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Vol. 130-No. 26 June 25, 2002

Vermontville Fire Dept. recognized

by Sandra Ponsetto
 Staff Writer

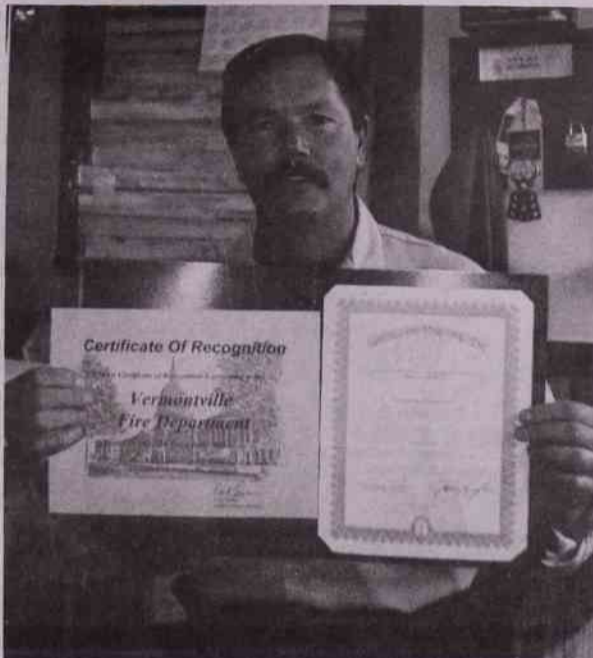
The Vermontville Fire Department received two certificates of appreciation during Pottersville's annual Gizzard Festival last week.

The department was recognized for its help during the clean up after a Canadian National train, carrying liquid propane and sulfuric acid derailed in the town on Memorial Day.

State Representative Susan Tabor, Senator John Schwarz and Congressman Nick Smith presented the certificates to representatives from each of the 20 Eaton County Fire Departments, as well as police and emergency medical agencies that participated in the cleanup.

The accident occurred shortly after noon on May 27. Thirty-five of the 58 cars on the train owned by Canadian National Railroad derailed. Two cars were carrying toxic sulfuric acid and nine others contained a total of 306,000 gallons of highly flammable liquid propane. Three of the cars carrying liquid propane were leaking.

Because of the danger of explosion, the entire town of 2,200 residents was evacuated from homes and businesses and all electricity was turned off in the area. Offi-

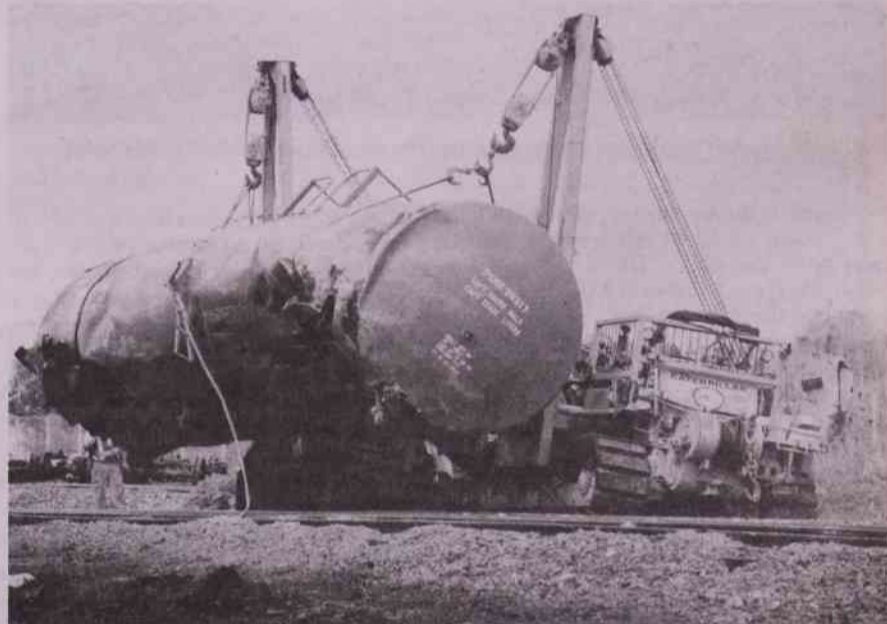


Vermontville Assistant Fire Chief Monte O'Dell holds the certificates of appreciation the local fire department members received in honor of their help during the clean-up efforts in Pottersville. One is signed by U.S. Senator Carl Levin and the other by State Representative Susan Tabor and Governor John Engler. Both certificates will be framed and hung in the Vermontville Fire Station.

cialists said they were afraid that even a small spark could ignite an explosion that would send fire and shrapnel throughout most of the town. Residents were not allowed to return to their homes until the following Friday evening when the fi-

nal tanker was lifted from the tracks and the last of propane was burned off.

Inspectors now say that the train derailed because of a broken track, but are still unsure as to what caused the fracture. It may have been stress in the track or a bro-



Large cranes lift one of the tanker cars from the tracks. (Photo by Mark Peabody)

ken weld.

Even though the Vermontville Fire Department members did not go to Pottersville until Thursday and Friday, the last days of the cleanup, they were actually the first to know about the disaster.

"They mistakenly toned-out Vermontville when it was really in Benton Township near the Vermontville Highway crossing," said Vermontville Assistant Fire Chief Monte O'Dell.

Vermontville firefighters who went to Pottersville to assist the clean-up efforts were O'Dell, Chief Charlie Viele, Don Grant, Larry Kenyon, Darwin Alldaffer, Melissa Rowlander and Steve Pifferl.

"We were at ground zero and basically it was our job to be on stand by in full turn-out gear with our hoses drawn in case something happened," said O'Dell. "The railroad company was responsible for doing all of the cleanup."

Hulcher Professional Services of Denton, Texas, which specializes in getting derailed cars back on track, was called in. The company was able to get 19 of the cars back on the rails. They used large cranes and jacks to lift the cars back onto the rails, other cars were loaded onto flatbeds and hauled away.

The liquid propane which had spilled out of the tankers was burned off by people trained in the disposal of hazardous materials. There was no odor or toxins re-

leased during the process.

The firefighters put in approximately ten hours each day. Each day they reported for duty at the command center set up by the BP station near I-69. They had to sign in and were given a identification tag with their name, department and other emergency information. They also went to a "rehab" tent where they had their blood pressure, pulse and other vital signs checked before and after each shift.

"Because of the stress and heat, they wanted to make sure that were weren't drained and dehydrated," said O'Dell. "If you were, they would give you fluids and water and make sure you were well enough to go home."

Once they were checked in, they went to their assigned position to relieve the fire fighters from other departments that were finishing their shift.

On Thursday, the Vermontville firefighters were

See fire dept., page 2

Man survives 60-foot fall from silo

by Shelly Sulser
 Staff Writer

Thomas Moody was back to work on his farm Monday after spending three days in the hospital recovering from a 60-foot fall from the top of his silo June 12.

"He never broke a bone," said his wife, Vonda Moody. "Nobody can believe it."

Moody was working on the Maple Grove Township farm he has owned on East Dowling Road since 1973.

His cousin, Perry Cole of Mancelona, was helping to level silage (chopped hay) to be fed to the cattle below at about 8:33 a.m.

It's a chore Moody has performed hundreds of times before.

"Perry was standing at the bottom running the motor to the hay loader and Tom was at the top," said Vonda Moody. "As soon as he opened the door and went inside, the gases came out

and he fell."

Moody said the last thing he remembers is opening the door and starting back down the chute.

"I knew I was in trouble as soon as the door opened," said Moody. "I remember opening the door and I started back down. Next thing I remember is waking up and him (Perry) trying to hold me up."

"He kept hitting the silo doors all the way down," added Vonda, who heard the commotion from inside the house.

"I heard him yelling and I could hear the crash," said Vonda. "I've never called 911 before. Really nice. You wouldn't want anyone who wasn't."

Moody landed unconscious onto the belt feeder where his 60-head of cattle feed on the silage.

Perry was unable to extract Moody out of the feeder, but Castleton-Maple

Grove-Nashville Ambulance crew members helped lift his cousin onto a backboard for his ride to Battle Creek Health System.

"Off and on, he would come to and say he knew he wasn't going to make it, then he would go out again," said Vonda Moody.

"My head felt so bad," said Moody of what was going through his mind. "I couldn't get air. I knew it was serious."

At the hospital, the couple learned that he had only suffered contusions to his kidneys, a bruised elbow and other bumps and scrapes.

"He's doing great," said Vonda. "He doesn't walk too good yet."

Moody, however, was out on his farm Monday spraying the corn crop.

The couple believes the accident can be linked to a heavy storm that pelted the southern part of Barry County last October and tore

the old roof from the silo.

"Our new roof is like air tight," said Vonda Moody. Her husband explained that the new roof was completed in April and that the silage was loaded one week prior to the accident.

"Usually corn silage is the worst," he said. "It (the gas) takes the oxygen right away from you. We should have had the door open, but with the door shut, there was no place for it to go."

Moody has not experienced life changing feelings about his near death experience, but now has a greater understanding of the kindness of others.

"I've sure got a lot of good friends," he said. "They did my chores while I was in the hospital. You find out you have a lot of friends you don't know about."

And about the silo, he said: "Next time, I'll keep the blower running to circulate that air up there."

In This Issue...

- Student drivers surprised by 'Fatal Vision' goggles
- New life begins at 40 for busy Nashville woman
- Basketball camp receives help from college players
- Barry County Homemaker nomination deadline extended

Fire Dept. recognized, continued from page 1



A derailed tanker car lays across the tracks. (Photo by Mark Peabody)

positioned at the top of the ravine about 30 to 40 feet away from the tracks. On Friday, they were right near the tracks when the last car was cleaned up and lifted from the tracks.

Soon officials from each of the fire departments and the railroad company will meet for a a debriefing.

They will talk about the accident, the clean-up procedure and, "basically just hash everything out," according to O'Dell.

O'Dell said that he was really impressed with how well the operation was run and that there were no injuries reported during the five-day cleanup.

Officials from the railroad have said that they will reimburse all participating fire departments for their efforts.

TO THE EDITOR

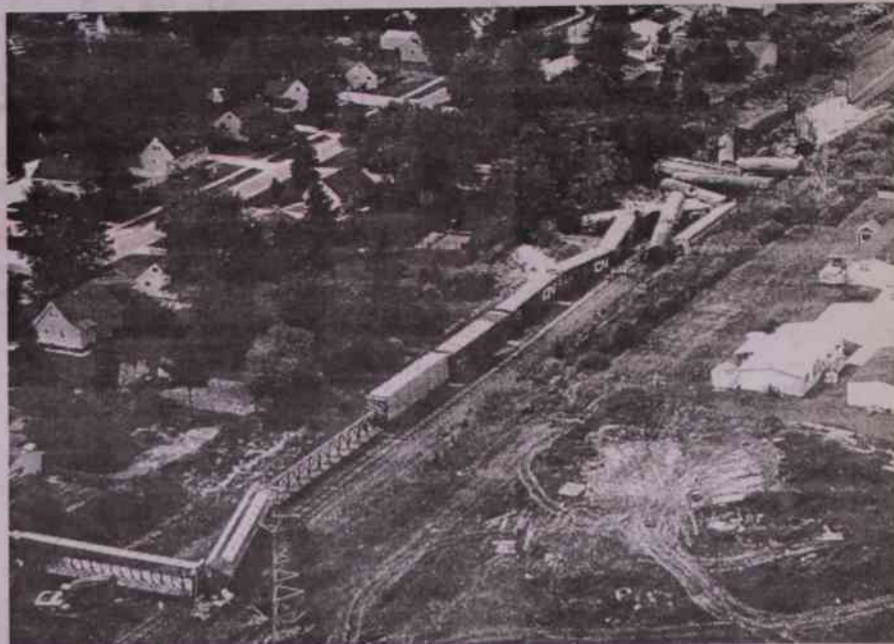
Construction people show cooperation

Dear editor:

I'd like to say that not everyone is upset at the construction people, who are doing such a good job with our local sewer and water project in Nashville.

They were so good about holding off on the work to do behind the stores so our car show could go on, and it was a great success. The horse and wagon rides were fine and we had plenty of parking out back for the spectators.

Pay Hynes,
Nashville



An aerial view of Pottsville after the Memorial Day train derailment.



Liquid propane spills from a derailed tanker. (Photo courtesy of Monte O'Dell)

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Two local students win culinary arts honors

Two local students from Indiana University of Pennsylvania's (Indiana, Pa.) Academy of Culinary Arts have been recognized for academic excellence.

Josh Widenhofer of Nashville and Kristen Widenhofer of Vermontville, received academic honors for the fall 2001 and Spring 2002 semester at the Academy of Culinary Arts.

Josh is a 1997 graduate of Maple Valley Junior-Senior High School and a member of the American Culinary

Federation, as well as president of the Escoffier Club.

Kristin, daughter of Sherman and Tyfanie Garity of Vermontville and Robert Fajnor and Roberta Ross of Eaton Rapids, is a 1999 graduate of Maple Valley Junior-Senior High School and a member of the American Culinary Federation.

The academy, located in Punxsutawney, Pa., is one of only 112 programs in the United States fully accredited by the American Culinary Federation. Programs with ACF Accreditation have met or exceeded published industry standards and are distinguished from hundreds of other post-secondary culinary programs in the nation. ACF accreditation is the

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SCOOBY-DOO (PG)
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SPIDER-MAN (PG-13)
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VERMONTVILLE TWP. LIBRARY NEWS

Registration for the summer reading program has begun and will continue until July 13. Registration is encouraged but not required. Activities are planned for every Tuesday during the program, beginning at 2 p.m. Activities and reading for

prizes will begin on July 16, 2002. Watch for more information and an activity schedule in next weeks Maple Valley News.

Adult Fiction - True to Form, by Elizabeth Berg; The Devine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood, by

Rebecca Wells; Running Scared, by Elizabeth Lowell; The Cabinet of Curiosities, by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child; Kentucky Heat, by Fern Michaels; Don't Look Back, by Amanda Quick; The Wailing Wind, by Tony Hillerman; A

Fine and Bitter Snow, by Dana Stabenow; Dead Midnight, by Marcia Muller; Midnight Voices, by John Saul; Code Name: Coldfire, by William W. Johnstone; Star Wars the New Jedi Order: Enemy Lines II; Rebel Stand, by Aaron Allston; Two for the Dough, by Janet Evanovich.

Adult Non-Fiction - Southern Living Homestyle Cooking; Your Vintage Wedding: Unique Ideas and

Inspiration for Today's Bride, by Nancy Eaton; The Art and Craft of Paper-making, by Sophie Dawson; Country Woman Christmas 2001; The Log Home Plan book, by Cindy Thiede; Inside Log Homes, by Cindy Thiede; National Audubon Society Field Guide to Fishes: North America; You Cannot Be Serious, by John McEnroe; When I Was a Young Man: A Memoir, by Robert Kerry.

Junior Fiction - Artemis Fowl: The Arctic Incident; Eoin Colfer; Thoroughbred; Derby Fever, by Joanna Campbell; Sweet Valley Senior Year: He's Back, by Francine Pascal; Rugrat Files: In Search of Reptar, by Steven Banks; Magic School Bus: Expedition Down Under, by Rebecca Carmi; Jigsaw Jones: The Case of the Bear Scare, by

See library, page 5

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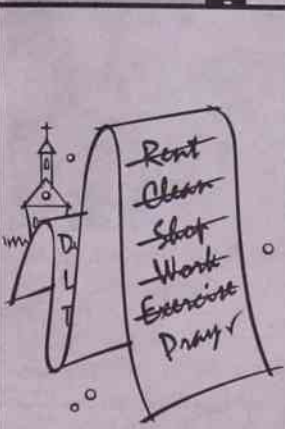
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One simple way is to make a list of all the things hanging over our heads, then decide which of these things deserve our immediate attention, which can be done later and which should be "thrown overboard." Although we shouldn't feel bad about throwing meaningless things overboard, one item we should always keep on our list is to "pray daily." Prayer has a way of lessening our anxiety and helps us to keep things in the proper perspective. Whenever we pray, we are building a loving relationship with God and we are recognizing Him as our source of strength. Life can be simpler and more carefree, but we have to extend an effort to make it so.

Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.

R.S.V. Matthew 6:34

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Student drivers try 'Fatal Vision' goggles

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

"Oh my," said John Hawblitz of Maple Valley High School, leaning over the steering wheel of the MULE and staring at the obstacle course in front of him.

The one-lane course he had navigated easily just minutes before now swam before his eyes, the number of cones seemed to have quadrupled and had a strange tendency to move when he did.

Hawblitz was experiencing the effects of alcohol on

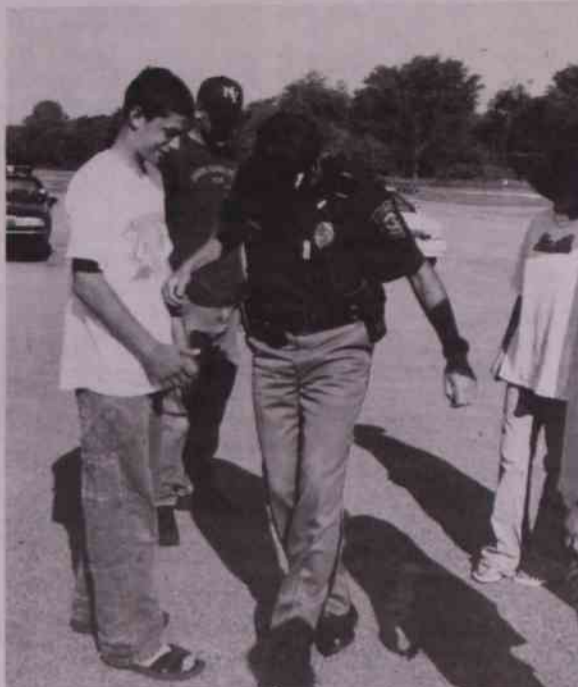
his vision, depth perception and coordination.

Leaning forward and gripping the wheel tightly, he shakily guided the vehicle through the course, running over three of the cones.

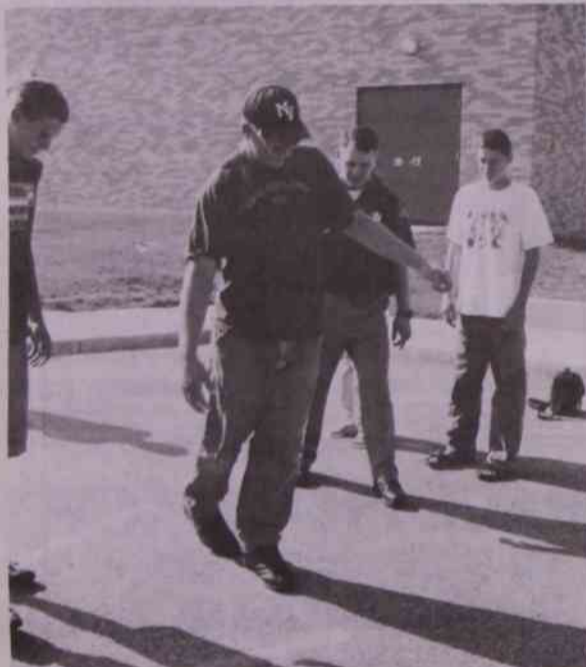
When he finished the course, Barry County Sheriff's Deputy Gary Pearson and Hastings Police Officer Joseph Booher were waiting for him.

"Those cones could have been animals or bicyclists or pedestrians," said Booher.

Hawblitz vision returned to normal as he slipped off



Hastings Police Officer Joseph Booher attempts to walk the line wearing the Fatal Vision goggles.



Barry County Sheriff's Deputy Gary Pearson looks on as Eric Turner attempts to walk the line wearing the Fatal Vision goggles.

the goggles he was wearing and handed them to the woman sitting next to him, Therese Maupin-Moore from Barry County Substance Abuse.

"I thought my vision was a bit blurry, but then there were a lot more cones than I thought there would be," he said as he watched one of his classmates put on the goggles and slip behind the wheel.

Hawblitz was one of the nearly 100 Maple Valley students who got to experience first hand the effects and consequences of drinking and driving, thanks to "Fatal Vision," a joint venture of the Barry County Sheriff's Department, the Hastings City Police Department and Barry County Substance Abuse.

Pearson, the Sheriff Department's school liaison; Booher, the DARE officer for Hastings Area Schools, and Maupin-Maurer showed the students a five minute video called "Fatal Vision" before taking them out to the parking lot in small groups to experience it themselves.

There are three pairs of Fatal Vision goggles. One pair distort the wearer's vision to simulate intoxication

from a .07 to .10. The second pair simulates a .17 - .20 blood alcohol level. The third simulates a blood alcohol level of .20 or higher. One pair of goggles simulates the same effect at night.

The distorted vision causes trouble with depth perception, balance and coordination, as the driver education students found out when they donned the goggles and tried to pass the physical dexterity test that officers administer to suspected drunken drivers.

Each student took turns wearing the goggles and trying to walk heel-to-toe for nine paces and back along a line in the parking lot.

"Just like with alcohol the effect is different from person to person," said Booher. "We've even had some people put them on and say they felt dizzy and nauseous, just like they would if they had been drinking."

Chris Morris, was one of the first in his group to try walking the line. Despite putting his arms out for balance and carefully studying the ground as he lurched along the line as his friends spotted him, he took the goggles off to find that he was standing two feet away from the line.

The other teens in the class took a turn trying to walk the line and all showed varying degrees of impairment.

"Notice that it doesn't make any difference what size you are, everyone is having a difficult time," said Pearson.

Pearson pointed out the things the teens were doing that they use to spot a drunk driver.

"You notice that they don't walk heel-to-toe, and

they'll put their arms out for balance," said Pearson.

"Just think, right now it's just your eyes and not your brain that is being affected," said Booher as yet another student staggered through the course.

There was a lot of laughter and joking as students took their turn wearing the goggles, yet lessons they were learning were very serious.

"Teenagers may joke around a lot, but they do understand the seriousness of the message," said Maple Valley Assistant Principal Scott Eckhart, who had come out to watch a group of students negotiate the obstacle course.

Booher agreed, "The kids are very responsive."

Pearson, Booher and Maupin-Moore are making arrangements to take Fatal Vision to all the driver training classes offered through

Barry County schools this summer.

"We use Fatal Vision to educate young drivers about the effects and consequences of drinking and driving without having to take a drink," said Pearson. "We want to help them make better choices and discourage drinking and driving."

This is the first year that Fatal Vision is being used for driver education in Barry County. The Barry County Sheriff's Department and the Hastings City Police received the goggles in 1999, when the Hastings Elks Lodge used a \$500 grant from the Phillip Morris Company and \$150 of its own money to purchase to sets of Fatal Vision goggles.

The MULE used for the obstacle course was provided by MC Supply in Hastings and the cones were from the Hastings City Police Department.



Therese Maupin-Maurer rides shotgun as Jeff Bissett tries to guide the MULE through the one-lane obstacle course wearing the Fatal Vision goggles.

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4th Grade

All A's - Tyler Blodgett, Leila Dean, Amanda Erwin, Kaytlin Furlong, Jennifer Kent, Chelsea Khouri, Brandy McKelvey, Brandon Sams, Kayla Shaw, Kim Smith, Ross Smith, Lauren Trumble

As Bs & - Branson Aiston, Jordan Beachnau, Catara Briggs, Kyle Burns, Kylie Bryans, Shelby Christopher, Brandon Cosgrove, Stephanie Courtney, Mike Cross, Evonne DeMars, Marcus Eckhoff, Zac Eddy, Shauna Frailley, Sarah Greiner, Josh Hall, Victoria Hansen, Ben Holt, Hutch Joppie, Katelynn Kellogg, Ashley Laymance, John Lison, Lanne Matheson, Zach Melville, Lydia Richards, Rob Richardson, Leslee Rigelman, Brayana Rose, Shawndenae Rost, Anthony Roy, James Samann, Page Semrau, Martin Shilton, Matt Siple, Elizabeth Smith, Matt Turner, Whitney Ulrich, Adam Zank

5th Grade

All As - Britney Brydges, Tyra Curth, Britney Eaton, Stacey Fassett, Cheyenne Fighter, Jasmine Grinage, Paige Kaczanowski, John Mater, Olivia Sprague, Austin Tabor

As & Bs - MacKensye Ancona, Kinsey Bartlett, Brandi Bayha, Kala Bishop, Brogan Bodenmuller, Emily Boltz, Brooke Bracy, Lucas Brumm, Kayla Chapman, Britney Cornelius, Sean Curtis, Amye Davis, Brooke Davis, Emily Dietrick, Dalton Donald, Cerissa Dotson, Amber Farnum, Kyle Fisher, Bailey Flower, Lucy Gale, Jose Garza, Andrew Goedert, Tawnie Griesmer, Traci Grinage, Aleena Hamilton, Emily Hosmer, Justin Kennedy, John Knox, Nate Konopinski, Alicia Lamb, Christian Main, Catalina Mata, April Matthews, Kevin McDonald, Jesse Miller, Jorge Miller, Kasandra Morgan, Tyler Murray, Erica Myers, Samantha Newton, Cody Olmstead, Michael Paisley, Amanda Paxson, Kaylea Piercefield, Jaklynn Platte, Dustin Primm, Tasha

Purchis, Holly Rathburn, Katie Rucinski, Chris Rugg, Nick Smith, Stephanie Sparks, Sara Truhn, Melanie Weiler, Nicole Woodman, Ashley Zander

6th Grade

All As - Emily Eldred, Tori Ewing, Jacob Furlong, Lauren Pierce, Della Quantrell, Chantel Soto, Meagan Van Engen, Jon Jackson

As & Bs - Kaley Ackley, Kryss Berg, Jessika Brinckman, Chris Caldwell, Danielle Christensen, Adam Cook, Tony Corwin, Mickey Durecka, Austin Earl, Britney Gardner, Kylie Gardner, Allen Garrett, Ashley Gonser, Emily Gould, Nathan Hale, Matt Hamilton, Christin Hoffman, Justin Hoffman, Terryn Hummel, Cody Kaczanowski, Tim Keeler, Scott Kersjes, Gerry Lambert, Erica Lightner, Chris Love-

all, Rachel Mater, Amanda Morrow, Kayla Napier, Dustyn Olmstead, Kelli Perry, Heather Primm, Chad Rhodes, Kaleb Root, Joshua Sams, Andrew Scheick, Ryan Schroder, Jillian Simmons, Jared Smith, Joey Smith, Jordan Snyder, Josh Stafford, Britiney Stambaugh, Aleisha Strong, Brody Swift, Tyler Tefft, David Terpening, Kathleen Welch, Jed Wieland

Hunter safety classes slated

A hunter safety class will be held at the Castleton Township Hall, Nashville, July 8-10 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Cost is \$5 to cover supplies.

Call Gary White at 517-852-9189 for reservations, or for more information.

Class size is limited to 20.

Library, continued from page 3

James Preller; Boxcar Children: The Case of the Mummy's Curse, by Gertrude Chandler Warner; Animal Ark: Dog at the Door, by Ben M. Baglio; Mary Kate and Ashley: Sweet Sixteen: Never Been

Kissed, by Emma Harrison. Junior Non-Fiction - Star Wars Episode II: Incredible Cross-Sections, by Curtis Saxton; We Rode the Orphan Trains, by Andrea Warren; Sleep Disorders, by

Linda Bayer; Guide Dogs: From Puppies to Partners, by Diana Lawrenson; Ripley's Believe It or Not: Amazing Escapes; Live Aware; Not in Fear: The 411 After 9-11, by Donna Koren Wells.



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New life begins at 40 for busy Nashville woman

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

The past few years have brought a lot of change for Christine Smith of Nashville.

She has helped her husband build a spacious new home in the country and start a new business and all the while she has worked toward earning her bachelor's degree in early elementary education.

Smith is modest about her accomplishments. She said she feels anyone can do what she has done.

"I hope that if I tell my story," she said, "it might encourage other women who might be thinking about making a change or going back to school."

It all started six years ago when Smith was 34 years old. A Nashville native, she graduated from Maple Valley High School in 1980. She married her husband,

Richard, when she was 18 years old and started her family when she was 20.

"I had never been to college. I had always thought about being a teacher; but, I really wanted to do the housewife thing," said Smith. "I really wanted children."

Smith has raised four children, Richard 20, Eric, 18, Kailey, 15 and Jared, 12.

When Jared entered first grade, Smith took a full-time job at Brown's Custom Interiors in Hastings.

"I always valued staying at home with them when they were little. I didn't want someone else raising my kids," said Smith.

The job appealed to Smith because she had done a lot of remodeling, having lived in two older homes and three new ones.

"I had learned to do my own ceramic tile and wall-paper, so Brown's was good

for me because I knew how to do everything. I knew how to measure and I knew how to install. I had even done some professional work on the side... I was doing it for everyone for free, so I thought, why not get paid for it?"

After working for Brown's for a year, Smith decided it was time to make a change.

"I just really felt that there was something more than sales," said Smith. "I wanted to make a difference with my life. I had always wanted to be a teacher and that's why I decided to go to college. My husband was very supportive."

However, Smith found that returning to school as an adult with a growing family was not easy.

"It was extremely difficult because of family things," she said. "I was known to carry my textbooks with me



Christine Smith is all smiles after receiving her diploma from Cornerstone University.

give myself some time to work on the house."

Building a home from scratch is not without trials and setbacks as Smith soon learned. Smith and her husband had been trying to get the basement of the house completed so they could move in before Christmas when things started to go wrong.

"My husband had been up all night doing the final wiring so the dry wall would be put up. I was really concerned that he might have electrocuted himself," said Smith. "I hadn't stayed up because I had to go to work in the morning."

"I was all dressed up for work and I came in here and there was a hole that led to our basement. There was an eight foot step-ladder in the hole and I stepped on the top of the ladder. I didn't want to get my hands dirty, so I didn't put my hands on the floor. I just spun around on the top of the ladder and I when I went to step down and I caught my feet on my dress and slid off the top and fell eight feet to the concrete and shattered my wrist."

"It was my right wrist, so I was pretty much rendered useless at that point for a good two months."

A few weeks later disaster struck again. Three days before Christmas, the car Richard was driving was hit by a drunk driver. Smith said that even though her husband was not hospitalized, he was in too much pain to complete the work that needed to be done so the family could move in.

"We just needed to have the hot water heater hooked up at that point. But there was no way he could get us out of the trailer for Christmas. We didn't have a tree or anything and I was just really heart broken," said Smith. "So I called the heating and cooling place and they came out and hooked it up on the 23rd, we put up our tree on Christmas Eve and had Christmas in the basement of our house."

That hurdle cleared, the Smith's set their sights on having the upstairs finished enough by the spring to hold a graduation party for their oldest son.

"We had the kitchen and bathroom functional, but we ended up having it outside because we didn't have carpet down or anything like that."

Smith said that she had hoped her boys would be more interested and involved in the building process, but she understands why they were not.

"It's not their passion," said Smith. "They are more interested in going on with their own lives. They wanted to follow their own passions."

Smith said she wishes she had kept a diary.

"So much happened during the building," she said.

Continued next page

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to all the ballgames. My four children were in every sport, every season. It wasn't anything to have eight ball games a week. So, I would take my books with me, but then I would never really study... I would try, but I would usually end up talking and then staying up late.

"Probably one of the hardest things was that my kids were in high school and they'd come home and need help with algebra and stuff. We'd come home at ten o'clock at night after a ballgame and be studying around the table, and it would be, 'Mom, I need help.' I made a commitment

that I would put being a mom and helping them before my own studies."

Sometimes it was so late and Smith was so exhausted that she simply decided to go to bed and get some rest. "It was really cool how God would work it out," said Smith. "The next day I would go to school and the professor would say, 'You know what? I've decided to push the due date for this assignment back.' and I would just be sweating bullets when I went to class, and then to have her say that — Whew!"

"I graduated summa cum laude, 3.89. So, it worked out," said Smith. "But, it was hard for me because I'm a perfectionist. I want to do everything perfect. I didn't always have a lot of time, so sometimes it just had to be good enough. I tell my kids that now."

Smith said it was also difficult to be mainstreamed at college.

"I went to college with all the young kids and I didn't have anything in common with them. But, I could relate to them because I had teen-agers myself. Several of them were not much older than my own kids, so I tried to be a bit of a mentor and it was kind of neat."

It was during her third year of college that Smith and her husband began building their new home.

"We moved into a travel trailer on the property in April, finished up the school year and then we poured our basement in the spring," she said.

Even though Smith decided to take the next year off from college to help with construction, she was still working toward her goals.

"I ended up doing nine credits that year, even though I was not technically enrolled in school," she said. "I substitute taught a couple of days a week and I tried to

From previous page

"So many things have gone wrong, but we still did it. If future generations read it, maybe they would think, 'Well, if Grandma did it, I can do it too.'"

The following fall, Smith returned to school and started student teaching at Fuller Street and Maplewood schools. Smith uses the lessons she has learned from building in her classroom.

"One of the things I tell my kids at school is, 'Don't be afraid to ask questions.'"

"When we had our first old farm house, I went to the lumber yard and asked them how to build a stud wall and a closet and the owner took a lot of time explaining. He would just start grinning when he saw me come in."

"I would say, 'OK, draw me a picture. What's the name of this board and what's the name of that board,' that's how I learned."

"I tell my kids that you learn from asking questions."

Though she was student teaching and drawing near to her goal, Smith's last year of college was not a quiet and uneventful one.

In October of her senior year, Smith and her husband bought Vermontville Grocery.

Smith said her husband, who now works at General Motors, had previously worked in the grocery business for five years and had a lot of practical experience.

"We checked into it and everything seemed doable to us; so we went for it," said Smith. "Everything just clicked. All the doors opened all, the financing and everything — so we bought it."

The business had been closed for several months and the prior owner had taken everything out, so there were no groceries on

the shelves and the building was empty when the Smiths took possession of the business. The couple spent a month cleaning, putting down new flooring and restocking the store before it opened in November 2000.

"We had a lot of help from friends," said Smith. "If there is one thing I can say through all of this, it's that you really find out who your friends are."

"It took an incredible amount of hours to get through all the stuff and we had friends come and offer their labor. They helped us with the house and they helped us with the store when we needed extra hands. A lot of times it went unrewarded and that was a very frustrating thing for us."

"I think that is one of my big goals now, after graduating, is to be able to come back and be there for my friends."

Smith said her husband hopes that someday the business will be profitable enough for him to quit his job at General Motors. It may take some time, but she is optimistic.

"The store is not that busy, but we'll eventually get over that hump," said Smith. "It had been closed for three months and there was no business left; everyone had gone somewhere else. The challenge is to build it back up."

Smith gives a lot of credit to the store's employees.

"Our employees are to the point where we don't have to be there very much," she said. "They are very faithful; they work harder at it than we do now. We really couldn't do it without them."

Smith finished her degree in December 2001, had her 40th birthday in February and graduated from Cornerstone University in May.

"When I started my degree my goal was to gradu-

ate by the time I turned 40, so I guess I made it."

Besides the sense of accomplishment that comes from achieving goals, Smith has another fond memory of her graduation day.

"My husband had told me, 'If you survive this, I'll buy you a new car,'" said Smith. "The coolest thing was when I walked out of the building after graduation and there is my new car with big red ribbons and flowers and balloons on it and my kids standing there. He gave me key and said, 'Here's your car.'"

"I didn't have clue he was going to go out and actually do it and have it standing there. It was the most romantic thing he had ever done for me."

"I love it! I have never had a new car before and everything works on it—that's the good part," laughed Smith about her black 2002 Bonneville. "Now, I have to get a job to pay for it!"

Smith plans to spend her summer working in the grocery store and preparing for job interviews.

In February, Smith accepted a long-term substitute teaching assignment in the special education department at Maple Valley High School. She anticipates there will be a special education opening at Maple Valley Schools and is very interested in applying for the position.

When Smith started her degree she was interested in special education, but the thought of the extra year needed to specialize made her pause.

"I really wanted to graduate by the time I turned 40," said Smith. "Plus, I knew that teachers have to go back to school. So, if I do want to get into special education, I can do that for my master's degree and that's probably what I'm going to end up doing."

Looking at her life, Smith said that she wouldn't change much.

"Would I do it again? Yes. Was it worth it? Yes. Was it incredibly hard? Yes. I'm not going to lie and say it was so easy," she said.

"But, if I had it to do over again, I would go right out of high school or at least I would take classes along the way. Even if you have kids at home, you could take a class every year or do something just to get some of it out of the way so it's not so hard to do it when you're older."

Still, Smith said that she feels it has been good for her children to see her go through college.

"I can now share with them what to do, and what not to do, homework, and how to cope with teachers and stress," she said. "I think it's given my kids more respect for me because they know it was hard for me to accomplish this goal."

Smith said that her struggles have not discouraged her children because they are all planning to go to college.

"It's kind of funny, my oldest son made fun of me and after the first few weeks

of college.

"He said, 'Oh, Mom, this isn't so hard. You're too much of a perfectionist. You were making this way too hard.'"

"After about his second month of college he said, 'Mom, you were right. This is a lot harder than I thought it would be.'"

Smith said that she reminds her son and others that, while it's good to try your best, you don't need to be a perfectionist.

"People who are hiring don't typically look for a four point student. They don't want somebody who is going to be so stressed out about details. They want somebody who is a little more well-rounded," said Smith.

"It's funny how you go to different levels," she added. "I think one of the biggest things that you have to offer when you become a teacher at my age, is that the level of tolerance you have for life and its calamities is much

higher.

"You learn that nothing so bad that you can't get through it. You learn to be flexible," said Smith.

Now that she has graduated, Smith said that she is hoping that life gets a little easier.

"I am so excited about now having the time to build into my friendships," she said. "I have a dear friend who has just been awesome. She has stuck with me through thick and thin. She has been so supportive and she listens to all my whining. She's a priceless friend."

Smith said that it is her friends, family and faith that have brought her through.

"I have great faith in God," said Smith. "There have been times when I have wanted to throw in the towel, and that is when I pray. I say, 'God, I can not do this anymore, I just can't do it.'"

"When we were building I'd get so burned out, and reached a point with the business where I felt I couldn't face one more disaster. But, God always comes through. When nothing else works, He comes through for us."

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Homemaker of the Year contest deadline extended



Junia Jarvie

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Nominations for the 2002 Homemaker of the year are due in the Fair office by Friday, June 28. Nominations may be made by friends or family members and must include a photograph of the nominee. The deadline was extended to make sure that the even the most modest of women and men in the county take this opportunity to be recognized for their accomplishments.

Nashville's Junia Jarvie, the 2001 Barry County Homemaker of the Year, has been hard at work on the committee for this year's event. She has had a wonderful time including competing at the State Fair, "I was really pleased. I was a little nervous. I didn't anticipate doing as well as I did. It was fun!"

The homemaker is selected on "fair activities, variety of interests, community involvement, enthusiasm, neat appearance and communication skills."

Information and the nomination form is available in this year's Fair Book. Fair books are available at the Expo Center office and at Barry County Area Chamber of Commerce office.

Nominees must be available to attend a Homemaker interview reception on Sunday, July 14 at 2 p.m. in the picnic pavilion. Winners will be announced during the Ladies Day program on Thursday, July 18.

The person named Barry County Homemaker of the year must represent Barry

County at the Michigan State Fair on August 28. The winner also helps develop the Homemaker of the Year for 2003 contest.

If the winner cannot take on these duties, they become the responsibility of the runner up.

The winner of the local contest receives a crown and sash. The crown is compliments of Gilmore Jewelers. The winner receives \$100 and the runner up \$50.

Jarvie defined the word homemaker last year as "... a person who takes responsibility for creating a nurturing environment for themselves and the other members of their family. A homemaker can be male or female, young or old, wealthy or poor as long as they have love to give..."

This year the 8 former "Homemakers of the Year" will be invited to attend the fair and Ladies Day.



Coxes to celebrate silver wedding anniversary

The children, stepchildren, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Bill and Virginia (Lafuer) Cox would like you to help them celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. Bill and Virginia were married in Nashville on June 28, 1977.

A card shower will be held in their honor to: P.O. Box 205, Vermontville, Mich. 49096.

NOTICE

The Barry County Board of Commissioners will hold the second meeting of June at 7:00 p.m. on June 25, 2002, at the Woodland Township Hall, 156 S. Main St., Woodland, Mich.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

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PUBLIC HEARING

THE VILLAGE OF NASHVILLE COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON JULY 11, 2002, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

SUBJECT: MULBERRY ESTATES PHASE I CONDOMINIUM PROJECT PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN & PUD REZONING OF PROPERTY INVOLVED ON KELLOGG STREET. IF UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING ANY COMMENTS ON THIS PUD REZONING OR PRELIMINARY SITE PLANS CAN BE SENT IN WRITING TO THE VILLAGE OF NASHVILLE, 206 N. MAIN, NASHVILLE, MI 49073 BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

NASHVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

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Nashville police probe report of abduction try

Nashville police are investigating a report by a 7-year-old girl that she was playing in her East Street driveway when she was approached and grabbed by an unknown white male just before 7 p.m. Friday.

The child said she was taken to a nearby vehicle and as the suspect allegedly opened the driver side door of the vehicle, and a white female was observed within, hands bound with rope and mouth taped with duct tape.

The child began screaming and was able to get away from the suspect. She fled to her residence, while the suspect allegedly fled in the ve-

hicle. The suspect was described as a white male, taller than average, brown, shorter hair, no facial hair, no glasses, no visible tattoos, no visible jewelry. He was said to be wearing a red bandana, a black sweatshirt with a gray rattle snake picture on it, blue jeans and buckle style sandals worn without socks.

The female victim reportedly bound and gagged inside the car was a white female with long (middle of back) length orange hair, wearing a short sleeve blue shirt, blue shorts with a flower edge trim.

The vehicle was described

as an older Jeep Cherokee wagon black in color, dirty suspected to be late '80s, early '90s model. The Jeep logo on rear seemed oversized and appeared to be a chrome color, believed to have a spare tire carrier mounted on the rear, rims appeared to be either brown in color or very rusty.

"We're not sure what we have," said Nashville Police Chief Garry Barnes Monday. "We're not sure if she just got spooked or if somebody actually tried to grab her. Until we find out otherwise, we are treating it as an actual attempted kidnapping."

The information was broadcast to authorities statewide.

There were no other witnesses, said Barnes, and no similar incidences have been reported elsewhere.

Barnes said his department has been unable to locate any missing person reports as of press time Wednesday.

The Battle Creek Police Department has declined to compose a composite drawing of the suspect because of the young age of the child.

Barnes said investigators were surprised by the detailed descriptions provided by the girl.

"We though her whole story was interesting. We're continuing to do everything we can with it," he said.

"We'll continue to investigate until its hopeless. If anybody knows anything, please give us a call. We are investigating this as fully as we can."

Anyone with more information may call Silent Observer at 1-800-310-9031 or Sgt. Jeff Miller at the Nashville Police Department at 1-517-852-9866.

"Keep extra watch of your children and any suspicious vehicle and subjects," Barnes added. "At this point, we're just unsure what we have."

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REGISTRATION NOTICE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2002

To the qualified electors of Vermontville Township Eaton County, State of Michigan.

Please take notice that a Primary Election will be held in Vermontville Township on Tuesday, August 6, 2002. The LAST DAY for receiving registrations for the Primary Election will be MONDAY, JULY 8, 2002. Persons residing in Vermontville Township registering after 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2002, will not be eligible to vote at the Primary Election.

I will be at the Vermontville Township Fire Station, corners of First and S. Main Streets from 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:20 p.m.-3:30 p.m. for the purpose of receiving applications for registration of the qualified electors in Vermontville Township or by calling 517 726-0032 for an appointment.

Marcia F. Grant, Clerk Vermontville Township

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July 4th Holiday Deadlines for



The Sun and News



~ Display Advertising Deadlines ~
for The Reminder, The Sun and News, The Lakewood News and the Maple Valley News will be Thursday, June 27 at Noon.

~ Classified Deadlines ~
for The Sun and News, Lakewood News and Maple Valley News, will be Friday June 28 at Noon.
Deadline for The Reminder will be Friday June 28 at 5 p.m.

Water Quality Report for Village of Nashville June 2002

This report covers the drinking water quality for the Village of Nashville for the calendar year 2001. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water we provided to you in 2001. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

The water we supply you comes from three groundwater wells located on Sherman Street and Water Alley. The state of Michigan will be performing an assessment of our source water by 2003. We will inform you how to get a copy of this assessment report when it becomes available.

* Contaminants and their presence in water:

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

* Vulnerability of sub-populations:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

* Sources of drinking water:

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

* Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- * Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural operations and wildlife.
- * Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- * Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural and urban stormwater run-off.
- * Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- * Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

The attached table lists all drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2001 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1-December 31, 2001. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used in the table:

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- N/A:** Not applicable
- ND:** Not detectable at testing limit
- ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter
- pCi/l:** Picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)
- Action level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which water systems must follow.

Samples collected from wells or plant tap						
Contaminant	Our Water	MCL	MCLG	Date	Violate Y/N	Likely Source of Contaminant
Fluoride	0.2	4.0 mg/l	4	3/09/01	N	Erosion of natural deposits, aluminum & fertilizer factories
Arsenic	3 ppb	50 ppb	N/A	2/23/00	N	Erosion of natural deposits orchards, glass, electronic prod
Barium	0.146 mg/l	2.0 mg/l	2	2/23/00	N	Discharge of drilling waste, discharge from metal refineries
Radiological Contaminants						
Contaminant	Well #	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG	Exceed Limit Y/N
Radio Isotopes						
Alpha Total	3	2/24/00	3.41 pCi/l	15	0	N
Alpha Total	1 & 2	2/24/00	<3pCi/l	15	0	N
Beta Total	3	8/26/96	<4pCi/l	50*	0	N
Beta Total	1 & 2	8/26/96	5pCi/l	50*	0	N
* EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be level of concern for Beta Particles						
Samples collected from the distribution system						
Contaminant	Our Water	Action Level	# Samples Over Action Level	Date	Likely Source of Contaminant	
Lead	8 ppb	15 ppb	1	2001	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits	
Copper	364 ppb	1.3 ppm	0	2001		
*** 90% of samples at or below this level						
Note: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.						

Maple Valley Jr.-Sr. High School honor roll

(Fourth marking period)

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Amber Abbott, *Bethany Adams, Christopher Andrews, Devon Augustine, Jessica Chaffee, Amanda Cole, Elizabeth Conklin, Amanda Cook, *Sarah Cook, Shelbi Cousins, *Miranda Farr, Paul Felder, Markus Fischer, Ashley Fox, Ashley Gardner, *Jana Gethe, *Cary-Jake Goodner, Ryan Goris, Jason Graham,

Hillary Grant, Rebecca Guernsey, Cassandra Hager, Jessica Harwood, Kenneth Hayes, James Henry, *Michael Hill, Michael Hirneiss, Jason Hoffman, *Rebecca Holland, Brandon Holton, Brandon Hopkins, *Christina Jackson, *Nichole-Nikki James, Nathaniel Jarvie, *Jovanna Jones, *Nicholas Jones, *Mayu Kawai, Andrew Krollik, Philipp Linsenmann, Daniel Mace, *Megan

McCauley, Sergei Mikhaylov, Derek Musser, *Brandy Ojala, Christopher Patrick, Devin Phenix, Allison Phillips, Autumn Pierce, Melinda Powers, Russell Rhodes, Jessica Ripley, Kevin Ripley, Angela Rollins, Marta Roszkiewicz, David Rumsey, Rebecca Scriber, Justin Sealy, Sandra Seifert, Jason Silsbee, Jacob Skelton, Bryan Smith, *Diana Speck, Michael Strong, *Helen-Lizzie Sundra, *Bethany Swift, *Darin Thrun, Christy Todd, Akiyo Ueshima, Carlos Valdivia, *Alesia Vanengen, Dustin Wholaver, *Jeremy Wiser and *Nathaniel Yenger.

Juniors

Samantha Allen, *Russell-Owen Blakely, *Rachel Brandenburg, Matthew Brumm, Rebecca Bumford, Nicholas Burpee, Jason Campbell, Randy Chase, Katie Clark, Holly Clouse, Jeffrey Collier, Andrew Cook, Kendrick Coplin, Jessica Cowell, Chad Croff, *Brenda Dayton, Janelle Decker, *Jonathan Denton, Emily Doyle, *Rachelle Drallette, Bryan Dunlap, Jeremy Dunn, Kari Emerick, Austin Fassett, Vanessa Faurot, Elizabeth Favre, Holly Forest, Kasey Furlong, Eva Gilbert, *Taran Godbey, Ashley Gordeneer, *Jessie Grant, Josh Gras-

man, Ryan Grider, *Stacey Hamilton, Cole Haisbarger, Cashel Harp, Kalee Huff, Danielle Hulsebos, Timothy Hyatt, Jamie Jones, Britt Leonard, Tina-Elizabeth Lincoln, Jessica Mansfield, Nicholas Mapes, Samantha Mater, Shaina May, Mindy McKelvey, *Collin McLean, *Michael Mead, *Timothy Miller, Elizabeth Mulvany, Aubrey Murphy, Nickalus Newton, Melissa Nisse, Sarah Perry, Jena Peters, Jennie Pettengill, Meaghan Pierce, Chad Powers, Karla Rasey, Matthew Reece-Jarman, *Dawn Rhoades, Kaylene Rutledge, Brandon Schantz, Amanda Scramlin, Shanna Shoemaker, Michelle Silsbee, Michael Sleeper, *Cameron Smith, Eric Smith, Kate Spears, Benjamin Swan, Jeffrey Taylor, Micah Tobias, Brieann Treloar, *Cassie Turner, *Kristen Vanderhoef, Zachary Vorce, Cydney West, *Richard Wilson

Sophomores

Lee Alexander, Sheena Andler, Patrick Andrews, Jerrica Ashcraft, Brooke Barlund, Niesha Barnhart, Josh Beardslee, Laura Beardslee, Chelsea Brandenburg, Dustin Brown, Patrick Buckner, Andrew Burns, *Kathryn Carney, Deng Chol, Ashley Collier, Joshua Cook, Garry Cousins, Jessica Craven, Penny Curtis, Morwel Deng, Joel Drallette, Matthew Dunn, Nicholas Ewing, Jessica Frayer, Lena Gale, Megan Garvey, Elisha Gibson, Tommy Griffin, Meagan Halliwill, Jamie Hayes, Summer Hill, Dan Holton, Kristie Huff, *Melissa Jewell, Stefanie Joostberns, Micah Keasler, Caitlin King, Hilary Krollik, Mitchell Magoon, Kristina McCallum, Heidi Meccrimmon, Brenda Mcelroy, *Kyle Musser, *Christi O'dell, Ben Owens, Kourtney Parker, *Glenn-Dustin Powers, *Meagan Putnam, Nate Racine, Becky Reid, Derek Ripley, *Chayla Robles, *Mark Rodriguez, Nicole Roscoe, Nicole Rucinski, Kyle Schroder, Daniel Sealy, *Scott Setchfield, Mark Shoemaker Jr, Ben Smith, Brett Smith, Michelle Strong, Rachelle Swift, *Amber Terberg, Andrew Thomason, Andrea Thornton, Sarah Todd, Ashley Trumble, Ty Vanalstine, Muriel Wieland, Brett Williams, *Kelly Wilson, Laci Wolever and Cortnee Wyskowski.

Freshmen

Amy Abbott, Melissa Bauer, Sadie Blodgett, Benjamin Boss, Jeffrey Bowman Jr., Lance Burpee, Jessie Burton, Sarah Chaffee, Elizabeth Clements, *Samantha Cowell, Rachel Croff, Todd Cupp, Rochelle Currier, Joseph Desrochers, *Krista Driksna, *Dustin Drumm, *Katie Eldred, *Jessica Ellison, Kelsey Elliston, Kevin Fassett, *Kelly Fox, *Andrew Gaber, *Tara Gordenski, Nicholas Grant, *Lisa Hamilton, Christina

Hill, *Erin Hummel, *Dustin Jones, Kalisha Jones, *Amanda Ketchum, Jessica Lawless, Akok Malek, Jessica Mcmillen, Jacob Mcmillon, *Amanda Mead, Dustin Mead, Kristin Mead, Thomas Miller, *Brandon Montgomery, Ryan Moore, Harold-Paul Morgan, Willie Murray, Mathew Norton, Jesse Page, Bethann Platte, Amber Primm, Michael Rhodes, *Tessa Robles, Christopher Rood, Kyndra Root, Amanda Rumsey, Kailey Smith, Nathanael Smith, Andrea Szymanski, Shawna Tevelde, *Tiffany Thomas, Trescha Trowbridge, *Laura Trumble, *Chase Walden, Carmen Wells, Bethany Wenger, Nichole Whelpley, Lacey Wiser, *Jonathan Yenger and *Tarah Yenger.

Eighth-Graders

Fawn Allwardt, Herbert-Levi Andler, *David Benedict, Joshua Bursley, Andrea Cobb, Andi Cohoon, Stacie Cook, Nicholas Croff, Brent Cummings, Jenna Denton, Amber Edinger, Jennifer Ellison, Janelle Farnum, Shammarr Gearhart, Matthew Gordeneer, Christopher Hoffman, Andrea Jarvie, Meghan Keasler, Lindsey Kersjes, Amanda Kirchhoff, Keith Lackscheide, Daniel Laverty, Nickolas Litos, Kara Mays, Aaron Myers, Arminda-Mindy Newton, *Allison Oleson, *Sara Pash, Leanne Paxton, Samantha Pierce, Norman Porter, Brooklyn Primm, Ian Raymond, Ashley Samann, Shane Shance, Whitney

Shilton, Evan Simms, *Dhanielle Tobias, *Sarah Trumble, *Sarah Vanderhoef, *Garrett VanEngen, *Brandi Walden, Lacey Ward, *Rebekah Welch, Ezekiel-Zeke Wieland, *Salena Woodman, Amanda Wright and Jamie Young.

Seventh-Graders

Allexandria Ancona, Olivia Blakely, Reinhold Bodenmuller, Katelyn Boss, *Trisha Carney, Jessica Chaffee, *Michael Chapman, Craig Clements, Nicole Davis, Tiffany DeBoer, *Christy Dietrick, *Amanda Feighner, *Alisha Felmler, Adam Foster, *Meghan Gaber, Linda Gale, Breann Gardner, Jarred Goris, Michael Hall, Amber Hamilton, Joel Hewlett, *Creedence Hoffman, Lance Howard, *Kristen Hummel, *Erika Hummel, *Mary Jewell, Abby Johnson, *Amy Joostberns, Rebecca Kent, Kenneth Kienutskie, *Justine King, *Lucas Knox, Alaina Mater, Justin McMillen, Keely McMillon, Darcy Meade, Cody Montgomery, Patrick Mulvany, Tyler O'Dell, Amanda Pasch, *Kyle Pash, Kayla Rodriguez, Kayla Rogers, Hillary Ruffner, Samantha Rugg, Stephanie Rugg, Mary Secord, *Chelsea Shoemaker, Evan Smith, John Specht, Desiree Thomas, April Tomich, Felicia Tomich, Kristen VanZandt, *Brooke Varney, *Sarah Williams, Max Wilson and Jessica Winegar.

* — Denotes All As.

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Audition dates set for '12 Angry Jurors'

The Revue, the theater group that performs at the Vermontville Opera House, will hold auditions of its production of "12 Angry Jurors" Saturday, July 22, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the opera house.

Rehearsals will be held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Show dates are Sept. 5-8. Twelve actors, both male and female, are needed.

Bill Reynolds, director of The Revue, also is directing and choreographing the Bellevue Community Theater musical "The Will Rogers Follies." Auditions for this production will be held Aug. 25-26 at Bellevue High School. Rehearsals will be held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and some Saturday mornings. Show dates are Oct. 25-27 and Nov. 1-3.

On Monday, Dec. 2, auditions will be held for "How to Succeed in Business." Show dates are scheduled for Feb 7-9 and 14-16, 2003.

For more information on audition times, etc., call Reynolds at (616) 367-4455, or write him at 5084 Saddlebag Lake Road, Woodland, MI 48897, or e-mail therevue1@yahoo.com.

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Obituaries

Ella Marie Garvey

VERMONTVILLE - Ella Marie Garvey, age 71, of Nashville, died Saturday, June 22, 2002 at her home.

Ella Marie Garvey was born Jan. 5, 1931 in Vermontville, MI, the daughter of Rex and Myrtle (Heaven) Hampton.

She was raised in the Vermontville area and attended area schools.

On May 11, 1948 she married Raymond "Jack" Garvey in Nashville, MI.

The couple lived several years in Texas, as Jack served his country at Shepard Air Force Base.

After Jack's retirement from the service in 1965 the couple returned to the Nashville area where Marie began her work at the Barry County Medical Facility.

She retired in 1988 after serving 23 years as a nutrition specialist and dietician.

During her spare time she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, painting the hand crafted wood projects that Jack created,



watching movies and reading.

In April 1972 Marie gave her life to the Lord.

Survivors include son, Raymond (Char) Garvey of Nashville; daughters, Linda (Hugh) Wolcott of Nashville; Kirsti (Darwin) McIntyre of Nashville, Rex-Ann (Dion) Rasey of Nashville, Kathy (Rock) Ludwick of

Bronson; brothers, Lavern (Bev) Hampton, Bill (Eva) Hampton, Norman Hampton, Hank (Phyllis) Hampton; sisters, Crystal (Rex) Walters, Donna (Tom) Salik, June (Dick) Dickinson; sisters-in-law, Marge (Russ) Bennett, Melva Turner; 16 grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; many special nieces, nephews, and special friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond "Jack" Garvey; grandson, Aaron McIntyre; parents, Rex and Myrtle (Heaven) Hampton; and brother, Pete Hampton.

Services will be held Tuesday, June 25, 2002 at 11 a.m. at Nashville Assembly of God Church. Pastor Glenn Branham officiating. Interment at Lakeview Cemetery, Nashville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association.

Arrangements were made by Maple Valley Chapel, Nashville.

Vermontville GFWC sees 'Grease' show

General Federation of Women's Club Vermontville members had an entertaining evening on their annual June Skip Day.

Twenty-one members and a guest dined at Turkeyville Dinner Theater in Marshall. Club members were watched a standing performance of "Grease." This was one of the most popular musicals to explore America, rock-n-roll history. Hot rods, poodle skirts and leather jackets, something everyone think of when remembering 1950s.

Top Hat Productions provided the cast of young talented actors, who have performed on and off Broadway, Disney, Kennedy Center, as well as television.

GFWC Vermontville will resume its general meeting in September. Anyone interested in joining may call Mary Fisher, club president, at 726-0670.

Correction:

In last week's story about family members and a 911 dispatcher saving the life of a child, the boy's uncle, Cory Merica, was identified incorrectly



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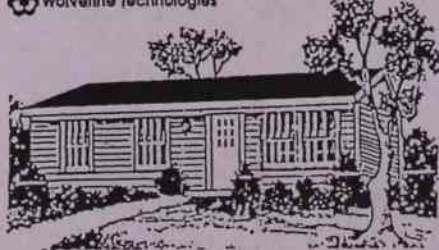
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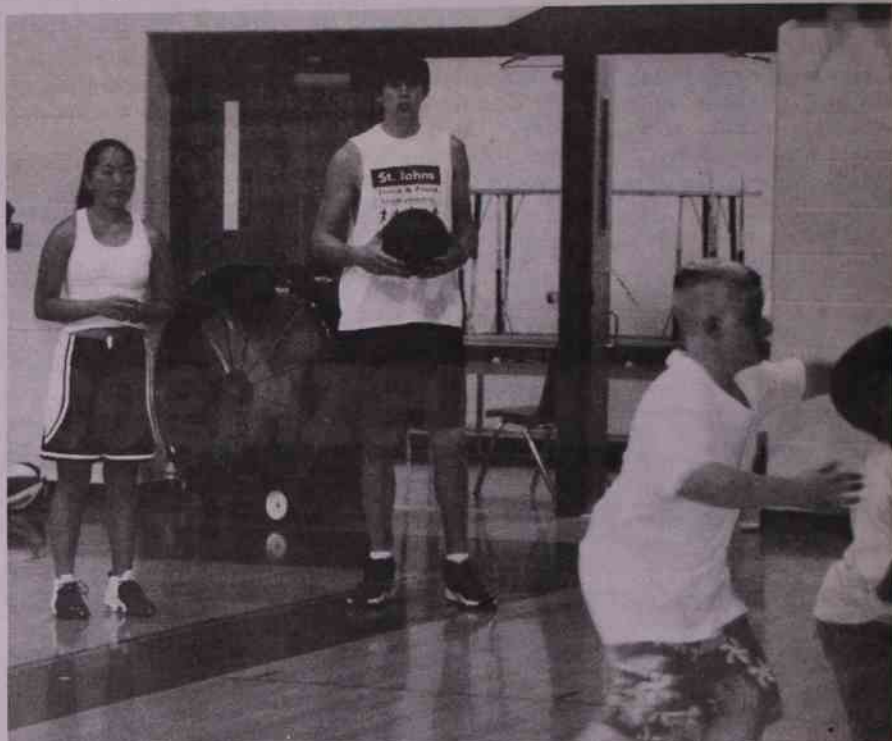
1351 N. Broadway (M-43) Hastings

616.945.9105

...in the
Gray Barn

OPEN MON - FRI 8:30 - 6:00 • SAT 8:30 - 1:00

Basketball camp receives help from college players



Levi Rost, a sophomore at Lansing Community College watches as fifth graders practice a two-on-two at basketball camp. Rost is one of three college athletes helping out at camp this year.

More than 150 Maple Valley students grades 2-12 attending this year's basketball camp at the high school are learning to improve their game and hone their skills from three Division I college basketball players.

Recruiting the college players to help with the camp wasn't hard for Kevin Rost, who has organized and run the camp for ten years. He is the uncle to two of them and the third used to attend the camp when she was young.

Levi Rost is a sophomore and plays guard at Lansing Community College. His twin sister, Casey plays basketball for Western Michigan University and was named Freshman of the Year in the MAC Conference. Virginia Jennings, a Hastings High School graduate, has played for Buffalo University and recently transferred to Utah State.

"I like to come out and pass on a little basketball knowledge and the fundamentals of the game," said Levi.

The camp has grown a lot over the past few years according to Rost.

"We have over 100 kids in the morning camp and 20-30 at night," said Rost. "It just keeps getting bigger and

bigger."

The camp started June 17 and runs through the 28th. Both the morning and the evening sessions run for three hours each day. The camps are tailored according to age.

The second through fourth grade campers learn basic skills to, "get comfortable with the ball," according to Rost. They learn a little about dribbling and how to pass the ball. In fifth grade they start to learn about proper defense and technique and start to learn drills. For the older participants, its all about honing skills.

About 18 to 24 high

school basketball players volunteer their time to help with the program each summer.

"It's the high school kids that really make it go," said Rost. "I'm just an organizer."

Rost believes in what he is doing

"It gives the kids a chance to see what basketball is like," said Rost. "For some it just gives them something to do. For others, this is their summer."

Rost said that, thanks to individuals and businesses throughout the community who sponsor the program, no child who wants to attend the camp is ever turned away.

MSU EXTENSION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|------------|--|
| June 26 | Citizen's Planner Prgm., 6 p.m., Community Room, Courts & Law Bldg. |
| June 29 | 4-H Fair Shooting Competition, Barry County Conservation Club, 8 a.m.-12 noon. |
| July 3 | Livestock Meeting, 7:30 p.m. |
| July 6 | Open Horse Show, 8:30 a.m., Expo Center. |
| July 7 | Speed Horse Show, 10 a.m., Expo Center. |
| July 8 | Horse Development Meeting, 7 p.m., Picnic Pavillion. |
| July 10 | Citizen's Planner Prgm., 6 p.m., Community Room, Courts & Law Bldg. |
| July 13-20 | Barry County Fair, Expo Center. |
| July 27 | Judged Trail Ride, 8 a.m., Brook Lodge, Augusta. |

COA MENU & SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Commission of Aging
Hearty Meals
Wednesday, June 26
Hamburger, baked beans, spiced apples, potato salad, bun. | Spaghetti w/sauce, meatballs, broccoli, carrots, fresh orange. | Hastings, crafts, nails; Nashville, exercise; Woodland, puzzles; Delton, trivia. |
| Thursday, June 27
Sausage, country potatoes, peaches, French toast sticks, apple juice. | Lite Menu
Wednesday, June 26
Seafood pasta salad, pea and cheese salad, cole slaw. | Thursday, June 27 - Hastings, music; Nashville, bingo; Delton, popcorn social. |
| Friday, June 28
Cheese ravioli, corn, Italian bread, pineapple. | Thursday, June 27
Cottage cheese, carrot raisin salad, plums, dinner roll. | Friday, June 28 - Seniors Day. |
| Monday, July 1
Chicken fricassee, parsley noodles, wax beans, mixed fruit. | Friday, June 28
Egg salad, cucumber salad, pears, whole wheat crackers. | Monday, July 1 - Hastings, music; Nashville, game day; Woodland, game day; Delton, exercise. |
| Tuesday, July 2 | Events
Wednesday, June 26 - | Tuesday, July 2 - Hastings, exercise, walk, Our Kids; Nashville, Grandmas Kids, crafts. |