering, incumbent President Janice Prill and Agnes Peruski have all filed nominating petitions for the March election.

BE SURE to enter the "Sweetest Couple of '86" Contest!
See center pages for details!



CHICKEN FIRE: An estimated 9,000 chickens were destroyed last Tuesday when this laying house, located on Weale Road, just east of M-25 went up in flames. The building is owned by Alvin Gnagey of Bay Port. After fire spread to a nearby coop being used to raise hogs, firemen from Fairhaven and Winsor Townships, Owendale and Sebawaing quickly extinguished the flames. Electrical equipment or wiring is believed to be the cause of the fire.

Baur earns 2nd place in I-500

The Western Thumb was well represented in the I-500 last weekend at Sault Ste. Marie, when Team Budweiser (formerly Team Blu) placed second in the long-distance snomobile race.

Drivers Duane Baur of Bay Port and Mike LeFave of Caro shared driving duties in the grueling race. After starting in the sixth position, Team Budweiser moved up to second place after the first 40 laps. Catching Bay City's Jeff Kipf-miller proved to be too much, however as he led the entire race to claim the championship trophy.

The local team earned \$2,800 in prize money for finishing in second place. The next race on the pro snomobile race circuit is the Albright Shores event this Sunday, Feb. 9, during the Gladwin Ice Carnival.

Thumb Weekly News Round-Up

MEAL CHANGES NOT WELCOMED
Plans to begin central kitchen meal preparation in Bad Axe to replace existing senior citizen meal site kitchens in Caseville and Port Austin should start this next week — but seniors using the noon lunch sites aren't happy.

The Thumb Area Commission on Aging has announced plans to prepare about 200 meals per day at a new central kitchen north of Bad Axe on M-53, and transport meals to senior citizen centers at Caseville and Port Austin. TACA says the central kitchen concept assures meal quality and keeps costs lower than existing individual kitchens at the meal sites at the Caseville American Legion Hall and the Port Austin hall. But some senior citizens say they'll boycott the central-prepared meal plan, since the existing system works well and has done so for at least 10 years. They say transportation costs mean no savings are possible. Caseville's noon meals are now served Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week. The Caseville Retirement Club meets with a noon meal each Tuesday.

The existing TACA kitchen at George Greene Elementary School in Bad Axe will be replaced by the new site, but the present Harbor Beach meal site — with local cooks — will remain in operation. TACA says that's possible because Harbor Beach seniors purchased most of their kitchen equipment and building rental is low. Meanwhile, the search for a new TACA director is ongoing, following the Dec. 1 resignation of Bob Brown. TACA serves Huron, Tuscola and Sanilac Counties and operates elderly programs with about 65 employees on an \$890,000 annual budget.

EROSION MEETING FEB. 10

The state Department of Natural Resources has set a shoreline erosion workshop for this Monday, Feb. 10 in Port Sanilac, to discuss record high water levels on the Great Lakes and how to cope with them. The workshop starts at 1:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 123 Whitney Street, Port Sanilac, and is one of nine such meetings statewide to increase public awareness of the shoreline problems, says the DNR. Low interest loans to relocate homes in erosion hazard areas are possible, and to be discussed are state and federal shore protection permit requirements.

RAILWAY SALE APPROVED

The Interstate Commerce Commission has approved the sale of 82.6 miles of Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad track in Huron and Sanilac Counties to the Huron & Eastern Railway Co. Huron & Eastern President John Marino says his company hopes to complete the purchase by March 1, for a yet undisclosed amount. The railroad will serve communities of Bad Axe, Kinde, Harbor Beach, Deckerville, Sandusky, Carsonville and Crosswell. It connects to the existing C&O line at Bad Axe, and will be able to feed cars from its eastern Thumb area through Elkton and Pigeon to Saginaw. The company plans to hire about 12 workers and has agreed to lease 50 covered hopper cars for grain shipments. The Huron & Eastern, with offices in Bad Axe, plans to buy two or three locomotives.

'NO' TO CARO GUNS, BOOZE

Tuscola County Commissioners last week voted 4-3 against allowing a county election to decide whether to sell bottled liquor on Sundays, and Caro Village Council didn't approve a proposed gun control ordinance last week. The bottled liquor question may appear on the ballot anyway, as proponents say they'll seek petitions allowing Sunday sales. State law was changed in 1981 allowing packaged liquor sales on Sunday if approved by county boards. Huron County allows such sales and sells \$1.2 million in packaged liquor goods annually — versus \$900,000 per year in the larger Tuscola neighbor. Proponents of Sunday sales say the ban sends purchasers

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 20

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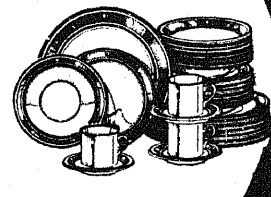
For strong, gamey meat:
3 tablespoons fat or drippings
2 pounds ground venison
1 cup onion, chopped
1 cup celery, finely diced
1/2 large green pepper, chopped fine
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2 cup chili sauce
1/2 cup ketchup
2 tablespoons chopped parsley
1/4 cup water
2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
1/4 cup vinegar
1 tablespoon brown sugar
2 teaspoons dry mustard
1 teaspoon paprika
2 teaspoons chili powder

Preheat fry pan. Add fat and melt. When hot, add meat, onions and celery. Brown, stirring frequently. Spoon off excess fat. Combine remaining ingredients, except parsley. Mix well and pour over meat. Cover fry pan and simmer 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add parsley, serve between hot buns or over mashed potatoes, rice or noodles.

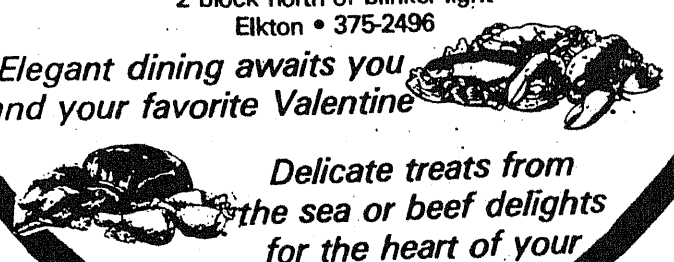
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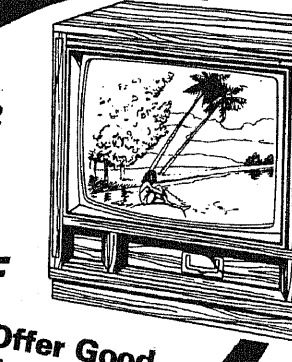
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Win \$15 for your favorite nominated couple!

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Here are the simple rules!

1. Describe, as briefly as possible, who you wish to nominate for "the Thumb Area's Sweetest Couple for 1986," and explain why you're doing so.
2. Submit this entry form or a facsimile to The Progress-Advance so we receive it by **12 noon on Monday, Feb. 10, 1986.** Entries may be mailed or dropped off at our office at 7232 E. Michigan Ave., Pigeon.
3. Based on content and judges' decision, one \$15 Grand Prize Shopping Certificate will be awarded to the nominated couple. Plus, one \$15 First Prize Shopping Certificate will be awarded to the person nominating them.
4. Decision of judges is final. Winners must agree to having pictures taken and publicity given their entry. Anyone may enter this contest.


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I NOMINATE _____ AS "SWEETEST COUPLE" BECAUSE _____

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