#  <br> The <br> Only 50 

## Find out at Sunday show!

## Who ARE these musicians??

Who's hiding behind those paper bags?
To find out, you'll have to come Sunday afternoon and see the Laker Alumni Band in action, when they perform as part of the Laker Vaudeas part of the Laker VaudeVile variety show on March
1 at 2 p.m. at the Laker Audi1 at $2 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$
torium.

The Laker Alumni Band is only one of more than a dozen special acts planned for the show, which is being Boosters to help fund music
camp scholarships and to purchase instruments and supplies.
"Ris mot at talent show," explain organizers from the Band Boosters. There are professional groups coming in like the precision tap offered by the Tri City Hoofers of Bay City, as well as groups performing gospel numbers, dixieland, comedy and drama.
Mark Rummel of Pigeon will emcee the afternoon event and tickets will be for sale at the door.
IT'S A MYSTERY BAND, at least untl Sunday when the public can see who is performing as part of the Laker Alumni Band for a speciai Vaudeville Varlety Show, spon-

## sored by the laker Band Boosters.

Will farm property auctions stabilize land values?

## By MARK RUMMMEL

"Buy land," the old saying goes, "because they ain't makin' any more of it."
That old adage may be true, but there's plenty of quality farm land for sale in the Western Thumb right now - 4033 acres, to be exact.
The largest local collection of agricultural parcels ever assembled at one time is on the farm auction block, as two major auction sales in the next month should help set and stabilize farm land prices into the 21st century.
How much interest is shown by potential bidders - and how many bids will be entered at what prices - is the big question still to be answered.
On Tuesday, March 24, 2570 acres of farm land in dozens of tracts from 20 - to 120 -acre sizes are being offered by Farm Credit Services through Herb Albrecht \& Associates, Auctioneers of Vassar. These include 1220 acres in Huron County and 250 acres in Tuscola.
Most of these have been seized by Farm Credit Services for Motarment of debt in recent years. The $11 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. auction will be conducted at the Colony House near Cass City. Sale flyers have been prepared for the offering, which is the flyers have been prepared for the offering,
On Thursday, Marcth 26, 1463 acres of farm land in 23 On Thursday, March 26, parcels ranging from one acre (usually also noludion at the Or farm buildings) to 120 acres will be sol Estate and Auction Pigeon VFW Hall through Schrader Real Estate and Auction
Company of Columbia, Ind., and Westchester Group, Inc., of Company of Columbia, Ind., and Westchester Group, Inc., of
Champaign, Ill. The $11 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. auction is being preceded by information days this past Tuesday and on Thursday, March 12, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Greenfields Restaurant, Pigeon.
Large-scale farm owners Vernon and June Kretzschmer of Pigeon are offering 744 acres of that total in 13 tracts located "around Pigeon, southeast of Elkton and southwest of Bad Axe," according to the full-color auction flyer describing the lands. The Kretzschmers are scaling back their farming operations through the sale.
The other 10 tracts total 719 acres and are being sold by Thumb National Bank \& Trust Company of Pigeon. They too are located in Western Huron County, plus one tract in Tuscola, one mile south of the county line. Most of these properties have been returned to the bank for non-payment of pertes Some also include residences or out-farm buildings.
Why such a massive farm land sale? There isn't one simple answer, although experts familiar with the situation say soaring land prices in the 1980s led to today's massive say soaring land prices in the 1980 s led to today mass
sell-off. Traditionally, quality tiled farm land in this area
would sell for $\$ 1500$ to $\$ 2200$ per acre and many farmers owned no more than 200 to 300 acres. Even that was a far cry from the times 50 years ago when a family could live comfortably on an 80 -acre farm for decades.
Steady farm commodity prices - and over-optimistic byers - led to step jumps in land values in the mid-1980s, when some top-quality parcels sold for $\$ 3200$ and more, when some top-qualty parcels sold for fortilizer, fuel experts say. Then, a form income drastically, machinery and seed To purchase more land, some farmers secured their purchases with long-owned parcels, which in theory also had risen dramatically in value. Since land was selling at these higher prices, it appeared the value was there, one observe says today. "Some farmers didn't realize it could come down as fast as it had gone up."
Three particularly poor farming years, starting with the worst flooding in a century in 1986, brought a halt to sky


ONE OF THE AUCTION SIGNS showing farm lands
offered for sale in the next month.
rocketing land values. Plus, the fields which were to produce the revenues to make principle and interest payments were yielding below-average crops in those 1986-89 years, making repayment of debt difficult... or impossible. Some land devaluations fell $66 \%$ in a year. Some land purchased five years earlier for $\$ 3000$ per acre fell to $\$ 1000$ - "an amazing roller-coaster ride," one expert says. "It's remarkable things aren't worse. In retrospect, we farmers wanted too much. We never thought prices would stop rising.
If the stock market, now in the 3200-range, would fall 500 points, that would be a big story in the news. But that's only $20 \%$, compared to what farm land has done here."
"Everybody in the past 10 years probably paid more than they should have - but no one knew that. Some had enough equity to survive, while others didn't," another expert says. Some over-leveraged themselves, or fell victim to poor combinations of weather/crop mix and production slumps. For instance, dairy farmers and sugar beet growers basically have done well in the past decade; others such as feeder cattle operations haven't.
"Some people are good managers but made the wrong choices, or hita bad cycle," an observer says. "The old saying is that every bad farm year requires three good years to recover.
"Well, we had three bad years straight. Maybe we don't need a full nine years for recovery, but we certainly need five or six. We're half-way through that right now, he adds, although the just-past 1991 crop year was basically dismal with poor bean market and dairy prices, smaller-tonnage yields on sugar beets and flat numbers of corn and wheat. No one also knows what prices the auctions will draw and who will be bidders. Some stories say out-of-area farming companies are looking over many of the properties, while some local farmers - who resisted $\$ 3000$ prices a decade ago - may be willing to purchase land today. Some non-farm investors may want to acquire land on speculation, another rumor says.
Some recent small sales have found good land selling for $\$ 1800$ and higher, but will a massive sale depress per-acre prices? No one knows with certainty.
And these are not typical auctions, either. A sophisticated And using computers to keep track of bids will be em system using comprem throughout the Midwest - and perployed. Buyers from - are expected.
haps furth ind is for sale, and they aren't making any more of it.

2 -THE PROGRESS-ADVANCE - Wednesday, Feb. 26 to Tuesday, March 3, 1992
 Sebewaing shooting



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Pigeon will hold a Public Hearing during the regular Council meeting scheduled for Monday, March 16, 1992 at 7:15 p.m. in Council Chambers. Purpose of the hearing is to solicit and consider public comment regarding a Variance request by Huron
Casting, Inc. to construct a parking lot on their property located on Hartiey Street. Setbacks contrary to Zoning Ordinance are being requested. DAVID GEIGER-Pr siden Village Of Pigeon


TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DIENER'S 2ND ANNUAL DUTCH AUCTION SALE $40 \%$ то $60 \%$ ог
THIS MEANS YOU TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 5 to 15\% OFF LAST WEEK'S ALREADY LOW SALE PRICESII

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A poll was taken in West Virginia this past Valentine's
Day asking people how much in olove they really are. Here

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on Feb. 17 . Laker High bottle drive this Saturday

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- Wednesday, Feb. 22 t T Tuesday, March 3, $1992-3$ Thumb Weekly News Roumd-Tu CASEVILLE RAPE TRIAL MARCH 10






DEAN DRUG CHARGE EXAM SET






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OSTERHOUT RETRIAL SET IN GAYLORD


 The Michigan State Courto of Appeals overturned the con-
 Circuit Court Judge Alton T. Davis, gave imprper instruc-
tionst toter uryt
A retrial is slated to begin Tuesday, March 10 in Caylord. COURT PROCEEDINGS In 73rd District Court (Huron County), Jugge Karl Kraus
ast week heard the leas of or passed Judment on:







 probation, counseling ordered and loses driver's license for
six monthis.
Ken $B$. Seelye, 22 of Sterling Heighst, pled guily to onspiracy to commiit simple larceny, following an Aug.
inicient involving a financial transaction device investi-







4-THE PROGRESS-ADVANCE-Wednesday, Feb. 26 to Tuesday, March 3, 1992

## As we see it

## Say 'checse' for the sake of your teeth.

If you think you've heard it all, this will probably prove you haven't. A recent study Canada says eating cheese can help keep your teeth cavity-free.
The study was c
The study was conducted by a professor of premise that cheese can be one secret to maintaining a healthy, cavity-free smile. hard cheese the size of a sugar cube a piece of of a meal can retard tooth decay. The calcium saliva in your mouth and linger one mix with saliva in your mouth and linger on the surface
of the teeth for up to two hours - providing protection against acid attacks from sweet Nod or drink.
No doubt the hardness of the cheese helps move plaque and food particles off teeth
surfaces. And, no doubt eating somethin more neutral than sugary foods will also hel


STEWARDS OF THE EARTH












 ders pray spared he reality of an ozone layer-less world.
Lets
Lithe
to partially clean teeth. It all makes sense. Cheese's abundance of calcium works as a
natural buffer against bad elements and wis like to see more experts prescribe eating allnatural cheese to American diets... especially since it's made from pure, fresh milk. That's sound to put a toothy smile on the faces of ou
local dairy farmers, at the same time! airy farmers, at the same time!
Wanda Eichler's "Willow" column will
appear again soon, after a brief hiatus,

## Our Readers Write . .

Clarification needed after unfair news stories, reports DEAR EDITOR:


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health care needs. We are concerned that your experiences



$\qquad$ Thanks for spaghetti support! D




Fun with Campbell's Soup!

 The campbeil Soup Klds were invited to Caseville by Caseville business owner
Collean Poisson of the Bay Window Restaurant.





Auto-Owners' Medicare Supplement provides high--quaity
coverace you can depend on and it's guaranteed renewable for

## Pis

The Power Agency
6974 Main St. (M-25) Caseville 856-2745

THE PROGRESS-ADVANCE- Wednesday, Feb. 26 to Tuesday, March 3, 1992 - $\mathbf{1 1}$ BOARDS OFREVIN

WINSOR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW Board of Review will meet on Monday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Winsor Township Hall for the purpose of review ing the assessment roll and hearing objections Factors all 1.0000

BOB ARMBRUSTER - Supervisor
MCKINLEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW Board of Review will meet on Monday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to p. 00 . at the McKinley Township Hall for the hearing objections. Factors all 1.0000

HERMAN RATHIKE - Supervisor
BROOKFIELD TWP. BOARD OF REVIEW Board of Review will meet on Monday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Community Building in Owendale for the purpose of hearing objections. Factors all 1.0000

WALTON BROWN - Supervisor
CASEVILLE TWP. BOARD OF REVIEW
The Caseville Township Board of Review will meet on
Monday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and also Saturday, March 14, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Caseville Village/Township Hall to review and
equalize assessments. All protests by mail will be acequailize assessments. All protests by m
cepted if received prior to March 14, 1992 .

JANICE PRILL - Assessor
OLIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW
Board of Review will meet on Monday, March 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the OliverTownship Hall for the purpose of reviewing the assessment rolls. ctors all 1.0000

LAWRENCE KROHN - Supervisor
FAIR HAVEN TWP. BOARD OF REVIEW
Board of Review will meet on Monday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the rair the assessment roll and hearing objections. Facthe assessmen
toll 1.0000 .

WILLIAM FORGE - Supervisor
CHANDLER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW Board of Review will meet on Monday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the Chan dier Township Hall for the purpose of reviewing the assessme
tors all 1.0000

BILL RENN - Superviso

14- THE PROGRESS-ADVANCE-Wednesday, Feb. 26 to Tuesday, March 3, 1992

CASEVILLE
RETIREMENT CLUB
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Thumb club news notes
Pigeon news notes
By DOROTHY DIENER

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by dorothy diener By DOROTHY DiENER
Mh. .and Mrs. Gene entlier
and Beth Ann of Bay tity





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THUMB NATIONAL
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## Engagement



OBITUARIES

LUELLA M.E. ELSTON
1916-1992
$\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Luella M.E.E.ELston, } 75 \text { of Sebewaing, died unexpectedly } \\ \text { Thursday, Feb. 20, at Bya Medical Center, Bay City. }\end{array}\right]$ ursday, Feb. 20, at Bay Medical Center, Bay City.
Mrs. Elsion was born Nov. 17 , 1911 , in Sebewaing Tow
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1924-1992 William N. Strelchuk, 6, of Clarkston, passed away Sun.
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ublic hearing of the Caseville Village Council, Febraary 10, 1992. Public Hearing called
 Wublic Hearing called tor public comments on the proposed $1992-1993$ fiscal year budge

Council commentis.
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PAMELA J. STAHL -village ConfroleriDeputy Clerk


ESTHER KATHERINE HODAPP

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for Scheurer
Ambulance Persons needing emer-
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Other Thumb Area deaths






SOMETHING TO
THINK ABOUT
John A. Champag
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CHAMPAGNE





## Achievements



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## Thumb Cellulat

## Makes lts

 Connection!Our system is complete and we are happy to announce that we can now offer you:



## News that COUNTS from Huron County



20 - THE PROGRESS-ADVANCE - Wednesday, Feb. 26 to Tuesday, March 3, 1992

| OPERATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE TOWNSHIP OF FAIR HAVEN, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE NO. 14A <br>  <br>  this stale fifieithere the thellowing applies. <br> controled sul the person is inder the influencre of inloxicating liquor or a subsarace oilconol ol $\qquad$ <br> Prohibition against permitting intoxicated person to operate motor vehicle. <br> shal not authorize or krowingly permit the veatide io be operarald vopon a <br>  within this state by a person who is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controned substance, or a combination of intoxicating liquor and a controlled substance, or who has a blood alcohol content of $0.10 \%$ or more by weight of alcohol. <br> Operation while visibly impaired; tinding of guilty. <br>  <br>  <br>  <br> is charged with violating subsection (1), a finding of guilty under this subsection may be rendered. <br> Misdemeanor violation, punishment; enhancement to felony in event of prior convictions; community service as part of sentence, costs to defendant. <br> (4) If: aparson is convicied of violating subsection (1), hhe ololowing shall <br>  <br> (i) Service to the community for a period of not more than 45 days. (ii) Imprisonment for not more than 90 days. <br> (ii) Imprisonment for not more than 90 days. (iii) A fine of not less than $\$ 100.00$ or more than $\$ 500.00$. <br> (b) If the violation occurs within 7 years of a prior conviction, the person <br> and either of the following: <br> 10 days or more than 90 days and may be imprisoned fornot more than 90 days <br> (ii) Imprisonment for not less than 48 consecutive hours or more than 90 days and may be sentenced to service to the community for a period <br> of not more than 90 days. (c) A term of imprisonment imposed under subdivision (b) shall not be <br> suspended. (d) A person sentenced to perform service to the community under this <br> subsection shall not receive compensation, and shall reimburse the state or <br> state or local unit of government as a result of the person's activities in that service. <br> (e) As used in this subsection, "prior conviction" means a conviction for a violation of section 625 (1), (4), or (5), of the Michigan Vehicle Code or former <br> section 625 (1) or (2), of the Michigan Vehicle Code, a local ordinance substantially corresponding to section 625 <br> or a law of another state substantially corresponding to section 625 (1), (4), or (5), or former section 625 (1) or (2). <br> Offender to pay costs of prosectulon. <br>  <br>  <br> imposition of license sanctions. <br> the Michichigan Voticical Cococe. <br> Violation of provision prohibiting use of vehicle by intoxicated person as misdemeanor; penalty. <br>  <br> Penalty for operation of vehicle whille visibily impaired. <br> appy: (8) Ha parson is convictede of violating subssecion (3), the flolowing shall <br>  <br> (ii) Impissonnent for not mote than 90 <br>  \$500.00, and eifihe of the following: <br>  more than 80 diyys. <br> to community service for nor not more than 90 days and may be sentenced <br> c) If the violation noc more than 90 days <br> than $\$ 500.00$, <br>  <br> more than 50 doays. |  <br> DRIVING WITHOUT LICENSE; PENALTY; CONFISCATION OF REGISTRATION PLATES ORDINANCE NO. 14B TOWNSHIP OF FAIR HAVEN <br> The Tounstio of Farithen Ordians 1 <br>  whose application for license has been denied, or who has never appled for a to the general public or generally accessible to motor vehicles, including an shall not knowingly permit a motor vehicle owned by the person to be operated accessible to motor vehicles, including an area designated for the parking of is suspended or revoked, whose application for license has been denied, or who has never applied for a license, except as permitted under the act person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable a follows: follows: under section 321 of the Michigan Vehicle Code because that person has lailed to answer a citation or has failed to comply with an order or judgment issued pursuant to section 907 of the Michigan Vehicle Code, by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than $\$ 100.00$ or both. $\qquad$ a person who did not knowingly permit an unlicensed driver to operate the vehicle, the registration plates of the vehicle shall be conilscated. c) For a second or subsequent violation punishable under subdivision (b), by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than $\$ 500.00$ or both. Unless the vehicle was stolen, the registration plates of the vehicle shall be confiscated. <br> SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE; EXTENSION OF REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION. <br>  <br>  | subdivision of this state while the license of the person is suspended or revoked <br> additional like period. This subsection shall apply only if the violation occurs <br> during a suspension of definite length, or if the violation occurs before the person is approved for a license following a revocation. UNLAWFUL OPERATION OF CLASS 1, 2 OR 3 INDORSEMENT VEHICLES; EXTENSION OF SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION; APPLICABILITY OF PROVISION. <br> (3) The secretary of state, upon receiving a record of the conviction, bond forfeiture, or a civil infraction determination of a person upon a charge of unlawiul operation of a motor vehicle requiring a class 1, class 2, or class 3 is suspended pursuant to section 319 a or 319 b of the Michigan Vehicle Code or revoked, immediately shall extend the period of suspension or revocation for an additional like period. This subsection shall apply only if the violation occurs during a suspension of definite length, or if the violation occurs before the a commercial vehicle while disqualified under title XII of Public Law 99-570, 100 <br> MULTIPLE CONVICTIONS, ETC., TREATED AS SINGLE VIOLATION FOR PURPOSE OF SUSPENSION OF REVOCATION EXTENSION. <br>  <br>  <br> OBTAINMENT OF OFFENDER'S DRIVING RECORD PRIOR TO ARRAIGNMENT; COURT REVIEW <br> (5) Before person is arraigned before a district court magistrate or judge on a charge of violating this section, the arresting officer shall obtain the driving <br> record of the person from the secretary of state and shall furnish the record to the court. The driving record of the person may be obtained from the secretary of state's computer information network. <br> INAPPLICABILITY OF SECTION. <br> (6) This section shall not apply to a person who operates a vehicle solely for the purpose of protecting human life or property, if the life or property is <br>  <br>  <br> Ordinance shall not be construed to affect any prosecution pending or initiated <br> before the effective date of this Ordinance or initated aiter the effective this Ordinance for an offense committed before that eifective date. <br> (8) All other Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance to the extent of such inconsistency are hereby repealed. <br> This Ordinance shall take effect in this governmental uniton March 13, 1992. <br> WILLIAM C. FORGE <br> KAREN CSANYI Township Clerk <br> IMPOUNDMENT OF VEHICLE UPON CONVICTION FOR OPERATION WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED, REVOKED OR DENIED ORDINANCE NO. $14 C$ <br> The Township of Fair Haven Ordains: <br> 1) When a person is convicted under Ordinance No. 14 B of operating a motor vehicle while his or her license to operate a motor vehicle is suspended revoked or denied, the motor vehicle, if it is owned in whole or in part by that person, shall b ordered impounded for not less than 30 or more than 120 days from the date of judgment. <br> IMPOUNDMENT ORDER VALID THROUGHOUT <br> STATE; EXECUTION OF ORDER; STORAGE <br> COSTS BORNE BY VEHICLE OWNER. <br> 2) An order of impoundment issued pursuant to subsection (1) is valid <br> The order shall include the implied consent of the owner of the vehicle to the storage for insurance coverage purposes. <br> OWNER LIABLE FOR REMOVAL AND STORAGE EXPENSES; PAYMENT AS CONDITION FOR RETURN OF VEHICLE; DISPOSITION OF VEHICLE IF NOT REDEEMED. 3). The owner of a motor vehicle impounded pursuant to this section is liable for expenses incurred in the removal and storage of the vehide whether or not the vehicle is returned to him or her. The vehicle shall bes returned to the owner only if the owner pays the expenses for removal and storage. If redemption is not made or the vehicle is not returned as provided in this section within 30 days after the time set in the impoundment order for retum of the vehicle, the vehicle shall be considered an abandoned vehicle and disposed of as provided in section 252 of the Michigan Vehicle Code. <br> RIGHTS OF CONDITIONAL VENDOR, CHATTEL MORTGAGEE OR LESSOR OF VEHICLE. $\qquad$ mortgagee orlessor of a motorvehicle register as owner who becomes subject to this act. <br> EFFECT OF CONVICTION ON PLEA OF NOLO CONTENDERE $\qquad$ <br>  CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 |
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## Woods \& Waters

Fur and feather therapy


