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## Board chair, vice chair miss candidates' forum

by David T. Young  
Editor

The chairman and vice chairwoman of the Barry County Board of Commissioners were no-shows at a candidates' forum last Friday, despite the fact both are up for re-election in the Aug. 6 Republican primary. Board Chairman Jeff MacKenzie, formerly of Woodland Township and now a resident of Nashville, made no effort to explain his absence to the audience. He is being opposed in the Fifth District by Wayne Curtis of Maple Grove Township, who did appear at the First Friday forum in Hastings.

Curtis couldn't resist the opportunity to charge that MacKenzie also does not attend village council meetings and he maintained the County Board chairman does not pay attention to the voices of his constituents, "excluding public participation" from the decision making process.

Board Vice Chairwoman Sandy James, who represents Rutland and Hope townships in the Third District, submitted a letter of regret, saying she was out of state. Her primary opponent, Monica Rappaport, made

the most of the opportunity by dominating the forum with her views on key issues.

Two other commission candidates, Sandy Schondelmayer in the First District (City of Hastings) and James Alden in the Eighth District, which includes Prairieville and Barry townships, also did not appear for the forum. Schondelmayer did not give a reason, but his home the week before was searched by federal and state authorities in connection with his hunting activities, leaving speculation that he no longer was seriously seeking election to the board. Alden, who said he had to be in a Rotary conference in Lansing that day, sent a letter briefly outlining his general positions on county government.

With more than one-third of the candidates absent, one question was whether all candidates received invitations and if they had received copies of the questions.

Banner Editor David T. Young said no one except the moderator was given a copy of forum questions ahead of time and any candidate who wasn't aware of

the forum doesn't read the Banner and is uninformed.

Seven of the 11 candidates for County Board of Commissioners did show, including two Democrats in District #4, John Loftus and Dave Yonker; incumbent Republican Wayne Adams in District #8, incumbent Republican Tom Wilkinson

and Don Nevins in District #1, Rappaport and Curtis.

Some of the key issues discussed included building a juvenile detention facility, economic development, the Parks and Recreation Board, use of the city-county airport, the new location for the Commission on Aging and Health Department,

county government attitude, attendance at County Board meetings, the County Road Commission and reasons for running for office.

Perhaps the hottest county issue in recent months has been the County Board's consistent 6-2 votes (with Wilkinson and Tom Wing dissenting) to move ahead

with a project to have a Commission on Aging facility and Barry-Eaton District Health Department building at the old Peace Community Church property at the corner of Broadway and Woodlawn.

Rappaport said, "I'm not **See forum, page 2**"

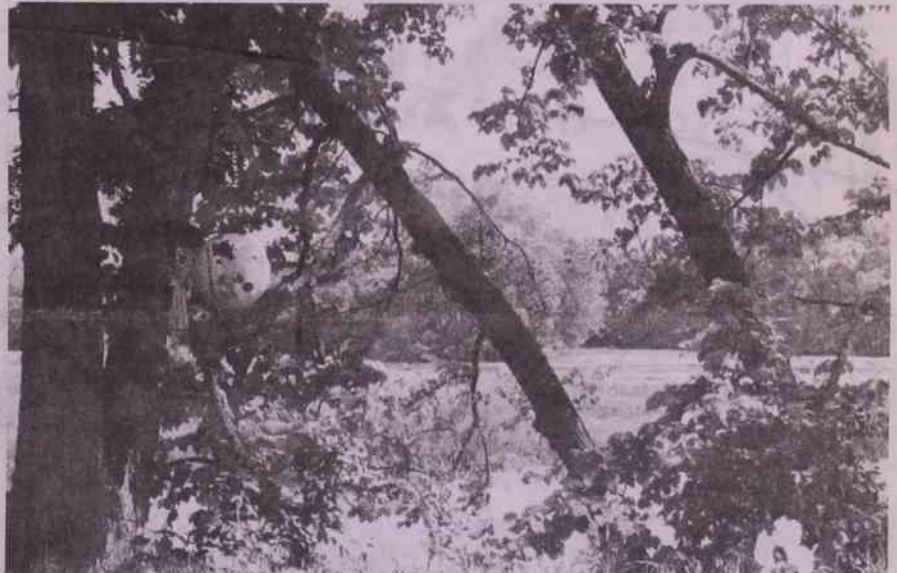
## Teen drowns after car plunges into river

by Shelly Sulser  
Staff Writer

The Barry County Sheriff's Department is probing the circumstances that led to the drowning death of a 14-



Corbin Gardner



Balloons and flowers mark the spot on Kellogg Street in Nashville where the car driven by 14-year old Corbin Gardner went into the Thornapple River.

## Vermontville ladies enjoy sunshine party

Six of the eldest ladies in the community were honored Friday at the 64th annual Sunshine Party at the

Vermontville United Methodist Church.

The event was sponsored by both the Methodist and

the First Congregational churches of Vermontville and was open to ladies of all ages in the community.



Bouquets were presented to the six eldest ladies at the Sunshine Party. This year's honorees are: (front row, from left) Margie Joppie, Martha Zemke, Mabel Booher (back row, from left) Nina Reed and Ruth Ann Summers. Absent from the photo is Jean Baker.

The women were welcomed by Cindy Krolik from First Congregational and Mary Fisher from United Methodist and Madeline Florist gave a necrology during the program to honor ladies who had passed away during the previous year.

After Judy Terpening sang a few songs, the ladies enjoyed socializing over light refreshments, which included tea, lemonade a variety of home baked cookies.

The six eldest ladies in attendance were honored with a bouquet of flowers arranged by Joan Hesselback.

The oldest lady honored at this year's party was Margie Joppie, who is 98 years and 10 months old. Margie still mows her own lawn and recently took her first ride on a Harley-Davidson.

"I'd wouldn't mind doing it again," she said of her ride.

Also honored were Mabel Booher, Martha Zemke, Nina Reed, Ruth Ann Summers and Jean Baker.

year-old Nashville teen early Monday (July 22) after plunging into the Thornapple River in a stolen vehicle while officers tried to stop the car for failed tail lights.

Corbin A. Gardner was pronounced dead shortly after arrival at an area hospital after being airlifted from Pennock Hospital in Hastings, where he was taken after he was recovered from the bottom of the river by Michigan State Police Trooper Lane Booms and Nashville officers Adam Dent and Nashville Chief Garry Barnes.

"Nashville was working on an unrelated complaint, a

motorcycle pursuit and Trooper Lane Booms was there," said Det./Sgt. David Oakland.

Booms works as the tracking dog handler for the Wayland Post of the Michigan State Police and had gone to Nashville at about 3:30 a.m. to search for the motorcyclist who had fled the scene on foot.

"They were standing by the road talking when the officers were advised (by Barnes) that a vehicle was coming their way without taillights," said Oakland. "They tried to visibly signal

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- Youth baseball enjoys another exciting season
- State Senate, Rep. candidates answer questions at forum
- Grace Community Church helps refinish 'S.S. Relish'

## Forum, continued from page 1

sure it was a wide decision, saying she favored "more effective outreach programs" for Barry County's senior citizens. Better long-range planning would have put a COA facility closer to Pennock Hospital and Village, she contended.

She added that a new Health Department facility was needed 10 years ago, but she's not sold on the location selected. Rappaport suggested a building that could house the Health Department and related clients such as the Conservation District (of which she is director), MSU Cooperative Extension and the planning and zoning department.

Wilkinson said he didn't like it that the board went ahead with the project despite a lack of a business plan and only a fuzzy idea about costs, now projected at between three and four million dollars.

He added that he's im-

pressed with the new community center near Hastings High School, which he said may attract senior citizens because it will have a pool.

"It's barrier-free for our old geezers," he said. "I think it will make a big difference in this community."

Forum moderator Robert Dwyer asked why the board was willing to raid its rainy day fund to pay for the COA-Health Department project when economic hard times may be ahead for Michigan. He also asked why the county couldn't commit to expanding the downtown campus with property it already owns.

Adams said, "It's better to use the money (the county already has) than pay on a bond."

He said the downtown properties the county purchased would be used for expansion of the court system.

Nevins agreed that it's

best now to follow the board majority on the new COA-Health Department site.

"It's bought and paid for," Nevins said. "I know some people didn't like the location, but we needed a new COA building."

On economic development, candidates were asked what the county has to show for the process since pulling out of the Joint Economic Development Corporation about a half dozen years ago.

"I really felt that decision (pulling out of the JEDC) was a mistake," Rappaport said. "We (the county) really need to partner with the city."

Wilkinson said he's optimistic about economic development now with the creation of the Economic Alliance and hiring of Director Dixie Manshum.

Adams agreed, saying, "The Barry County Chamber of Commerce has taken

the Economic Alliance under its wing and good things will happen."

Curtis, who owns two businesses, said he's thinking of joining the chamber, but it is important not to ignore Woodland and Nashville and the M-66 corridor.

Rappaport had some serious reservations about MacKenzie's handling of the Parks and Recreation Board, which oversees Charlton Park. Some members have been replaced.

"What is the logic for the things he's done to that board?" she asked. Is it really some sort of personal agenda? I don't understand."

Loftus charged that MacKenzie is "ruining the esprit de corps" replacing volunteers.

Wilkinson and Adams, being the only incumbents present, were asked how much they made as commissioners in 2001.

Wilkinson said slightly less than \$8,000 in salary, 36 1/2 cents a mile traveling expenses \$25 a day for per diems. In total he estimated to be about \$14,000, but his county employee insurance paid for the four stints out into his heart, which he estimated at around \$73,000.

Adams estimated that he grossed \$12,000 last year.

About the airport, Rappaport said she'd like to see it expanded as a tool of economic development, but worries that it's "currently mostly used by private individuals" who may have a conflict of interest.

Loftus said, "The county should help support that. Let's improve it the best we can."

Virtually all who spoke agreed there is a need for a juvenile facility in the county.

Nevins, who had some experience with the problem as a deputy for 27 years, said Barry County spends from "\$210 to \$250 a day" having youthful offenders sent elsewhere.

He acknowledged that "It's expensive to build a juvenile detention center," but the county now is paying a lot of money to send juveniles to Allegan County.

Adams agreed the cost is high, but "we have to look at that."

Rappaport contended that youths get into trouble "because they're bored" and said it's important to find something for kids to do.

Loftus said, "When we were kids, we learned how to square dance at the Grange Hall... Kids need to burn up energy... If you can salvage even a dozen apples out of the barrel, you've done something."

Wilkinson said in recent years, after the Columbine incident, he has done work with young people between 10 and 17 years old who aren't "fitting into traditional systems."

Rappaport said an attitude adjustment by the County Board would be beneficial. She said that as director of the Conservation District, when she's asked for help, she doesn't get a response like "How can we solve this problem," instead she hears,

"you get federal money," which she said is erroneous.

She said, "They (board members) are either not listening, or they're ignorant."

Adams said he agrees there isn't enough money in the county budget set aside for conservation.

Yonker, speaking about government attitude, said, "It's hard to get people involved these days. It would be nice if the mudslinging would stop. Government needs to listen to the people. If I get in here, I'll try to get more people involved."

There was no opposition to the campaign on behalf of Green Gables, a proposed shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Nevins was asked if he thought he could do a better job on the board than Wilkinson has.

"I'm not saying I could do a better job, I'd like a chance," he replied. "I just think that with my involvement with the county I could do a good job."

Wilkinson quipped, "I wish Don lived in another district so we could both serve."

Continued next page

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<p><b>ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES</b> A Spirit-filled Church Meeting at the Maple Leaf Grange Hwy. M-66 south of Assyria Rd. Nashville, MI 49073 Sun. Praise &amp; Worship 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m. Jesus Club for boys &amp; girls ages 4-12. Pastors David &amp; Rose MacDonald. An oasis of God's love. "Where Everyone is Someone Special." For information call 1-616-731-5194 or 1-517-852-1806.</p> <p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH</b> 803 Reed St., Nashville Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. Sunday ..... A.M. Worship ..... 11 a.m. Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Prayer Meeting ..... 7 p.m. PASTOR GLENN BRANHAM</p> <p><b>BASELINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 9617 E. Baseline Rd. Corner of Baseline &amp; Church Roads (2 miles east of M-66 on Baseline) Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m. Worship Service ..... 11 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Youth Groups, Bible Study and many other activities. Phone (616) 963-7710 REV. GLEN WEGNER</p>	<p><b>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 301 Fuller St., Nashville Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m. Sunday ..... A.M. Worship ..... 11 a.m. P.M. Worship ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Worship ..... 7 p.m. REV. ALAN METTLER</p> <p><b>CHESTER GOSPEL CHURCH</b> 3744 W. Vermontville Hwy. Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m. Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday Family Night Service ..... 6:45 p.m. PASTOR MARC S. LIVINGSTON Phone: 543-5488</p> <p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b> 110 S. Main, Vermontville Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m. Church School ..... 10 a.m. Fellowship Time After Worship REV. ERIC LISON</p>	<p><b>SOUTH KALAMO CHURCH</b> Corner of Kalamo Highway &amp; Ionia Rd. Sunday A.M. Worship ..... 10:30 a.m. Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening at 7 p.m.: Children's Classes Youth Group • Adult Worship PASTOR JEFF SWIFT</p> <p><b>GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> Meeting at Maple Valley High School Morning Celebration ..... 10 a.m. Contemporary Service, Relevant Practical Teaching, Nursery, Children's Classes, Youth Group, Adult Small Groups, Leadership Training PASTORS: DON ROSCOE and ROB VAN ENGEN Phone: (517) 852-9228</p> <p><b>GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> One mile N. of Vermontville Hwy. on Mulliken Road Church Service ..... 9:30 a.m. Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. Fellowship Time ..... 10:30 a.m. Adult Class ..... 10:50 a.m. PASTOR JEFF BOWMAN</p>	<p><b>NORTH KALAMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Worship Service ..... 9:30 a.m. PASTOR MARK THOMPSON</p> <p><b>MAPLE GROVE BIBLE CHURCH</b> 8593 Cloverdale Road (1/2 mile East of M-66, 5 mi. south of Nashville) Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. A.M. Service ..... 11:15 a.m. P.M. Service ..... 6 p.m. PASTOR GEORGE GAY</p> <p><b>NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 304 Phillips St., Nashville Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m. A.M. Service ..... 11 a.m. P.M. Service ..... 7 p.m. Wed. Service ..... 7 p.m. PASTOR LESTER DeGROOT PASTOR DEANO LAMPHERE PASTOR MATT ROHDE</p> <p><b>NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Located on the corner of State and Washington streets Worship Service ..... 9:45 a.m. Sunday School ..... 11:15 a.m. PASTOR DIANNE BOWDEN At Home: 852-0685 Church Phone: 852-2043</p>	<p><b>PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARRYVILLE</b> 6043 E. M-79 Highway 4 miles west of Nashville (cor. M-79 &amp; Barryville Rd.) Sunday Worship ..... 9:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Other: Prayer Walk, Youth Group, U.M. Women, Bible Study, Choir, Mission Projects &amp; more. PASTOR SUSAN TROWBRIDGE Phone (517) 726-1495 IGNITING MINISTRY Open Hearts-Open Minds-Open Doors</p> <p><b>QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> M-79 West Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. Worship ..... 11 a.m. PASTOR KENNETH VAUGHT (616) 945-9392</p> <p><b>ST. ANDREW &amp; MATTHIAS INDEPENDENT ANGLICAN CHURCH</b> 2415 McCann Road Sunday Services: ..... 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer ..... 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion For more information call 795-2370 or Rev. David T. Hustwick 948-9504 Traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer used for all services. Affiliated with the Independent Anglican Church (Canada Synod).</p>	<p><b>ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 203 N. State, Nashville Sunday Mass ..... 9:30 a.m. FATHER MIKE STAFFORD A mission of St. Rose Catholic Church, Hastings</p> <p><b>VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH</b> 250 N. Main St., Vermontville Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m. Worship Service ..... 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service ..... 6 p.m. Wed. Evening Service ..... 7 p.m. AWANA ..... 7-8:30 p.m. Wed. PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH</p> <p><b>VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 108 N. Main, Vermontville Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. Church Service ..... 11 a.m. PASTOR JEFF BOWMAN</p> <p><b>MOST HOLY ROSARY CHURCH</b> Roman Catholic Latin Mass 314 Main, Middleville Sunday Mass ..... 9 a.m. 616-795-9030 FATHER PAUL ANDRADE</p>
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# Family Fun Night planned for Friday, Aug. 16

Parents are urged to mark Friday, Aug. 16, on their calendars, as Maple Valley Schools is sponsoring a Family Fun Night from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the high school for children up to 5 years old and their families.

Registration begins at **From previous page**

Rappaport was asked why she withdrew from the Rutland Township Board race two years ago. She won, but resigned.

Rappaport said, "I got blind-sided by a personal issue and I chose my family over that position." She said she is even stronger now and promised she would not turn down this post if elected.

When a question about the Road Commission was asked, Rappaport said she'd like to see members elected rather than appointed.

Curtis noted the county doesn't fund the Road Commission but townships do and suggested township officials jointly appoint them.

County Clerk Deb Smith asked Yonker and the challengers if they attended board meetings to get information themselves or did they rely on rumors, innuendo and the newspaper?

Editor David T. Young took umbrage with the implication newspaper accounts of board activities have been inaccurate, saying errors have been rare and when they are the Banner prints corrections.

Rappaport said she's not sure attending board meetings teaches the audience a great deal anyway because most of the decisions are made in committee work and in the board meetings the public officials are just going through the motions.

Candidates who did not have primary contests and were not part of forum were Republican James French in District #2, Republican Clare Tripp in District #6, Republican Tom Wing in District #7 and Democrat Mel Goebel in District #8.

5:30 p.m., followed by supper at 6 p.m. The rest of the evening will feature activities specially designed for parents to enjoy with their children until 8 p.m.

"In 'the Valley' we are working to make sure all members of the community realize the importance of each and every child. More importantly, that the importance of each member of our community starts when they are born," said Joan Leos, administrative assistant at Fuller Street School in Nashville.

Leos cited the following information from the University of Texas Dallas (UTD):

"Did you know that babies learn rapidly about the sights and sounds of their environment, and how to affect the people and objects that make up their world? Consider the following accomplishments in an infants life:

"At two days of age infants recognize their mother's voice, and prefer it

over other voices.

"Three-month-olds can detect primary colors, and prefer red and yellow over blue and green.

"Seven-month-olds can match angry and happy facial expressions to voices expressing the same emotion.

"Nine-month-olds can watch simple actions and remember and imitate them one week later."

These accomplishments are just a few of the many things infants learn early on. The University of Texas at Dallas is conducting research called the Infant Learning Project. The purpose is to examine what young infants learn and remember about their earliest experiences. They are discovering new information about what babies are learning about voices and speech sounds, as well as how babies may remember specific experiences.

Every family attending Maple Valley's Family Fun Night will leave with a book

to share and read at home.

"Remember, reading to children 30 minutes each day creates the environment that makes smart kids!" said Leos. "Learning starts with

fun experiences long before your child begins school. Let's work together and not miss a day of this wondrous time in the life of a 'Valley' child."

The Fun Night is sponsored by Maple Valley Schools and area coordinators for Maple Valley Schools Early Childhood Connections.

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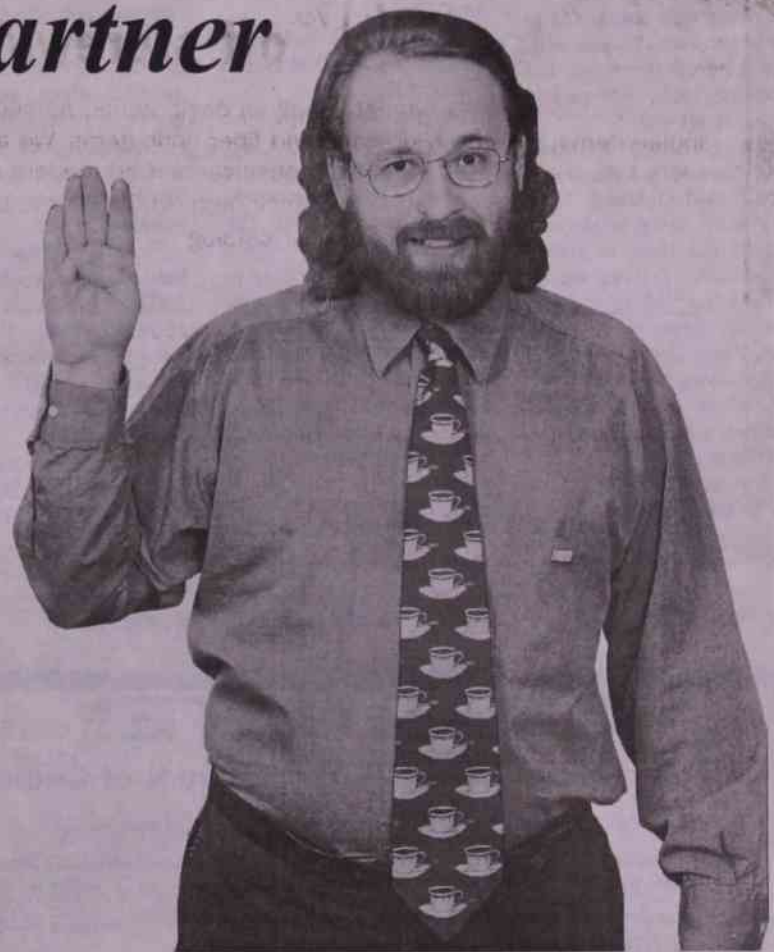
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STUART LITTLE 2 (PG)  
DIGITAL/STADIUM SEATING  
11:40, 1:30, 3:20, 5:05, 7:00, 8:55  
ROAD TO PERDITION (R)  
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Sunday Mass 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM  
PASTOR: BILL WATSON

## Teen drowns, from page 1

the driver to stop."

Oakland said the driver disregarded their signals and continued eastbound on Kellogg Street.

"The officers got in their cars, turned on the overhead lights and attempted to catch up to the car," said Oakland. "The car appeared to be accelerating and they turned on their sirens."

Oakland said it would be a "misnomer" to refer to the officers' actions as a "pursuit."

"It was only four-tenths of a mile between their original location and the crash site," said Oakland. "They were trying to catch up, it lost control, fish tailed, went off the side of the road and rolled down an embankment into the river."

But Barnes said in a press release Monday morning that the officers "attempted to stop the subject during a 40-50 mph pursuit."

Oakland described Gardner's speed as not fast for a straight away "but fast for a curve" which he described as "almost 90 degrees."

One officer told Oakland he saw the tires sinking into the murky water while the other officer arrived in time to see only bubbles as the car sank to the bottom.

"It was going down quickly," said Oakland.

Barnes also responded to the scene and all three officers entered the river, but were only able only to feel their way around.

"He (Booms) immediately tried to get the doors open," said Oakland. "The car was on its top on the bottom of the river in six to eight feet of river water. They attempted to get into the car. There were problems there, they were going up and down for air."

Gardner was wearing a seat belt which complicated extraction efforts.

"The seat belt had to be cut," Oakland said. "Once he was out, Trooper Booms tried to resuscitate him until he was turned over to the ambulance at the scene."

Barnes reported that it took five to 10 minutes to pull Gardner from the water but Oakland's investigation points toward possibly 15 minutes, he said.

"Trooper Booms was the first one in the water, then Dent, then Chief Barnes," said Oakland.

The Barry County Sheriff's Dive Team responded to search the water for other possible victims but none were located and no other person is believed to have been inside the car with Gardner when it crashed.

Gardner was taken to Pennock Hospital where he was met by a medical helicopter. The hospital reported him dead at 5:55 a.m. An autopsy conducted Tuesday confirmed that cause of death was drowning.

Oakland is also investi-

gating reports that alcohol was involved, he said.

"We want to find out what was going on with Corbin prior to the accident," said Oakland.

According to a preliminary report, a 1993, gray Ford Escort LX car was reported at 6:05 a.m. to be missing from a home on South M-66 and was last seen two hours earlier.

Oakland had no comment on that part of his investigation.

The investigation was turned over the sheriff's office "so there could be an independent investigation" which Oakland said "is a wise choice."

Gardner was the son of Forrest and Patty Gardner and Gail (Miller) Gray and was a student at Maple Valley schools.

## Myrtle M. Reid

NASHVILLE - Myrtle M. Reid, age 88, of Nashville, died Monday, July 22, 2002 at Pennock Hospital in Hastings.

Myrtle M. Reid was born in Bedford, Michigan on August 30, 1913, the daughter of Alexander and Hazel (Hunt) Ellsworth. She was raised in the Bedford area and attended area schools.

She married Claude Reid on July 26, 1930 in Battle Creek, MI.

Myrtle was a life long resident of Nashville, attended the Nashville Church of the Nazarene and was a member of the Modern Pioneers Club. She enjoyed vacationing in the upper peninsula with her family members, traveling with her husband, Claude throughout Michigan on covered wagon trips, camping, horses and being with her grandchildren. She enjoyed gardening and especially her roses.

Myrtle is survived by her sons; Lyle (Diane) Reid of Hastings, Charles

(Frankie) Reid of Nashville, Duane (Mary) Reid of Charlotte, Gordie (Vickie) Reid of Hastings; daughters, Barbara Mann of Nashville, Carol (Ervin) Gaskill of Ludington, Claudine (Mike) Hill of Nashville, Claudette (Rocky) Adams of Nashville; brother-in-law, Clarence (Margaret) Reid; sisters-in-law, Orpha Reid and Ruth Reid; 24 grandchildren; 39 great grandchildren and nine great-great grandchildren.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Claude Reid and great-great grandson, Tyler.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 25, 2002 at Nashville Church of the Nazarenes. Reverend Alan Metler officiated.

Burial will be at Lakeview Cemetery in Nashville, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to Nashville Church of the Nazarene Building Fund.

Arrangements were made by Maple Valley Chapel in Nashville, MI.

# Area Obituary

## Marguerite A. Burdick

NASHVILLE - Marguerite A. Burdick, age 91, of Curtis Road, Nashville, MI., died Tuesday, July 23, 2002 at her home.

Mrs. Burdick was born June 23, 1911 in Hopkins Township, Allegan Co., MI. the daughter of Aaron & Clara (Kemmer) Schafer. Reared in the Hopkins area, attended school there and graduated from Hopkins High School in 1927.

She married Warren M. Burdick on June 5, 1934. The couple moved to Nashville, MI. where they owned and operated Burdick's Tavern for nearly 30 years. Mrs. Burdick has lived at her present address on Curtis Road since 1974.

She was a member of Hastings Grace Lutheran Church where she was affectionately referred to as one of the church mice along with special friend, Irene Golnek. Member of the National Farmer's Organization, member of the Aid Association for Lutherans, served as a substitute organist for the church for many years.

She began playing the piano/organ at age 13 in the Hopkins Lutheran Church. She enjoyed her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, her cat, Tuffy, cross stitching, cross word puzzles, latch hooking, game shows on TV especially The Price Is Right, Wheel Of Fortune, Jeopardy, Detroit Tiger baseball games. Family Friday fun nights were known as their Stitch & Bitch Night.

She is survived by her daughters, Artha (Bill) Shaw and Jane (George) Skedgell both of Nashville, MI.; 11 grandchildren, Ted (Bev) Spoelstra of Hastings, Diane (Ken) Ramsey of Hastings, Dione (Bryon) Antes of Kentwood, Christine (Brent) Moore of Eaton Rapids, Sue (Tad) Davis of Hastings, Kathy (Dave) Duffey of Holland, Kimberly (Bill) Keim of Grand Rapids, Cara (Mike) McClure of Georgetown, Texas, Karen (John Harris) Skedgell of Bellevue, Mike Skedgell of Nashville, Danny Skedgell of Nashville; 16 great grandchildren, Beth Shaw-Duffey, Meghann Antes,



Eric Duffey, Jeremy Antes, Kevin Moore, Branden Antes, Travis Moore, Cody Moore, Stefen Antes, Kevin Davis, Mallori Spoelstra, Becky Davis, Cody Snyder, Eric Ramsey, Jason Snyder, Christina Ramsey; son-in-law, Bill (Marie) Spoelstra of Nashville, MI.; sister-

in-law, Wilma Schafer of Kalamazoo and nieces & nephews.

Preceding her in death are her parents; husband, Warren on September 30, 1986; daughter, Clara Marie Spoelstra in 1989; brothers, William & George Schafer; sister-in-law, Velma Schafer and special friend Irene Golnek.

Funeral service were held Friday, July 26, 2002 at Hastings Grace Lutheran Church. Reverend Dr. Michael J. Anton officiated.

Burial was at the Lakeview Cemetery in Nashville, MI.

Memorial contributions Barry Community Hospice or Hastings Grace Lutheran Church.

Arrangements were made by Wren Funeral Home in Hastings.

## Donald E. Gostnell

IONIA - Donald E. Gostnell, age 49, of Ionia, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, July 21, 2002.

He was born on October 26, 1952 in Lansing, the son of Elmer H. and Eulah D. (VanSiclin) Gostnell.

Mr. Gostnell served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam. He received the Purple Heart and was a member of the Ionia VFW Post #224.

He worked for 21 years at both the Michigan Reformatory and Ionia I-Max.

Surviving are his wife, Lisa; son, Donald Craig Gostnell of Lake Odessa;

stepson, Dustin Humphery of Ionia; two grandchildren, Brent and Austin; parents, Elmer and Eulah Gostnell of Lake Odessa; brother, Jerry (Judy) Gostnell of Ohio; sisters, Deb (Tom) Kasdorf of Palo and Helen Hynes of Hastings.

A cremation has taken place.

A memorial graveside service was held Friday, July 26, 2002 at Lakeside Cemetery in Lake Odessa. Reverend George Speed officiated.

Arrangements were made by Cooks Funeral Home in Ionia.

## Blood drives planned

Two Red Cross blood drive are planned for early next month, one in Hastings and the other in Nashville.

The drive in Hastings will be held at the Elks Lodge, 102 E. Woodlawn St., from noon to 5:45 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 1. The blood bank in Nashville will take place at the Castleton Township

Hall, 915 Reed St., from 1 to 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8.

Red Cross officials say they anticipate a strong need for type O-negative blood over the summer because more people travel.

For more information, call the Barry County chapter of the American Red Cross at 945-3122.

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## A Special Thank You

from the family of  
*Raymond E. (Jack)  
& Ella Marie Garvey*

Though words can never express how we feel, we would like to say thank you to everyone who helped us during the loss of our parents.

And thank you for the cards, calls, visits, flowers, food and money donated to the Cancer Society and American Lung Association.

*Lugh & Linda Wolcott  
Ray & Chae Garvey  
Dawain & Kristi McIntyre  
Dion & Rex Ann Rasey  
Rock & Kathy Ludwig*

## Frances A. MacDonald

**FREEPORT** - Frances A. MacDonald, age 89, of Freeport, Michigan, formerly of Charlotte and Vermontville passed away on her rewards Sunday, July 21, 2002 at the home of her daughter-in-law, of natural causes.

Mrs. MacDonald was born to J. Milton and Adella (Loomis) Lent on May 28, 1913 in Chicago, Illinois.

Frances spent her youth between Chicago and Vermontville, graduating from Vermontville in 1930. She married Vernon L. MacDonald of Chicago in 1933. The family moved from Chicago to her family farm in rural Vermontville in 1946. After the passing of her beloved husband in 1985, she moved to Charlotte.

She spent 27 years being a snow bird at Ramblers Rest Resort in Venice, Florida either with Vernon or friend/companion, Claude Troyer.

She was a past Matron and life member of Kalamo O.E.S. #399, a long time member of Vermontville First Congregational Church, the Ladies Christian Association, Women's Club and was active in many other organizations (Band

Boosters, Bismark Community Boosters, Bismark Ladies Fellowship, etc.) over the years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her in-laws; her husband, Vernon, October 1985 and youngest son, Scott in December 1999.

Surviving her are two sons, Bryce (Amanda) MacDonald of Vermontville, MI., Larry MacDonald of Clearwater, FL.; two daughters-in-law, Kate MacDonald of Pinellas Park, FL., Susan MacDonald of Freeport, MI.; six grandchildren, Nika (Randy) Hankins, JoDee (Tony) Pruden, Kent (Teresa) MacDonald all of Charlotte, Kelly (Scott) Hartman of Lansing, Jason and Rachel MacDonald of Pinellas Park, FL.; two step grandsons, David MacDonald of Chicago, Illinois and Terry Lee Ranshaw of Charlotte; eight great grandchildren, Cassandra, Mark, Padraic, Heather, Gregory, Dallas, Haley and Meira; a step great grandchild, Kristin; one great great grandchild, Jeffery.

An Order of Eastern Star Memorial Service was conducted Wednesday, July 24, 2002 at Pray Funeral

Home under the auspices of Kalamo Eastern Star Lodge #399.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 25, 2002 at Vermontville Congregational Church. Reverend Eric Lison officiated.

Interment were in Woodlawn Cemetery in Vermontville.

If desired, memorial contributions may be made to the church or to Heartland Hospice.

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

Arrangements were made by Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte.

## Corbin A. Gardner

**NASHVILLE** - Corbin A. Gardner, age 14, of Nashville, Michigan, died Monday, July 22, 2002.

Corbin was born November 26, 1987 in Charlotte, Michigan, the son of Forrest Allan Gardner and Gail (Miller) Gray.

He was a student at Maple Valley Schools and loved to hunt and fish. He raised ducks and geese and was a Bobby LaBonte fan.

He is survived by his Father, Forrest Allan and step-mother, Patty Gardner of Nashville; mother, Gail Gray of Battle Creek;

sisters, Courtney and Hana; brother, Jacob; grandparents, Lee Joppie of Vermontville, Roger and Diane Gardner of Vermontville, Robert Miller of Texas, Barbara Hukill of Taft, CA.; great grandmother, Dorothy Mahar of Vermontville and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Family Affirmation Service was held Thursday, July 25, 2002 at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, Michigan. Reverend Raymond Rossell officiated.

Interment are in Woodlawn Cemetery in

Vermontville, Michigan. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to the Nashville Fire and Ambulance Departments.

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

Arrangements were made by Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte.

**Call 945-9554 or 1-800-870-7085 for Maple Valley News ACTION-Ads!**

## Joshua A. Duits

**HASTINGS** - Joshua A. Duits, age 23, of Hastings, died Friday, July 26, 2002 at Spectrum Health-Blodgett Campus in Grand Rapids.

Josh was born on April 2, 1979 in Hastings, MI, the son of Rick A. and Sharon Lynn (Inman) Duits.

He was raised in the Hastings area and attended Hastings schools, graduating in 1997 from Hastings High School. He went on to attend Michigan Career and Technical Institute, graduating with honors.

His employment included: TNR Machine in Delton, worked as an independent computer designer of architectural/industrial designs and MC Supply in Hastings.

He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, avid sports enthusiast enjoying motorcross, NASCAR and hunting. Most important to Josh was his loving family and a host of friends.

Josh is survived by his parents, Sharon and Rick Duits; sister, Karrie Neil-Cross of Waterford, MI; brothers, Chadwick H. Neil of Hastings and Thomas Clinton (Angela) Neil of Hastings; nieces, Chasity and Journi Neil; nephew, Gage Pederson; paternal grandmother, Greta Duits of Nashville; several aunts,



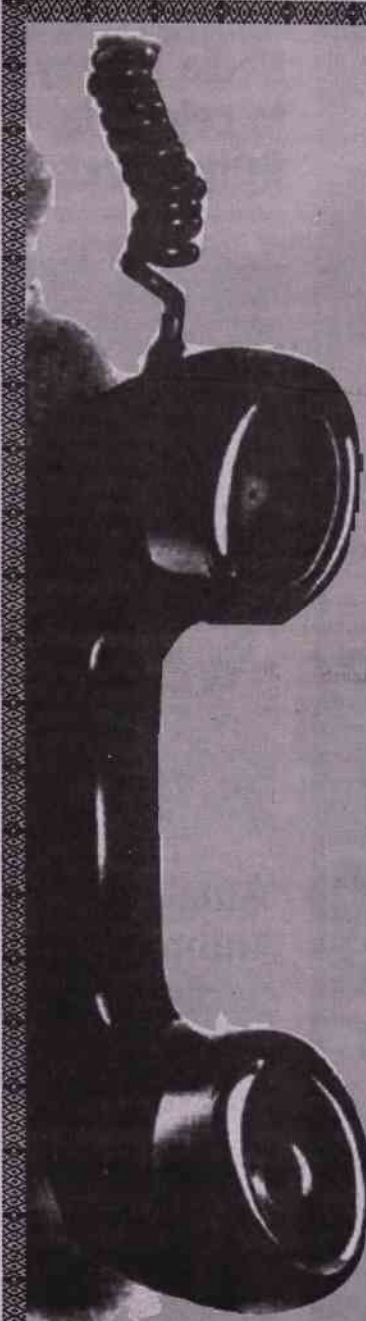
uncles and cousins. Preceding him in death were paternal grandfather, Donald Duits; maternal grandparents, Dorothea and Jerry Frost and Helen and Victor Inman.

There will be no funeral home visitation. A memorial reception at the church will immediately follow services.

A candlelight memorial service will be held 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 1, 2002 at Hastings Grace Lutheran Church with Rev. Dr. Michael J. Anton officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Joshua A. Duits Memorial Fund.

Arrangements were made by Wren Funeral Home of Hastings.



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A gift to the Barry Community Foundation is used to help fund activities throughout the county in the name of the person you designate. Ask your funeral director for more information on the Barry Community Foundation or call 945-0526.

## Engagements

### Powers-Myers

Glenn and Barb Powers of Nashville are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Tanya Nichole to Mark Adam Myers.

Tanya is employed by National City Bank and works in the Charlotte branch.

Mark is the owner of Myers Construction Company.

An Aug. 7, 2002 wedding is being planned.



## Parents needed to help with playground

Administrators at Fuller Street Elementary in Nashville are asking parents to attend a special playground work day at the school Saturday, Aug. 10.

The work is scheduled to begin at 7 a.m. in an attempt to get most of the work done before the hottest part of the day.

Parents will help construct sand boxes, mount tether ball courts and basketball structures and hoops.

When school starts Monday, Aug. 26, approximately 500 children a day will resume playing on the Fuller playground. The local PTO and the Fuller Street School Playground Committee are working with Principal Judy Farnsworth to make the Fuller playground a better place for kids.

Pat Powers, facilities maintenance manager, is installing gates that will expand the area for soccer play south of the conventional playground. This will add more space and enhance safety. Working with the playground committee, Powers also will dig holes

and prepare trenches to get specific areas ready for the community work day.

Playground professionals will be installing new pieces of playground equipment at the end of July as well.

"Your work efforts on Aug. 10, starting at 7 a.m., will help add more appropriate play structure opportunities at Fuller. What you do makes the difference," said Joan Leos, administrative assistant at Fuller.

Please call Lisa Lapham at (517) 852-2103, and leave a message if you can help with the project.

### Nellie Harvey to celebrate 90th birthday



Nellie Harvey celebrates her 90th birthday July 29th. Anyone wishing to visit or send cards to Tender Care, 240 E. North, Hastings.

She will be happy to hear from anyone.

### 'Amazing Anthropods' coming today

Today, Tuesday, July 30, the Vermontville Public Library will be host for "Amazing Arthropods," a traveling zooseum presented by the Young Entomologist Society of Lansing.

The program will begin at 2 p.m. in the Opera House. Refreshments will be served and a door prize drawing will be held.

Refreshments are served at all library programs and are donated by the Vermontville Women's Club.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

#### 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.



### Faurots to celebrate silver wedding anniversary

On July 30, 2002, Bryan and Patricia Faurot will be celebrating 25 years of marriage. Bryan II, Melissa, Vanessa, and all the rest of their friends and family would like to wish them happy 25th and many more happy years to come.



### Deckers to celebrate 25th wedding anniversary

The children of Scott and Teresa Decker will hold an open house to celebrate their 25th anniversary on Saturday, Aug. 10 at 6 p.m. It will be held at 9351 M-79 Highway in Nashville at their home.

Teresa and Scott were married on July 30, 1978 in Charlotte, Michigan.

The couple have two children - Raymond of Nashville and Angela of Ionia, and two grandchildren, Cole and Alicia Decker. No gifts, please.

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**STATELY HOME IN NASHVILLE - OCCUPANCY AT CLOSE!**

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**VERMONTVILLE CLOSE TO STORES**

2 bedroom, 1990 single wide mobile home with cathedral ceiling, large master bedroom, shows well on large corner lot. Call Nyle. (V-158)



**AFFORDABLE COUNTRY LIVING!**

Cute 3 bedroom, 1 bath home on 1 acre with 2 car garage & additional shop or storage area. Priced to buy. Call Nyle. (CH-167)



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## VACANT LAND:

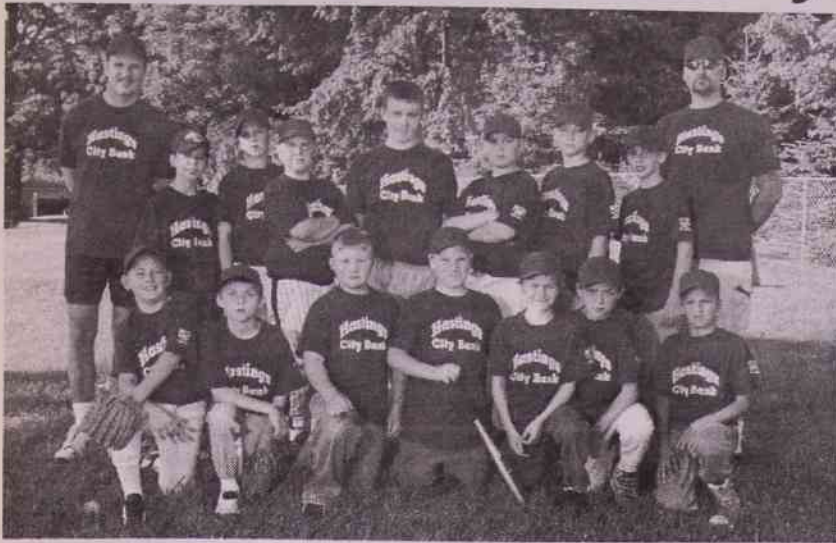
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# Youth baseball enjoys exciting season



The 2002 Hastings City Bank youth baseball team (names not available).



The 2002 Coldwell Banker youth baseball team (names not available).

The Maple Valley Youth Baseball League enjoyed another exciting season of play in 2002. There were five teams in the league this summer, sponsored by Coldwell Banking, Briggs Heating and Cooling, Messer's Full Service, Good Time Pizza and Hastings City Bank. Defending champion Hastings City Bank finished first in the league standings, but second-place Good Time Pizza came back to win the

tournament championship game over City Bank 11-10. Outstanding defensive plays made it a close game. Good Time Pizza went with pitcher Kyle Fisher and catchers Jorge and Jesse Brown sent out thanks to everyone who helped make another great season. Each team put forth a solid effort and kept the season standings tight.



The 2002 Musser's Full Service youth baseball team. Front row (from left): Matt Schlehuber, Jimmy Brown, Josh Hall, Zac Eddy, Clayton Beers, Chris Rugg. Back row: coach James Brown, Dustin Cowell, Hutch Joppie, Austin Earl, Brody Swift, Justin Hoffman, Nick Parks, assistant coach Troy Bass.



The 2002 Briggs Heating and Cooling youth baseball team. Front row (from left): Kirt Peterson, Ethan Clark, Bradley Laverty, Tyler Franks, Justin Kennedy. Back row: coach Scott Clark, Ryan Brooke, James Olsen, Jared Smith, Daniel Benadict, Kyle Burns, Brogan Bodenmuller, assistant coach Jeff Kennedy. Not pictured: José Garza.



The 2002 Good Time Pizza youth baseball team. Front row (from left): Jesse Miller, Levi Westendorpe, Kaleb Root, Robby Patrick, Taylor Viscor, Brandon Samms. Back row: coach Jeff Fisher, Brandon Downing, Matt Hamilton, Kyle Fisher, Josh Samms, Jorge Miller, Marcus Pierce, Tyler Teft. Not pictured: coach Scott Lenz.



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# State Senate, Rep. candidates answer questions at forum

by Matt Cowall  
Staff Writer

Three Republican State Senate candidates and two Democratic candidates for State Representative took part in a First Friday forum July 12 at the Thomas Jefferson Hall in Hastings, leading up to the Aug. 6 primary.

Republicans running in the primary for the new 24th Michigan Senate District are State Rep. Patty Birkholz of Saugatuck Township, former State Rep. Terry Geiger of Lake Odessa and Joe Wicks of Holland. The Senate District takes in all of Allegan, Barry and Eaton counties.

The two Democrats seeking their party's nomination in the 87th House District to face incumbent Republican Gary Newell are Rebecca Lukasiewicz of Hastings and Seymour Van Derske of Lyons. The House District covers all of Barry County and a portion of Ionia County.

Questions were prepared in advance and posed by moderator Fred Jacobs. Each candidate was allowed a maximum of three minutes to answer each question, followed by an additional one-minute rebuttal if necessary.

Candidates were first asked to address a 39 percent pay raise agreed to by



Patricia Birkholz



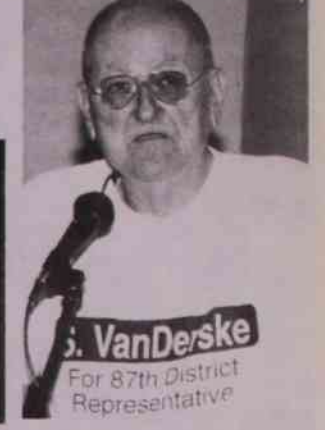
Terry Geiger



Joe Wicks



Rebecca Lukasiewicz



Seymour VanDerske

state legislators for themselves more than a year ago, a hike that passed without any debate and pushed legislative salaries to more than \$80,000 per year.

Birkholz voted against the pay raise and noted that the House actually voted it down, but it passed anyway after the Senate declined to vote on it, as is allowed under the state constitution. All of the other candidates stated they also would not have supported the raise and would support a constitutional amendment to force the full legislature to approve pay raises. Such an amendment will be on the ballot for voters this fall, Birkholz said.

Geiger hinted that Birk-

holz didn't do enough to fight the pay raise, calling the hike "outlandish." He mentioned a negative supplemental appropriation bill he introduced in 1996 in reaction to a self-granted pay raise by the state courts. Geiger said the bill reduced funding to the courts by the amount of the raise, forcing the courts to come up with their pay hike out of their existing budget.

The issue of abortion split the candidates along party lines. The anti-abortion group Right to Life endorses all three Republicans.

"Even if you just look at the sonograms, it's not an apple, it's something that's going to develop into a human being," Wicks said.

Democrats Lukasiewicz and Van Derske said they are primarily pro-choice. Lukasiewicz said that she doesn't personally support abortion, especially as a form of birth control, and wouldn't encourage others to seek the procedure, but she supports the "freedom for individuals to choose their own moral codes and ethical standards." Van Derske said he believes the issue is "between a woman, her husband and her Lord."

All the candidates generally were in favor of making it easier to allow referendums on election ballots, though Geiger and Van Der-

ske both expressed some reservations. Geiger noted that binding referendums can become extremely complicated, and is more supportive of non-binding "questions" on ballots as measures of public opinion. In that case, Geiger said, "voters should have the right to place a question (on a ballot) and expect elected officials to adhere to the answer."

Van Derske called referendums a "Catch-22," saying voters are "darned if you do and darned if you don't."

Candidates then were asked to define "pro-family" in today's economic climate, where two-wage families are making less in real terms than single-wage earners made years ago.

All three GOP candidates called for tax cuts. Wicks proposed allowing families to pay less for public education, through tax credits, if they choose to pay for their children to attend private schools. Birkholz said legislators need to anticipate "unintended consequences" of policies that may end up burdening families, and Geiger said care should be taken not to discourage workers, since many find today's lifestyle "rewarding."

The two Democrats were unsure of a solution. Lukasiewicz will marry next year, and said that she and her significant other have already realized they will need two incomes and still may not be able to buy a house.

"I don't know what we can do, because it's become so ingrained in our society," Lukasiewicz said.

Van Derske earned a laugh when he said, "(My late wife) never had to get out and really work for a living. She only had eight kids to take care of." He added that he feels sorry for young workers, saying, "I don't know how they make it."

With the state facing a looming budget crisis, the candidates were asked to identify potential cuts and share their views on the recent hike in the cigarette tax.

Lukasiewicz said that zero-based budgets for non-essential programs could help abate the crisis. She pledged to protect funding for education, the environment and road maintenance, and in her most passionate response of the day, she came out firmly against the cigarette tax.

"It is unethical and immoral to take advantage of that addiction," Lukasiewicz said. "I think it is utterly wrong, and it was strongly opposed by Democrats. It was the Republicans (who) put that through the House, and it was the Republicans taking advantage of people who cannot help themselves."

"I don't know that I'd have raised (the tax) that high," fellow Democrat Van Derske said. "It's a way to get a little extra revenue to cover up the blunders that have been made in the last few years."

Birkholz voted for the cigarette tax as a "short-term fix." She said studies show that higher prices help keep young people from starting to smoke, and cited the "horrendous expense" on state budgets to care for smoking-related illnesses and deaths. Geiger and Wicks agreed that they would have voted for the tax. Geiger called it a difficult decision, but he thought it was the "most benign way" to make up the state's budget shortfall, since the political will hasn't yet mounted for cuts.

Geiger warned that next year would be much more difficult, since the government has used up all of its "creative" measures to prop

up the budget. He listed public security, public safety and basic health care as his top funding priorities.

Wicks said he would reduce or eliminate "unnecessary programs" and grow the economy to make up the shortfall. He said he would work to repeal the Prevailing Wage Act, which mandates that public construction project bids must include wages set by the local union. Wicks said the law causes taxpayers to overpay for public projects.

Birkholz said the state must encourage and attract new businesses and keep the ones it already has while maintaining rollbacks on the income tax and single-business tax.

The candidates were then asked whether or not schools are better off in the eight years after the passage of Proposal A, which cut property taxes as the principal means of funding public education and increased the sales tax from four to six cents on the dollar.

Van Derske expressed some skepticism about the success of Proposal A.

"We all have to tighten our belts," Van Derske said. "Things are going to get worse before they get better."

"I was never enthused  
**See candidates, page 9**

## NOTICE Vermontville Township Residents

Notice is hereby given that the PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST for the August 6, 2002, Primary Election has been scheduled for August 2, 2002, at 11 a.m. at the Vermontville Township Fire Barn located on the corner of First and S. Main Streets in Vermontville. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the program and computer being used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law. Interested parties are invited to attend.

Marcia K. Grant  
Clerk

115

## Openings for Substitute and /or Future Positions MAPLE VALLEY SCHOOLS

### Secretary or Student Support Center

Hours: Up to 7 hours/day Monday through Friday

#### Qualifications:

- High school graduate, secretarial associate degree or equivalent training preferred
- Three years of secretarial experience preferred
- Computer experience required
- Good organizational and communication skills
- Must be able to compose correspondence, proofread and correct materials using proper grammar, spelling and punctuation
- Self-initiative and public relations skills
- Basic accounting skills
- Ability to work cooperatively with staff at all levels
- Secretarial skills test required

Responsibilities may include handling student related needs, answering the phone, taking daily attendance, general office duties, liaison with volunteers and community organizations, assisting students with first aid when necessary, distribution of medication, contacting parents when student is sick or injured; other duties as may be assigned by administration.

Application should be made to Administration Office, Maple valley Schools, 11090 Nashville Highway, Vermontville, MI 49096 by August 5, 2002.

## NOTICE

The Village of Vermontville is seeking a five acre parcel of land for the use of a new water well. Please contact the village office by phone 726-1429 or by mail PO Box K.

Vermontville Village Council  
114

## NOTICE VILLAGE OF VERMONTVILLE

The first week of every month has been designated as BRUSH PICKUP week.

Work hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays 7 a.m. to noon.

There is a \$5 charge for this service.

For other days of the month call the village garage at 726-1444 to have lagoon gates opened during work hours.

Vermontville Village Council

110

# Restraining order halts business construction

by Sandra Ponsetto  
Staff Writer

The Nashville Village Council passed a motion July 18, and a temporary restraining order was issued four days later to halt construction of the Dollar General Store while owner Jeff Beebe and the village sort out issues over a sewer line and easement on the property.

At the regular meeting of the council July 11, Beebe approached the council about splitting the cost of re-routing a 12-inch sewer main located underneath the building already under construction in front of the laundromat that he owns on South Main Street.

The main and sewer easement were discovered after construction had begun.

Beebe said he had already obtained a quote on how much it would cost to relocate the sewer easement, if the council chose to pursue that course of action.

Dunham replied at that time that he would consult with the village attorney, but he hoped the issue could be resolved in a friendly manner.

Beebe addressed the council once again during its regular session last Thursday regarding the sewer easement.

"I believe that we have been getting closer and closer to an agreement as we've been talking... I was curious as to whether or not your attorney has given you a rough draft of some preliminary agreements to move the sewer main from the north side of the addition," said Beebe.

Council members stated that they had not seen a copy of the rough draft or discussed it.

"Have you given any thoughts to lifting the PRO (personal restraining order)?" asked Beebe.

The council replied that they were not thinking about lifting the order at the time because they had not had time to discuss it but they would be going into closed session later in the meeting to do so.

"I'm going to speak my mind right now then," said Beebe. "After its all added up, penalties, rental fees, interest, lost income we're running right now at \$1,800 a day. To restart this project we're looking at a week lapse of time at best."

"I think council should consider what their experts already told them, adding 500 pounds per square foot to that property over your main is minimal and the risk is so finite that I don't see a reason why the village can't cooperate."

"If you're going to go into next week (with the PRO) you leave me with only one alternative, and we all know what that is. I'll have to force you to get the PRO lifted... I'm hoping it won't get to that point."

"Your experts have told you that there is no risk and my experts have told you that there is no risk..."

Councilman Ed Sheldon replied that their experts said that there "appears" there wouldn't be any problems.

Beebe countered that if damage occurred it would not be irreparable.

"There would be no irreparable harm (to the existing sewer line) if the building were to fall," said Beebe. "If it were to be harmed the harm could be measured in dollars and cents. There's no reason to

increase liability. If the main would fail the work would cost around \$15,000; to put in a brand new main would cost \$50,000 and a pump station would cost \$10,000. That is something that would not irreparably harm Nashville.

"If that main broke, it would not harm Nashville?" questioned a council member.

"Irreparably," responded Beebe. "To irreparably harm somebody means that there can't be any dollar figure associated with it. You can't really say, 'if I sue for this I can never, never recoup my loss.' If the main was to break after another 500 pounds was put on top of it, Nashville could sue for damages if they occur. There is a price tag directly associated with the cost of putting in a new main."

"You right now, and Nashville itself, are causing me extreme pain and financial loss," concluded Beebe. "All I can say is that I did everything right coming into this project. And you're making a business environment now that is very difficult for me to do business in."

Sheldon apologized for making things difficult but said that the council has an obligation to look out for all the citizens of the community.

Council President Frank Dunham stepped in at that point and said that this was the audience question and comment portion of the meeting and that comments were welcome but the council would be discussing the matter in closed session during the new business portion of the meeting.

According to Village Clerk Cathy Lentz, after being in closed session for a little over an hour to discuss the sewer easement, the council voted unanimously to, "Stay the direction the village is going in, to pursue legal litigation and keep the to keep the restraining order in place."

Beebe could not be reached for comment at press time.

In other business the council:

- Approved a motion to paying contractors Hunter-Purrell \$5,915 to cover expenses for the added work that was necessary beyond what is regular for sub-contractor Belmont Pipeline.

- Belmont Pipeline had submitted a request for \$21,787.50 to the village for additional labor, materials and equipment. Board members discussed that \$5,915 would be a fair compromise to cover the additional labor costs incurred by Belmont, but the village was not responsible for materials and equipment costs.

- Unanimously accepted a bid of \$3,500 from Analytical Testing and Consulting for lead and asbestos testing of the building being offered

See council, page 10

# Candidates, continued from page 8

about Proposal A. My property taxes now are probably just as high as they were before this was instituted.

"I've talked to a lot of school teachers and they would sure love to get some books for their kids. Some people are getting them and some people are not. There seems to be a lot of inequities in this."

The other four candidates asserted that Proposal A has successfully reined in property taxes and equalized school funding across the state. The Republicans all expressed the belief that schools still need to be held more accountable for the money they receive, and uniformly denounced any changes to Proposal A that might result in an increase in property taxes.

Lukasiewicz acknowledged that Proposal A "did what it set out to do," but she was not prepared to take a stand either for or against changes to the law, expressing a wait-and-see attitude, especially if educational funding begins to dry up.

The topic of the forum then switched to the so-called "War on Drugs," and candidates were asked about their strategies for dealing with what so far has been a losing battle.

Every candidate agreed that more treatment is needed to combat the issue at its roots. Geiger called for more enforcement, but noted that substance abuse is often related to mental illness and that we "need to treat the illness to treat the person." He suggested increased in-prison and post-prison treatment programs.

Birkholz echoed that sentiment, saying, "Remediation is the only answer." She said more remediation programs are needed, but they're expensive and budget cuts have and will hurt them.

"In a budget crunch, it seems easier to just leave people in jail, but studies have shown addictive behavior only increases in prisons, even with limited

access," Birkholz said.

Wicks said that multiple offenders should get jail time, but first-time offenders should receive "preventative care," including social services and treatment, a notion he admitted was "generally rare for a Republican." He also raised the question of who might be benefiting from any illicit trade, citing the recent example of the cigarette smuggling operation between North Carolina and Michigan that was funneling money to the militant Hezbollah group in the Middle East.

Van Derske equated some of the criminal problems surrounding illicit drugs to those caused by the failed prohibition of alcohol in the 20th century. He said he would vote for limited access to marijuana on a trial basis, through state-controlled stores.

"There are so many people that use it, we might as well get some taxation out of it," Van Derske said.

Geiger pointed out that the state still lacks clear sentencing guidelines for persons convicted of methamphetamine manufacture, but Birkholz revealed that draft legislation will be introduced in the fall to set those

guidelines.

The forum concluded with each candidate providing a brief personal profile. Moderator Jacobs closed the gathering with a call to arms for voters.

"You have to read, you have to study, you have to want to be a part of (the political process)," Jacobs said. "There are so many people out there... (who) don't have a clue about the issues, and that's why we have bad legislation. That's why we have bad laws."

"Don't blame (politicians) for bad legislation. If you got bad legislation, look in the mirror... it's probably because you weren't there when you needed to be. You didn't write the letters, you didn't make the phone calls."

"If you don't like the way things are, get out there and do something about it. It's not always easy... but I say to you, go out and do it. Make sure you do it, because it's important."

Members of the audience were invited to submit written questions, and many did, but none of those questions were asked at the forum. Jacobs said an effort would be made to pose those questions to each candidate at a later, unspecified date.

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All governments are facing cutbacks. We need a plan for the future. I believe government can be made smaller and more effective.

I believe in the family farm and protecting the rights of property owners.

I am co-owner of Curtis Enterprises and Tool. I am also co-owner of Reed Street Auto.

Remember...

**VOTE AUGUST 6th**  
**Wayne Curtis**  
County Commission

(Paid for by Committee to Elect Wayne Curtis, 10581 E. M-79, Nashville, MI 49073)



NOTICE

NOTICE OF VERMONTVILLE

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the Village Council

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**2 FREE GARAGE SALE** signs with your ad that runs in any of our papers. Get them at J-Ad Graphics, 1351 N. M-43 Hwy., Hastings. At the front counter.

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**DAYCARE IN OUR HOME:** rural Nashville area. Looking for dependable person to do light housekeeping and take care of our 4yr old son Monday-Friday. Flexible hours, must have references. Call (616)838-0388 & leave message.

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**PILLOWTOP DELUXE MATTRESS SET:** luxury firm. Any size, brand new, includes frame, \$800 value. Sell \$225. Can deliver. (517)626-7089

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In My Own

Write

by Sandra Ponsetto

# History comes to life in Barry, Eaton Counties

Growing up in a small town on the east side of the state, I always thought history was a complete bore. History was nothing more than dull books filled with the names and dates of battles and other tedious details to be memorized for the next test.

But in the course of my work as a reporter, I have had a chance to learn a lot about Barry County's history and I find it completely fascinating. It's not the places and dates, it's the stories that really makes history come to life for me.

I recently did a story on

an old mill that a Vermontville woman would like to donate for historical preservation.

I went to the farm and photographed the building and collected as much information on the building and the cost of restoring it as I could find. Still, when I sat down to write it up, the article seemed flat and lifeless.

In the course of my research I talked to Peter Forsberg, director of Charlton Park and Historic Village in Hastings, and he told me, "That's why the old-timers who can remember the grist mill are so important. They

have all the stories."

How right he was.

It wasn't until I managed to get in touch with Raymond Hill, who grew up on the farm and remembers the mill when it was working, that I felt I really had a story.

He told me about how much his older brother, Lloyd, loved running the old steam engine that powered the mill and about watching his father and brother chipping away at the mill stone to keep it sharp.

In my mind I saw a clear image of a skinny little boy sitting in a corner watching his brother running the old steam engine, his face flushed with excitement and a sense of importance (something like that must have been pretty heady stuff for a young man in the time before Nintendo and computer games). I heard the clink of hammers and chisels on the old mill stone, I heard the gears turning and the sound of the stones grinding grain.

It was Raymond's stories that brought history to life for me and made it real. It was his stories that breathed life into an article that otherwise would have been very dull.

I feel fortunate that for my daughters because growing up here in Barry County means that learning about history is not just memorizing endless names and dates.

Last year my 10-year-old daughter Katie went to

**See history, page 11**

**Council, from page 9**

as a donation to the village by Hastings City Bank. The council also accepted a bid from Fleis & VanDenbrink for \$2,100 for a phase I environmental site assessment of the same building.

"5,600 bucks total is pretty good to get this building checked out," said Sheldon.

• Heard from local businessman Wayne Curtis, who is running for the seat in on the Barry County Board of Commissioners held by incumbent Jeff McKenzie. Curtis said he wants to represent the interests of people of Nashville and the Village Council and keep them abreast with the activities of the County Board of Commissioners.

"In going door-to-door, I've found that most people in the community don't know who their commissioner is... I would like change that. I would like to be the commissioner that people know."

"I'd like to put out a press release in the Maple Valley News called 'Commis-

ners Corner,' or something like that so that people know what I am doing for them on the county level."

Curtis said he also wanted to be of assistance to people who come before the Village Council and give the council regular updates on the County Board's activities.

• Heard from Lydia Harris, who expressed concern about the expansion of the ambulance building coming too close to the barn on the edge of her property.

The council responded to her concerns, informing her that before any variances were given, there would be a public hearing. And, as a neighboring property owner, she would receive notice of that hearing and would be able to learn the details of the proposed expansion and have her concerns formally addressed at that time.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

### Vote to Re-elect As Your COUNTY COMMISSIONER

5th District; Castleton, Maple Grove & Woodland Townships


# JEFFREY S. MacKENZIE

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- NO TAX INCREASES
- BUDGET SURPLUS  
Barry County completed 2001 with a \$600,000 budget surplus and is on budget for 2002.
- ACCESSIBILITY  
Night meetings of the county board were held in township halls for the first time ever.
- A Discount Prescription Drug Program is being implemented to benefit every county citizen.

**EXPERIENCE:**

- Farmer of 1,000 acres in family business.
- Attorney with degree in accounting from Michigan State University.



**JEFFREY S. MacKENZIE**  
**REPUBLICAN**

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Rod Crothers, Susan Butler, Darla Cady, Jim Heyboer
- **Woodland**  
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- **Castleton**  
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Alan Mater

## History, from page 10

Charlton Park's historic village with her fourth grade class and was totally enthralled with the old buildings and artifacts she saw there. What made it particularly interesting to her was that it wasn't the history of some far off place, it was the history of her hometown.

She loved the old school house. She said it was fun to imagine what it was like to go to school in Hastings when all the grades were in one room together and everybody had to do their work on slates.

So, last week when I was assigned to cover the Civil War muster at Charlton Park, I decided to take my husband and two daughters with me. Little did I know what I was getting myself into.

As we waited at the gate to enter the village, we spotted a group of re-enactors walking along the road dressed in period garb.

"Mom, I feel like I'm not dressed right," said the always fashion conscious Katie, looking down at her GAP shorts and tank top.

"Don't worry, Katie, there will be lots of other spectators dressed just like us," I said.

Katie sighed and didn't look terribly reassured as she watched a lady riding side-saddle gallop her horse around the field behind the Upjohn House, the skirt of her blue satin riding dress billowing out behind her.

As soon as we entered the historic village, we came upon a Civil War era wedding party posing for photographs on the steps of the church.

Katie drank in every detail of the scene. Then, when she turned and saw the sutler's tents set up on the village green selling authentic and reproduction Civil War period wares to both spectators and costumed re-enac-

tors, I saw a fervor in her eyes that had previously been reserved for figure skating.

"Mom, I want to be a re-enactor. Why don't we get costumes and come next year? Do you think they have a dress that will fit me?" asked Katie as she led the way to a tent with ladies dresses prominently displayed outside.

"Well I don't know..." I said as I was pulled inside the tent. "I guess we could look and, if nothing else, we could buy a pattern and have dress made for you... it would make a great Halloween costume."

About two hours, \$50 and one cranky father later, Katie finally consented to leaving the sutler's tents and take in the rest of the village

and encampment.

Later that afternoon my family found a place in the shade on the hill overlooking the field behind the Upjohn House where the battle re-enactment was to occur and I went off to try to get as many good photos of the action as I could.

When I ran out of film and returned to collect my family, Katie was still watching the battle with unabashed interest.

"Mom, did you see that woman on the battlefield? She was wearing a reform dress!" said Katie as she pointed to a woman wearing a dress with a short, full skirt with a pair of matching trousers underneath.

Katie had just finished reading a book in the American Girl series about a young girl whose mother wore a reform dress both for practical reasons and as a political statement about the

oppression of women in the workplace after the Civil War.

Becky did not care about reform dresses, or mock battles for that matter. I found her with her face buried in my camera bag and her fingers in her ears.

"Can we leave yet?" she implored and flinched as yet another cannon blast echoed across the field.

"Oh well, I guess we just have one young history buff in the family," I sighed.

Still I wasn't really upset. After all, maybe the Civil War just wasn't her era...

That evening at home, I couldn't help but smile as I watched Katie avidly reading one of her Dear America books, this one about a young girl's adventures during the Civil War.

Sure, Katie's interest in history has its roots in her love of fashion; but, hey, she's reading and learning about history-- I don't care what motivates it.

## To the Editor

### Sheriff backs Birkholz

To the editor:

As the sheriff of Eaton County, I write to share that Patty Birkholz is my choice for our next State Senator from the 24th Senate District.

The 24th District now includes all of Eaton, Allegan and Barry counties.

Birkholz is a hard worker who clearly understands the demands placed on the law enforcement community in light of 9/11. She believes that the safety of our citizens

is the highest priority. Along with local departments, she has worked hard to give us the tools to break up methamphetamine laboratories to protect the public and to punish those who are caught drunk driving.

We know Birkholz will be a senator we can be proud of and urge you to cast your vote for her Aug. 6 in the Republican primary election.

Rick Jones,  
Sheriff, Eaton County

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HEALTH SERVICES

## The Maple Valley Athletic Boosters wish to thank the following businesses for their support of the student athletes of Maple Valley at our 2nd Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser.

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The athletic Boosters also wish to thank Harold and Sharon Stewart  
and Kevin and Kim Stewart for their generous donation to the  
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VERMONTVILLE



# Grace Community Church helps refinish 'S.S. Relish'

Members of two cell groups from Grace Community Church in Nashville and four members of the Clown Dreamland organization were in Putnam Park last Thursday to refinish the "S.S. Relish" play structure.

The groups from Grace purchased the materials for the refinishing and donated

their time and energy to the project.

The play structure was dedicated Oct. 3, 1996 as a memorial for Treah Spencer, a child who had died in a traffic accident two years earlier.

The play structure was "christened" the S. S. Relish in honor of an afternoon

Treah had spent with one of her friends just prior to her death. The two were playing in a small raft in the friend's backyard and ate a jar of relish as a snack while "on board."

The money for the structure was raised by the Clown Dreamland organization through a variety of



Volunteers from Grace Community Church and the Clown Dreamland Organization pose for a picture after refinishing the S.S. Relish play structure.

At right:

Grant and Evan Andrinson lend a helping hand.



community fund-raisers such as a circus, a Mexican Fiesta and floats and participation in the talent show at the Vermontville Syrup Festival.

Aubrey Murphy of the Clown Dreamland Organization said that the group still has \$4,000 in its coffers. She said they are trying to decide if the money should go toward the purchase of more playground equipment or if it should be turned into a scholarship.

Bottom right:

Volunteers from Grace Community Church in Nashville and the Clown Dreamland organization refinish the S.S. Relish in Putnam Park.



## MAPLE VALLEY YOUTH FOOTBALL SIGNUP

August 1st at MVHS Cafe  
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Grades 4th - 8th

Copy of birth certificate and physical before August 12th practice starts

Prices: \$50.00 league fee  
\$35.00 shirt (if needed)  
\$6.00 insurance  
\$91.00 total

Any questions call...

Rob Goris - 852-0735 or Jeff Fisher - 726-1194



Reg. or Hot Homemade <b>Breakfast Sausage</b> \$1.49 lb	<b>Deli Roast Beef</b> \$2.99 lb	<b>Whole Beef Tenderloins</b> \$7.99 lb	<b>Pork Steak</b> \$1.49 lb
"Kid's Week" <i>Kids Are Special!</i>	<b>Boneless Baby Back Ribs</b> \$3.19 lb	<b>New York Strip Steak</b> \$4.09 lb	<b>Bar S Polish or Smoked Sausage</b> \$1.09 12 oz
MILK Bareman's 2% Milk \$1.99 Gal.	46 oz. Juicy Juice New: Apple, Grape, Tropical, Orange Tan 2/\$4	Asst. Var. Kool-Aid 7/\$1	15 oz. Parade Spaghetti Rings 2/\$1
16 oz. Bareman's Sour Cream \$1.19	Asst. Var. 2 Liters Pepsi \$1.19	Smucker's Grape Jelly or Jam 99¢	Asst. Var. 16.3-17.3 oz. Pillsbury Grands! Biscuits 99¢
4 ct. Kleenex Double Roll Bath Tissue 2/\$4	8-10 pk. Kellogg's Fun Pak Cereal 2/\$4	16-17.6 oz. Asst. Var. Mueller's Pasta 3/\$2	Amish Potato Salad \$1.09 lb

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