

# MAPLE VALLEY news

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## Schools to have 'Youth Friends' pilot program

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

The Maple Valley School District received just under \$4,000 to pilot the program "Youth Friends" in the schools.

The grant, which came from the Eaton Intermediate School District, is for instituting a volunteer program at all grade levels for student mentoring and tutoring.

Superintendent Clark Volz said the volunteers will be trained to help students with reading and school-work, and the volunteer program will involve adult volunteers and high school students helping in the younger grades.

"This program has the ability to make sure mentors working with our kids are safe and trained," he said. "We are going to have staff trained on this Jan. 14 and 15."

Volz said coordinating headed up by Alternative



Maple Valley Superintendent Clark Volz is excited about the district's \$4,000 grant to start the program, Youth Friends.

Education Principal Tate Mix will include working with local ministers and local service agencies. The district will also be looking to coordinate efforts with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters

program and look to try to do something through employers too.

"We are hoping to merge this with our asset development program and we are going to be looking closer into the assets that are available to our students' lives and increase their opportunities."

Assets, Volz explained, are the things identified that kids need for health and happiness.

Volz said the students who will benefit from the program will be chosen by teachers or from parent initiation and permission will be received from the parents before a student starts the program, which will work during, before, or after the school day and stay on school property.

"We will be initiating the program by the end of the month and we are looking forward to implementing it," said Volz.



Fuller Elementary kindergarten students are now going all day, every other day in the district. They are shown here in a file photo with teacher Linda Gaber.

## Reviews mixed for all-day, alternate day kindergarten

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

It's been half a school year with the new all-day, alternate day kindergarten program and already the school is seeing success with it, said Superintendent Clark Volz.

The program, for the first time in the Maple Valley school history, had kindergarten students going to school two and three days a week all day instead of half day every day.

The program, which started with some parents behind it and some parents opposed, has been instituted long enough to begin to see a trend in its effectiveness, the superintendent said.

Volz said Fuller Principal Judy Farnsworth began looking at the instructional patterns and noticed many of the children were not progressing as effectively as the staff felt they could.

"In a half day, they bus in and by the time they get settled their instructional time is short," said Volz. "The teachers were doing a lot of introducing material, but having no time to reinforce that material. Now they can introduce in the morning and reinforce in the afternoon."

Volz said the staff is finding the skill development is much higher than in previ-

ous years.

"They are doing creative writing and basic reading activities," he said. "We have seen the kids more comfortable and in a less pressured environment."

Parent Marion Alexander who has twins in the program said he could only speak for himself and his situation, but he questioned the program in its beginning and it still holds concerns for him six months later.

"Our kids are in the alternate every day program and most of the days they come home from school tired. I guess the question I still have is, do our children need academic acceleration at the price of tiring out?"

He said if an all-day program became permanent in the district, he would like to see a mandatory rest period for the children — if not to

sleep, but to relax and recharge.

Volz said he still supports a half-day, every day program so that the children can establish a daily routine and because he believes it minimizes fatigue for the children.

Volz said the assessment will be examined to see if it carries into the first grade, and added the feedback they are getting is mostly favorable.

"There has also been some concern about the length of time between sessions. Some parents have said they would like to see all day everyday, and others are really opposed to that idea."

Volz said the program will continue to be scrutinized and changes will be made based on need.

## Early Childhood Connections program grant to help area

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

Parents looking for help and services for their young children will no longer have to go on a wild goose chase for those services in the Maple Valley area.

Superintendent Clark Volz said that Eaton County has received a grant for \$2 million to bring an Early Childhood Connections program to the area.

"The initiative is to take

all the county services for children ages 0-5 and bring them all together in a way that when a parent calls, there will be easier access to the services," said Volz.

"The program is about looking closely at that age group and what can be done to help them prepare for school. The concept is no wrong door, and the object is to get kids the help they need when they ask for it. Often times parents are sent

on a wild goose chase when they reach out for help, and this program is a way to make sure we are getting those parents directed to the services they need, and that the agencies are all working together to meet the need."

Volz said another aspect is that adults have a tendency that if a child is not theirs to keep their distance.

"This program is about everyone taking an interest in children and making them a higher priority."

Volz said the program started in the area about a month ago and is distributing newborn packages that include supplies and reading materials and books. Included in the package is information on the first 1,000 days of children's lives.

Volz said packages and relevant information is distributed to the parents three to four times in the first couple of years.

"To help the family help their child be healthy and to learn. We are looking forward to doing presentations on the services and give background info."

Volz said Joan Leos is the district coordinator and she can be reached at Fuller Elementary if someone needs the services or would like to help.

## Nashville Village Clerk appointed

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

Penny Ruff has been appointed the new clerk for the village of Nashville.

Ruff has given her 30-day notice to her job as part-time Potterville clerk and will start part time immediately and full time within a month.

Ruff spent 18 years employed by the State of Michigan as a clerk/calculations assistant. After that she went on to become the executive director of the R.E.O. Transportation Museum in Lansing.

See Nashville clerk, pg. 2



New Nashville Village Clerk Penny Ruff.

### In This Issue...

- Flags to be placed on fire hydrants in Vermontville
- Maple Valley welcomes record 14 foreign exchange students
- Local Masons install officers
- Cagers 3-0 in league after win at Bellevue

## Nashville clerk, from front page

Ruff lives in the Potteryville area and has been married for 25 years to her husband, Ken. She is the mother of three children and grandmother to four.

Ruff said she has been impressed with the welcome

she has received in the community.

"I am finding the job interesting and challenging," she said. "People have been very nice and I am really proud of Lois' (Elliston, village treasurer) dedication to the community, she has worked really hard in the time that this position was not filled."

Ruff said her hobbies include painting ceramics and being an automobile buff. She said she has heard a lot about the first Nashville Car Show last year, and she will be interested in the one this year being planned.

She also said something she finds fun to do in her free time is surf the web for

grants to bring back to the community.

"That's something I enjoy and find fun," she said.

Ruff said she will soon be in the office from 1 to 5 p.m. weekdays.

"Right now, it's overwhelming. Lois has pointed out some things that need to be done and I am just learning right now, even though I have a good idea about the standard things."

Ruff said she is fairly familiar with the Nashville area and has shopped here often.

"I think it's a beautiful little area... I love small rural communities, I am looking forward to meeting people here."

### Automotive

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### Garage Sale

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## Too much snow

Over 37 inches of snow has fallen in the past couple of weeks and it was just too heavy for this Riverfront Storage roof that was under construction. The storage buildings are located on M-79, close to Charlton Park Road.

## VERMONTVILLE TWP. LIBRARY NEWS

Santa visited the library on Saturday, Dec. 22, and passed out goodies to all the children who visited. Mrs. Claus read stories to children as they waited for their turn. A door prize drawing was held, and the grand prize of a Christmas storybook was won by Alexis Knapp. Other winners were: Cory Bisson, Brittany Kirby, Emily Wilbur, Josiah Anderson, Ellen Hough, Grant Schafer, Cathie Robles, Linda Hale, Josh Moist, A.J. Kirby, Riley Fisher, Siera Bisson, Stan Gross, Warren Hale, Greg LaSalvia, Holley Brooke, Dillon Terpening, and Caleb Anderson.

New Videos: Pearl Harbor. Junior Fiction: The New Adventures of Mary Kate and Ashley; The Case of the Jingle Bell Jinx, by Alice Leonhardt; Don't Look Back, by Laura Peyton Roberts; Hank the Cowboy; Faded Love, and Let Sleeping Dogs Lie, by John Erickson; Sweet Valley Senior High: Me, Me, Me, by Francine Pascal; The Magic School Bus: Penguin Puzzle, by Joanna Cole; Junie B. Jones is Captain Field Day, by Barbara Park; Franklin

Runs Away, by Paul Bourgeois; Star Wars Jedi Apprentice: The Call to Vengeance, by Jude Watson; Twice the Trouble, by John Peel.

Junior, Non-Fiction: Survivor Manual: Based on US Armed Forces Survival Techniques.

Adult Fiction: Bamboo and Lace, by Lori Wick; Desecration, by Tim LaHaye; Flesh and Blood, by Jonathan Kellerman; Jackdaws, by Ken Follett; Mercy, by Julie Garwood; Midnight Bayou, by Nora Roberts; Violets are Blue, by James Patterson; When Tomorrow Comes, by Janette Oke; City Girl, by Lori Wick; Great Hunt by Robert Jordan; The Inn at Lake Divine, by Elinor Lipman; Ransom Riders, by Judson Grey; Gunsmith #239: The High Road, by J.R. Roberts.

Adult Non-Fiction: Betty Crocker's Easy Slow Cooker Dinners, Homeschooling for

Dummies, by Jennifer Kaufman.

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## HASTINGS 4

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\$4.75 DAILY Matinee 11:30am & Seniors  
\$5.00 Students & Late Shows Fri & Sat  
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## MOVIE GUIDE

**JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS (G)**  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:00  
**NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE (R)**  
11:45, 1:50, 4:10, 7:10, 9:20  
**OCEAN'S ELEVEN (PG-13)**  
9:00  
**THE MAJESTIC (PG)**  
DIGITAL/STADIUM SEATING  
12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:40  
**LORD OF THE RINGS (PG-13) DIGITAL/STADIUM SEATING**  
11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 9:55  
**COUPON**  
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# LOCAL CHURCH SCHEDULE

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one Special." For information call 1-  
616-731-5194 or 1-517-852-1806.

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

803 Reed St., Nashville  
Sunday School ..... 10 a.m.  
Sunday  
A.M. Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening  
Prayer Meeting ..... 7 p.m.  
PASTOR GLENN BRANHAM

### BASELINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

9617 E. Baseline Rd.  
Corner of Baseline & Church Roads  
(2 miles east of M-66 on Baseline)  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service ..... 11 a.m.  
(Nursery Provided)  
Youth Groups, Bible Study  
and many other activities.  
Phone (616) 963-7710  
REV. GLEN WEGNER

### CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

301 Fuller St., Nashville  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday  
A.M. Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
P.M. Worship ..... 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening  
Worship ..... 7 p.m.  
REV. ALAN METTLER

### CHESTER GOSPEL CHURCH

3744 W. Vermontville Hwy.  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Family  
Night Service ..... 6:45 p.m.  
PASTOR MARC S. LIVINGSTON  
Phone: 543-5488

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

110 S. Main, Vermontville  
Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Church School ..... 10 a.m.  
Fellowship Time  
After Worship  
REV. ERIC LISON

### SOUTH KALAMO CHURCH

Corner of Kalamo Highway & Ionia Rd.  
Sunday A.M.  
Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening at 7 p.m.:  
Children's Classes  
Youth Group • Adult Worship  
PASTOR JEFF SWIFT

### GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Meeting at Maple Valley High School  
Morning Celebration ..... 10 a.m.  
Contemporary Service,  
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Nursery, Children's Classes,  
Youth Group, Adult Small Groups,  
Leadership Training  
PASTORS: DON ROSCOE  
and ROB VAN ENGEN  
Phone: (517) 852-9228

### GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

One mile N. of Vermontville Hwy. on Mulliken Road  
Church Service ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 10 a.m.  
Fellowship Time ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Adult Class ..... 10:50 a.m.  
PASTOR JEFF BOWMAN

### NORTH KALAMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Service ..... 9:30 a.m.  
PASTOR MARK THOMPSON  
**MAPLE GROVE BIBLE CHURCH**  
8593 Cloverdale Road  
(1/2 mile East of M-66,  
5 mi. south of Nashville)

### NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

304 Phillips St., Nashville  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
A.M. Service ..... 11 a.m.  
P.M. Service ..... 7 p.m.  
Wed. Service ..... 7 p.m.  
PASTOR LESTER DeGROOT  
PASTOR DEANO LAMPHERE  
PASTOR MATT ROHDE

### NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Located on the corner of  
State and Washington streets  
Worship Service ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 11:15 a.m.  
REV. GAIL PATTERSON  
At Home: 852-0685  
Church Phone: 852-2043

### PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARRYVILLE

6043 SCOTT RD. (M-79)  
Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
PASTOR SUSAN TROWBRIDGE  
(517) 852-1993

### QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

M-79 West  
Sunday School ..... 10 a.m.  
Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
PASTOR KENNETH VAUGHT  
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203 N. State, Nashville  
Sunday Mass ..... 9:30 a.m.  
FATHER MIKE STAFFORD  
A mission of St. Rose Catholic  
Church, Hastings

### VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH

250 N. Main St., Vermontville  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service ..... 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service ..... 6 p.m.  
Wed. Evening Service ..... 7 p.m.  
AWANA ..... 7-8:30 p.m. Wed.  
PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH  
ASST. PASTOR LES ANDERSON

### VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

108 N. Main, Vermontville  
Sunday School ..... 10 a.m.  
Church Service ..... 11 a.m.  
PASTOR JEFF BOWMAN

### MOST HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Roman Catholic Latin Mass  
314 Main, Middleville  
Sunday Mass ..... 9 a.m.  
616-795-9030  
FATHER PAUL ANDRADE

# Slick road sends man to hospital

A Hastings man suffered minor injuries Dec. 28 when he lost control of his vehicle on Ragla Road near Strickland Road in Castleton Township at about 8 a.m., according to the Michigan State Police.

Ronald Otis, 46, of Hastings was driving north at about 40 mph and the road had not been plowed according to troopers.

"There were several inches of snow on the dirt road," police reported. "The driver lost control before going into the ditch and rolling the vehicle."

Otis, who was wearing his seat belt, was taken to Pen-nock Hospital in Hastings, where he was treated and released.

No citations were issued and alcohol was not a factor.

# Nashville woman injured in car crash

A 24-year-old Nashville woman who lost control of her car on Thornapple Lake Road near Woodland Road on Christmas Day Tuesday, Dec. 25, suffered minor injuries when her vehicle went off the roadway and hit a tree, according to the Michigan State Police.

Troopers said Ronni Sue

Hay was westbound on Thornapple Lake Road at 112:45 p.m. when she lost control causing the car to skid 75 feet to impact with the tree from the shoulder of the roadway.

Hay was taken to Pen-nock Hospital where she was treated. No citations were issued.

## COA MENU & EVENTS

### Hearty Meals

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Beef stew, squash, biscuit, fruit crisp.

Thursday, Jan. 10

Baked chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans, stuffing, brownie.

Friday, Jan. 11

Cheese ravioli, corn, broccoli, fresh orange.

Monday, Jan. 14

Bean w/ham soup, asparagus, cinnamon applesauce, crackers.

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Sliced turkey w/gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, stuffing, pudding.

### Lite Menu

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Seafood pasta salad, carrot

raisin salad, cole slaw.

Thursday, Jan. 10

Cottage cheese, pea and cheese salad, plums, dinner roll.

Friday, Jan. 11

Egg salad, cucumber salad, pears, whole wheat crackers.

Monday, Jan. 14

Chicken pineapple salad, potato salad, mixed fruit, dinner roll.

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Cheese spread, marinated vegetables, peaches, rye krisps.

### Events

Wednesday, Jan. 9 - Hastings, crafts/nails; Nashville, Country Strings; Woodland, blood pressure day; Delton, Legal Aid Power of Att.

Thursday, Jan. 10 - Hastings, music; Nashville, bingo; Delton, Swim Day.

Friday, Jan. 11 - Hastings, bingo; Nashville, Sharing Day; Woodland, Social Day.

Monday, Jan. 14 - Music; Nashville, Game Day; Woodland, Game Day; Delton, Game Day.

Tuesday, Jan. 15 - Hastings, Foot Care 9-11, Bd. Meeting 2:00, Our Favorite Kids; Nashville, Grandma's Kids.

## Vermontville U.M. schedules men's breakfast for Jan. 12

The Vermontville United Methodist Men will be hosts for a community breakfast, Saturday, Jan. 12 from 7 to 10 a.m.

The men will include eggs any style, biscuits and sausage and gravy, pancakes, French toast, Texas toast, orange juice and coffee. Milk will be on the menu.

The cost is a free-will offering.

# SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

## Maple Valley Elementary Schools (Maplewood & Fuller) Lunch Menus

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, orange wedges, alphabet cookies, 1/2 pt. milk.

Thursday, Jan. 10

Fuller Hungry Howies. Pizza, whole kernel corn, pear halves, trail mix, 1/2 pt. milk.

Friday, Jan. 11

Cheesie bread sticks, spaghetti, fresh fruit, pretzel rod, 1/2 pt. milk.

Monday, Jan. 14

Hot dog, baked beans, Doritos, raspberry sherbet, 1/2 pt. milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Chicken tenders, roll, tater tots, spiced apples, 1/2 pt. milk.

Note: Maplewood Elementary will be serving breakfast this year starting the first of the school year.

## Maple Valley Jr./Sr. High School Lunch Menu

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Choose One - Chicken nuggets, pizza, chicken sandwich, pasta bar. Choose Two - Garden salad, au gratin potatoes, orange wedges, juice, milk.

Thursday, Jan. 10

Choose One - Rib sandwich, cheeseburger, pizza, taco bar. Choose Two - Garden salad, whole kernel corn, pear halves, juice, milk.

Friday, Jan. 11

Choose One - Cheesie bread sticks, pizza, chicken sandwich, salad bar. Choose Two - Garden salad, spaghetti, peaches, juice, milk.

Monday, Jan. 14

Choose One - Double

dogs, pizza, chicken sandwich, salad bar. Choose Two - Garden salad, baked beans, raspberry sherbet, juice, milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Choose One - Chicken tenders, cheeseburger, pizza,

taco bar. Choose Two - Garden salad, mashed potatoes, applesauce, juice, milk.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Registration is now underway for Spring 2002 semester at Kellogg Community College's Fehsenfeld Center in Barry County.

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Classes Start on or after January 14, 2002

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 3:00 - 7:00  
 Friday 9:00 - 12:00  
 1:00 - 5:00

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5 qt. pail Country Maid Ice Cream \$4.99	12 Pack Pepsi \$2.77 + deposit	11-13.5 oz. Banquet Boneless Chicken Patties, Nuggets, Mozzarella Sticks 2/\$5
Support Special Olympics Puffs Facial Tissues 99¢/108 ct.	28 oz. Asst. Var. Prego Spaghetti Sauce 2/\$3	7.25 oz. Parade Macaroni & Cheese 4/\$1
UNITED WE STAND	18 oz. Parade Strawberry Preserves BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	6 oz. Star Kist Chunk Tuna 2/\$1

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**SNOW**  
 all couple weeks and it may be under construction. The change in Park Road.

**LIBRARY NEWS**  
 ...

**HASTINGS**  
 ...

**MOVIE GUIDE**  
 ...

**COUPON**  
 FREE 2002 SPRING ...

**ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 ...

**VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH**  
 ...

**VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 ...

**MOST HOLY ROSARY CHURCH**  
 ...

# Area Obituaries

## Hazel Christine (Eriksen) Nelson

GRAND LEDGE - Hazel Christine (Eriksen) Nelson died Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2002 at the age of 93.

She was born Jan. 3, 1908 in Greenville, Mich. to parents, Erik and Ella (Hansen) Eriksen.

She attended Greenville High School and Ferris Institute.

She married Marvin J. Nelson on June 25, 1929 and celebrated 71 years of marriage before his death on June 2, 2001. They made their home in Stanton, Mich., where Marvin was county abstractor until 1947 when they moved to Charlotte, Mich. Their last years together were at Independence Village in Grand Ledge, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson were

charter members of the Peace Lutheran Church in Charlotte and she enjoyed the Isabelle Circle. She was well known for her beautiful handiwork. She was a life member of the Eastern Star and belonged to the Pythian Sisters organization and Charlotte Women's Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin and brother, Lester in 1964.

She is survived by daughter, Jeanette (Fred) Kogge of Hastings; son, Roger (Jane) Nelson of Duck Lake, Mich.; grandchildren, Steven (Sumire) Kogge, Scott (Rose) Kogge, Sandra (Gary) Ragan, Stuart (Kathie) Kogge, Judy (Matthew) Wineinger, Robin Nelson, Michael (Kathleen) Nelson; step grandchildren, Sarah

and Sam Kellogg, Andrea and Derek King and eight great grandchildren; sister, Erma Sheaha of Santa Barbara, Calif.; sisters-in-law Evelyn Strobbridge of Greenville and Frances Eriksen of Grand Rapids.

Funeral services were held Friday, Jan. 4, 2002 at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Rev. Noel R. Hall-Niemann officiated. Interment was in South Sidney Cemetery in Montcalm County.

If desired, memorial contributions may be made to Peace Lutheran Church or Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital.

Further information available at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com).

Arrangements were made by Pray Funeral Home.

## Alice L. VanBlarcom

VERMONTVILLE - Alice L. VanBlarcom passed away Friday, Jan. 4, 2002 at her residence in Vermontville, at the age of 87.

She was born Sept. 21, 1914 in Sunfield Township, Mich., the daughter of Ralph O. and Evva (Fogle) Wright.

On March 25, 1939 she married Claude G. VanBlarcom.

Mrs. VanBlarcom was a member of the Vermontville United Methodist Church, and the Bismark Womens Fellowship.

Her hobbies included sewing, crocheting, and gar-

dening. She was preceded in death by both her parents.

Surviving are his husband, Claude G. VanBlarcom; a daughter, Marabeth (Stan) Graham; grandsons, Travis and Trent Graham; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 7, 2002 at the Rosier Funeral Home, Mapes-Fisher Chapel, Sunfield, Mich. The Rev. Jeff Bowman of the Vermontville United Methodist Church officiated. Interment was in the Sunfield Cemetery.

The honorary pallbearers

were Travis and Trent Graham.

For those wishing, contributions may be made to the Bismark Community, Maple Valley Scholarship Fund, or the Vermontville United Methodist Church in memory of Mrs. Alice L. VanBlarcom, c/o Rosier Funeral Home, P.O. Box 36, Sunfield, MI 48890.

The family is being served by the Independent Family Owned Funeral Home in Sunfield, Rosier Funeral Home.

For more information [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com).

## William C. Swiger Sr.

NASHVILLE - William C. Swiger Sr., age 86, of Nashville, died Friday, Dec. 28 at Pennock Hospital in Hastings.

Mr. Swiger was born Feb. 18, 1915 in Lake Odessa, MI, the son of Jay and Carrie (Spiecher) Swiger. He grew up in the Lake Odessa area, and attended area schools graduating from Lake Odessa High School in 1934.

He married Margaret Hummel in 1938 and the couple resided in the Nashville area for over 55 years.

He was employed as a machinist at E.W. Bliss Company for over 36 years, retiring in 1977 at the age of 62.

He was an avid fisherman, and also enjoyed hunting, working with wood, and was known for his ability to "fix anything."

Surviving Mr. Swiger is his wife, Margaret of Nashville; daughters, Janet (Cecil) Valdick of Vermontville and Joyce (Don) Hummel of Vermontville; son, William (Helen) Swiger Jr. of Charlotte; brothers, Richard

(Shirley) Swiger of Saranac and Jay (Shirley) Swiger of Lowell; 10 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Crystal Rogers of Saranac.

Services were held on Monday, Dec. 31 at Maple Valley Chapel. Rev. Jim Hynes officiated. Interment was at Lakeview Cemetery, Nashville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Maple Valley Scholarship Fund.

Arrangements were made by Maple Valley Chapel.

## Betty Jean Wright

CHARLOTTE - Betty Jean Wright, age 77, of Charlotte, died Thursday,

Dec. 27, 2001. Mrs. Wright was born Aug. 11, 1924, in Charlotte,

the daughter of James and Estella (Ripley) Smith.

She had enjoyed bowling, bingo and spending time with her family.

She is survived by daughters, Joan (Glen) Sinclair of Bellevue, Linda (Pat) Dickinson of Vermontville, Karen (Keith) McCallum of Olivet; sons, Jerry Sr. (Myrna) Smith of Bellevue, Ronald Wright Jr. of Lansing and Fred Wright and his fiancée Donna of Charlotte; 23 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren; and sister, Racheal Beard of Nashville.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ronald Wright Sr. in December 1989; daughter, Sharon Wright; daughter-in-law, Linda Wright; granddaughters, Carrie Dickinson and Tonya Wright.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 29 at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Charles Jenson officiated. Interment was in Gresham Cemetery in Charlotte.

Arrangements were made by Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

## George Ray Kyre

CHARLOTTE - George Ray Kyre, 67, of Charlotte, MI, died Saturday, Jan. 5, 2002.

Mr. Kyre was born Nov. 9, 1934 in Fremont, W.Va. the son of Galen and Pearl (Smith) Kyre.

He served\* in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was an accountant for Owens-Illinois Glass Division before retiring in 1996.

He was an avid fan of West Virginia University sports, helped keep statistics for local sporting events with Gordon Story for the Charlotte Shopping Guide. He was a member of the

Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church, the Charlotte Country Club, and coached Little League Baseball for many years and loved spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley (DeWitt) Kyre; sons, Mike (Jackie) Kyre, Jon (Shannon) Kyre and Russell Kyre, all of Charlotte; eight grandchildren, Jamie Rae, Cassi Ann, Jon-Eric James, Jordan Gabriel, Donald Jacob, Carly Rae, Logan Alexis, and Aubrey Victoria; brother, Galen Smith (Joann) Kyre of Marysville, Ohio.

He was preceded in death

by his parents and brothers, David Lee Kyre and Kenneth K. Kyre.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2002 at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte with Rev. George Fleming officiating. Interment will be in Maple Hill Cemetery in Charlotte.

If desired, memorial contributions may be made to The V (Jimmy Valvano) Foundation for Cancer Research, 100 Towerview Court, Cary, N.C., 27513.

Further information available at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com).

Arrangements were made by Pray Funeral Home.

## Flossie B. Corey

VERMONTVILLE - Flossie B. Corey, age 80, of Vermontville, Michigan, died Sunday, Jan. 6, 2002 at her residence.

Mrs. Corey was born May 4, 1921 in Chester Township, the daughter of Lloyd F. and Edith (Smith) Case.

She served with the U.S. Army during WWII and was a bookkeeper for the Department of Military Affairs for 26 years, retiring in 1972.

She was a life member of the Order of Eastern Star Chapter 399 of Kalama and

American Legion Post 222 of Vermontville.

She is survived by son, Roger Corey of Vermontville; cousins, Helen Campbell and family of Angola, Ind. and Lynn Brooks and family of Auburn, Ind.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marion S. Corey, Aug. 27, 1997.

Funeral services will be held 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2002 at the Vermontville

United Methodist Church with Rev. David Johnston officiating. Interment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Vermontville.

If desired, memorial contributions may be made to the Maple Valley Scholarship Fund.

Further information is available at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com).

Arrangements were made by Pray Funeral Home.

## Perry A. Moore

SARANAC - Perry A. Moore, of Saranac and formerly of Lake Odessa, died Saturday, Jan. 5, 2002 in Ionia, MI at the age of 26.

He was born July 12, 1975 in Lansing, MI, the son of John Norman Moore, and Diane C. (Noble) Rogers.

Perry was a tattoo artist, and enjoyed art very much.

Perry is survived by his wife, Dawn Moore; mother, Diane (Dale) Rogers; father, John Moore; two brothers, Jeff (Stephanie) Moore of Allendale, Joshua Moore of Lake Odessa; grandparents, Hal (Barbara) Noble of Nashville; two nieces, Ashley Moore and Codi Moore; step brother, Stuart (Danielle) Rogers of Indiana; and step sister, Stacey Rogers of Indiana.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 8,

2002 at 1 p.m. the Rosier Funeral Home, Mapes-Fisher Chapel, Sunfield with Pastor Deano Lamphere of the Nashville Baptist Church officiating.

The family will receive their friends two hours before the funeral, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday at the funeral home.

For those wishing, contributions may be made to the Sunfield Area Sponsors of Programs for Youth; aka S.P.Y.'s Scholarship Fund in memory of Perry A. Moore, c/o Rosier Funeral Home, P.O. Box 36, Sunfield, MI 48890.

The family is being served by the Independent Family Owned Funeral Home in Sunfield, Rosier Funeral Home.

For more information [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com).

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Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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## Masons install officers

The Nashville Masonic Lodge #255 recently installed officers for the coming year (from left) Tom Peck and Paul Nickerson, stewards; Lloyd Priddy, treasurer; Don Barlow, junior deacon; Pete Dull, chaplain; Garrard Shattuck, worshipful master; Floyd Clark, senior warden; Richard Barniack, junior warden; James Gross, secretary; and Tim Smith, senior deacon.

## Snowmobile safety classes set

The Eaton County Sheriff snowmobile safety classes Department will conduct twice this month and once in

February.

The class schedule is Monday and Wednesday, Jan. 14 and 16; Monday and Wednesday, Jan. 21 and 23; and Monday and Wednesday, Feb. 4 and 6.

Classes will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. for a total of four hours of instruction in the Sheriff's Department Training Room, 1025 Independence Blvd., Charlotte.

Classes are free of charge. Enrollment is limited to 20 persons per class and participants must be at least 12 years of age. Call Jerri Nesbitt at 543-3512, extension 390, or 372-8217, extension 390 to register.

### NOTICE SUNFIELD TOWNSHIP PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION

I will be collecting W2001 Property Taxes for Sunfield Township at the Sunfield Branch of Ionia County National Bank, during regular working hours, starting at 9 a.m. on:

Jan. 11th & 25th  
Feb. 8th, 9th, 22nd & 23rd

Any taxes received after Feb. 28, 2002, will be returned to the taxpayer as delinquent. Delinquent taxes can be paid with 4% penalty plus interest to Eaton County Treasurer.

Postmarks will not be accepted as payment date.  
Dog Licenses: Neutered/spayed dog is \$7.00 and non-neutered/spayed dog is \$12.00 Proof of up-to-date rabies vaccination is required. After Feb. 28, 2002, licenses will be \$25.00 at the Eaton County Animal Control Office.  
Taxes and Dog Licenses may be paid other days at my home by appointment, or by U.S. Mail.

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### VERMONTVILLE TOWNSHIP TOWNSHIP BOARD RESOLUTION December 27, 2001

The following resolution was moved by Trustee WEILER and supported by Trustee SHARPE.

WHEREAS, Vermontville Township is experiencing increasing growth pressure, and;  
WHEREAS, the Township Board desires to promote the public health, safety and general welfare; to encourage the use of resources in accordance with their character and adaptability; to avoid overcrowding of land by buildings or people; to lessen congestion on public roads and streets; to facilitate transportation, public facilities and improvements; and to consider the character of the township and its suitability for particular uses judged in terms of such factors as the trend in land and population development; and

WHEREAS, citizens of the Township have participated in a planning activity intended to address said conditions and concerns.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Vermontville Township shall, and does hereby, establish the Township Planning Commission pursuant to Section 3 of the Township Planning Act (Act 168, of the Public Acts of 1959, as amended).

RESOLVED FURTHER, that said Township Planning Commission shall have all the rights, powers and responsibilities as set forth in said Act for Township Planning Commissions.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that said Township Planning Commission shall have five (5) members, each serving for three-year terms. Provided, however, that of the members first appointed, one shall serve for one year, two shall serve for two years and two shall serve for three years.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the members of the Planning Commission shall be appointed by the Township Supervisor with the approval of the Township Board and the members of the Planning Commission shall be generally representative of the major interests as they exist in the Township, in accordance with Section 4 of the Act.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that this resolution shall take effect sixty (60) days following publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that any previous Township resolutions, to the extent they may conflict with any portions of this resolution, be and are hereby, rescinded.

AYES: 5  
NAYES: 0  
ABSTAINED: 0

If you have any questions or comments on this Resolution to form a Planning Commission please direct them to Supervisor Russell Laverty at 517-726-1115.

## January activities slated at Putnam Library

A number of activities are planned for January at Putnam Library in Nashville.

On Saturday, Jan. 12, Janice Crane will be holding a pre-school story hour from 10 to 11 a.m.

A "Make and Take" stamping party will be held Tuesday, Jan. 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. Children are welcome.

Supplies are provided to make Valentine's cards. The children's room will be set up for them to make cards while parents are with the demonstrator.

Sign up at the Putnam District Library or call at (517) 852-9723.

As of January 2002, the Putnam Library will have tapes available for Kellogg

Community College Telecourses. Students must be registered for the courses at KCC and use their student ID's to check out materials at the Putnam Library for the courses available.

Please let the library know what courses you are taking by calling (517) 852-9723 as soon as possible.

### In My Opinion:

## We must pay attention to how county spends

Pay now and pay later. That's what's going to happen if the Barry County Board of Commissioners approves the purchase of 6.75 acres in the city of Hastings to build a new health department facility and to renovate an old church to make room for the Commission on Aging.

I discussed late last year the Board of Commissioners' plans to purchase land which has an old church building on it in the city of Hastings for over one-half million dollars. The County Board plans to renovate the old church building for the COA and to build a new health department building on the site. Since then, there has been some discussion on the need for a Hastings COA facility. A few citizens questioned throughout the county felt the COA should use locations around the county rather than forcing seniors to drive to Hastings to participate in their programs.

If you look around Barry County, there are many locations the taxpayers already fund, both public and private. If the county is going to keep its costs of doing business down, which will mean reduced or lower taxes for taxpayers, it's important it make the right decisions now, for it will affect our financial futures.

The former Peace Community Church is an old building that was constructed at a time when building codes were not as stringent as they are today. To remodel and bring the church building up to code could cost the county taxpayers well over a million dollars, some say upwards to two million.

The Barry County Board of Commissioners has experience with old buildings. The board purchased the former Hastings Baptist Church building where the Courts and Law building now stands. Before the county finally decided to tear down that building, it put hundreds of thousands of dollars into renovations.

If you were to discuss this project with many local contractors, they would tell you that taxpayers would be further ahead to just tear it down and start over, and that leads to my comment, "pay now and pay later." The Barry County Commission on Aging does not presently have the budget to build or operate the proposed facility. So where will the money come from? An increase in the special senior millage?

It appears the Board of Commissioners is going to spend the money to purchase the land and renovate the church building for the COA from the fund balance.

In last week's Banner interview, Barry County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jeff MacKenzie stated that one reason the county is in good financial condition was that it "has been reluctant to expand its role into new areas, funds, new programs and new departments." If the board is to follow that logic, then I don't think it would be willing to embark on such a huge project with so many questions.

It's up to Barry County taxpayers. These elected eight commissioners have the ability to spend millions of dollars for this project without our specific consent. They have formally optioned the property and hired a construction firm to evaluate the old church building. By the time they purchase the land, develop the property and build whatever buildings they plan to build, the taxpayers of Barry County could invest over \$3 million in this project.

MacKenzie calls the issue of the total cost of the project "a work in progress." This is serious business and all the taxpayers should be concerned.

Since the beginning of 2001 and after Sept. 11, Michigan legislators have been cautioning the state's citizens about a slowdown in our economy that has affected the state's budget. They have been discussing reductions in spending across the board for the new year. Barry County has no idea how the state's general budget planning will affect its budget in the new year. And yet commissioners are embarking on a huge building project that will reduce the county's fund balance to the lowest amount that they've seen in years.

MacKenzie stated, "Many counties in Michigan are fearful of budget cuts and running deficits." This is not the type of climate most officials should want to undertake a major project like this.

It's time to stand up and be counted. I believe there are other locations that would cost the taxpayers less. I don't think this Board of Commissioners has really done its homework on this project. I'm concerned that Barry County's taxpayers are going to spend more money than they realize and it will come back to cost them in the form of special millages and increased taxes. We should all be concerned about the cost of doing business in Barry County, because ultimately it's us, the taxpayers, who are going to pay the bill.

If you're a Barry County taxpayer and concerned about your taxes now and in the immediate future, contact your commissioners and let them know. They say they are acting on behalf of the citizens of Barry County. Make sure you let them know how you feel so they will be acting on "your behalf" and not following the desires of county departments looking for new facilities.

These are important issues that need general discussion of all the taxpayers of Barry County. Don't just sit back, watch and wonder what happened, you need to be a part of the decision process.

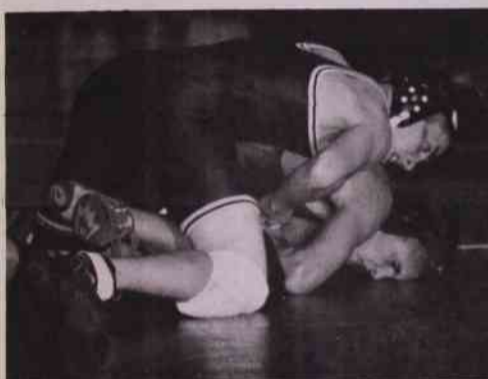
The commissioners are Tom Wilkinson, First District, 945-9549; Jim French, Second District, 795-9783; Sandy James, Third District, 945-9402; Kenneth Neil, Fourth District, 945-5145; Jeff MacKenzie, Fifth District, (517) 852-9885; Clare Tripp, Sixth District, (616) 672-7474; Tom Wing, Seventh District, 660-0498; and Wayne Adams, Eighth District, (616) 623-2457.

- Fred Jacobs, Publisher

## Wrestlers fifth at Rogers Invitational



Jason Silsbee. (Photo by Perry Hardin)



Ben Boss (top). (Photo by Perry Hardin)

The Maple Valley varsity wrestling team placed fifth at the 11-team Wyoming

Rogers Invitational in Grand Rapids on Saturday.

Jason Silsbee placed first at 160 pounds. Andrew Kenyon was the runner-up at 119.

Brandon Brooke finished third at 125, and placing fourth were Ben Boss (130) and heavyweight Ben Swan.

Earning two wins on the day were Chris Morris (152) and Paul Felder (189).

Thursday is Parent's Night for the Lions at the 6 p.m. home meet against Webberville and Bath. On Saturday, the team travels to a tournament in Edwarsburg beginning at 9 a.m.

### Exchange students, from page 5

them, they think you are crazy. There are also a lot more choices for everything here. Here Americans have everything they could want, but in Russia people cannot afford all these things."

Mikhailov, also from Russia, agreed. "People have a lot of things here, I don't even know what to buy my host family for Christmas because they have everything."

Mikhailov said his favorite thing about being here is his independence.

"You become stronger here through being alone. I could not spend three weeks

even without my family before but now I have spent four months and I still feel good, so this has made me feel more grown up."

Kurbanova said in terms of the differences in education in her country, there are 10 years of education and she plans to go to college in Russia. Her homeland is only 400 miles from the Afghanistan border, but she said she has talked to her mother and there appears to be little effect in her town from the war on terrorism.

"We have given a lot of our space for military and humanity reasons, but other than that we are pretty unaffected," she said.

Ueshima from Japan said she really likes it here.

"I would like to come back again and school here another year."

All agreed that their language is improving in leaps and bounds.

"It's exciting to be so far from home," said Savchak, who lives with Rooks and his family. "I am becoming more mature and my language is really improving. This has been a great experience so far."

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## Flags to be placed on fire hydrants in Vermontville

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

The Vermontville Village Council will put flags on the fire hydrants in the village in case of heavy snowfall.

Council President Sue Villanueva said she wanted to see flags placed on them so that in the case of a fire, the hydrants could be quickly located.

Monte O'Dell, of the Department of Public Works said he thought they could make something up for the

50 hydrants and that it would cost under \$200.

"Well, we really need something," said Villanueva, "Who's to say we don't have a blizzard tonight and then a fire?"

O'Dell said the firemen dug out the hydrants when the heavy snow fell last year, but that it could potentially become a problem if they weren't dug out before a fire.

"How high would you make them?" asked council member Doug Kelsey.

"Three feet," said O'Dell. Council approved to have the DPW build the poles.

*In other business at the meeting the council:*

- Voted to put plywood backing on the village limit

signs recently built for the village in partnership with the schools. Someone recently threw a beer bottle through the sign and smashed it.

"The signs you bought are foam, and we can't get them replaced. I found all the pieces and think I can put it back together and put plywood on the back of all of them, so you can't smash them," said O'Dell.

He said the cost for the plywood would be \$44.

One council member asked him if the school was going to pay for half his time to fix the signs, and O'Dell said that the schools are paying for half the cost, but did not mention labor.

"Well, it's just a rotten shame that at that price someone could just come along and ruin them like that," said Villanueva.

She said there is a reward for catching those who vandalise government property.

- Approved purchase of a coil for \$200 for a Department of Public Works truck. O'Dell said he fixed the coil, but was not sure how long that would last and wanted the part to put on the shelf in case it broke.

- Heard from Clerk Shirley Harmon, who said she contacted the dog warden about excessive barking of village dogs and was told that three separate people need to record the time and incident of the noise before they can do something.

## Cagers 3-0 in league after win at Bellevue

After a 17-day layoff between games for the Maple Valley varsity boys' basketball team, a little rust was to be expected.

Senior guard Darin Thrun must've been rustproofed for Christmas.

Thrun exploded for 30 points in the first half and a career-high 36 on the night to lead the Lions to an 83-56 conference win at Bellevue on Friday. He went 8 for 8 from the foul line and added eight rebounds and five steals.

"Things came together for him tonight and he took advantage," Maple Valley coach Jeff Webb said in praise of Thrun's big game. "It was a very nice surprise."

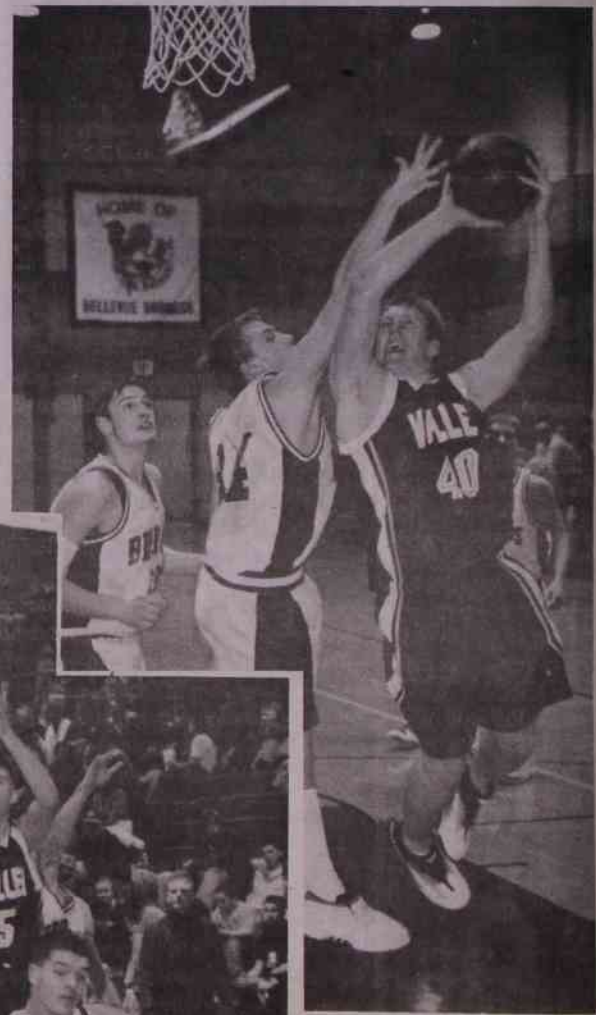
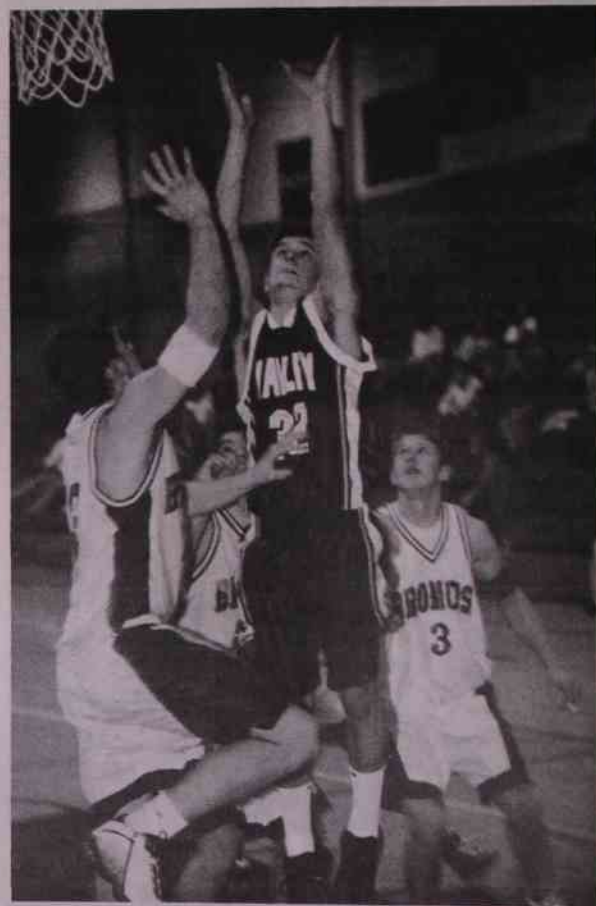
Nick Jones had 13 points and nine assists for Maple Valley, and John Terberg battled down low for 10 points and nine rebounds.

"We played hard," Webb said. "Like any game after a layoff, it was a little sloppy at first, but we played pretty well in the middle quarters."

Maple Valley (3-2, 3-0 in the SMAA) is back out on the road tonight for a stern 7:30 test at undefeated Hopkins. The Lions return home on Friday to host Dansville.

Maple Valley senior Darin Thrun (32) could not be denied at Bellevue on Friday night. He ripped the Broncos for a career-high 36 points in the Lions' 83-56 win. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

John Terberg (40) goes up strong against Bellevue. (Photo by Perry Hardin)



Nick Jones (5) pops a jumper while Justin Sealy (15) looks to box out. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

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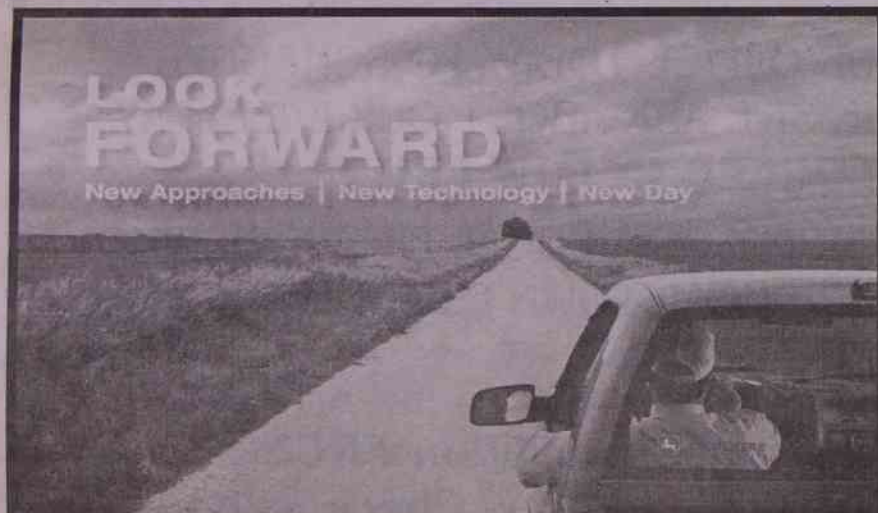
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