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# Multi-class exhibit showcases talent

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

Maple Valley High School students showcased their talents at the multi-class exhibit and musical event last Wednesday night. The event, sponsored by the Fine Arts Department, featured artwork, sculpture, tin work, woodshop items, choir and band performances and more.

Art was lined up on walls, and filled tables in the cafeteria, while the woodshop and metals class lined hallways. Music performances took place in the auditorium.

Each student in the show highlighted her or his talents.

One student, Devin Phenix, who makes speaker boxes, explained the process.

"You have to figure in planning, space, sound and money, to get what you want, he explained. "The object is to make a concert sound so that if you close your eyes you can picture where the saxophone player is."

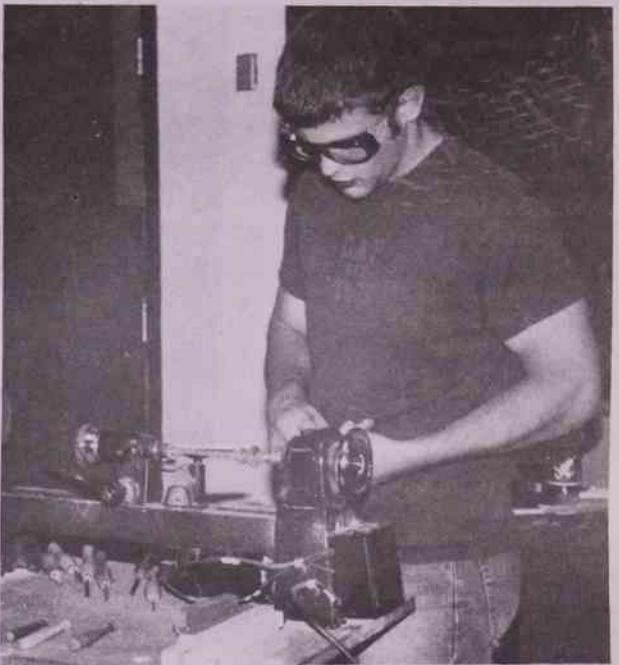
Phenix said he has been making the boxes for five years, and said his car was "totally set" as far as sound.

"The girls like it," he said of his car stereo.

He also makes them and sells them on his website. After he graduates he plans to take on an electrical apprenticeship or go to Central Michigan University.



Devin Phenix with his different types of speakers and boxes.



Cam Smith makes a knob at the showcase.

See more photos, page 2



Becky Guernsey stands by some of her Art 4 projects displayed at the showcase.

## Arbitrator rules in favor of schools in pay issue

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

Maple Valley school officials declared the results of arbitration findings this past Monday a victory that will help keep the district financially solvent.

The Maple Valley Education Association and school district went to an arbitrator after the MVEA filed unfair labor charges with the Michigan Employment Commission. Some teachers had been paid in what Superintendent Clark Volz referred to as "an accounting mistake." Some teachers earned a 14.8% raise instead of the 9% they should have

gotten. The teachers' union insisted the raise was negotiated in the contract and was no mistake.

The pay rate issue affects 33 teachers in the district.

Volz said Monday that the findings from the arbitrator did conclude the pay raise was a mistake. He said the ruling handed down was what the district had originally offered the teachers' union when they learned of the mistake.

"When this was initially discovered we offered the association to hold them harmless for the overpayments made during the 2001-02 school year, and to continue those payments for the rest of the school year, on the condition that they forgo their step raises next year to even things out," said Volz.

Volz said that this meant teachers would continue to

receive the "mistake" pay for the rest of the year, but would not get a step raise next year. They will receive their regular 3.5% raise. The next year, they would continue with step and regular raises on schedule.

"This proposal was rejected by the association at that time, and the matter went on to arbitration," he said.

Volz said the district could have asked for overpayment to be repaid, but agreed it was not the right thing to do. Had the payments continued, Volz said, they could have cost the district more than \$78,000 a year extra for nearly 11 years.

The finding of the arbitrator is final and binding.

"I am happy with the decision," said Volz. "I think

See arbitrator, page 3



The choir performs at the open house at the high school.

**In This Issue...**

- FFA awards presented at annual banquet May 3
- Vermontville Syrup Festival receives County Heritage Award
- School board buys electronic display sign
- Vermontville Revue raises \$2000 for cystic fibrosis



The art display included sculptures like this.

**Multi-class exhibit, continued from page 1**

Marc Landgraf demonstrates how to make a speaker box at the showcase.



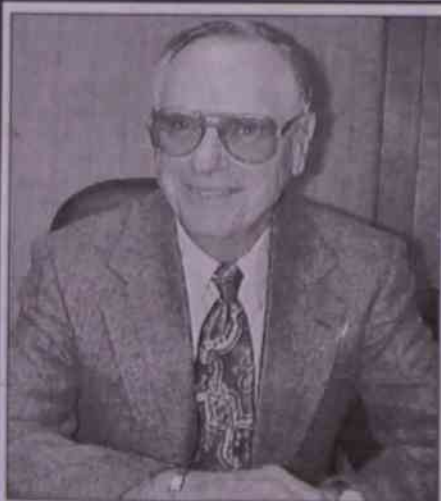
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**Secretary of State mobile unit to visit Vermontville**

The Secretary of State Mobile Unit will be in Vermontville Wednesday, May 29, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Thursday, May 30, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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**In My Opinion:**

**'Courthouse gang' acted without people's consent**

More than 50 Barry County citizens in the 20/20 sessions last week showed us what's best about Barry County.

Meanwhile, unfortunately, most members of the Barry County Board of Commissioners, remain mired in tunnel vision and still show us they're the problem, not the solution.

At the Future Search Conference at the Cedar Creek Institute, voices were heard, visions seen, plans made and actions taken.

The conference idea came from the Barry County Futuring Trust Committee. The Futuring Committee held a similar conference in 1989 and many of the same issues came up again, such as inter-governmental cooperation, human service needs, planning and zoning issues, transportation and more. But most important they won't just put it in a file cabinet, they'll use it for continued study and implementation. Meetings will be held throughout the county to review the findings, set the strategies, systems and organization structure needed to support the vision. The action groups will develop short and long term plans based on the future vision they have created from the conference. They have learned to build on the knowledge that people already have gained by removing barriers that traditionally keep us from testing our old assumptions and allow us to create new possibilities for the future.

One item that came up repeatedly in the conference was the need to reach consensus among the groups on issues, a contrast from local government's inability or refusal to listen to the people and respond to their needs. We were asked by the conference leaders to bring something to symbolize the conference theme. Former teacher May Granata brought a door knob, which she explained should open new doors, welcome in new and old friends, and the freedom to express new ideas. She said doors can protect us, contain us in our space, but they also allow us to cross over new thresholds to new possibilities.

However, I was waiting for an answer on a potential court action against the Barry County Commissioners for an action I believe was in violation of statutes or at best in opposition to the interests of the people.

The commissioners voted 6-2 to purchase land in Hastings to locate a new Health Department and Commission on Aging facility, but voters of Barry County were never really consulted. The entire project could cost the residents of Barry County more than \$4 million.

According to state statute, a city council, county commission or any other governmental body cannot enter into such a contract without following certain procedures. And there are two other issues.

One is that officials who warned us Michigan's budget deficit would be in the millions now say it will be in the billions. The shortfall of taxes at the state level will impact county funding.

County officials themselves have said it's important to maintain a fund balance for tight times like this. Yet now commissioners are planning one of the largest building projects in the county's history.

The second issue is that commissioners have been planning this project for more than three years. A billing notice sent to the commissioners plainly states legal work on the project started in December 2000, nearly 30 days before the present commission was even seated. Only three commissioners remained on the board after 2000, Sandy James, Jeff MacKenzie and Clare Tripp. Who authorized this group of three to start encumbering this huge public expense without the support of the rest of the new commission?

Certain procedures must be followed to be in compliance with state law. The first time commissioners discussed the project was in July 2001. To date the Commission on Aging board still has not even voted to build, remodel or accept a project the County Board might offer. COA Board members might have discussed the project amongst themselves, or possibly at committee level, but no action has been taken as far as we know to accept the board's plans.

Reports indicate the COA has not offered a business plan for the facility. Where will the money come from to maintain the facility?

As it stands now, the commission plans to purchase the land, pay all legal and development costs, pay for all remodeling of the old church building, with no plan for how the COA might contribute. This is serious business.

I have been opposed to the plan because the commissioners already purchased land in downtown Hastings, and have land available at the KCC campus. By purchasing more land in Hastings, they take away tax revenue, leaving a larger burden for city taxpayers.

Our locally elected officials should be in the business of building cooperation within the county through intergovernmental and citizen involvement to get to a consensus on an issue. Instead, this band, once referred to as the "courthouse gang," is operating amongst themselves, disregarding law and good governance just to facilitate the needs of two departments of county government.

Barry County citizens should call their county commissioners and insist on being heard. If they brush off the people's pleas, they should be reminded of primary elections Aug. 6.

Vision 20/20 groups' hours of discussion and open debate offered several ideas on how to deal with the human service needs. I suggest the county commission delay plans until they at least attend some of the upcoming action group meetings and see what the residents of Barry County offer in solving problems.

Good government is not just acting on behalf of the taxpayers. It's keeping them informed, offering a way in which they can become part of the decision making process, and demanding honest representation at all times when doing the people's business.

— Fred Jacobs, Vice President, J-Ad Graphics

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# Area Obituaries

## Phyllis E. (Herrick) Elkey

FLORESVILLE, TEXAS - Phyllis E. (Herrick) Elkey, age 82, of Floresville, Texas and formerly of Hastings died Tuesday, May 14, 2002 at Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

Mrs. Elkey was born on April 14, 1920 in Nashville, Mich., the daughter of Albert and Edna (Mayo) Herrick.

She was raised in the Nashville area and in New Jersey and attended schools there.

She served in the U.S. Navy from May 25, 1944 until her discharge on Feb. 2, 1946.

Her husband's 35 year military career took them all over the world, but it was

always Michigan she called home. She moved to Hastings in 1978 from Missouri.

Mrs. Elkey served in the U.S. Navy as a QM1X3 and was awarded the Honorable Service Pin, the American Campaign Metal and the World War II Victory Medal. A "Plank" owner in the "Women's in Military History Memorial" in Washington, D.C., she took great pride in having serving her country and gave to organizations promoting U.S. Naval and military history.

Mrs. Elkey is survived by sons, Robert (Alice) Elkey of Harlingen, TX, Rodney (Lena) Elkey of San Antonio, TX, Timothy (Vickie) Elkey of Floresville, TX and

Norbert (Donna) Elkey of Portales, New Mexico; 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents; husband, Command Sergeant Major Robert W. Elkey on April 2, 1998.

Full military honors were held Monday, May 20, 2002 at Ft. Custer National Cemetery. Burial was at Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI.

Memorial arrangements may be made to Alzheimers Disease Foundation.

Arrangements were made by Wren Funeral Home of Hastings.

## Kenneth A. Stemler

SUNFIELD - Kenneth A. Stemler passed away Wednesday, May 15, 2002 at Ionia County Memorial Hospital at the age of 90.

He was born May 4, 1912 in Danby Township, MI, the son of John S. and Nellie (Monroe) Stemler.

Kenneth was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Stemler was preceded in death by both his parents; a great grandchild, Cory Martin; granddaughter, Tonja Kay Cassel; daughter, Donna Cassel; and daughter-in-law, Claudia Stemler; sisters, Dorothy White and Margaret Shortz.

He is survived by his wife of 60+ years, Maxine I.

Stemler; sons, Richard, Doug (Diane), Kenny (Sue), and Robert; daughter, Nancy (Mark) Thompson; son-in-law, Clare Cassel; 16 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren; sister, Vera Eastman; and brother, John (Edith) Stemler.

Funeral services were held Saturday, May 18, 2002 at the Rosier Funeral Home, Mapes-Fisher Chapel, Sunfield, MI. Rev. Brian Sheen of the Sunfield United Methodist Church officiated. Interment was in the Danby Cemetery, Mulliken, MI.

The pallbearers were the grandsons, Tim, Douglas, Lucas, Cody, and Mike Stemler, Scott Cassel, Ran-

dy Clouse, Josh Thompson, Kevin Vansycle.

The V.F.W. of Portland, MI will present an honor guard at the funeral home, and at the cemetery in tribute to Mr. Stemler serving in the U.S. military during World War II.

For those wishing, contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, c/o Rosier Funeral Home, P.O. Box 36, Sunfield, MI 48890.

For those wishing more information, log onto www.legacy.com.

Arrangements were by the Independent Family Owned Funeral Home in Sunfield, Rosier Funeral Home.

## Darlene (Crane) Hull

NASHVILLE - Darlene (Crane) Hull, age 61, Nashville, died Tuesday, May 14, 2002 at Thornapple Manor, Hastings.

Darlene (Crane) Hull was born on Feb. 8, 1943 in Leslie, MI, the daughter of Forrest B. and Mary L. (Stidd) Madison. She attended area schools and graduated from Dansville High School in 1960.

She worked as a nurse's aide, did child care and was employed at Emery's Adult Foster Care in Vermontville.

She was a member of the Nashville Nazarene Church.

She enjoyed birds and owned several parrots. She liked socializing, crocheting, crafting and traveling to Holland for the Tulip Festival and to Frankenmuth.

She was preceded in death by Forrest B. and Mary L. (Stidd) Madison.

Surviving are her husband, Philip Hull of Nashville; sons, Chris (Janice) Crane of Nashville, John

Crane of Hastings; sister, Betty Jordan; 19 grandchildren and nine step grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday, May 17, 2002 at Kalamo Methodist Church. Pastor Steve Olmstead officiated. Interment at Wood-

lawn Cemetery, Vermontville.

Memorial may be made to the family.

Arrangements were made by Maple Valley Chapel, Nashville.

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# Vermontville Syrup Festival wins County Heritage Award

Genealogist Shirley Hodges and the Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival Corporation are the winners of the Eaton County Heritage Awards for 2002.

The awards are given annually by the Eaton County Historical Commission for outstanding contribution

by groups or individuals for preservation, restoration or public awareness of the county's historical heritage.

The maple syrup corporation and its members have since 1940 carried on a tradition established by the area's first settlers from Vermont in the mid-19th century.

The festival, held in late April, features a sugar shanty and demonstrations of the sugar-making process and showcases some of the finest maple syrup produced in Michigan.

Hodges, who lives near Albion, was cited for her willingness to share knowl-

edge gleaned from more than 30 years of study and research on genealogical subjects. She has become a leading expert and speaker on family history in Eaton County and others parts of the state.

As a former president and current vice president of the

Eaton County Genealogical Society, she had led in efforts to preserve family history records in the area for generations to follow. She also teaches genealogy classes.

Winners of this year's awards were selected by a committee representing the

historical commission and members of three other historical organizations in Eaton County. The presentation will take place at a dinner meeting of the syrup festival corporation tonight, Tuesday, May 21, at the Congregation Church in Vermontville.

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*Aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith.*

R.S.V. 1 Timothy 6:11-12

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Sunday School .....10 a.m.  
Fellowship Time .....10:30 a.m.  
Adult Class .....10:50 a.m.  
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Worship Service .....9:30 a.m.  
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250 N. Main St., Vermontville  
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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  
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Church Service .....11 a.m.  
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314 Main, Middleville  
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# School board buys electronic display sign

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer  
The Maple Valley School board approved the purchase

of a \$34,979 electronic display sign for in front of the junior-senior high school last week.



Darlene Joostberns is given a clock by Superintendent Clark Volz for her 30 years with the district.



Judy Gardner is honored upon her retirement for her 21 1/2 years with the district by Superintendent Clark Volz.

Superintendent Clark Volz said that the school was receiving \$20,000 in insurance reimbursement for the old sign which was

knocked down in a strong wind storm.

The cost to the district is \$14,979 after the settlement. A regular letter sign would have cost the district about \$7,000.

The new sign will be programmable from the high school office to advertise events and happenings at not only the high school, but Fuller and Maplewood as well. The sign can be programmable to show three lines of eight-inch letters or two rows of larger letters. It has three feet of screen and is nine feet long.

"This could be a communication device for us," said Volz. "The high school office would control what goes onto the sign. Todd (Gonser, high school principal) is committed to sharing the sign with the other schools."

*In other business the school board:*

Honored employees reaching milestones in their service to the district. Honored were Vicki Williams and Darlene Joostberns for 30 years, Dave Hustwick and Rose Dunham for 25 years, Michele Skovera for 20 years, Stacey Leiby, Shelia Dunn, Bob Smith, Theresa Duffy, and Kim Fowler for 15 years, Jill Booher, Vicki Root, Debrah Decker, and Duska Brumm for 10 years, and Charlie Wawiernia, Shelia Tobias, Chris Parkinson, Clark Volz, Bev Oleson, Jeff Seavolt, and Sue Cowell for five years.

Approved seeking to recover revenue lost by the Headlee amendment by seeking the originally ap-



Stacey Leiby (from left) and Kim Fowler are given awards for their 15 years with the district.



Teachers Rose Dunham and Dave Hustwick are honored for 25 years of service with the district.



Jill Booher (from left), Duska Brumm, and Vicki Root are honored for their 10 years with the school district.

proved full 18 mills. He said a vault (time capsule?) will be opened that may contain things put away 50 years ago by the school.

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**Newest Citizens Announced**

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**Tracy Hickey**  
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## GFWC-Vermontville and library review book



School board president Mike Callton (left) laughs over some of Clark Volz's fondest memories with the district in the past five years as board member Allison Avery joins in. Volz was given a five year award.

Superintendent Clark Volz (from left), teacher Vicki Williams, honored for 30 years with the district, and school board member Allison Avery.



The General Federation Women's Club of Vermontville, in conjunction with the Vermontville Library, reviewed "A Map of the World," by Jane Hamilton.

"This proved to be an interesting discussion on the topic of newcomers into a community as well as destruction of a family resulting from a professional in the school system false accused of child abuse," said JoeAnn Nehmer, a spokeswoman for the GFCWC local chapter.

The next review will be June 13 on a novel "Friendship Cake," by Lynne Hinton. It's a light story about women whom grew up learning to cook before they were tall enough to reach the stove.

"Good humor, tender moments, and life lessons abound in this heartwarming portrait of small-town Southern life that is anything but simple and quiet," said

Nehmer.

The monthly book review is open to anyone who has a desire to read. Readers don't have to purchase the book.

Carla Rumsey at the Library obtains them from the Interlibrary Loan, which is a savings to everyone.

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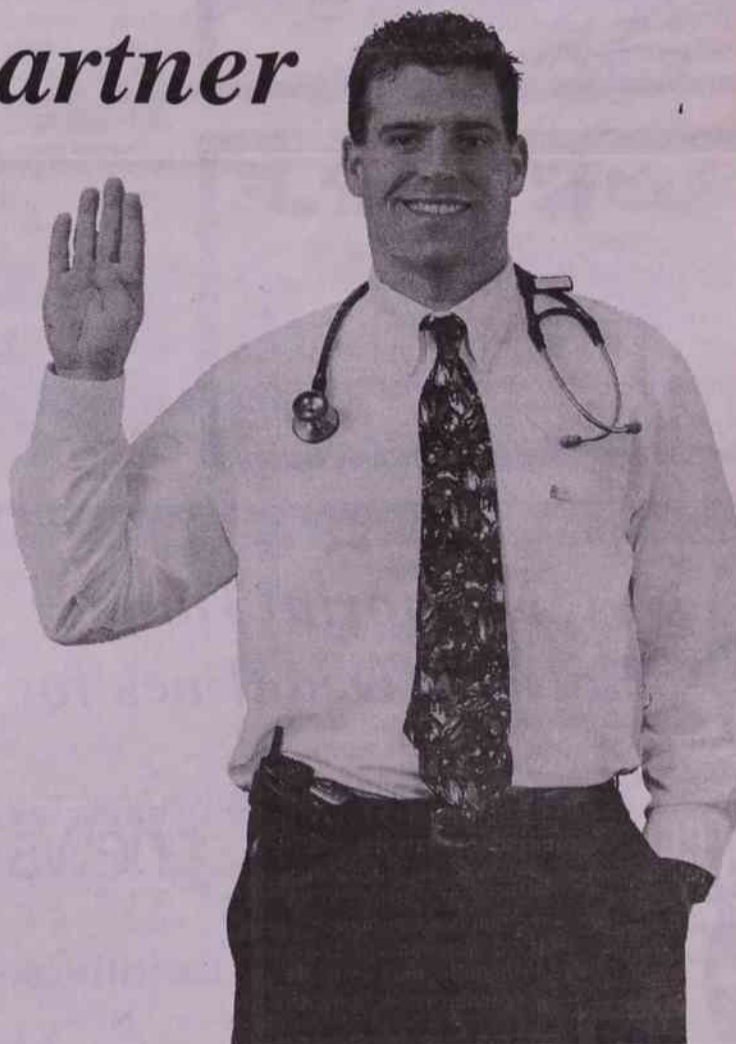
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# Lady Lions perfect in SMAA, send several to state

The Maple Valley girls' track team placed second in the 15-team Division 3 regional meet at Stockbridge on Saturday, advancing athletes from seven events to the state meet at Comstock Park on June 1.

Maple Valley scored 95 points to trail only Williamston, which won the regional going away with 140 points. Laingsburg placed third with 59.

Sarah Cook won the discus with a throw of 105-3, followed by teammate Cashel Harp at 102-2. Harp also qualified for the state meet in the shot put with a second-place toss of 32-6.

Ashley Gordeneer placed second in the pole vault at 9-6, Micah Tobias placed second in the 300 hurdles in 50.4, and Stefanie Joostberns took second in the 800 in 2:26.1.

The Lady Lions also

qualified two relays with first-place finishes. They won the 400 relay (Donna Cripe, Amy Abbott, Tobias, Megan Garvey) in 53.3 and the 1600 relay (Abbott, Garvey, Tobias, Joostberns) in 4:21.4.

Valley (10-0) turns its attention back to the SMAA on Wednesday, when the ladies will try to polish off an undisputed championship in the league meet at Bellevue at 3:30 p.m.

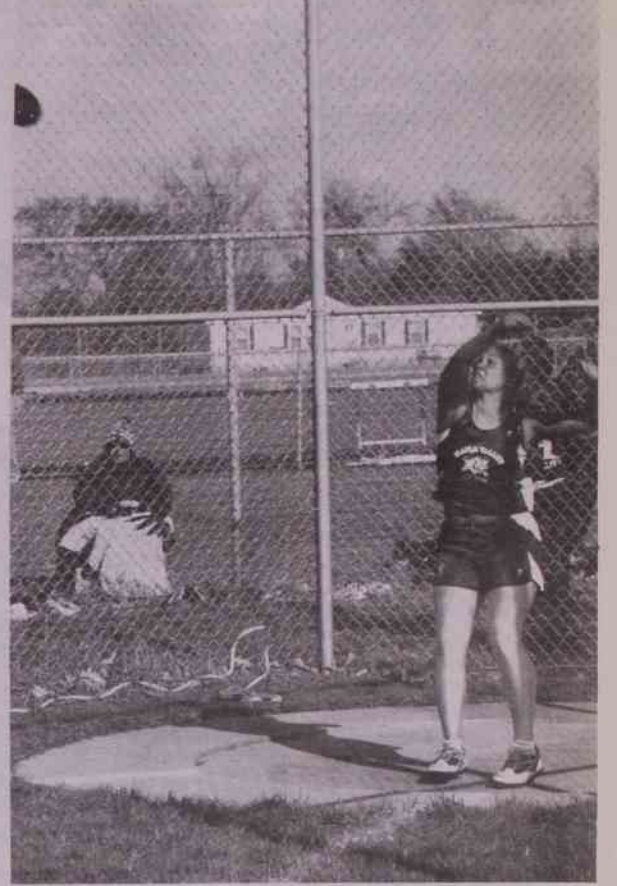
## Lions claw Eagles

The girls' track team wrapped up an undefeated dual meet season with a 99-59 conference win at Olivet on May 14.

First-place finishers for Valley: Cashel Harp in the discus (98-3 1/2) and shot put (33-8 1/2); Miranda Farr in the long jump (14-1) and pole vault (9-6); Jessica McMillen in the 1600 (6:08.60); Stefanie Joost-



Ashley Gordeneer. (Photo by Perry Hardin)



Sarah Cook. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

## NOTICE Village of Nashville

Due to the construction of our new water project, there could be interruptions in your water service. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. Please bear with us. If you have any problems please call the DPW at 852-9571 or the Village office at 852-9544.

Cathy Lentz, Village Clerk

(101)

## FOR SALE

The Lakeview Cemetery in Nashville will be taking bids on a used white front runner lawn mower. Bids are due on May 28, 2002. For more information, please contact Larry Decker at 852-9749.

(100)

berns in the 400 (1:04.19); and Megan Garvey in the 200 (27.57).

Valley won three of four relays, including the 3200 (Summer Hill, McMillen, Chayla Robles, Joostberns, 12:01.10), the 800 (Donna Cripe, Joostberns, Micah Tobias, Garvey, 2:16.74) and the 400 (Cripe, Melissa Nisse, Sarah Cook, Amy Abbott, 54.43).

Second place: Cook in the discus (98-3 1/2); Garvey in the long jump (13-9); Ashley Gordeneer in the pole vault (9-6); Kelly Wilson in the shot put (32-1 1/2); Abbott in the 100 hurdles (17.67); Tobias in the 100 dash (13.90) and 300 hurdles (54.96); and Hill in the 800 (2:54.00).

Third place: Tara Gordenski in the pole vault (8-0);

Cook in the 100 hurdles (17.70); Cripe in the 100 dash (14.14) and 200 dash (29.17); Robles in the 1600 (6:40.20); Ashley Collier in the 400 (1:22.40); and Kari Emerick in the 300 hurdles (2:56.00).

## Ladies 3rd at Bath

The girls' track team placed third at the 12-team David Courser Relays in Bath on May 10.

DeWitt won the meet with 84 points, followed by Hanover Horton (63), Maple Valley (58) and Bath (57).

Valley took first in both the shuttle hurdles (Amy Abbott, Ashley Gordeneer, Miranda Farr, Sarah Cook, 1:12.30) and the 1600 (Abbott, Megan Garvey, Micah Tobias, Stefanie Joostberns, 4:23.40).

Second-place relays: Long jump (Garvey, Farr, 29-6) and 400 (Cook, Melissa Nisse, Tobias, Garvey, 54.80).

Third-place relays: Shot put (Wilson, Harp, 58-4) and sprint medley (Joostberns, Tobias, Garvey, Jessica Ellison, 3:12.60).

Fourth-place relays: Discus (Cook, Cashel Harp, 182-6) and high jump (Gordeneer, Cook, 9-2).

The distance medley (Joostberns, Abbott, Chayla Robles, Jessica McMillen) placed fifth in 14:26.80.

## 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.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To report discrimination call the Fair Housing Center at 616-451-2980. The HUD toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



## GFWC-Vermontville wraps up another year

The General Federation Women's Club of Vermontville wrapped up the year's business meetings at the home of President Mary Fisher recently.

Members brought dishes to pass for a potluck dinner, which was held at the "Pond." Everyone enjoyed the relaxing evening viewing the landscape and the array of antiquated items on display.

Following a review of the year's projects from committee members, Fisher introduced newly elected GFWC Southwest District President Sherry Wellman.

Wellman, who resides in Eagle, is a member of GFWC Grand Ledge. She spoke of the items she wishes to accomplish as president. She congratulated the

Vermontville Club on its accomplishments, stating that for the size of its club Vermontville was by far the most productive in her district. She also recognized the club's ability to attract new members, which has been a strain for many clubs in the district and across the state.

Club member Lois Siple and Joyce Rathburn will be arranging a "Skip Day" in June. Members will be going to Turkeyville for dinner and see the play "Grease."

GFWC Vermontville meets monthly from September until May. Anyone interested in membership may call President Mary Fisher at 726-0670.

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# Mulberry Fore developers frustrated by village gov't

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer

Mulberry Fore developers Tad Davis and Orvin Moore, who came to the council four months ago with preliminary plans, are frustrated and charge the council is not listening to developers' questions or requests, has poor governmental communication skills and are uninformed about issues.

The original plan for the development was to add a banquet facility and eight preliminary residential lots with eventual hopes of 42 lots, all surrounding the golf course. Part of the project is within the village, part outside.

At the last Village Council meeting earlier this month, the developers sent a letter asking for a list of conditions the village would request pertaining to Phase 1 of the project, which is 10 duplexes of 20 units within the village limits.

They received a response that the village was not interested in extending services beyond village limits at

this time, and a copy of local ordinances.

"Phase one is within village limits and has nothing to do with the banquet facility," said Davis. "This is just another example of the Nashville Village Council not listening to developers' questions or requests."

Davis said that at the council meeting members seemed unaware of what exactly Phase 1 was.

"Do they not communicate with their planning commission?" asked Davis. "Phase 1 was approved two weeks before their meeting. They do not know what is going on, we have presented it to them umpteen times, they must not be reading the information."

Davis said the council needs to address the issues brought before them instead of "going off" into other ones.

"They go off on tangents that have nothing to do with what is going on," he said.

Davis said he and Moore have been trying to get somewhere on the project

since January.

"I think some people on the council do not want anything in town to change or grow, and when you stay the same you move backwards."

He said he has worked out the figures for the development and the village will lose a lot of revenue if the project is scrapped.

He said the village would lose substantial revenue generated from property taxes, water/sewer hookups and bills. For the whole project, he calculated the village would lose \$348,004 in the first year, and lose \$825,020 in five years.

Village President Frank Dunham said that while some the breakdown of those figures sounded right,

he would have to verify the others.

At least one other council member agreed that he felt the village was missing out.

At the last council meeting after approving sending the latest letter to the developers, to which Councilman Ed Sheldon voted no, Sheldon said, "I think we just lost a bunch of money."

Dunham said he would try to get to the bottom of the confusion.

"I thought that by sending them the PUD (planned unit development) ordinance it gave the steps they needed to take," Dunham said. "I haven't gotten a chance to talk with them this week, I have tried calling and stopping by, and I hope to meet with them and work out the misunderstanding."

"I wouldn't want to see the village lose a project like this due to miscommunication. We need planned growth and this is a good start," said Dunham.

He also said he did not think certain council members were against growth.

"I don't think there is a member or members on council that are against growth. I think they are trying to ensure the village does not incur added expenses or liability in a project like this for not following procedures."

Dunham does admit this

process is taking on a lengthy amount of time.

"As a council we have never had to deal with these procedures and policies... they have been there, but not acted on and it does take time to get the hang of it," he explained.

He also said that it was probably true the council needed to communicate better with the planning commission.

"I don't recall seeing an approved plan from the Planning Commission... we need to communicate bet-

ter," he said.

Davis said the project hangs in the balance due to delays.

"We have held our tongues for months now, but finally decided something had to be said. "We are incredibly frustrated and we want them to address what is before them, we would like them to stick to the subject, we would like an answer in a timely fashion — even if that answer is no. The council really needs to become more progressive and open," said Davis.

## NEWEST CITIZEN

**BOY, Gabriel Michael**, born at Blodgett Hospital on April 29, 2002 at 6:44 a.m. to Tiffany and Patrick Newman of Grand Rapids. Weighing 8 1/2 lbs., 20 1/2 inches long. Welcome home by James and Madeleine. Grandparents Jim and Jackie Lancaster of Hastings, Ed and Jan Neuman of Mid-leville.

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## Area Obituaries

### Cleo Edgecomb

**NASHVILLE** - Mr. Cleo Edgecomb, age 65, of Nashville, died Sunday, May 19, at Sparrow

Hospital in Lansing. Funeral arrangements are pending at the Maple Valley Chapel, Nashville, MI.

## Garden Club bake sale raises \$198

The Nashville Garden Club (NGC) had its second annual bake sale in Central Park on Saturday.

The Garden Club reported a great turnout - raising \$198 for the flowers that will go in the flower pots in the park this summer. The Garden Club also raised \$27 toward the banners for the light poles.

Garden Club members are hoping everyone in the community will help support the new banners that will go on the light poles on Main

Street. There are canisters placed throughout the community for donations and the club also has an account setup at Eaton Federal Savings Bank for donations.

"The banners are very costly, but if everyone in the community donates, the Garden Club could have them up by the end of June," a spokeswoman said.

"The Garden Club cannot raise the money for the Banners without support. Let's make our village a brighter place to live."

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- Vermontville - 120 E. 1<sup>ST</sup>



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# Rain moves Olivet showdown to Wednesday

Even though last week's showdown with Olivet was postponed, the SMAA baseball race has clarified. If the Lions took care of business last night against Webberville, Wednesday's 4 p.m. home doubleheader against the Eagles can clinch at least a share of the title for the Lions.

"If we beat Olivet twice, the worst we can do is share the title with Bellevue," Maple Valley coach Bryan Carpenter said. "We're hoping for a little bit of help from Olivet later in the week when they play Bellevue. We would like the championship to ourselves."

It's the last regular-season home stand for Maple Valley seniors Darin Thrun, Ryan Goris, Mike Hill, Jeremy Wisner, Mike Hirneiss and Jason Silsbee.

"We're looking forward to Wednesday," Carpenter said. "We would love to see the community come out and support us and our great group of seniors as they play their last regular season game at Maple Valley and hopefully go out with their second-consecutive SMAA Championship."

### Valley tops

#### Harper Creek Invite

Britt Leonard got two wins to raise his record to 8-0 on the season and lead the Maple Valley varsity baseball team to the championship of the Harper Creek Invitational on Saturday.

Valley beat Harper Creek 13-7 in the semis. Leonard scattered seven hits.

Mike Hirneiss, Jeremy Wisner, Leonard and Jimmy Hirneiss collected the four Maple Valley hits.

The Lions then topped a good New Lothrop squad 7-3 to take the tourney title.

"I can't say enough about how well Britt Leonard pitched in both games," Coach Carpenter said. "He went five strong innings in the first game, shutting down a good-hitting Harper Creek team, then came back in the championship game and looked even stronger against a New Lothrop team that came in with a 21-5 record."

"Britt showed why he has yet to lose a game this season. He just has a will to win and won't settle for anything less."

Jeremy Wisner (2-for-4, 2 RBI), Jason Silsbee (1-3, 2B, 2 RBI) and Ryan Grider (1-3, RBI) led the Lion attack.

### Valley sweeps Lansing Christian

The Lions did some damage to Lansing Christian on May 13, winning both games of a doubleheader 22-1 and 8-2.

Britt Leonard won Game 1, hurling nine strikeouts against four hits.

Valley's offense put up 14 hits, led by Jimmy Hirneiss (3-for-3, 2B, 3 RBI), Ryan Grider (2-3, 2B, 3B), Jeremy Wisner (2-3) and Mike Hirneiss (2-4, 3 RBI).

Grider (3-4) took the win in Game 2, tossing a two-hitter with 10 Ks.

Mike Hirneiss (2-for-3), Ryan Goris (2-3, 2 RBI) and Nick Burpee (1-3, 2B, 3 RBI) led the charge at the plate.

Lions split with Delton Valley wound up with a nonconference split against Delton on May 14.

Delton won the opener 4-1. Nick Burpee (1-3) took the loss for Valley as the Lions committed four errors.

Ryan Grider (2-for-3, RBI) and Jeremy Wisner (2-2) collected hits for the Lions.

Game 2 was a slugfest,

with a seven-run fifth inning finally pushing Valley to a 19-11 win.

Mike Hill (1-0) collected his first win of the season.

All nine starters scored at least one run, led by Darin Thrun (2-for-4, 3 RBI), Ryan Grider (3-4, 2 RBI) and Nick Burpee (2-3).

## Youth wrestling results

The Maple Valley Wrestling Club competed in a regional tournament at Lowell on May 11, advancing eight grapplers to the state tournament at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek:

**Group 2:** Cole Hess.  
**Group 3:** Jesse Miller, Jorge Miller, Ryan Brooke.  
**Cadets:** Ben Boss, Tyler Greenfield, Eric Totten, Joe Desrochers.

## Discovery Might End Heartburn Forever

WASHINGTON - According to recent research, upper gastrointestinal (GI) problems like acid reflux, heartburn and ulcers may be eliminated with a new type of chewable tablet. Scientists say that GI problems are not the result of excess acid, but the body's inability to deal with it. The new tablet called Pepstat 380 contains an extract from the Glycyrrhiza glabra plant or DGL that strengthens the body's natural defenses against acid.

Pepstat 380 goes to work immediately on stomach acid while addressing the underlying cause of GI problems. Scientists suggest that the DGL in Pepstat 380 improves the body's protective substances, increases the lifespan of digestive tract cells, improves blood supply to the area and has no known side effects. Comparative studies have appeared in publications like the British medical journal *The Lancet* showing DGL to be superior to Zantac, Tagamet and/or antacids. This new type of formula may make these drugs obsolete.

The problem with antacids which neutralize stomach acid and acid blockers which reduces acid secretions is that they can interrupt the body's normal digestive process. Pepstat 380 is a natural alternative to antacids and H2 receptor antagonists more commonly known as "acid blockers." Pepstat 380 is available at pharmacies without a prescription or call 1-800-729-8446. ©2001 HCD Sales. Available locally at:

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## School Lunch Menus

### Elementary Schools (Maplewood & Fuller)

#### Lunch Menu

#### Wednesday, May 22

Ham and cheese sub, apple juice, peaches, chocolate pudding, 1/2 pt. milk.

#### Thursday, May 23

Fuller Hungry Howies. Pizza, tossed salad, pineapple, cookie, 1/2 pt. milk.

#### Friday, May 24

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

#### Monday, May 27

Memorial Day. No School.

#### Tuesday, May 28

Chicken rings, whole kernel corn, peaches, graham crackers.

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 22

**Choose One** - Double dogs, pizza, chicken sandwich, pasta bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, carrot sticks, pear halves, juice, Milk.

#### Thursday, May 23

**Choose One** - Macaroni and cheese, pizza, cheese-

burger, taco bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, broccoli, pineapple, juice, Milk.

#### Friday, May 24

**Choose One** - Cheesie bread sticks, pizza, chicken sandwich, salad bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, spaghetti, fruit cocktail, juice, Milk.

#### Monday, May 27

Memorial Day. No School.

#### Tuesday, May 28

**Choose One** - Chicken rings, pizza, cheeseburger, taco bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, whole kernel corn, peaches, juice, Milk.

## Memorial Day SAVINGS!

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 <b>T-Bone Steak</b> <b>\$5.39</b> lb	 <b>Porterhouse Steak</b> <b>\$5.49</b> lb	 <b>Boneless Rib Eye Steak</b> <b>\$5.99</b> lb
 <b>Hamburger</b> <b>\$1.49</b> lb	 <b>Bar S Jumbo Franks</b> <b>89¢</b> lb	 <b>Jumbo Beef Franks</b> <b>\$1.59</b> lb
 <b>Hoosier Pride Smoked Picnic</b> <b>79¢</b> lb	 <b>Gallon Bareman's Whole Milk</b> <b>\$2.09</b>	 <b>1/2 Gallon Hudsonville Ice Cream</b> <b>\$2.99</b>
 <b>18 oz. Kraft BBQ Sauce</b> <b>69¢</b>	 <b>64 oz. Florida Orange Juice</b> <b>2/\$3</b>	 <b>12-1/4 oz. Lay's Potato Chips</b> <b>\$1.79</b>
 <b>34 oz. Montreal Steak, Garlic Chicken, Spicy Montreal Steak</b> <b>Grill Mates Seasoning</b> <b>99¢</b>	 <b>Gallon Bareman's Fruit Drinks</b> <b>89¢</b>	 <b>24 oz. Heinz Ketchup</b> <b>99¢</b>
 <b>28 oz. Bush's Baked Beans</b> <b>99¢</b>	 <b>33-39 oz. Asst. Var. Maxwell House Coffee</b> <b>\$4.49</b>	 <b>16 oz. Asst. Var. Nabisco Crackers</b> <b>2/\$5</b>
 <b>20 lb. Kingsford Charcoal</b> <b>\$5.99</b>	 <b>Amish Cole Slaw</b> <b>99¢</b> lb	

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# Vermontville Revue raises \$2,000 for cystic fibrosis

by Shawna Hubbarth  
Staff Writer  
The Vermontville Revue

raised \$2,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation during

its run of "Guys and Dolls Jr."

Bill Reynolds of the theater group said, "This is the first time we have held a fund-raiser like this. One dollar per ticket sold went to the foundation, and we were very happy with the results." Reynolds said the sister of

a cast member, Megan VanEngen, who has cystic fibrosis, came to every show and helped run a booth that had information about the disease, which attacks the respiratory system.

"The research is amazing," said Reynolds, "They have been able to locate and

correct the gene in the lab, now they just need to find out how to transfer that to the body."



Reynolds said about 1,300 people came to the children's musical, and the rest of the money was raised at the show through donations.

"We are very pleased with the amount, it was over our goal," he said.

The money was presented at the "Great Strides" walk at John Ball Zoo this past weekend.

"We are looking into doing something like this again," said Reynolds.

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