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## Vermontville seeks Maple Syrup Queen candidates

Meet new people, represent your community, promote Vermontville's maple syrup products and have fun.

Those are some of the benefits of being the Vermontville Maple Syrup Queen.

Candidates are being sought to vie for the 2002 crown.

The annual competition is open to all junior girls who attend Maple Valley High School.

The person who is selected will reign as syrup queen for 2002. Applications for the contest are available in the high school office. The deadline to apply is Jan. 31.

All queen applicants and

their parents are invited to an orientation Feb. 4 to learn more about the queen and alternate's duties. The girls also have an opportunity to learn more about the village and maple syrup that evening because there will be a discussion about the questions that will be asked during the judging process the following week.

The new maple syrup queen and an alternate queen will be selected at a 7 p.m. community program Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the Vermontville Congregational Church in Vermontville, said Marlene Martin, who has coordinated the contest and worked with the queens and courts for many years.

The event, sponsored by the Vermontville Lions Club, includes a dinner.

The queen and her alternate will reign over the Vermontville Syrup Festival, which is held the last weekend in April, and will promote locally-produced maple syrup products around the state at other times during the year. They are expected to appear in 12 to 14 parades.

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to the queen. The alternate will receive \$250. Mileage also is paid for the two to represent the Vermontville Maple Syrup Association at parades within a 50 radius of Vermontville.



Receiving the royal treatment at Vermontville's annual Maple Syrup Festival is part of the fun of being the queen and alternate queen. Camille Wieland (right) and Jessica Ripley's reigns are coming to an end. Who will be the 2002 queen? Applications are available for all junior girls at Maple Valley High School.

## The Revue starts its 7th season



Director Bill Reynolds acts in some of the plays and musicals the Revue performs. Here he is in a 1998 production of "Forever Plaid."



The Revue performs a fall drama once a year. The last one was "Steel Magnolias."



The Revue holds one children's play a year, giving area kids a chance to participate in theater.

by **Shawna Hubbarth**  
 Staff Writer

As Vermontville's theater group, The Revue, moves into its seventh season, Director Bill Reynolds said a lot has changed in the past several years for the group, which began from a few interested people.

Started in 1996, by Reynolds, the group grew out of a group of high school students who were involved in theater at Maple Valley schools, but wanted to do more, especially in the summer.

Reynolds said he talked to township officials, and gained their support to hold a summer theater program in the Opera House.

"Then I had adults complaining that they wanted to do theater too, so we expanded to do a fall play and a musical in February and a

youth program in May.

Reynolds, who graduated from Maple Valley himself

**See The Revue, page 2**

### In This Issue...

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- 'Coats for Kids' program needs corporate sponsor
- Maplewood students do New Year's resolutions
- Former Nashville Village Clerk unhappy about hiring

## The Revue's 7th season, continued from page 1

said. "It's always something I have liked to do and did in high school. After high school I helped the school for four or five years and learned more about the producing side of it."

Much more goes into the typical production at the Opera House, than the average audience member would think, said Reynolds.

"For the main musical we budget \$10,000 for scenes and costumes, and that's our biggest budget... just to rent the rights to do the show can cost \$1,500. You have to rent it from the people who wrote it, and then with musicals, every piece of music, the writers get their royalties too. Fees for this vary on the price of the tickets, how

many seats you have, and other factors."

The Revue, a non-profit group, has no paid positions. All the sets are made by volunteers. Costumes are rented from New York, or sewn for the show. Year round, 150-200 people attend shows on an average. Casts for the show can be upwards of 40 people, as the next show Oz, and be a group of all ages, from young to old. They do apply for state grants three times a year, and that helps out, said Reynolds, and many business and local patrons give support for the rising costs of a production.

"We have spent 10-12,000 in the past six years for special effects equipment, it's just really grown."

All this, Reynolds said, grew from a hobby.

"It started out as a total hobby... the moneys do come back in, and our numbers keep going up, it's a hobby that we love."

And through the production of each show, along with uniting people through a love of theater, lifetime friends are made.

"Sometimes you get a cast that just really clicks as a close group. We have a Halloween party every year and it's like a reunion, people get really close and form friendships and share memories they will never forget."

Reynolds get help from several key people.

"Pat Hansen helps in many ways and does secre-



Lifelong friendships are formed among many cast members at the Revue. Here, Director Bill Reynolds (middle) shares a laugh with the cast of Oklahoma! in a file photo.

tarial work, Ryan Rosin helps with the music part, Sherry Shoemaker helps with anything that comes up, and Don and Lynn Blakely have really supported the group with all the planning. The township really supports us. There are other people too, it's really a group effort."

The Revue also is a family affair for Reynolds. His wife, Jenny, runs concessions, errands and handles many phone calls. They have three children, and two of their girls will be in the next musical, one for her first time on stage.

When Bill and Jenny were married, they lived in Vermontville for three years, before Jenny wanted to move to Lake Odessa to live in the lake house she grew up in.

Reynolds said he can't imagine moving from the Opera House though.

"I like working in the Opera House — it's a neat building, and it's full of history. Besides, people don't expect a lot out of a show in Vermontville on a small stage, and when they see us

they are always surprised. I like working in that element of surprise."

Participation has never been a problem, he said.

"For tryouts we usually get a lot of interest, to some degree you do plan to use people you know that would fit well, but I try not to play favorites. I look at how well they are prepared and their music level."

Some have acted at the Revue and have gone on to join bigger theater groups. Jeremy Schneider, Reynolds said, joined the group for their second show, and went on to win competitions with other members of the Revue for a four-man show, Forever Plaid.

"He went on to do some professional stuff," said Reynolds.

For Reynolds himself, he does not want to take the whole thing too seriously.

"I really enjoy this as a hobby, I think if it was a job it might get too stressful, and suddenly what started out as fun, might not be so fun any more."

There is more in store for the group, Reynolds said.

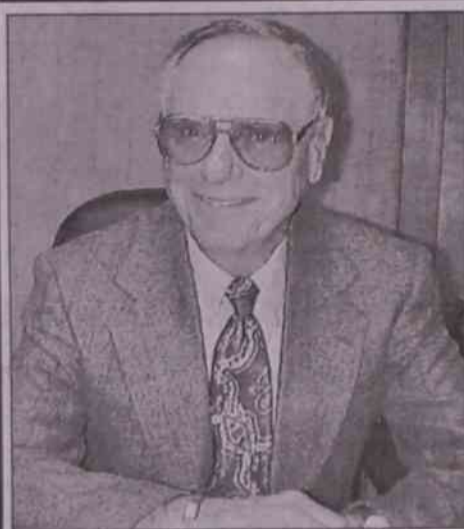
His main goals are to start some summer workshop programs for all ages.

"When we do shows, we have a limited rehearsal time and so we don't have a lot of time to just learn about theater- the terminology, stage techniques...just general education about it. We would like to be able to offer that."

That, and continuing to keep the numbers growing are what Reynolds said he is focusing on.

"As long as the numbers continue to grow, we will continue to grow... I really don't see any end in sight, we will keep going. It's what we love to do."

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Sunday School ..... 10 a.m.  
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Prayer Meeting ..... 7 p.m.  
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301 Fuller St., Nashville  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
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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: 543-5498

### 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.  
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Wednesday Evening at 7 p.m.:  
Children's Classes  
Youth Group • Adult Worship  
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### GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Meeting at Maple Valley High School  
Morning Celebration ..... 10 a.m.  
Contemporary Service,  
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### 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)  
Sunday School ..... 10 a.m.  
A.M. Service ..... 11:15 a.m.  
P.M. Service ..... 6 p.m.  
PASTOR GEORGE GAY

### 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.  
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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.  
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(517) 852-1993

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Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
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### ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

# Tailgate Distributions approved for Nashville



Sharon Secord talks to the council about tailgate distribution of goods behind the stores in Nashville at the council meeting.

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

The Nashville Village Council agreed to allow the Tailgate Distribution Program to give materials and foods to the needy in Nashville behind the businesses downtown.

Sharon Secord, a representative from the program, said Tailgate's method of distribution goods is easier, especially for the elderly, because they don't have to leave their car. She said they distribute monthly in the area and three times a year for commodities. The program is for people ages 60 and over, and 6 years and younger.

"The volunteers will walk down the line of cars and take their information and sign them in, and then we just put the stuff in their cars," Secord told the council.

She said the program starts at 8 or so in the morning and is done within 45 minutes. She said they service around 40 clients for food, and 60 to 70 for commodities.

She said the only thing they needed was for the area to be shoveled and maintained.

Police Chief Gary Barnes said he would meet with her to work out any details.

*In other business at the meeting, the council:*

- Received a request from village resident Don Ohler about whether any action had been taken on his request that Hamilton Construction, or someone, fix the road by his house. He claims the company took out the top layer of road in their construction work near his home.

Councilman Steve Wheeler said he took a walk to the area and said it was not as bad as he thought it would be, after Ohler originally came to the council with his concerns. He said the council could try to keep it patched, but that as soon as the water mains were put in, it would be paved and he would be much better off then.

"I think if it were your driveway you would have a different attitude about it," said Ohler. "Basically you are saying nothing is going to be done... they took out eight to ten inches off the top of the road and it's been much harder for the DPW to plow it."

- Welcomed new Clerk Penny Ruff. Councilman Wheeler said she had been coming in for the afternoons and will start full time as soon as possible.

"Lois (Elliston) and Penny have been working really hard... we have looked into bringing in outside help to get some of these year-end things done." Wheeler said they would support them in whatever they needed to get the job done.

- Heard from Dan Kellogg about the new plans for this year's second annual car show. • Entered into a contract with the MDOT for the Reed Street project.



New Nashville clerk Penny Ruff sits in on her first council meeting, last Thursday.



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## Putnam Library has open house

The Putnam Library held an open house Wednesday, Dec. 19. Cookies were provided by the board members. Coffee and punch were served to more than 50 residents and patrons. Teresa Pash provided musical entertainment.

Three exchange students, Marina Kiselyova from Russia, Natalia Savchak from Ukraine and Maya Kurbanova from Maple Valley High School, each gave a presentation on their countries and Kiselyova also played the piano and sang Russian songs.

Prize winners for the drawings are as follows: Chelsey Parish, rabbit figurine; Nicole Porter, books; William Thompson II, Light-up Snowman (donated by Gaye Goodnoe); Becky Smith, \$10 gift card from Meijer, Maya Kurbanova, \$25 gift card from Meijer.

<b>Troyer Bulk Bacon</b> \$1.89/lb	<b>Louis Rich Ground Turkey</b> 79¢/lb	<b>Stuffed Pork Chops</b> \$2.89/lb	<b>Thornapple Valley Polish or Hot 2-pc. Sausage</b> \$1.29/1-lb pkg.
<b>Fresh Ground Hamburger</b> \$1.49/lb	<b>10 lb. Chicken Leg Quarters</b> 49¢/lb	<b>Beef Chuck Tenders</b> \$1.69/lb	<b>Fun Pack Lunchables</b> 2/\$3.50
<b>Bareman's Gallon Whole Milk</b> \$2.09	<b>1/2 Gallon Hudsonville Ice Cream</b> \$2.99	<b>10-15 oz. StoveTop Oven Classics</b> 2/\$3	<b>Asst. Var. 4 oz. Gerber Second Foods</b> 2/89¢
<b>2 Liters Assorted Varieties Coke</b> \$1.09 + dep.	<b>Gal. Bareman's Distilled or Drinking Water</b> 2/\$1	<b>4 Pack Handi Snack Pudding</b> 89¢	<b>4 oz. Gerber Juice</b> 2/89¢
<b>8.6 oz. Gardetto's BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!</b>	<b>13 oz. Post Fruit Pebbles</b> 2/\$4	<b>64 oz. Ajax Liquid Laundry Detergent</b> 2/\$4	<b>Dairy Fresh English Muffins</b> 2/\$1
<b>So-Dri Paper Towels</b> 2/\$1	<b>Kraft Snack Pack American Cheese Slices</b> 2/\$5	<b>Vermontville Grocery</b> Phone 726-1570 We now have LOTTERY TICKETS Winter Store Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9 am-7 pm, Sun. 11 am-5 pm * Prices good thru Saturday ...and other cards, too.	

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MEG RYAN HUGH JACKMAN  
SHOWTIMES 1/15 - 1/17

KATE & LEOPOLD (PG-13)  
11:45, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45  
VANILLA SKY (R)  
DIGITAL/STADIUM SEATING  
12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:40  
JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS (PG)  
12:00, 2:15, 5:00, 7:00  
THE MAJESTIC (PG) 9:00  
LORD OF THE RINGS (PG-13) DIGITAL/STADIUM SEATING  
11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 9:55

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MOST HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

# 'Coats for Kids' program needs corporate sponsor

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

Maplewood Elementary teacher Bob Smith has reported that if the annual program "Coats for Kids" does not get corporate sponsorship it might die next year.

The program did not have sponsorship this year, he said, and though he coordinated it the best he could without it, the donations were way down and he said

he does not see continuing next year if there is no corporate sponsorship.

The county-wide program collects coats for needy people in the winter. Smith said that radio stations Q106, and WMMO have sponsored it in the past, but with the events of Sept. 11, Smith thinks, everyone was overwhelmed.

"Luckily it's been a warm winter so far, so there

wasn't a huge demand for coats. I think only us and Grand Ledge participated this year though, and we only collected about 300 instead of the 700 to 1,000 we usually collect."

"Eaton County is so far removed from Lansing that we could be doing our own thing," he said. "It's Eaton and Barry County giving back to Eaton and Barry County."

"It's important for corporate sponsorship for advertisement and flyers, and just to give it that extra push."

Smith said without the sponsorship, he thinks the program will fold.

"The program will die and I just don't want to see that happen. There are too many poor people in the area that need coats, and when it snows they will be looking for them."

Any corporate sponsors who are interested may contact Smith at the school. The number is (517) 726-0600.

# FFA Alumni to meet Jan. 28

There will be an FFA Alumni meeting Monday evening, Jan. 28, in the Agriscience Room at Maple Valley High School.

Items on the agenda include FFA fundraising activities, FFA State Convention, and FFA Alumni activities.

Also, at this meeting, Maple Valley FFA members will make their leadership presentations as a warmup

for the district contests on Feb. 8.

The Maple Valley FFA Alumni Association is open to any person interested in assisting the Maple Valley FFA chapter. FFA Alumni members do not need to be former members.

For more information about the Maple Valley FFA Alumni, call Maple Valley FFA Advisor Aaron Saari at 852-9971.

# Senior citizens to have potluck

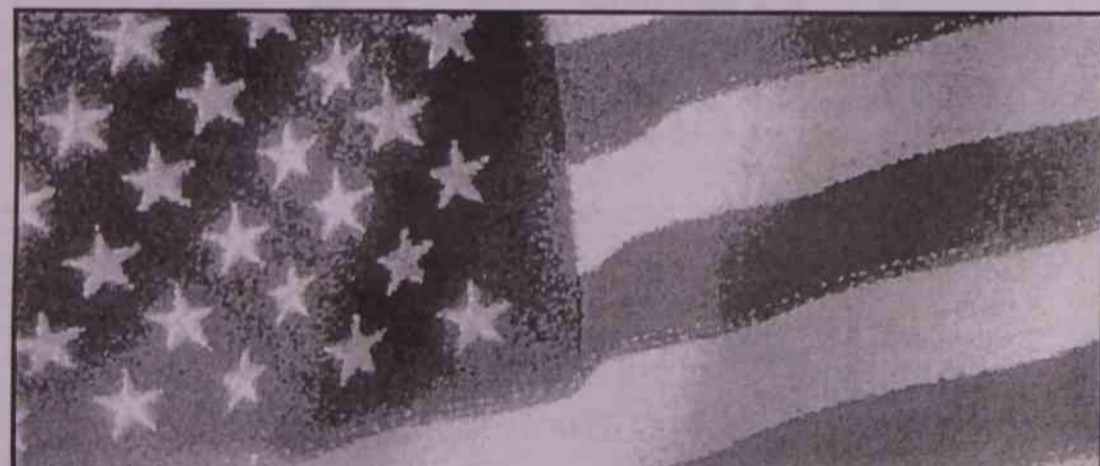
Area senior citizens are invited to join the Vermontville Senior Citizens group for a potluck bunch and their January monthly meeting Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Vermontville United Methodist Church.

Table service and main dish are provided. Those planning to attend are asked to simply bring themselves and a dish to pass.



Coats for Kids, a program that collects used coats for the needy in the area, might die unless corporate sponsorship is obtained, says organizer Bob Smith.

**Nashville VFW Post 8260**  
**Spaghetti Dinner**  
**All-You-Can-Eat \$5.00**  
 Salad/Spaghetti/Meatballs/Garlic Bread  
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# COA MENU & EVENTS

**Hearty Meals**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 16**  
 Spaghetti w/meat sauce, Italian bread, winter squash, cake.

**Thursday, Jan. 17**  
 Sausage, country potatoes, apricots, French toast sticks, orange juice.

**Friday, Jan. 18**  
 Macaroni and cheese, spinach, beets, jello.

**Monday, Jan. 21**  
 Homemade goulash, cauliflower, corn, mixed fruit.

**Tuesday, Jan. 22**  
 BBQ chicken, Brussel sprouts, au gratin potatoes, cornbread, peaches.

**Lite Menu**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 16**  
 Roast beef w/cheese, cole slaw, applesauce, whole wheat bread.

**Thursday, Jan. 17**  
 Ham salad spread, pea and peanut salad, pineapple, white bread.

**Friday, Jan. 18**  
 Tuna pasta salad, 3-bean

salad, plums.  
**Monday, Jan. 21**  
 Martin Luther King Day.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 22**  
 Meatloaf sandwich, potato salad, pea and cheese salad, whole wheat bread.

**Events**  
 Wednesday, Jan. 16 - Hastings, crafts/nails; Nashville, blood pressure day; Woodland, puzzle day; Delton, puzzle day.

**Thursday, Jan. 17-** Hastings, music; Nashville, bingo; Delton, Swim Day.

**Friday, Jan. 18 -** Hastings, bingo; Nashville, popcorn day; Woodland, Sharing Day.

**Monday, Jan. 21 -** Martin Luther King Day.

**Tuesday, Jan. 22 -** Hastings, Our Favorite Kids; Nashville, Grandma's Kids.

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:**  
 All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act and the Michigan Civil Rights Act which collectively make it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, age or marital status, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." 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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 classified ads



Work has gotten underway on the Nashville water project. Here, workers from West Michigan Cable do some directional boring.



The Nashville water project work was being done last week, workers were boring in holes to install 12 inch water main that started at Frances Street and went to Railroad Street.

## Maple Valley school menus

Elementary Schools  
(Maplewood & Fuller)

**Lunch Menus**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 16**  
Pizza, whole kernel corn, peach cup, graham crackers, 1/2 pt. milk.

**Thursday, Jan. 17**  
1/2 day of school. No lunch served.

**Friday, Jan. 18**  
1/2 day of school. No lunch served.

**Monday, Jan. 21**  
Chicken nuggets, cracker packs, mashed potatoes, orange push-up, 1/2 pt. milk.

**Tuesday, Jan. 22**  
French bread pizza, carrot sticks, pineapple, trail mix, 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. 16**  
**Choose One** - Ravioli, pizza, chicken sandwich, deli bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, whole kernel corn, spiced apples, juice, milk.

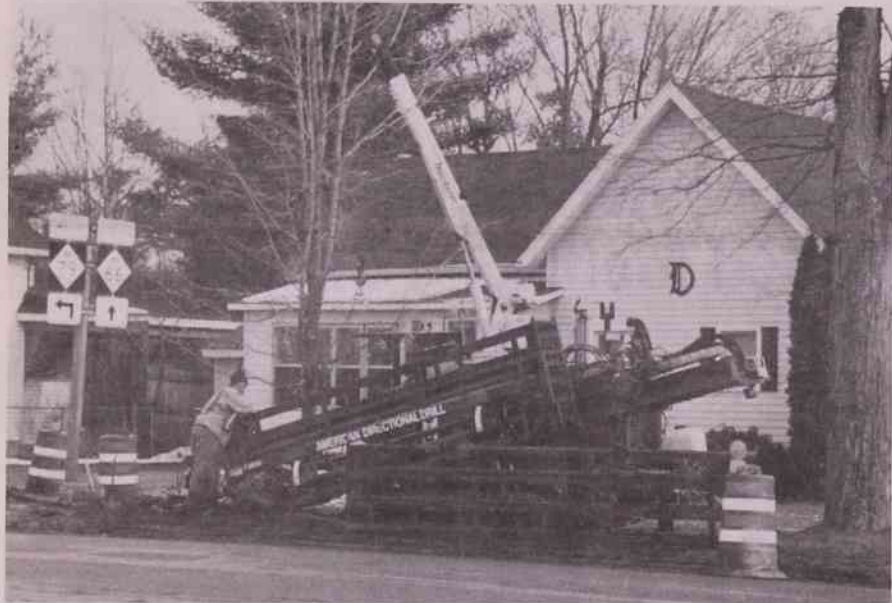
**Thursday, Jan. 17**  
1/2 day of school. No lunch served.

**Friday, Jan. 18**  
1/2 day of school. No lunch served.

**Monday, Jan. 21**  
**Choose One** - Chicken nuggets, pizza, chicken sandwich, salad bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, broccoli, orange push-up, juice, milk.

**Tuesday, Jan. 22**  
**Choose One** - Club sandwich, cheeseburger, pizza, taco bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, carrot sticks, pineapple, juice, milk.

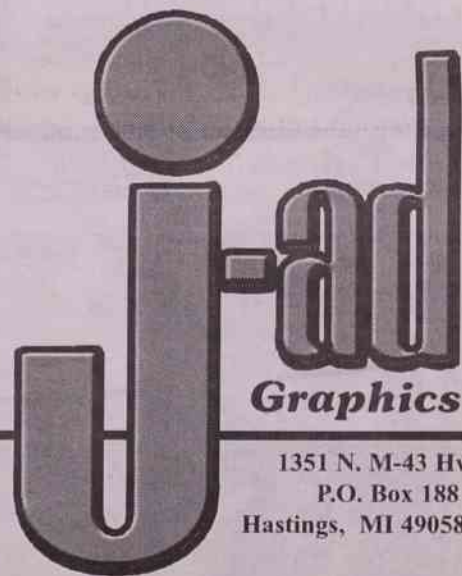
## Work continues on Nashville water project



Machines and equipment could be spotted around town last week in Nashville. Workers were directional boring to install 12 inch water main. They will be back next month to start laying plastic main throughout town.

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### Castleton Twp. Board

January 2, 2002

Called to order by Supervisor J. Cooley.

All board members were present.

Three people were in attendance from the public.

Approved the agenda as printed.

There was no public comment.

Minutes from the December 5, 2001 meeting were approved. Accepted the treasurer's report.

Approved paying bills in the amount of 6,093.82.

Committee reports were received and placed on file.

Voted to stay with present insurance carrier.

Auditors, dual signature checks, lease agreement, and the advisory committee were discussed.

Correspondence was viewed by the board.

Comments were heard from the board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Lorna L. Wilson, Clerk  
Attested to by  
Supervisor J. Cooley

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# Maplewood students do New Year's resolutions

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

Maplewood students in Jeanne Hansen's class decided on something a lot of people do about this time of year — New Years resolutions.

The students had varying goals, which they printed out and taped in the hallway for daily reminders. Many students chose to get better grades.

## Home schooling group to meet at Putnam Library

Home-schooling families will meet at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Putnam Library.

The meeting will give home-schoolers an opportunity to meet one another and to share ideas and materials.

For more information, please call the library at 852-9723.

Chelsey Parish has ambitions to become an author. She said she would like to write her first book by age 15. She said she wants to start a short story soon, and to reach her goal she will be trying to write every day.

A.J. Smith said he wanted to get better at skateboarding on ramps and wanted to get so good at skating, he could join competitions.

One girl said her resolution was to become "extremely stunning." She said she believed her life would be easier and she would be prettier and more responsible if she was stunning.

Cody Flowers said, "My New Years resolution are to win the boys SMYA Championship basketball awards, and to give 110% at practice and in games."

Lynn Hosmer also wants to improve in basketball. "My New Year's resolution is to improve my jump shot



Chelsey Parish holds her New Year's resolution to write her first book by age 15.



Cody Flowers plans to win basketball championships and give 110% of himself at practice and games for his New Years resolution.

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because when i get a jump shot in a game, I normally don't make the shot. The way to improve my jump shot is by shooting more often."

## Moving from Nashville to Nashville

# New pastor begins at Nashville United Methodist Church

On Sunday, Jan. 20 the worship leader for the Nashville United Methodist Church will be Dianne Bowden. Dianne comes from Nashville, Tennessee and the family owns a home in Muskegon, MI. She is married to Jeff and they have two grown children. She recently stated: "I am moving from Nashville to Nashville."

Rev. Bowden is a native of Parkersburg, West Virginia. She has just completed her Masters of Divinity degree at Drew Theological School in Madison, New Jersey, a seminary related to the United Methodist Church. Dianne began her professional work for the Church in 1974 when she and her family moved to Nashville, TN. She was employed as a writer and editor of the Upper Room magazine — published by the United Methodist Church. She later provided workshops and seminars across the United States in the areas of communications. Most recently,



Diane Bowden

Dianne was served as Minister of Visitation at a church in Cranford, N.J. and was a volunteer director of services and programs in Muskegon, MI.

From Nashville to Nashville is the way Dianne sees her new appointment to the Nashville U.M. Church. She and her husband, Jeff, are looking forward to working and living in Nashville.

The congregation of the church, invite all friends and

members to come and welcome Rev. Bowden and Jeff on Sunday, Jan. 20 at the service of worship — 9:45 a.m. There will be a fellowship time following and more time to meet this new pastor and new residents of Nashville.



## COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Date **Friday, Jan. 25th**  
Time: **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
Where: **At our new office in Nashville**  
**310 N. Main St., Nashville**

**REFRESHMENTS**

**PRIZE DRAWINGS**

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## VERMONTVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2002 TIME 7:30 PM AT THE VILLAGE OFFICE

01-03-02	07-11-02
02-07-02	08-01-02
03-07-02	09-05-02
04-04-02	10-03-02
05-02-02	11-07-02
06-06-02	12-05-02

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# Area Obituaries

## Robert Miller Shassberger

LANSING - Robert Miller Shassberger, age 85, of Lansing, MI, passed away, at his home, on Thursday, Jan. 10, 2002.

He was born on Nov. 14, 1916 in Lansing, MI, the son of Ernest J. and Nella Miller Shassberger.

He graduated from Lansing Central High School in 1934 and M.S.U. with a B.A. in Business Administration in 1938.

He was employed by John Deere Company of Lansing for 33 years as the branch house accountant and the City of Lansing for 10 years as the Senior Analyst VII Income Tax Department.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Patricia Moore Shassberger on Feb. 14, 2000; step-brother and wife, Donald

and Clara Severance; parents, Ernest J. and Nella Miller Shassberger; and brothers-in-law, John C. Moore and Charles Selheimer.

He is survived by his daughter, Barbara J. (LeRoy) Sleeper; sons, Thomas C. (Mary) Shassberger and Stephen E. (Marilynn) Shassberger; grandchildren, Jeffrey (Kelly), Brian (Jennifer), Joshua, Leah, Bethany, Michael Sleeper, John (Ami), Tom (Michelle), Rob (Tammy), Deborah (Michael Baker), Steve (Lori) and Scott (Shannon) Shassberger; great grandchildren, Anna and Gordon Sleeper, Colin and Molly Shassberger, Kyra and Brent Shassberger, Danny and David Shassberger, Lindsey, Madeline and Abigail

Baker, Steve, Jordan, Maren and Brendan Shassberger, Scott, Samantha and Sarah Shassberger; sisters-in-law, Eliza-beth Selheimer and Martha Moore; cousins, Fred (Kris) Shassberger and Doug (Betty) Shassberger of Grand Rapids, MI; and niece Janet Severance Rittenger of Jackson, MI.

Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 14, 2002 at the Estes-Leadley Greater Lansing Chapel. Rev. Dr. Patrick D. Shelley officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to Plymouth Congregational Church-Endowment Fund, 2001 E. Grand Rapids Ave., Lansing, MI 48912.

Arrangements were made by Estes-Leadley Greater Lansing Chapel.

## Evelyn L. (Kirtland) Gunn

SUNFIELD - Evelyn L. (Kirtland) Gunn of Sunfield, Michigan (also of Kentwood), passed away Thursday, Jan. 10, 2002 in Kentwood, Michigan, at the age of 87.

She was born Oct. 2, 1914 in Lakeview, Michigan, the daughter of Clare and Losia (Bass) Kirtland.

Mrs. Gunn was preceded in death by both her parents, and her husband, Adam Gunn.

Surviving are three children, Losia Marks of Lansing, Hugh Gunn of Caledonia, and Kathy (Dan) Keuhs of Kentwood; nine grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; one great

granddaughter; and one sister, Sue Taylor of Sturgis.

Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 14, 2002 at the Rosier Funeral Home, Mapes-Fisher Chapel, Sunfield, MI. Rev. Brian Sheen officiated. The pallbearers were David Gunn, Adam Gunn II, Hugh Gunn Jr., Drew Marks, and Perry Edgecomb. An interment service followed the funeral at the Meadowbrook Cemetery, Mulliken, Michigan.

For those wishing, contributions may be made to the Grand Rapids Hospice in memory of Mrs. Gunn, c/o Rosier Funeral Home, P.O. Box 36 Sunfield, MI 48890.

The arrangements were made by the Independent Family Owned Funeral Home in Sunfield, Rosier Funeral Home.

For more information, www.legacy.com.

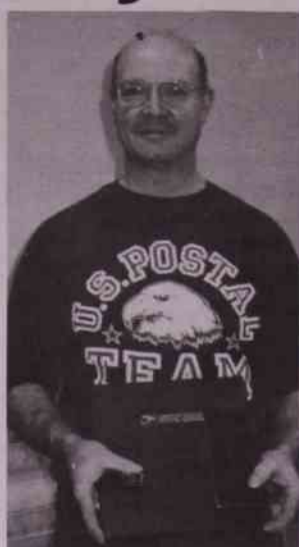
## Arlie Goforth

NASHVILLE - Ms. Arlie Goforth, age 80, of Nashville died Sunday, Jan. 14 at Carvath Village in

Middleville. Funeral services for Ms. Goforth are pending at the Maple Valley Chapel in Nashville.

# Nashville mail carrier earns 25-year award

Mark C. Potter, of the Nashville Post Office, recently was awarded a certificate and pencil box for 25 years service as a rural letter carrier by Postmaster Sharon Meade.



Mark Potter

Potter, son of Ruth and the late Rev. Marvin Potter was born and raised in Nashville. The family lived across the street from the Maple Grove Bible Church. Marvin preached there for almost years (1945 to 1994).

One Sunday Mark asked his mother, "Who is that girl that looks like an angel singing in the choir?" After a few tennis dates, Mark and Crystal (Mater) were married in that same church. Mark worked in the factory, but got his well drilling license in 1974, about the same time he took the postal exam. In 1976, then Postmaster Elmer Jarvie asked Mark if he would be a Rural Sub, covering Saturdays, vacations, and sick days for Paul Friddle (the Route 3 regular carrier).

Mark kept drilling wells, now with the help of their

Cindy, so "Potterwaterworks" had a well crew for the weekends.

Mark adjusts his days off to keep "Potterwaterworks" in operation with their new equipment now drilling five-foot wells. Besides work and more work, Mark finds time for his family, his church and an occasional trip to Disney World. The Potters occasionally can be seen in a red Falcon convertible with the top down. That is, when everything is done and the weather is fine.

## YOUTH BASKETBALL

The Lions seventh grade boys basketball team traveled to Lansing Christian on Jan. 8. There were a lot of If's that could have, would have, should have, secured a win, but the Valley took a tough loss down the stretch, 26-21.

The Lions were led by Max Wilson's five points. Bentley and Wood each added four points. Smith, Cousins, Myers, and Coplins all had two points apiece.

Their record now stands at 7-4.

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**Donor-Advised Funds** are often created as an alternative to a private foundation and allow donors to recommend the charitable organizations and causes to be considered for grants. They can be established in two forms:

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- make a bequest to a community foundation in your living trust or will.
- establish a Supporting Organization through the community foundation. A Supporting Organization is a separate legal entity for tax purposes and has its own governing body; by affiliating with a community foundation, the Supporting Organization enjoys public charity status and the professional staff services of the community foundation.

However you approach making a gift to the Community Foundation, your caring gesture will make a difference in the lives of others and the life of your community.



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# Former Nashville clerk unhappy about hiring

by **Shawna Hubbarth**  
*Staff Writer*

As new Clerk Penny Ruff sat in on her first council meeting, former Clerk Cathy Lentz accused the Nashville council of hiring Ruff without all the facts they needed to make "an informed decision."

Lentz left her position as clerk/office manager last year to pursue other career opportunities. She stayed on as clerk, she said a few months ago, to help the new office manager settle into her job.

Sandy Harvey was hired in as office manager, but soon disagreement arose between Lentz and Harvey about whose job it was to do what, and Lentz quit as clerk. The council decided to combine the jobs into one position and informed Harvey that she would then have to re-apply, with other applicants for the combined job. Harvey then quit, too.

Once Harvey quit, Lentz stepped in as interim clerk, and helped in the office once again. She, along with several other people applied for the combined job, and went through the interviewing process.

At the last council meeting, council president Frank Dunham recommended Ruff, who is a clerk in Potterville, for the position, and the council unanimously agreed. Because it is an appointed position, the president recommends a person for the position, and the council votes on the recommendation.

Dunham said he had offered Lentz the position, but that she did not want to start out at a slightly lower wage than what she had worked at when she was previously hired, and did not want to lose her accumulated vacation time, which was three weeks. He said he originally offered her \$27,000 for the position as a new hire.

When she turned down the position, Dunham said, he offered the position to Ruff for \$25,000. She accepted.

But in a letter to the council on the matter, Lentz said she assumed that she was still bargaining with Dunham and that an offer was always on the table.

After the original call and offer, Lentz said, Dunham called the next day.

"On Thursday, Dec. 27, the Village President contacted me again and informed me that we might have misunderstood each other. He said that the \$27,000 was not the top end of the wage but just where they would start me out and it was possible that after a year, the wage would be increased to \$28,000. I countered that it would like to offer the council a chance to discuss hiring me at \$28,000 (about what I was earning when I left, combining the clerk and office manager duties) and increasing this by another \$1,000 in a year. I was told, by Frank, the council didn't want to look

at this as a rehire... as there was some concern it would set a precedent. I asked Frank for some time to consider their original offer of the \$27,000, and he agreed to that. At this point, I was under the impression that their offer was still on the table."

Lentz wrote, "Later this evening, prior to the council meeting, I handed Frank a note that said I would accept the \$27,000, along with a three-week vacation. I reminded him that they had sought me out for this position. I was still under the impression that I was under consideration."

Lentz said in the letter that she was surprised when Dunham recommended Ruff.

"I, as a village resident am concerned about this decision. This decision has left the Village of Nashville without a clerk until she can start full time next month. In the meantime, this means several year-end things will not be done in a timely manner. For instance, the quarterly federal reports, the budget for the new fiscal year, payroll and employee W-2s, etc. Unless something is done, the Village of Nashville (employees and residents) stands to suffer much turmoil and fines. It would be wrong for the council to expect the remaining office

employee to take on these added projects. One, because she hasn't been trained to do them, and two, because it would be illegal. Both the lawyer and the auditor advised the council to do what was best for the village. I don't believe the council has done that."

Later in the meeting, members of the council welcomed Ruff, and Councilman Steve Wheeler said the committee was looking into the possibility of getting outside help for a short time for any needed year-end duties.

Several council members thanked Village Treasurer Lois Elliston for all the extra time she put in through the past several months when all this was happening.

Councilman Dan Kellogg thanked Elliston and said, "She definitely deserves a pat on the back for all her work for the village through the void."

Dunham agreed and thanked Elliston, saying she had been a big help.

Kellogg said he would like to see the rule that vacation days cannot be accumulated from year to year waived for Elliston for this past year, as she gave up taking her vacation days to work and keep the village office open. The council will vote on the matter at the next meeting.

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**PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION**

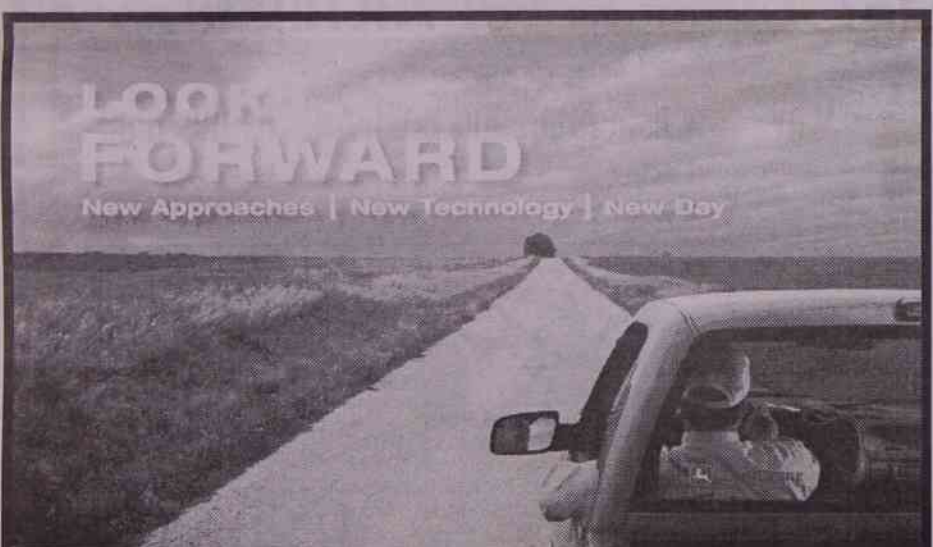
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 Feb. 8th, 9th, 22nd & 23rd

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# Cagers keep conference, streak alive

by Matt Cowall  
Sports Editor

So far this season, the Southern Michigan Athletic Association has been a Home Sweet Home for the Maple Valley varsity boys' basketball team.

The Valley, 0-3 outside the conference, ran its record to 4-0 in the SMAA with a 63-59 home win over Dansville on Friday night.

A buzzing, disruptive full-court defense forced the visiting Aggies into turnovers all night long, but the game was truly won at the charity stripe.

Dansville hit seven three-pointers to only two for Maple Valley, but sent Valley to the line 30 times, and the Lions made it pay off big time with excellent shooting. They made 27 of those attempts to shoot 90 percent as a team. Dansville made only eight of 17 attempts, a 19-point swing that effectively countered the Aggies' 15-point advantage from beyond the arc.

Four point difference, four point game.

Darin Thrun hit all 12 of his free throws and finished with 15 points to lead the Lions. Nick Jones, Jim Hirneiss and Eric Smith each scored 10 to round out a balanced team effort.

In the first half, it looked like Maple Valley would be the team in foul trouble, with the Aggies reaching the bonus with 29 seconds still remaining in the first quarter. Dansville led 15-13 at the end of one.

In the second quarter, the Lions did a good job of robbing the Aggies of any offensive flow, pressing and trapping their way to a 10-point lead before settling for a 29-24 halftime spread.

Dansville regained the lead early in the third quarter, and the two teams traded scores back and forth. John Terberg provided a late spark with a steal and score to put the Lions up two, 41-39, entering the fourth.

Neither team could separate from the other until the

four-minute mark, when Maple Valley managed an eight-point run to go up 57-49 and seize control of the game. Jim Hirneiss started the run with two free throws and capped it off with a baseline jumper. In between, senior forward Devin Phenix scored off a strong offensive rebound, and junior forward Jeff Taylor hit two free throws of his own.

The Lions were then able to keep the Aggies at arm's length for the remaining two minutes. Dansville hit a meaningless three-pointer at the buzzer to narrow the final tally to 63-59.

Maple Valley (4-3, 4-0 in the SMAA) faces two big league games this week, beginning 7:30 tonight at Lansing Christian. The Lions return home for a showdown with Olivet on Friday at 7:30.

Hopkins 59, Maple Valley 55

A late comeback fell short for the Lions in this nonconference loss on Jan. 8.

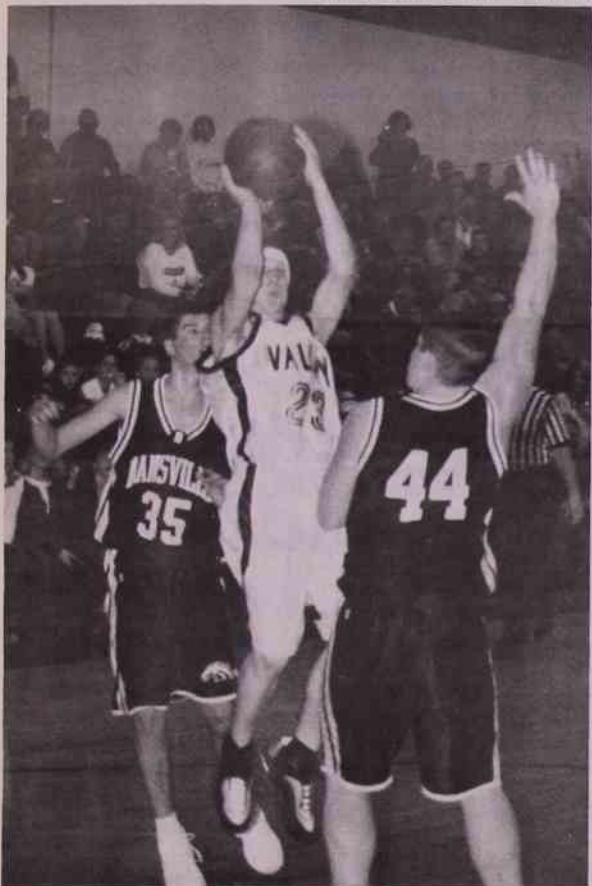
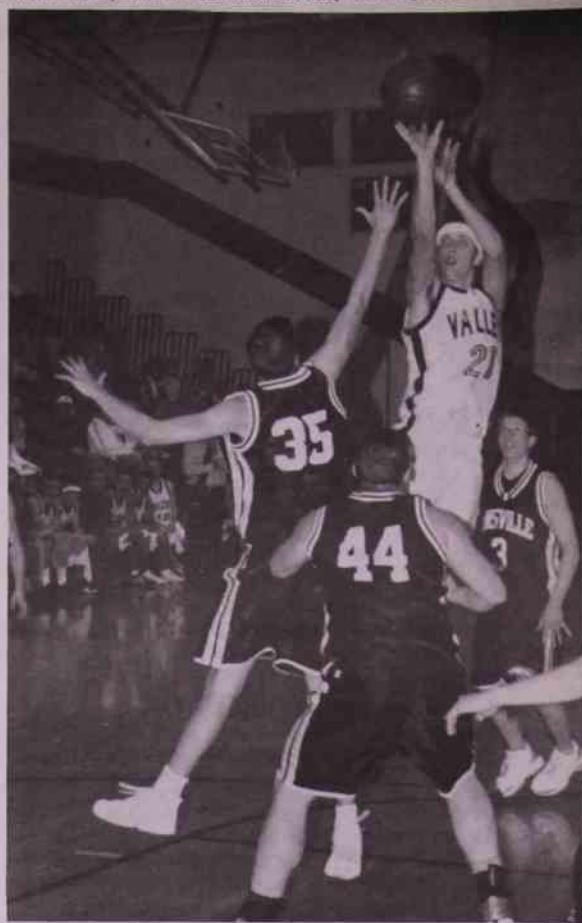
Maple Valley had a strong first half, leading throughout and edging Hopkins at the break 28-26.

The home team came out firing in the third and made a run to go up 11. Maple Valley battled back to within seven, 47-40, at the start of the fourth, and closed to within two at 57-55 with 10 seconds remaining in the game. Hopkins got loose for a last-second layup to provide the final margin of victory.

Darin Thrun led the Lions with 16 points, and Nick Jones scored 15.

John Terberg had nine points and nine rebounds, and Devin Phenix pulled down seven rebounds.

Devin Phenix (21) launches from the foul line.



Jim Hirneiss (23) splits the Dansville defense.

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## LOST STREAM MAP

The recently published STREAM MAP OF MICHIGAN resembles another map—known to Pennsylvania anglers as the "Lost Stream Map."

The "Stream Map of Pennsylvania" was completed in 1965 after a thirty-year effort by Howard Higbee, a former Penn State Professor.

Professor Higbee succeeded in creating a map of the highest detail possible—a map that shows every stream and lake. He painstakingly plotted by hand, the location of 45,000 miles of streams onto a 3 x 5 foot map.

The map sold extremely well—until it was lost several years after it first appeared in print. Incredibly, the printer entrusted with the original drawing and printing plates, declared bankruptcy, then carelessly hauled Higbee's 30 years of work to a landfill.

The few remaining dog-eared copies became a prized fisherman's possession. Professor Higbee was offered \$400 for one of his last maps. And state agencies were forced to keep their copies under lock and key.

Experts told Professor Higbee that reprints were impossible, because the maps were printed in non-photographic blue.

Then, in 1991, at the age of 91, Howard Higbee's dream came true. Computers made it possible to reprint the map. Holding an updated map, Howard said, "I never thought I'd live to see this day."

Then, by combining Professor Higbee's knowledge with computer technology—the STREAM MAP OF MICHIGAN was created.

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# Spikers open SMAA 1-0, face Leslie next



Valley's Miranda Farr (25) bumps to teammate Shelby Cousins (23) as Krystal Root (2) looks on. (Photo by Perry Hardin)



Jessie Grant (11) goes high to put down a spike in the win against Morrice. (Photo by Perry Hardin)



Camille Wieland (27) sends a shot over the net against Morrice. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

## DIVORCE - CUSTODY PARENTING TIME

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The Maple Valley varsity volleyball team opened league play with a three-game home win over Morrice on Jan. 9.

The Lady Lions dropped the first game 8-15, came back to take a 15-12 decision in the second, and decided the match in convincing fashion with a 15-4 win in the third.

Jessica Mansfield had 13 service points and five digs for the Lions. Krystal Root had 11 service points to go with six aces and seven assists.

Miranda Farr recorded four aces and four digs. Camille Wieland led the team in blocks with two.

Kill leaders were Ashley Gordeneer with five and Jessie Grant with four.

Maple Valley (3-9-3, 1-0

away with a 15-12, 15-4 victory.

Ashley Gordeneer led the team with four kills. Miranda Farr and Shelby Cousins each had one block, and Jessie Grant and Gordeneer each had three digs.

Farr added 11 service points and five aces. Krystal Root had seven service points, and Kyndra Root had three aces.

In a key match, the Lady Lions host league favorite Leslie on Wednesday night at 7:00.

**Maple Valley sweeps Saranac**

The Valley went to Saranac on Jan. 7 and came

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## Lion wrestlers wallop Webberville and Bath

The Maple Valley varsity wrestling team had a relatively easy time in a home tri-meet on Jan. 10, beating Bath 60-21 and Webberville 84-0.

You can't score more than 84 points in a dual meet, and the Lions did just that against Webberville. Winners by pin were Andrew Gaber (112 pounds), Brandon Brooke (125), Ben Boss (130), Jeff Totten

(135), Chris Morris (152) and Ben Swan (275). Webberville forfeited the other eight weight classes.

Against Bath, winners by

pin were Brandon Brooke (125), Ben Boss (130) and Sergei Mikhalov (140). Bath voided seven of the other 11 weight classes.

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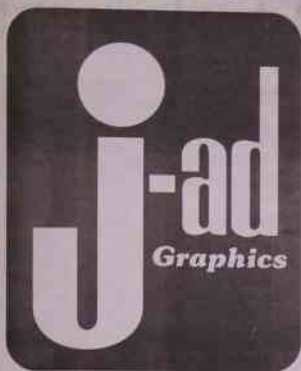
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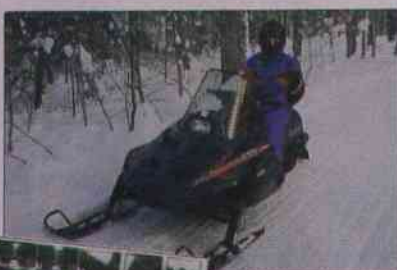
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## Maplewood 5th-graders learning about anatomy



The students in Rose Dunham's fifth grade class display their life-size models they have filled with cut outs of organs and muscles.

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

Maplewood students in Rose Dunham's fifth grade class are finding out all sorts of interesting things about what is inside their bodies.

In a detailed anatomy project, students are making lifesize models of themselves and their organs, muscles and bones.

To start the project they have been reading up on the functions and parts of the body. They then laid on heavy paper and traced the outline of themselves, which would serve as the container for cutouts of colored body parts. They colored and cut out things such as the lungs, intestines, and the brain and put them in the right place.

Dunham said the class has been working on the project for 10 weeks. The students said they have found out all sorts of interesting things.

Nick Smith said, "I think it's cool how a lot of the body parts are shaped. I thought they would just be normal shapes but they are all different and different sizes to fit in there... It's really funky to know all of this stuff is in your body."

Michael Paisley said his favorite part was finding out how lungs work.

"They work just like balloons," he explained.

Dunham said the project is far from finished, and students will be working on it for some time, to attach all the relevant pieces and study how each organ or part functions in the body.



Michael Paisley explains how the lungs works as Justin Kennedy holds the model of his body.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Barry County Extension

- Jan. 16 4-H Advisory Council Meeting, 7 p.m. at Ex. Office
- Jan. 16 Regional Finan Business Meeting Analysis, Charlotte, call for appt.
- Jan. 17 Fair Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center
- Jan. 21 Dairy Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Ext. Office
- Jan. 25 Ag Action Day, Kalamazoo
- Jan. 28 Rabbit Devel. Committee Mtg., 7 p.m. at HHS Ag Room
- Feb. 4 Barry County Homemakers Adv. Council, 5:30 p.m. at Ext. Conf. Room on Retirement Planning
- Feb. 7 Fair Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center
- Feb. 7 RUP Training, 9-12; Examination, 12:30-3 p.m., located to be announced
- Feb. 11 4-H Horse Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., HHS Cafeteria

Please Note: The Extension Office will be closed during lunch hours on Fridays from 12 noon to 1 p.m. - Until further notice.

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