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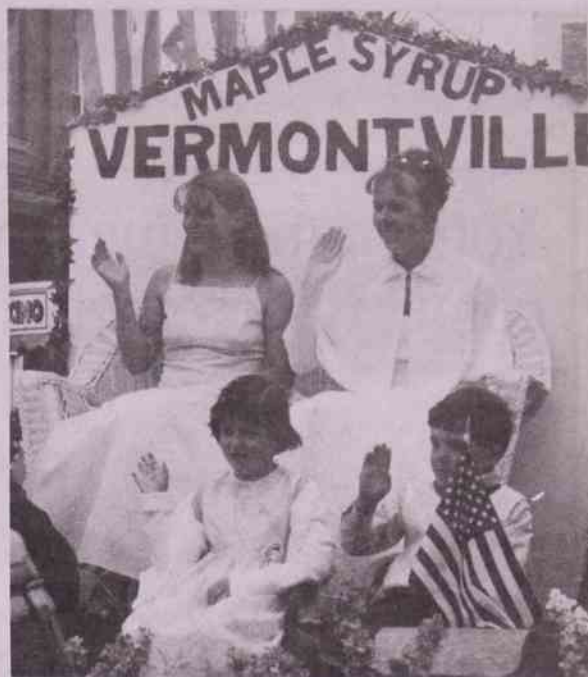
# It didn't rain on Syrup Festival parade



Kids dressed in costumes fitting of the Olympic theme during the children's parade.



The smile on this little girls face says it all- nothing beats festival pancakes and maple syrup!



Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival Queen Samantha Mater (right) and alternate Jessica Cowell wave to the crowds during the parade.



by **Shawna Hubbarth**  
 and **Helen Mudry**  
*Staff Writers*

Bleachers were full, fingers crossed and umbrellas at the ready this past weekend at the 62nd Annual Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival.

Though it rained Saturday afternoon, showers held off until after the grand parade, answering organizers prayers of "don't rain on my parade!"

The parades theme this year, "Maple Syrup and Old Glory — Sticking with Tra-

dition." Lines formed around buildings to get into the fire barn or above the bank to eat pancakes and maple syrup. The craft show seemed to be getting good feedback, as the booths were set up inside classrooms giving the crowds plenty of room to shop and walk.

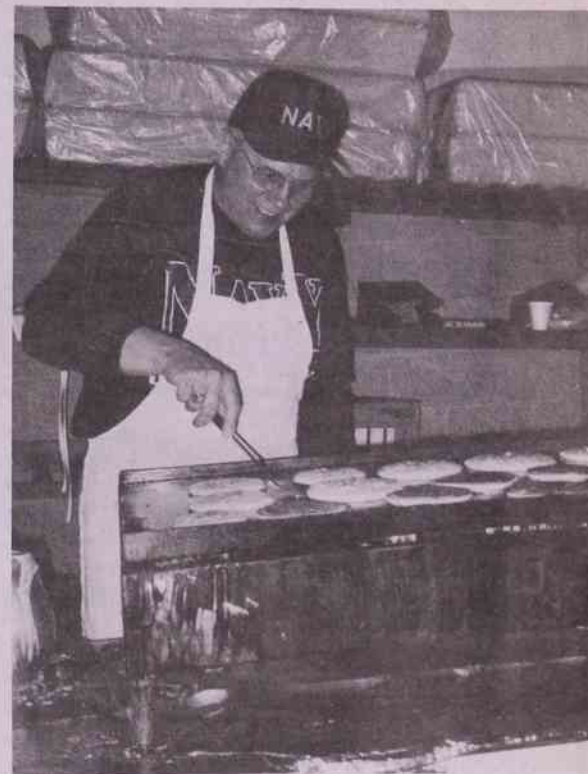
dition." Lines formed around buildings to get into the fire barn or above the bank to eat pancakes and maple syrup. The craft show seemed to be getting good feedback, as the booths were set up inside classrooms giving the crowds plenty of room to shop and walk.

This year's syrup queen, Samantha Mater, was crowned by last years queen, Camille Wieland, after the children's parade, and honored citizens Russ and Bonnie Laverty were recognized by master of ceremonies Doug Kelsey. Vermontville Maple Syrup Corporation President Gene Fisher kept the audience laughing and on their toes with jokes. He was dressed in his giant cowboy hat he pulls out in time for festival every year.

The children's parade had the fewest participants ever, with only five in costumes. Fisher said from onstage that though the turnout was small, every child was a winner.

Ashley Weiler, 7, a second-grader at Fuller Elementary, was selected this year's Little Miss Maple Syrup Princess. Miranda Sprague was runner-up, and Jennifer Kent was second runner-up. The Opera House was packed full for the show, which included 17 area girls who danced and sang their way through a Hawaiian theme.

The contest, already popular in its second year, lasted until a little past 8 p.m. Each audience member was greeted at the show with a laui, and the girls also



Dennis Mapes is an expert cooking pancakes for the Band Boosters.



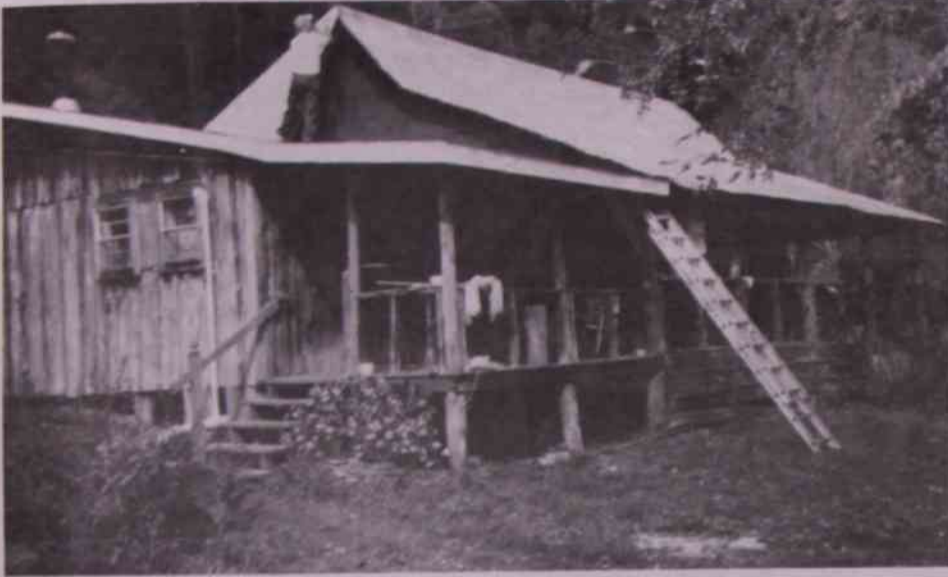
This bobsled team took first place in the children's parade.

See Syrup Festival, pg. 6

## In This Issue...

- Jaycees to help local church raise funds for trip
- Ground broken for new Grace Community Church
- Vermontville Revue presents 'Guys and Dolls' this weekend
- Lady Lions out of blocks 3-0, Farr sets new record

# Jaycees to help local church raise funds for trip



One of the Appalachian homes the local group re-roofed a few years ago.

Peace United Methodist Church located four miles west of Nashville on M-79 is sponsoring its 10th annual trip this fall to Red Bird Mission work camp in southeastern Kentucky.

From 11 to 27 volunteers make the 500-mile trip each fall to help build and repair homes in this very mountainous area of Appalachia, usually at no cost to the homeowner.

Red Bird Mission covers a five-county area of "very low income" people, said a spokesperson from the church.

"Many of our volunteers are from other area United Methodist churches and other local denominations - all working together with the work camp staff to improve conditions on two or three homes each year or improving the buildings on the Red Bird Mission grounds.

"In order for the Mission to have necessary money to

purchase lumber, paint, nails, windows, doors and other materials, we do work projects here at home throughout the year for folks who in most cases, could not do for themselves. We ask the homeowner to supply any needed materials and make whatever donation for labor they can, and if they cannot make a donation, we consider the project as a home mission. We have done lawn care, repaired porches and steps, built wheelchair ramps, painted, done remodeling and miscellaneous fix-it jobs," the spokesperson said.

A major fundraiser for the project is an annual spring "Bake-Book-Craft" sale in Nashville. This year, the sale is planned for May 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Enduring Designs Screen Printing Shop located next to Mace Pharmacy parking lot on Main Street. This year the Hastings Jaycees are do-

"In order for the Mission to have necessary money to purchase lumber, paint, nails, windows, doors and other materials, we do work projects here at home throughout the year for folks who in most cases, could not do for themselves."

- Peace United Methodist Church spokesperson

nating bake goods to the sale to help raise more funds.

For additional information on Red Bird Mission or any of the projects, contact Blair and Leila Hawblitz a 517-852-0721. For more information about the Hastings Jaycees and how they can help your organization, please call 945-5535. The Jaycees teach leadership skills through community service to young people between the ages of 21 and 39.

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The local group that went to the Red Bird Mission in 2000 and completed several projects in one week is pictured here. Pastor of Peace UM Church is the Rev. Susan Trowbridge, second from right in the front row with her son Seth.

# LOCAL CHURCH SCHEDULE

### ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

A Spirit-filled Church  
Meeting at the Maple Leaf Grange  
Hwy. M-66 south of Assyria Rd.  
Nashville, MI 49073  
Sun. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.  
6:00 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m. Jesus Club  
for boys & girls ages 4-12. Pastors  
David & Rose MacDonald. An oasis of  
God's love. "Where Everyone is Some-  
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 Services,  
Relevant Practical Teaching,  
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 m. 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.  
PASTOR DIANNE BOWDEN  
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  
(616) 945-9392

### ST. ANDREW & MATTHIAS INDEPENDENT ANGLICAN CHURCH

2415 McCann Road  
Sunday Services:  
..... 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer  
..... 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion  
For more information call 795-2370 or  
Rev. David T. Huzwick 948-9604  
Traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer used  
for all services. Affiliated with the Independent  
Anglican Church (Canada Synod).

### 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

### 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

## FROM OUR READERS

### Local Citizens Speak Out On Issues

# Bible can serve as anchor

To the editor:

Did you hear the one about the two guys walking down by the docks on their lunch break? Their conversation went something like this:

"Here's a question for you. Is a boat really a boat without an anchor?"

"That's a stupid question. Of course it is. The lack of a certain piece of equipment doesn't stop a boat from being a boat."

"Okay-well, let me put it another way, can a boat function as a boat without an anchor?" "Well, that's different. I'd say boat's function is seriously impaired by the loss of its anchor."

"Why? Does the boat lose its capacity to float on water?"

"No."  
"Does it lose its ability to hold passengers and cargo?"

"No, not exactly, but..."

"Does it lose its ability to be steered or propelled in a certain direction?"

"No...no."

"Well, isn't that pretty much everything a boat does?"

"Well, yes. I mean, no. There's times when in order to be useful as a boat, the thing has to stop moving, I mean really stop, for sure, no moving around whatsoever."

"Stop moving? But isn't that its function, to move?"

"Yes-but..."

"Then a boat can function as a boat without an anchor."  
"Well actually... no. The more I think about it, the more important I realize the anchor is."

"How so?"

"Without an anchor a boat can float, and even move in the direction it's steered. It can carry passengers and cargo-but they can't get on or off. A boat without an anchor can't safely dock to unload or load anything because it can't be held securely in one place. And the anchor provides protection when the boat is out on open water, too."

"How's that?"

"Well, there are times when current, wind and waves can be stronger than sails, engines or oars - in a storm, for instance. Those things can drive a boat onto the shore or rocks, or out to open sea, or even capsize the boat. Many times in a storm a boat will drop anchor to ride it out without being thrown every which way. In that case, the anchor is the boat's lifeline. It protects the boat from elements that it is helpless to protect itself from any other way."

"So, do you think an anchor is more important than anything else on the boat - rudder, oars, life jackets?"

"Well... I'd say it's just as important. Nope, wait a minute. I take it back. It is more important-at least to the continued existence of the boat. It's the one thing that could save the boat when nothing else will."

"There are some folks that think an anchor is just unnecessary weight, something that takes up a lot of space and slows the boat down."

"I guess if you're in that much of a hurry you won't

mind what condition you're in when you get there."

"Like...?"

"Like washing up on shore dead. Might be quicker, but..."

"Good point. So, is a boat without an anchor really a boat?"

"No."

"Why not?"

"It can't function properly, and would be too dangerous to use. It's a floating liability. It's like a car without brakes. You can get in and go, but not being able to stop could prove fatal. In some ways, it's more dangerous."

"Why?"

"Let's say you wanted to go out and fish."

"I'm for that!"

"Okay. You come to the first boat and its half full of water. Leaky."

"Forget it."

"The second one has no oars or motor."

"Nope."

"But the third one is shiny new, got a nice motor, oars, and even padded seats. And there are even beverage holders!"

"Wow - let's go!"

"But no anchor."

"Well - can't we overlook a teensy flaw like that?"

"Exactly my point. More dangerous for that reason."

"But if it's a perfectly good machine except for that..."

"You might as well say Chernobyl was a perfectly good power plant except for one teensy flaw. The area's hospitals and orphanages are full of people slowly dying from radiation poisoning."

"So-is a boat..."

"Absolutely not."

"You seem a lot surer of yourself than when we started this conversation."

"I guess I just really thought about it for a moment."

"Okay-well then, let me ask you another question."

"Shoot."

"If we as a culture believe that something is morally wrong— unspeakably evil, in fact..."

"Yes?"

"... And we discover that certain religious leaders have been engaging in that activity-some of them for decades..."

# Independent Bank helps teach kids to save money

Independent Bank South Michigan, Vermontville, participated in the national day of savings April 18.

Independent Bank team leader, Rachel Lantzer, participated in the national event, "Teach Children to Save Day." She went to Fuller Street Elementary School to talk to kindergartners about the importance of saving.

"We feel that it is important to start talking positively about savings to children when they are young," stated Lantzer. "Teach Children to Save Day" is a great opportunity for us, as bankers, to get involved with area youth and

assist in the planning of their financial futures."

National Teach Children to Save Day is sponsored by the American Bankers Association (ABA) Education Foundation in Washington, D.C. This is the fifth year that Independent Bank employees have volunteered for the event.

The ABA Education Foundation started National Teach Children to Save Day as a way to motivate employees in the banking industry to participate in a program that helps the community. By visiting schools for this savings day, Independent Bank employees promote community involvement, and the education increases the personal savings rate in America that has plummeted over the last few years. According to Donald G. Ogilvie, ABA executive vice president "American save less than 5 percent of their disposable income." This figure is down from 9 percent a generation

ago and one of the lowest rates among industrialized nations. With the help of the employees in the banking industry, children are learning the true value of the dollar.

Independent Mortgage Company is a subsidiary of Independent Bank Corporation and is an affiliate of Independent Bank South Michigan. Independent Bank South Michigan is a subsidiary of Independent Bank Corporation. The bank operates 17 banking offices in the communities of Battle Creek, Bellevue, Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Leslie, Mason, Okemos, Olivet, Pleasant Lake, Potterville, Richland, Rives Junction, Vermontville, Williamston, and a mortgage center in Okemos.

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12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:30

SWEETEST THING (R)

7:20, 9:10

THE ROOKIE (PG)

(SAT/SUN 11:10) 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40

ICE AGE (PG)

(SAT/SUN 11:30) 1:20, 3:15, 5:00

COUPON FREE

20oz DRINK

with \$1.50 (1/2 price) purchase of 46oz bag of battery popcorn

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# The Revue

The Vermontville Theatrical Group

## Guys and Dolls, Jr.

Book by Abe Burrows & Jo Swerling. Music & Lyrics by Frank Loesser.

Originally directed on Broadway by George S. Kaufman

Vermontville Opera House - 211 S. Main St. (across from the fire station)

May 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 & 12 • Fri. & Sat. at 7 pm & Sun. at 3 pm

Adults \$7; Seniors & Students \$6; Children 12 and under \$5

Tickets are available at the door or make reservations by calling 616.367.4455 or e-mail therevue1@yahoo.com

\$1.00 from every ticket sale will go to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Additional contributions are accepted and will go in their entirety to the Foundation.

The show is also supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and Arts Council of Greater Lansing, Inc.



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# Ground broken for new Grace Community Church



Grace Community church members stand by as building project manager Matt Getchell (from left), advisory team chairman Jeff Burpee, and building team manager Steve Swift dig their shovels into the ground.



Ashley and Cay Cates (left to right) turn some ground up at the new construction site and home to the future Grace Community Church.

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

Grace Community Church based in Nashville broke ground a week ago Sunday on a new 23,000-square-foot church on M-79.

"It took a lot of prayer and eight years of effort and dedicated giving from our people," said co-pastor Don Roscoe.

The new church is being built about a mile and a half outside village limits, said Roscoe. The church is currently meeting at the Maple Valley High School, with an office downtown in Nashville.

"We were looking for land in early '94," he said. "Elizabeth Good, who had grown up in the area and at that time lived in Maryland, contacted us. She had heard we were starting up a church that was ministering to

"Our dedication service is Dec. 1. That's when we will commit the whole property. This project has taken a lot of work from our planning and advisory team and we are looking forward to its completion."

— Don Roscoe,  
Grace Community  
Church co-pastor

young families and she offered her land to us."

"That began a six-month process of praying and talking about the issue and shortly after we agreed to a purchase, she passed away

at age 89," he said.

Construction began this week on the church and ministry training center. The center will have a food preparation area.

Long range plans, said co-pastor Rob VanEngen, include sports fields, and a campground that can be used to host sports camps, and for the community to use.

Construction will continue through the season and the facility is hoped to be finished in six months.

Roscoe said the church is "youth oriented," as both he and VanEngen come from backgrounds as youth leaders. He said the church has about 300 members.

The churches vision, said the pastors, is to "creatively present Christ to a Christless generation," and be a place in the community where people can receive basic life skills training.

He said the groundbreaking was cold and rainy, but a couple of hundred people showed up to lend support for the project.

"Our dedication service is Dec. 1. That's when we will commit the whole property. This project has taken a lot of work from our planning and advisory team and we are looking forward to its completion."

## Penny Supper

Cabbage Rolls, Stuffed Peppers  
and Swiss Steak  
**MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
From 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the  
VFW Hall in Nashville

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## New books at the Putnam District Library

Audio - The Titans and Rebels by John Jakes.

Westerns - Hondo; Utah Blaine; Long Ride Home; High Graders; Tucker; The Sacketts Brand; Kiowa Trail; The Man From Broken Hills; Conagher; The Key-Lock Man; Showdown at Yellow Bute; Trouble Shooter; Taggart; Chancy by Louis L'Amour; Once Hell Freezes Over by Peter Brandvold; The Survivor by Tim Champlin; Hanging Valley by Jack Ballas; Vendetta by Ed Gorman; Ghost Mine by Steve Frazee.

Mystery - Something to Kill For; Curly Smoke; Bleeding Maize and Blue by Susan Holtzer; Catering to Nobody; Tough Cookie; Last Suppers; Dying for Chocolate; Prime Cut; The Main Corpse; Killer Pancake by Diane Mott Davidson; A Brace of Bloodhounds; Ten Little Bloodhounds; Blind Bloodhound Justice; Death in Bloodhound Red; The House on Bloodhouse Lane by Virginia Lanier.

Christian Fiction - Sisters of the Confederacy by Lauraine Snelling; The Messenger by Joseph F. Girzone; Cape Refuge by Terri Blackstock; The Distant Beacon; Beyond the Gathering Storm by Janette Oke; Child of Promise by Kathleen Morgan; The Golden Angel by Gilbert Morris; A Slender Thread by Tracie Peterson; Donovan's Daughter; Sean Donovan; Whatever Tomorrow Brings; As time Goes by Lori Wick.

Non-Fiction - Spanish/English Dictionary; Lucky Man by Michael J. Fox; Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul on Tough Stuff by Jack Canfield; The Complete Book of Home Improvement by Mike Laurence; The Ultimate Container Gardener by Stephanie Donaldson; The Great Book of Trains by Brian Hollingsworth; The World Encyclop-

edia of Tractors and Farm Machinery by John Carroll.

Fiction - The Stone Monkey by Jeffery Deaver; The Pursuit by Johanna Lindsey; City of Bones by Michael Connelly; Everything's Eventual by Stephen King; Daddy's Little Girl by Mary Higgins Clark; Three Fates by Nora Roberts; 2nd Chance by James Patterson; The Short Forever by Stuart Woods; The Nanny Diaries by Emma McLaughlin; Widow's Walk by Robert B. Parker.

Video - The Hunchback of Notre Dame II, American Legends; Princess of Thieves; Men of Honor; Planet of the Apes; A Knights Tale; Josie and the

Pussycats; Tomb Raider; French Kiss; Runaway Ralph; The Mouse and the Motorcycle; Meet the Parents; The Anima; Blow.

Young Adults - American Chillers; The Michigan Mega Monsters; Ogres of Ohio by Johnathan Rand; Left Behind Books #19 A Dangerous Plan; #20 Attack by Apollyon by Tim LaHaye.

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**517-852-9320**

*Thanks to you Barry County...*



**106** families received Christmas food baskets and **138** children received Christmas presents in the Nashville area through **Nashville Community Programs.**

*United Way, The Way Barry County Cares, Community by Community*

## Vermontville Revue presents 'Guys and Dolls Jr. this weekend

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

The Vermontville Revue will present "Guys and Dolls Jr." this weekend.

The performance will benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Director Pat Hansen said that a dollar of each ticket price will be donated to the cause and audience members also can donate more at the box office. She said one of the cast member's sister has CF and the cast is happy to support such a cause.

"Guys and Dolls" is based on Damon Runyon's short story "The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown." The story centers around Nathan Detroit, the organizer of the oldest established permanent floating crap game in New York. He bets a fellow gambler that he can't make the next girl he sees fall in love with him. The next girl he sees happens to be Miss Sarah Brown, a pure at heart Salvation Army type reformer, and that leads to an evening of comedic complications.

This is the fifth annual children's musical, said Hansen. She said the cast, which includes more than 30 local kids, has been hard at work for the fun show. Bill Reynolds is producer and choreographer.

Show times are set for May 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12. Friday and Saturday times are 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

Tickets are adults \$7, seniors and students \$6, and children 12 and under \$5. Tickets are available at the door or call (616) 367-4455 or e-mail therevue1@yahoo.com

### Toddler Time sessions set for May

Toddler Time meets week-day mornings in Vermontville for an infant-toddler story hour.

Activities include stories, songs, finger play and games designed for children ages 0 to 3. For Toddler Time, a parent or other caregiver accompanies each child.

All families are welcome. No preregistration is needed, and families are invited to attend Toddler Time at any location. Typically, the Vermontville Toddler Times include children's crafts. Occasionally, portions of the Toddler Time story hours will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

The story hour will follow its usual schedule in May, with the exception of the last week, May 27-31, when Toddler Time will be closed for the Parents as Teachers home visiting program.

For more information, please contact Liz Lenden or Merrill Evans at Early Childhood Connections, 400 S. Nelson, Pottersville, 48876, phone 645-4500 (toll-free 866-215-KIDS).



Expect singing and colorful costumes at "Guys and Dolls Jr." on stage this weekend and next at the Opera House.

"Guys and Dolls Jr." will be on stage this weekend at the Opera House.

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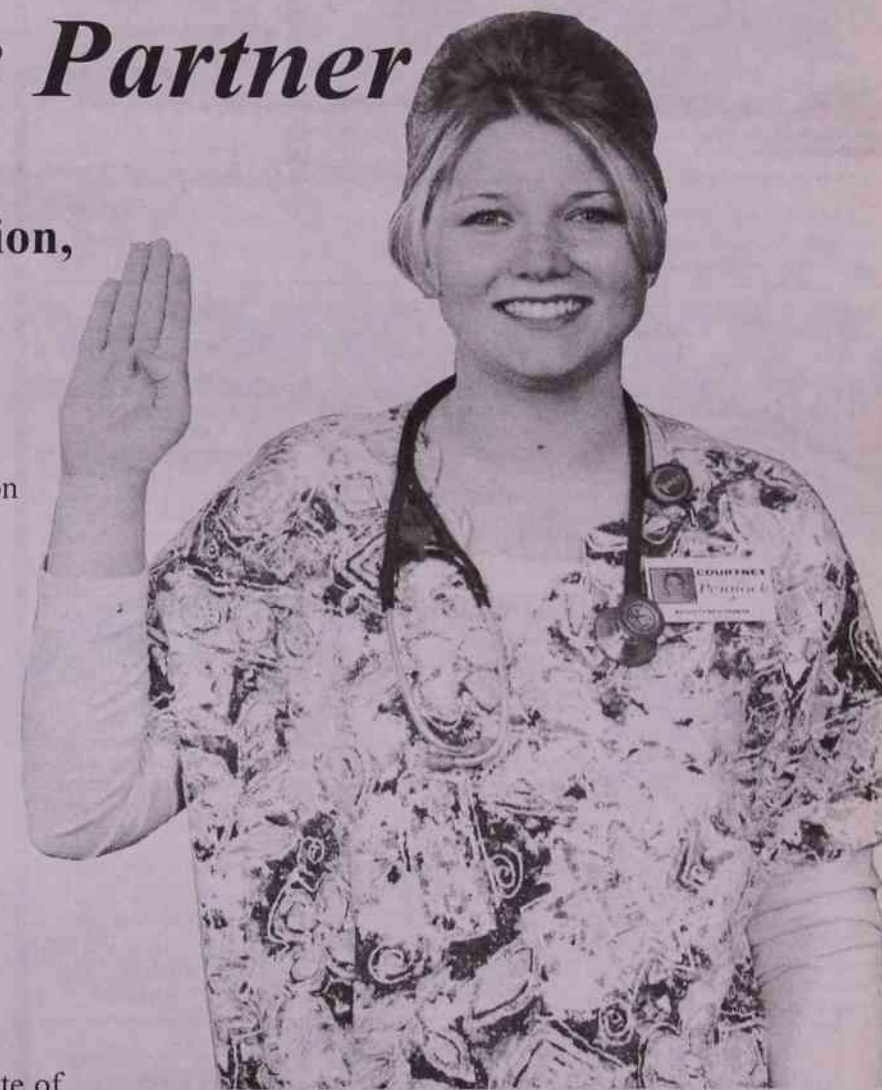
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The Maple Valley High School Band stops to play for the crowd in the bleachers.

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The Little Miss Maple Syrup Princess candidates do a Hawaiian dance as part of the program.

**Syrup Festival, from pg. 1**

taught the audience one Hawaiian word. "The show went great," said organizer Kathie Perez. "It went really smooth except for our song cutting out during one of our dance and song numbers but the girls were so great they just kept dancing. They did an excellent job."



Doug Kelsey announces this year's honored citizens Russ and Bonnie Laverty.

Perez said she had people approach her after the show with good feedback about it. "One gentleman approached me and said he would be sending a donation and wanted it to be anonymous," she said.

Perez said many of the girls are disappointed they will be too old next year to participate.

"I am looking into creating volunteer positions for them so that they can come back and help in some capacity," she said.

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13 acres 1000 ft. off the road perked surveyed ready to build. 5 varieties of fruit trees and mature grapes. Don't miss this rare opportunity! Call Nyle today. (VL-154)

**Maple Valley Athletic Boosters plan golf outing**

The Maple Valley Athletic Boosters will hold their second annual Mulberry Fore golf outing Saturday, June 22.

The four-person scramble will be held at 2:30 p.m. The event is \$50 per person which includes green fees (18 holes), dinner and a cart, with proceeds to benefit the student athletes at the Maple Valley Jr./Sr. High.

There will be a \$220 prize for first place per team, \$200 for second, \$120 for third, \$100 for fourth, \$40 for fifth. There will also be door prizes, goody bags, a 50/50 drawing, putting contest, longest drive and more. For more information, call Mike Sparks at 852-9275.

The next Maple Valley Athletic Booster Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, in the high school conference room. Members said they are looking for anyone interested in helping support the athletes at Maple Valley and look forward to input at the meeting.

**Obituaries**

**Arlene Norma (Wilcox) Weeks**

**SUNFIELD** - Loving mother and grandmother, Mrs. Weeks passed away Wednesday, April 24, 2002 at Hospice House of Mid-Michigan, St. Lawrence Campus in Lansing, MI, at the age of 90.

She was born September 10, 1911 in Hastings, MI, daughter of Charles and Grace (Stadel) Gavitt.

Arlene lived in the Sunfield area and spent winters in Ft. Meyers, Florida.

She was a cook at the Sunfield Schools for 17 years and was a member of the Sunfield United Brethren Church, WMF and was an artist in both oils and chalk.

Mrs. Weeks was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 39 years, Leo H. Wilcox; a son, Paul and a baby in infancy; a sister and a brother. In 1979 she married Robert Weeks, who preceded her in death in 1987.

Surviving are her children, Raymond

(Arday) Wilcox and Bonnie (Roy) VanHouten; 9 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; 2 great great grandchildren; 4 step children; 15 step grandchildren; 5 step great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, April 29, 2002, at the Sunfield United Brethren Church. Pastor Mark E. Ralph and Pastor Darrel Bosworth officiated.

Interment was held at Sunfield Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by the Independent Family Owned Funeral Home in Sunfield, Rosier Funeral Home, Mapes-Fisher Chapel.

For those wishing, contributions may be made to the 1st Responders, SUBC Building Fund, S.P.Y.'S Scholarship Fund, or Hospice of Mid-Michigan, c/o Rosier Funeral Home, P.O. Box 36 Sunfield, Michigan 48890.

For more information, www.legacy.com.

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# Area Obituaries

## William (Merle) Petro

**NASHVILLE** - William (Merle) Petro, age 88, of Nashville, passed away Sunday, April 28, 2002 at his home, with his family at his side.

He was born March 2, 1914 in Madison County, Indiana, the son of Clare and Emma Petro.

He graduated from Swayzee High School, and served his country in the United States Navy during World War II.

He married Ada Kelly in Indiana on August 7, 1936.

William (Merle) was well known as a carpenter in Swayzee, Indiana, where he also purchased land and built and sold houses.

He brought his family to Michigan in 1954, settling in the Hastings area. He worked as a Registered Nurse at the Kalamazoo State Hospital for over 20 years, retiring in 1976.

he eventually moved to the Bloomingdale area where he developed and sold lots on Little Eagle Lake, later moving to the Delton area where he continued developing and selling land.

After retiring he and his wife enjoyed spending the winters in Bradington, Florida. He loved fishing

in the rivers and bays surrounding the Bradington area. He also found a new passion while in Florida when friends invited him to bingo. After his first experience he was hooked, and could be found many evenings in his favorite (lucky) chair at local bingo games. Merle also became a champion shuffleboard player, and was proud of the many trophies that lined his shelves.

He was an avid outdoors man, spending countless hours hunting and fishing. Many nights were spent following his coon hound, and he once appeared on the Michigan Outdoors TV show with his antlers from the twelfth largest deer taken in Michigan that year.

He was preceded in death in 2000 by Ada, his wife of 64 years; his parents; four brothers and one sister.

William (Merle) is survived by his daughter, Carylen (Gene) Spidel of Nashville; grandchildren, Sherry (Scott) Russell of Battle Creek, Karen Ackley of Nashville, Jerry W. (Mary) Fager of Delton; 8 great grandchildren; 2 great great grandchildren; and several nieces and

nephews.

Visitation will be held 1 hour prior to service at the Nashville Baptist Church.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 P.M., Tuesday, April 30, 2002 at the Nashville Baptist Church with Pastor Deno Lamphere officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Barry County Hospice.

Arrangements were made by the Maple Valley Chapel.

## Marilyn Mae Ferrin

**SUNFIELD** - Mrs. Marilyn Mae Ferrin, of Sunfield, passed away Friday, April 26, 2002 at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, at the age of 65.

She was born March 3, 1937 in Lansing, Michigan, the daughter of John and Mildred (Sawyer) Ommen.

Marilyn was a long time member of Zion Lutheran Church in Woodland and an active choir member. She was a gentle, gracious lady who always had a kind work.

Mrs. Ferrin was preceded in death by both her

parents.

She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Richard Ferrin; 3 children, daughter, Tina (Randall) Strong of Lansing, son, Mark (Christine) Ferrin of Holland, and their children, Meggin and Alex; brother, John Ommen I of Lansing; sister, Barb Wesley of Lansing; several nieces and nephews and many friends.

Funeral services were held Monday, April 29, 2002 at the Zion Lutheran Church. Reverend Timothy R. Perrin officiated.

The family is being served by the Independent

Family Owned Funeral Home in Sunfield, Rosier Funeral Home, Mapes-Fisher Chapel, Sunfield, Michigan.

Interment was in the Woodland Memorial Park.

For those wishing, contributions may be made to the family of a charity to be named at a later date, c/o Rosier Funeral Home, P.O. Box 36 Sunfield, Michigan, 48890.

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

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Mark your calendar, in observance of Memorial Day, we will be closed Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

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Saturday 9p.m.-Noon

## Robert M. Sayer

**SUNFIELD** - Mr. Sayer, passed away Thursday, April 25, 2002 at Pennock Hospital in Hastings, Michigan at the age of 76.

He was born May 23, 1925 in Sunfield, MI., son of Merle H. and Lila E. (Bartlett) Sayer.

He enjoyed talking, walking and reading. He never met a person he couldn't talk to and share some "common" interest.

He attended the Sunfield United Methodist Church and found great comfort in his faith that "somebody (God) is watching out for me".

He loved the land, his family, friends and his country. Robert proudly served his country during W.W.II in the Army's 8th Infantry from April, 1944-September, 1945 when he was wounded in battle near Cologne, Germany.

Mr. Sayer grew up as a young boy working the land and bought his own 80 acre farm on Eaton Hwy. in 1947. He raised his family and crops until his full retirement in 1991. For 9 years he traveled the country spending winters in south Texas before settling again back in Sunfield...The place he

called "home".

He was preceded in death by both his parents, and a sister, Helen.

He will be greatly missed by family and friends from coast to coast and by his wife of 56 years, Florene; his kids, Chris (Gary) Lubitz, Robert L. (Cheryl) Sayer, Dan (Linda) Sayer; his 7 grandchildren; his 8 great grandchildren and his brother, John (Lone) Sayer.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, April 30, 2002 at 11:00 AM at the Sunfield United Methodist Church with Reverend Brian Sheen officiating. The family is being served by the Independent Family Owned Funeral Home in Sunfield, Rosier Funeral Home, Mapes-Fisher Chapel, a full military honor will be given after the service.

Interment will be in Meadowbrook Cemetery, Mulliken, MI.

For those wishing, contributions may be made to the S.P.Y.'S Scholarship Fund or the SUMC, c/o Rosier Funeral Home, P.O. Box 36, Sunfield, MI. 48890.

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

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Hastings.  
At the gray barn



# Horizon Builders' preliminary plat for development OK'd

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

The Nashville Village Council last week approved the preliminary site plan for the Horizon Builders development behind Carl's Supermarket.

The plan was approved with a nine-page resolution which spelled out the responsibilities of the village and the developer, Dixie Brand.

The development includes a 25- to 37-unit condo development and association.

"It seems to be a good outline that looks out for the (village) and taxpayers, as well as the developers... this should lay the groundwork

"It seems to be a good outline that looks out for the (village) and taxpayers, as well as the developers... this should lay the groundwork for getting the project under way."

- Steve Wheeler,  
Nashville Councilman

for getting the project under way," said Councilman Steve Wheeler.

Brand, however, did not get a copy of the resolution before the meeting.

"Are you approving our request for the preliminary site plan?" asked Brand.

"Yes, this approves and spells out the PUD (planned unit development) requirements for extensions for public services," said Village President Frank Dunham.

"You obviously didn't get a copy of this before the meeting," said Kirk.

"No, I didn't," said Brand.

"It spells out who is responsible for what," said Kirk.

In other business at the council:

- Approved the appointment of Marge Wolffe to the library board.

- Issued a parade permit to the VFW for May 27, at 11 a.m.

- Agreed to allow the Garden Club to hold a bake sale from 9 to 11 a.m. on May 11. • • Granted a request from the Garden Club to spend up to \$100 for eight new flower pots for the village park.

- Authorized Dunham to submit bids not to exceed \$300 to buy furniture left at the old bank building. The building, donated by Hastings City Bank, will be used for new village offices.

- Approved to reimburse police officer Jeff Miller for dinner at an educational seminar he and fellow officer Bill Gutschke attended. Councilman Carroll Wolffe voted no, saying he thought it was a "poor precedent" to pay a bill at a second meeting in the month. Bills are usually paid at the first meeting.

"I agree, but we approved the voucher for this meal at the last meeting and we are honoring that," said council member Ralph Kirk.

- Heard from Wheeler who said he had a chance to tour the old bank building.

"We are all excited about taking possession and moving in," he said. "There's a lot of ideas being kicked around and we are pretty excited about moving forward. There are some minor things to take care of as well as some long term plans."

# Nazarene churches plan combines revivals

Combined revival meetings at Hastings and Nashville Nazarene churches will begin this Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in a joint revival schedule open to

everyone. The Rev. Wayne Rose, from Kansas City, will be the evangelist Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. and at Hastings Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 6 p.m. at Nashville.

There will be regular a.m. worship services at both churches Sunday, then a combined 6 p.m. worship at Nashville.

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**NOTICE**  
**SUNFIELD TOWNSHIP and VILLAGE**  
**Property Owners/Residents**  
**2002 CLEANUP PROGRAM**

WHEN: THURSDAY - May 9<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
FRIDAY - May 10<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
SATURDAY - May 11<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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125

**LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION**  
**SCHOOL ELECTION**  
**NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION**  
**OF THE ELECTORS OF**  
**MAPLE VALLEY SCHOOLS**  
**EATON AND BARRY COUNTIES, MICHIGAN**

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:  
Please Take Notice that the regular school election of the school district will be held on Monday, June 10, 2002.  
THE LAST DAY ON WHICH PERSONS MAY REGISTER IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION CALLED TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2002, IS MONDAY, MAY 13, 2002. PERSONS REGISTERING AFTER 5 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING ON MONDAY, MAY 13, 2002, ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION.  
To register, visit any Secretary of State branch office or your county, city or township clerk's office. Persons planning to register with the respective county, city or township clerks must ascertain the days and hours on which the clerks' offices are open for registration.  
This Notice is given by order of the board of education.

Allison Avery, Secretary  
Board of Education

# MAPLE VALLEY SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

- Maple Valley Elementary Schools (Maplewood & Fuller)**  
**Lunch Menu**  
**Wednesday, May 1**  
Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, roll and honey, peaches, 1/2 pt. milk.  
**Thursday, May 2**  
Fuller Hungry Howies. Pizza, tossed salad, apple-sauce, trail mix, 1/2 pt. milk.  
**Friday, May 3**  
Soft taco, whole kernel corn, pear halves, birthday cake, 1/2 pt. milk.  
**Monday, May 6**  
Cheesie bread sticks, spaghetti, fresh fruit, vanilla pudding, 1/2 pt. milk.
- Tuesday, May 7**  
Macaroni and cheese, green beans, peaches, peanut butter brownie, 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, May 1**  
**Choose One** - Chicken tenders, pizza, chicken sandwich, burger bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, tater tots, peaches, juice. Milk.  
**Thursday, May 2**  
**Choose One** - Spaghetti.
- cheeseburger, pizza, taco bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, green beans, apple-sauce, juice. Milk.  
**Friday, May 3**  
**Choose One** - Ham and cheese rollup, pizza, chicken sandwich, salad bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, whole kernel corn, pear halves, juice. Milk.  
**Monday, May 6**  
**Choose One** - Cheesie bread sticks, pizza, chicken sandwich, salad bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, carrot sticks, fresh fruit, juice. Milk.

# Flag disposal ceremony scheduled for May 11

VFW Post No. 8260 and the Ladies Auxiliary in Nashville is inviting the community to a ceremony to dispose of torn and faded flags at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 11. Refreshments and replacement flags will be available. Those who cannot attend may drop their worn flags off at the post for proper disposal any day after 4 p.m. except Tuesday. "Since Sept. 11, more people than ever before have been flying the United States flag. This is to show their support and unity for our country and the men and women fighting overseas," a VFW spokesperson said.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the VFW or Ladies Auxiliary should call the post at 517-852-9260.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Barry County MSU Extension Office

- April 30** Master Gardener class, Flower Gardening 6-10 p.m., Courts & Law Bldg., Community Rm.  
**May 2** Fair Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center.  
**May 4** Open Horse Show, 8:30 a.m., Expo Center.  
**May 5** Speed Show, 10 a.m., Expo Center.  
**May 6** Barry Co. Homemakers Plant Exchange, 6 p.m., Fish Hatchery Park, regular meeting w/potluck.  
**May 7** Master Gardener Class, IPM, 6-10 p.m., Courts & Law Bldg., Community Room.  
**May 8** Livestock Development Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center.  
**May 13** Horse Development Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., HHS Cafeteria.  
**May 14** Master Gardener class, Vegetables, 6-10 p.m., Courts & Law Bldg., Community Room.  
**May 15** 4-H Advisory Council, 7 p.m., Extension Office.  
**May 16** Fair Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center.  
**May 18** 4-H Judged/Comp Trail Ride (time and location to be announced).  
**May 19** 4-H Point Horse Show (B C 4-H member only), 8:30 p.m., Expo Center.  
**May 20** Rabbit, Goat & Poultry Development Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., HHS Cafeteria.  
**May 20** Small Animal Sale Committee Meeting, 8 p.m., HHS Cafeteria.

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## POLICE BEAT

### Stolen vehicle found crashed in Barry County

A black, 1993 Ford Probe reported stolen in Brighton was recovered by local authorities April 13 in Castleton Township when it was found crashed into an embankment at the intersection of Center and Barger roads at 2:20 a.m.

The vehicle apparently had been traveling north on Barger when the unknown driver failed to stop for a stop sign at the intersection, crossed the roadway and struck the embankment on the north side of Center

Road.

The registration and insurance information had been removed from the glove box, which was found open and the license plate and stereo face plate also were gone, according to a report by the Barry County Sheriff's Office.

No keys were found in the unlocked vehicle and no evidence of theft could be found on the vehicle, deputies reported, though further investigation revealed the car was reported stolen.

### Ex-Lion grappler receives awards at Olivet

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

Olivet College student wrestler and 1999 Maple Valley High School graduate Chris Dunham has chosen to spend time back in the district during the spring break holidays to help Maple Valley wrestlers.

Dunham just received the Gary Morrison Male Athlete of the Year award given to one athlete a year at Olivet College. Dunham is a junior there. He said he was surprised to receive the award because it usually goes to a senior.

He is also Olivet's Scholar All-American, honored for having at least two semesters of a grade point average of at least 3.2 and placing in the top six in a national qualifying meet. Dunham led the wrestling team in wins this season with a 26-17 record.

Dunham said he did not have a great start in wrestling, but rather got better and better each year at Maple Valley and in college.

"I got off to a slow start and was pretty average in high school. My senior year I started to do a lot better, my drive and love of the sport just grew. I don't know, I was just like a little kid finding something they love. So I started working



Chris Dunham, named Scholar All American and recipient of the Gary Morrison Male Athlete of the Year award at Olivet College. Dunham graduated from Maple Valley High School in '99.

out all the time. Last year I got a chance to travel and compete with the varsity squad here and that really gave me something to work for."

Dunham wrestles at 149 pounds. He said that during the season he runs a lot and works out up to 30 hours a week.

"My parents and family have been really supportive and that's allowed me to focus on wrestling," he said.

Dunham's parents are Frank and Sue of Nashville,

and grandparents Frank and Esther of Vermontville, and Bob and Meg Burgie or Charlotte.

"There is no way I could have done this and keep my grades up without them," he said.

Dunham has come back to Maple Valley to share his knowledge and work out with Maple Valley wrestlers during holiday breaks.

"I go back and wrestle with the Maple Valley kids. I enjoy it. Its giving back to the system, like my coach says."

Dunham, who is an early

education major, said the experience has shown him that he would like to be a wrestling coach.

"I really enjoy younger kids, but I want to be a wrestling coach at the higher education level.

Dunham coaches at school are Jare Klein and Mark Holdren. Holdren was quoted in the Olivet student newspaper, the Echo, as saying, "I wish we had a whole room of Chris Dunhams. I know that we would be intense competitive wrestlers on the mat and gentlemen everywhere else."

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### Nashville man arrested in marijuana drug raid

An investigation by the Tri County Metro Drug Team of Lansing Monday, April 22, has led to the arrest of a Nashville man on charges of delivery and manufacture of marijuana.

William John Parr, 48, is being held in the Barry County Jail on \$75,000 bond

on two counts of delivery and manufacture of five to 45 kilograms of marijuana and with one count of being a habitual offender, third conviction.

Parr was arrested April 22 after an investigation in the 100 block of North State Street in Nashville.

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## Obituaries

### Anna L. Burd

MIDDLEVILLE - Anna L. Burd, age 61, of Lake Panasoffkee, FL, formerly of Nashville died Tuesday, Nov. 27, in Leesburg, FL.

Anna L. Burd, was born on March 8, 1940 in Cowanshannock, Penn., the daughter of Catherine (Banks) Hess and Raymond Whitaker of Sagamore and Rural Valley and graduated in 1957 from Nashville High School after she moved to Nashville as an adolescent.

She was married to Forrest R. Burd on Feb. 15, 1958 in Michigan and they moved to Florida in 1993.

She worked at Cooley Drive Inn in Nashville and also, for A.E. Hoover Aluminum Company in Charlotte, MI for about 7 years.

Mrs. Burd is survived by her mother, Catherine Hess of Nashville, MI; husband, Forrest from Lake Panasoffkee, FL; daughter, Denise K. Thomas of Eagle, MI; son, David L. Burd of Nashville; sister, Rita Wellman of Charlotte;

### Edith Furlong

NASHVILLE - Mrs. Edith Furlong, age 62, passed away Monday April 29, 2002 at her home in Nashville.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Maple Valley Chapel on Nashville.

brothers, Larry Whitaker of Hastings, James Whitaker of Lansing; and one grandson, Timothy S. Thomas.

Preceding her in death were her father, Raymond Whitaker; brother, Harold Whitaker; and daughter, Renee C. Burd.

Cremation took place at National Cremation Society, Fruitland Park, FL.

Graveside memorial services for Ann L. Burd will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2002 at 11 a.m. at Lakeview Cemetery in Nashville, Mich. Luncheon following at the Nashville United Methodist Church.

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#### VERMONTVILLE TOWNSHIP EATON COUNTY

The Vermontville Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the draft Township Master Plan on May 2, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to accept public comments on the draft plan that is being considered by the Planning Commission for adoption. A copy of the draft plan is available for public inspection at the Vermontville Township Library during regular business hours. The hearing will be conducted at the Township offices located at the Opera House in the Village of Vermontville, Michigan. All Township residents are encouraged to attend the hearing and express their opinions.

Vermontville Township Planning Commission

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# Lions mow down Blackhawks

The Maple Valley varsity baseball team cleaned up its act in the field and then cleaned up on Leslie pitching, sweeping a home doubleheader from the Blackhawks 7-1 and 20-4 on April 23.

"It was great for our team to go from 16 errors in two games in our tournament (the Maple Valley Invitational on April 20, where the Lions went 1-1) to zero errors in a league doubleheader," Maple Valley coach Bryan Carpenter said. "Our pitching has and will continue to be there. We just have to continue hitting and fielding."

Darin Thrun (3-0) got the win in Game 1, allowing four hits and two walks while striking out nine. Ryan Goris (2-4), Jason Silsbee (2-3) and Ryan Grider (2-3) each had two hits for the Lions.

Britt Leonard also upped his record to 3-0 on the mound in Game 2, with seven hits, three walks and seven K's. Goris (4-5, 5 R).

Thrun (3-4, 4 RBI) and Grider (2-3, 2B) led the offensive charge, but it was decidedly a team effort, with 11 different players getting hits on the way to 17 in five innings.

Maple Valley (9-4, 4-0 in the SMAA) played a crucial doubleheader last night at Bellevue. They have another doubleheader today at Battle Creek Pennfield, then host a doubleheader next Monday, May 6 against Dansville. Action on both days begins at 4 p.m.

**Valley 16, Springport 3**

Ryan Grider picked up the five-inning win on April 25, fanning five batters and allowing two walks and three hits. Springport bungled its way to 10 errors to three for Maple Valley.

The Lions had the long ball working for them at the plate. Darin Thrun went 3-5 (2B, HR, 2 RBI), Ryan Goris was 2-5 (2 HR, 4 RBI, 4



Ryan Goris. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

R) and Grider helped himself by going 2-4 (RBI).

"As a team we are playing better baseball," Coach Car-

penter said. "We have improved each game and hopefully we'll continue to do so."

## Softball suffers first league loss

The Maple Valley varsity softball team split an SMAA doubleheader slugfest with Leslie on April 23, winning the first game 18-14 before giving up nine runs in the last two innings of the second to lose 15-14.

Jessie Grant went 7-for-9 at the plate on the day with four RBIs, five stolen bases and eight runs scored. Lisa McElroy had five RBIs, Jamie Jones had three hits, two RBIs and four stolen bases, Holly Forest went 2-for-3, and Elisha Gibson hit two singles, a double, and a triple and had two RBIs.

Jessica Cowell pitched the win, giving up seven hits and one walk against seven strikeouts. She also made eight putouts and had three assists.

Springport took a doubleheader from the Lions on April 25, 7-0 and 9-2.

Jessie Grant had two hits and Jessica Cowell had a hit. Maple Valley (3-1 in the SMAA) played at Bellevue last night. The Lions have a doubleheader at 4 p.m. today at Battle Creek Pennfield, a home game at 5 p.m. on Friday against Morenci, and a home doubleheader next Monday, May 6 against Dansville.

**Maple Valley Invitational**

The Lions did enough good things to make some noise at the Maple Valley Invitational on April 20, but didn't do enough to pull out wins, falling to Saranac 14-11 and Hopkins 11-7.

Athens beat Saranac to win the tourney title.

"We haven't learned to finish," Valley coach Duska Brumm said. "Both games were lost in the late innings...by committing errors with runners on base. Our defense needs to step up and support our pitchers."

Jessica Cowell took the loss against Saranac (5 K, 1 BB). Leading hitters were Elisha Gibson (2 1B, 2B, 2

RBI) and Holly Clouse (2 1B, 2B) with three each, Jessie Grant and Nikki James (RBI, 3 SB, 8 putouts) with two, and Bethany Swift (2 RBI) with one.

Kyndra Root tossed nine strikeouts against two walks in the loss to Hopkins. Grant (2 1B, 2B, RBI, 3 R), Lisa McElroy (2B, 3B, RBI) and Swift (2 1B, 2 RBIs) led the offense.



Elisha Gibson. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

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# Lady Lions out of blocks 3-0, Farr sets record

The Maple Valley varsity girls' track team is off to a terrific start, winning all three of its first dual meets last week after winning the Portland Invitational on April 20. The girls won the Kent City Relays back on April 6.

Senior pole vaulter Miranda Farr had her sights set on the school record this season, and she made it her own with a vault of 10 feet even in a double dual on April 23.

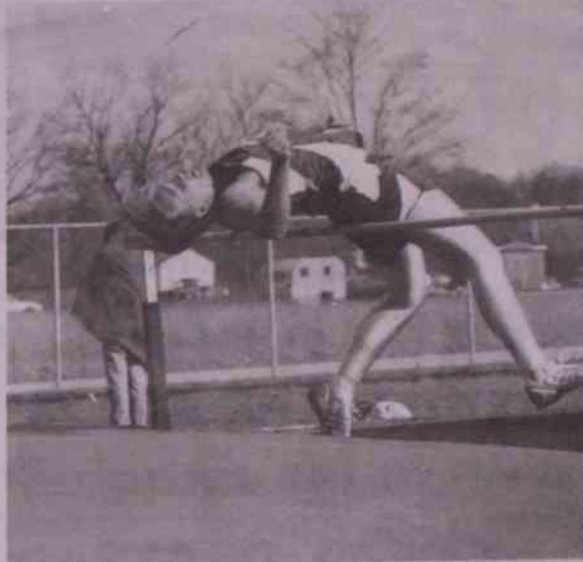
The Lion track teams travel today for an SMAA double dual with Leslie and Lansing Christian, then they have a meet at Portland on Thursday. Competition both days begins at 4:30 p.m.

They'll be in Charlotte on Saturday for the Eaton County Invitational.

**Ladies beat Lakewood**  
The girls' track team (3-0, 2-0 in the SMAA) swept the pole vault, shot put and discus in a 34-point dual meet win over Lakewood on April 25, 85-51.

First-place finishers for Maple Valley: Miranda Farr in the pole vault (8-0), Cashel Harp in the shot put (31-4 3/4), Sarah Cook in the discus (97-1), Donna Cripe in the 100 (13.64), Jessica McMillen in the 1600 (6:18.08), Stefanie Joostberns in the 400 (1:06.28) and Summer Hill in the 800 (2:50.25).

The Lions also won the



Sarah Cook. (Photo by Perry Hardin)



Miranda Farr. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

3200 relay (Hill, Chayla Robles, McMillen, Joostberns) in 12:35.12, the 800 relay (Cripe, Joostberns, Micah Tobias, Megan Garvey) in 1:57.98, and the 400 relay (Cripe, Melissa Nisse, Tobias, Garvey) in 55.62.

Second-place finishers: Ashley Gordeneer in the pole vault (8-0), Cook in the high jump (4-6) and high hurdles (17.88), Nisse in the long jump (13-10 3/4), Kelly Wilson in the shot put (30 1/4), Harp in the discus (93-1), Tobias in the 100 (13.91), Akiyo Ueshima in the 300 hurdles (1:00.52) and Cripe in the 200 (30.49).

Third-place finishers: Tara Gordenski in the pole vault (8-0), Farr in the long jump (13-4), Gordeneer in the shot put (28-5) and high hurdles (18.92), Wilson in the discus (91-9), Jessica Ellison in the 400 (1:11.72), Robles in the 800 (2:52.24) and Amy Strickland in the 200 (30.52).

Farr sets record in dual wins

The girls' track team took two big conference wins in a double dual on April 23, pounding Morrice 131-27 and Bellevue 122.5-39.5.

Senior Miranda Farr set a new school record with a pole vault of 10 feet even. Other overall winners were Cashel Harp in the shot put (31-1) and discus (106-5), Sarah Cook in the high hurdles (17.75), Micah Tobias in the 100 dash (13.94) and 300 hurdles (52.25), Stefanie Joostberns in the 400 (1:02.79), Megan Garvey in the 200 (28.38) and Jessica McMillen in the 3200 (13:49.21).

The Lady Lions also swept the relays, winning the 3200 relay (Summer Hill, Chayla Robles, Garvey, Joostberns) in 10:48.95, the 800 relay (Donna Cripe, Melissa Nisse, Joostberns, Tobias) in 1:56.37, the 400 relay (Cripe, Nisse, Farr, Tobias) in 54.63, and the 1600 relay (Hill, Robles, Joostberns, Garvey) in 4:33.87.

Against Bellevue, Cook took first in the high jump (4-8) and Nisse won the long jump (14-3 3/4). Against Morrice, McMillen

won the 1600 (6:12.42) and Hill won the 800 (2:53.63).

**Lion teams 1st, 2nd at Portland Invite**

Maple Valley had a good meet at the Portland Invitational on April 20, with the girls taking first and the boys placing second.

The Lady Lions piled up 189 points to run away with the girls' title. Lakewood and Portland tied for second with 107 points, followed by Burton Atherton (76), Dansville (57) and Portland St. Patrick (34).

Top placers for Maple Valley: Cashel Harp (102-1) and Sarah Cook (101-4 1/2) went 1-2 in the discus, and Harp won the shot put (32-9 1/2); Miranda Farr (9-6), Ashley Gordeneer (8-0) and Tara Gordenski (7-0) took the top three spots in the pole vault; Megan Garvey won the 400 (1:04.54); and the Lions won the 800 relay (Donna Cripe, Stefanie Joostberns, Micah Tobias, Garvey) in 1:56.14 and the 400 relay (Cripe, Nisse, Amy Strickland, Tobias) in 54.68).

Lakewood won the boys' meet with 165 points, followed by Maple Valley (118), Portland (87), Dansville (84), St. Johns (73), Portland St. Patrick (29) and Burton Atherton (19).

Jason Beardslee won the 110 hurdles in 16.27. Second-place finishers were the 3200 relay (9:15.34), Josh Grasmann in the discus (117-2 1/2), Rich Wilson in the pole vault (10-6), and Andrew Kenyon in the 800 (2:10.22).

## Maple Valley Athletic Boosters will meet May 1

The Maple Valley Athletic Boosters will hold its monthly meeting Wednesday, May 1, at 5:30 p.m. in the Maple Valley Jr.-Sr. High School office conference room.

The public is encouraged to attend.

## Correction:

It was incorrectly stated that Ed Sheldon was leaving his seat on the Nashville Village Council in a previous issue of The Maple Valley News. Ed Sheldon still has a year left of his term on the council.

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