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# Mackenzie edges Curtis in county commission race

by David T. Young  
Editor

The primary election Tuesday, Aug. 6, in Barry County brought few changes to local government, as Republican incumbents and fa-

vorites generally carried the day.

However, there was one upset and a couple of horse races, one for Fifth District County Commissioner and the heated contest for 24th

District State Senator between State Rep. Patty Birkholz and former State Rep. Terry Geiger. Birkholz, despite being outpolled by about three to one (3,446 to 1,138) by Geiger in his

home Barry County territory, won Allegan County handily and took Eaton County to secure the victory. Joe Wicks was a distant third.

Geiger served three, two-

year terms in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1995 to 2001, representing all of Lake Odessa and about half of Ionia County in the 87th District. Birkholz is finishing her third term in the Michigan House as the representatives from 88th District, which takes in nearly all of Allegan County.

The senate campaign easily was the nastiest in these parts. Birkholz in the last week sent a flyer out attacking Geiger for his arrest for drunk driving last February. Beverlee Reinking DeJonge, an Allegan County Commissioner, sent a flyer Monday and Tuesday to more than 4,000 homes in the district, claiming Birkholz preaches family values, but in 1982 she wrecked Reinking's family with an affair with her husband. Birkholz has denied the allegations, saying she dated Reinking DeJonge's husband while he was legally separated.

One incumbent on the Barry County Board of Commissioners, Tom Wilkinson in the First District (city of Hastings), went down to defeat. Wilkinson was finishing his first two-year term on the board before he was unseated Tuesday night by retiring Barry County Sheriff's Deputy Donald Nevins by a vote of 263 to 211. Former Barry County Register of Deeds Sandy Schondelmayer, under investigation by federal and state authorities for hunting violations, received 76 votes.

Barry County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jeffrey MacKenzie overcame a strong challenge by Wayne Curtis, prevailing by a 338 to 303 count to win his third two-year term on the board. The Fifth District includes Woodland, Castleton and Maple Grove town-



Jeff MacKenzie

ships.

One important issue in the County Board primary races was the recent decision to spend more than \$3 million from delinquent tax fund to locate a Commission on Aging facility and new Health Department building.

The board's decision apparently earned strong voter approval in the primary election, as all commissioners who voted for the project ran unopposed or won their primaries. Wilkinson was one of two dissenters, along with Tom Wing, who ran unopposed in the primary in the Seventh District.

Board Vice Chairwoman Sandy James faced a strong challenge from Monica Rappaport, director of the Barry Conservation District, but triumphed by a count of 402 to 307 in the Third Commissioners' District, which takes in Hope and Rutland townships. She will face no opposition in the Nov. 5 general election and will be elected to her sixth term.

The other incumbent who fought off a primary challenge was Wayne Adams in

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## The Revue announces cast of '12 jurors'

The Revue, the theater group that performs in the Vermontville Opera House, has announced the cast for its production next month of "12 Angry Jurors."

"The Revue continues to break records and this production is no exception," said spokesperson Pat Hanson. "We have never had this many audition for a fall show before. Our cast comes from Nashville, Vermontville, Hastings, Lansing and Charlotte.

The cast is as follows: Foreman of the Jury, Nate

Smith; Juror 2, Elizabeth Favre; Juror 3, Gary Mitchell; Juror 4, Mark Jarvie; Juror 5, John Boggs; Juror 6, Ray Hole; Juror 7, Mary Jo Gorsuch; Juror 8, Debbie Lundeen; Juror 9, Herb Kirchoff; Juror 10 Wayne Joubert; Juror 11 Rebecca Pulsifer; Juror 12, Amy Parish; Guard, Bill Reynolds.

The play was written by Reginald Rose in 1954 after being a juror on a manslaughter case. He went on to write for "The Twilight Zone" and "The Defenders"

and many other television shows.

The plot revolves around 11 jurors who are convinced that the defendant is guilty of murder. The 12th juror has no doubt of his innocence. How can one juror steer the others toward the same conclusion? It is a case of seemingly overwhelming evidence against a teenager accused of killing his father — a play that is designed to make the audience feel like they are part of the jury process.

Show times are scheduled

for Sept. 5 -7 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 8, at 3 p.m.

Tickets are available at the door. They are \$7 for adults, seniors and students \$6, and children 12 and under \$5.

All performances will be held at the Vermontville Opera House, located at 211 N. Main Street in Vermontville.

For more information, call Bill Reynolds at (616) 367-4455 or e-mail therevue1@yahoo.com.

## Lost elderly couple hurt when car hits house

by Shelly Sulser  
Staff Writer

An 86-year-old Melvin, Mich., man suspected of suffering from Alzheimers disease was behind the wheel of a pickup truck Wednesday that crossed Casgrove Street, struck an embankment and came to rest against a house, accord-

ing to the Nashville Police Department.

Officer Tim Griffin said Stanley Ross Young had been to pick up his passenger, Gwendolyn Burnett, 76 of Hermitage, Tenn.

"He went to Tennessee to pick her up and they were on their way home to Melvin," said Griffin referring

to a tiny Sanilac County town in Michigan's thumb.

The couple was traveling south on Main Street (M-66) at about 9 p.m. when the truck approached the 500 block of Casgrove Street, struck the embankment, and continued over the front lawn and into the front of the home.

The home is across Casgrove Street from the South End Party Store.

"There was only one person home," said Griffin. "No one was hurt in the house."

Young and Burnett were taken by Nashville Ambulance personnel to Pennock Hospital in Hastings, where they were listed in stable condition Thursday.

"The vehicle is probably totaled," said Griffin.

No estimate on the house damage was available and it is not known if the victims were wearing seat belts at the time of the crash.

Alcohol is not believed to be a factor in the cause and no citations were issued because the accident is still under investigation by the Nashville Police Department, Griffin said.

Police did say, however, it appears Young may have been traveling faster than the posted speed limit for the area.

Also responding to the scene was the Nashville Fire Department.

Griffin said he does not know why the couple's route to Melvin included Nashville.



The embankment was sheared and the Casgrove Street house (in background) was damaged when a pickup truck left the roadway and crashed Aug. 7.

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- Special savings program offered to low income people

## Election results, continued from page 1

the Eighth District. He defeated James Alden 348 to 279.

Both MacKenzie's and Adams' races were re-matches from two years ago. MacKenzie defeated Curtis by 108 votes in the year 2000. The Adams-Alden race numbers two years ago were remarkably similar to Tuesday's, 337 to 286.

The Eighth District covers Prairieville and Barry townships.

There were a couple of rarities in the election — two primary races between two Democrats.

In the Fourth County Commission District race (Hastings and Carlton townships), veteran candidate

John Loftus defeated newcomer David Yonker 251 to 164. Loftus had been a candidate several times in the Second District, losing to Republicans Robert Wenger and James French, but he is now in the Fourth District because of redistricting. He will face Republican Ken Neil this time in the general election. Neil was unopposed Tuesday and raked in 636 votes.

Rebecca Lukasiewicz of Hastings did extremely well in her first-ever try for office as she outpolled Seymour VanDerske of Lyons 2,543 to 616 in Barry County to win the right to face incumbent Republican Gary Newell for 87th District State

Representative, which also includes about half of Ionia County. Lukasiewicz took landslide proportions of nearly 80 percent of the total vote in Barry County.

She faces a daunting task of competing with Newell in November, however. Newell had 4,502 votes on the Republican side.

Other Barry County Commission Republican incumbents who faced no opposition Tuesday were Jim French in the Second District, 532 votes; Clare Tripp in the Sixth District, 538; and Tom Wing in the Seventh, 459. Democrat Melvin Goebel polled 429 votes in the Eighth District and will face Adams Nov. 5.

Barry County reflected the landslide victory enjoyed by Lt. Gov. Richard Posthumus in the GOP primary. Posthumus, who was born in Hastings and graduated from Caledonia High School, received a whopping 4,330 votes, outpolling Joe Schwarz, who had 774.

On the Democratic side of the gubernatorial race, Attorney General Jennifer Granholm scored heavily here by claiming 2,869 votes to 527 for Congressman David Bonior and 351 for comeback-minded former Gov. James Blanchard. Granholm took about 75 percent in the three-way contest in Barry County, far above her winning numbers statewide of just under 50

percent.

The highest vote total of any candidate went to incumbent Republican Congressman Vern Ehlers of Grand Rapids, who had 4,552. His Democratic opponent in November, Kathryn D. Lynnes, had 2,920 votes.

Republican challenger Andrew Raczkowski was unopposed in his bid for the nomination for U.S. Senator, and had 4,096 votes. Incumbent Democrat Carl Levin had 3,242.

Both state-wide proposals were approved in the county, as they were overall in Michigan.

The first, to force state legislators to vote on their pay raises, as recommended

by the State Officers Compensation Commission, passed 6,394 to 2,035, better than 75 percent. The second, to increase investment options and funding allowed for parks and recreation, won by 4,910 to 3,511.

Three townships in the county had millage questions. The results:

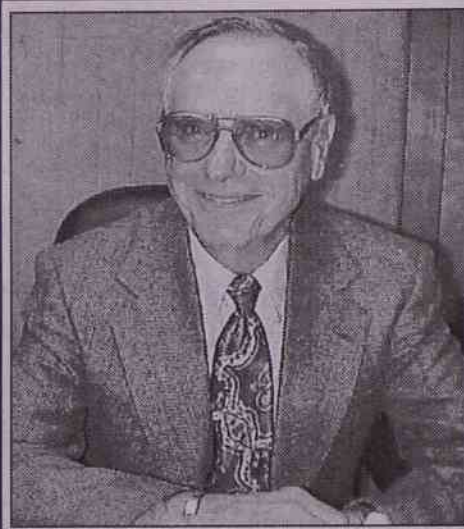
**Johnstown Township** — Voters approved renewals for fire protection and road improvements, 343 to 99 and 342 to 98.

**Prairieville Township** — Three renewal proposals, for fire and police protection and for roads, all passed handily, 446 to 147, 414 to 182 and 420 to 169, respectively. However, a proposed millage increase for fire was turned down 358 to 218 and millage increase for roads was rejected 363 to 219.

**Woodland Township** — A proposed renewal of the township's extra voted millage for road maintenance was approved 293 to 102.

The total vote was just under 23 percent, according to the Barry County Clerk's office.

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## Students may pick up school schedules

Maple Valley Junior-Senior High School students in eighth through 12th grades, are encouraged to pick up their schedules and locker assignments from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Students will or have received in the mail a letter with a student information form which needs to be returned when students pick up their schedules and locker assignments. Extra forms will be available in the office if needed, but this form must be completed and turned in before students receive their schedule and locker assignments. Seniors also will receive a Senior Name Form, which must be turned in, before receiving their schedules.

Information is being mailed to parents of seventh-graders about seventh

grade orientation, which will be held Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 6 p.m.

Classes will begin on Monday, Aug. 26.

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Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m.  
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Prayer Meeting ..... 7 p.m.  
PASTOR GLENN BRANHAM

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P.M. Worship ..... 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening:  
Worship ..... 7 p.m.  
REV. ALAN METTLER

### CHESTER GOSPEL CHURCH

3744 W. Vermontville Hwy.  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Family  
Night Service ..... 6:45 p.m.  
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Phone: 543-5488

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

110 S. Main, Vermontville  
Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Church School ..... 10 a.m.  
Fellowship Time  
After Worship  
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### SOUTH KALAMO CHURCH

Corner of Kalamo Highway & Ionia Rd.  
Sunday A.M.  
Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening at 7 p.m.:  
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Youth Group • Adult Worship  
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Sunday School ..... 10 a.m.  
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Adult Class ..... 10:50 a.m.  
PASTOR JEFF BOWMAN

### NORTH KALAMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Service ..... 9:30 a.m.  
PASTOR MARK THOMPSON

### MAPLE GROVE BIBLE CHURCH

8593 Cloverdale Road  
(1/2 mile East of M-66,  
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P.M. Service ..... 6 p.m.  
PASTOR GEORGE GAY

### NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

304 Phillips St., Nashville  
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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

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Sunday School ..... 11:15 a.m.  
PASTOR DIANNE BOWDEN  
At Home: 852-0685  
Church Phone: 852-2043

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Sunday Evening Service ..... 6 p.m.  
Wed. Evening Service ..... 7 p.m.  
AWANA ..... 7-8:30 p.m. Wed.  
PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH

### VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

108 N. Main, Vermontville  
Sunday School ..... 10 a.m.  
Church Service ..... 11 a.m.  
PASTOR JEFF BOWMAN

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Sunday Mass ..... 9 a.m.  
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## In My Own Write by Sandra Ponsetto

# No news is good news?

They told me there would be days like this. The only problem is I didn't expect them to come so soon.

Everyone tried to warn me that it's nearly impossible to fill the Maple Valley News in the summer because, "nothing ever happens out there."

No way, I thought. Being a relative newcomer to the area, I've found it to be really full of interesting new people and places.

Unfortunately, for people around here, a lot of what I think is news is just the same old same old; a picturesque abandoned school and church on State Road in Castleton Township ("been there"), an interesting local hobbyist ("done that"), ru-

mors of a ghost at the local library ("interesting, but is it news?").

What's a reporter to do? Well, Monday morning I did what any intrepid, resourceful reporter would do; I got on the phone and called all my local sources and followed up on any and all story leads. I left phone messages everywhere then I sat back and waited for my phone to ring. I waited. Then I waited some more.

On Tuesday morning I was still waiting. A colleague suggested that I drive around the Maple Valley area and take photos of kids enjoying summer activities. After all, if you don't have any news, you can always fill the paper with photos,

right? The only problem was that I had already tried that several times this summer and I have yet to see any children enjoying outdoor summer activities in Nashville and Vermontville. I could understand staying indoors when the temperature was over 90 degrees, but the weather last week was perfect. Where are the kids? (I'm not sure, but I have a feeling that Gameboy and Nintendo might be factors).

Wednesday, I realized that I had hit rock bottom when a co-worker found me at my desk, slumped over the back of my chair, spinning in circles and making motorboat noises.

I had to ask myself, was

this the way for a mature, responsible 40-year old reporter to act?

Probably not. After all, I had a newspaper to write. A good newspaper sells ads, selling ads makes the boss happy. If the boss is happy, I keep my job — and that makes me happy.

So, I got on the phone and called my sources again. A couple of them said they would look into some things for me, the others told me politely but firmly, "Don't call me; I'll call you." (OK, I can take a hint!)

Thursday, night rolled around and I had a village council meeting to attend — at last a guaranteed story! And I wasn't disappointed. Normally I dislike discord, but I found that I was taking a rather fiendish delight in the strong rhetoric a local business owner used when addressing the council. To understand this delight, see what I call the "media food chain" back in paragraph 10 (i.e., a good newspaper sells ads, selling ads makes the boss happy...).

Friday morning got even better when one of my most

reliable sources called me with two story leads. I was on cloud nine. The only problem was I only had six hours to write them up for this week's issue (but hey, I'm not complaining. As I have said before, I thrive on stress!)

Anyway, kids, put down the Gameboy and Nintendo and get outside and enjoy the summer before its over — school starts in just two weeks! Not only that, you never know when your

friendly local reporter may be out and about taking pictures for the paper.

And parents and other adults in the community, if you are so moved to have pity on a poor, starving reporter and you know of something that would make an interesting story for the Maple Valley News, give me a call at (269) 945-9554 or write me at 1351 N. M-43 Highway, Hastings, MI 49058. I'm really quite harmless (I promise!)

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# Final auditions tonight for Thornapple Players

The Thornapple Players will have their final auditions for the comedy/mystery "No Crime Like The Present" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. tonight, Tuesday, Aug. 13 at the Fish Hatchery building.

There are roles for six men and seven women, plus extras. According to producer Norma Jean Acker, "As usual there will be a variety of behind the scenes jobs that need to be done. We couldn't put on the play without the help of many hands."

The fall play will be directed by Carolyn Bush, and Barbara Pruden will be the assistant director.

Rehearsals will be held at Fish Hatchery Park Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Exact times will be announced at auditions. There will be a mandatory Sunday rehearsal Sept. 29 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Central Elementary School. The show will go up Oct. 3, 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m. each night at Central. Before auditioning for the play, local actors should be sure

they are available for all the rehearsal dates.

The Thornapple Players will be selling cookies during Summerfest. Proceeds will go to support the Thornapple Players productions.

The Thornapple Players' float in the Summerfest parade will provide a sneak peek at the mysterious goings on in "No Crime Like The Present."

Call Acker at 945-2332 or the Thornapple Arts Council at 945-2002 with questions about auditions for the fall play.

# High school to host 'be an 11' seminar

Being an "11" on a scale of one to ten will be the focus of a special "Be an 11" seminar at 8:30 a.m. at Maple Valley Junior-Senior High School Saturday, Aug. 17.

The message will be delivered by James Brown, a BFS (Bigger, Faster, Stronger) clinician from Missouri.

The seminar is open to the public. All Maple Valley student-athletes and parents particularly are being encouraged to attend this one-time seminar about positive thinking, leadership devel-

opment and social responsibility.

The seminar will be followed by a Booster Club luncheon and the day's activities will conclude with a BFS refresher clinic.

All Maple Valley staff members are invited to attend as well.

This seminar will count toward the teachers' required professional development day, which is to be completed on their own.

For more information, call Mike Sparks at 852-9275.

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DIGITAL/STADIUM SEATING  
12:20, 2:25, 5:00, 7:20, 9:25

**SIGNS (PG-13)**

11:45, 2:10, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15

**AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER (PG-13)**

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| <p><b>Joan &amp; Homer Winegar, GRI</b> ..... Eves. 726-0223</p> <p><b>Nyle Wells, GRI (Assoc. Broker)</b> ..... 726-1234</p> <p><b>Jerry Reese (Sales Associate)</b> ..... 852-5066</p>  | <p><b>SELLERS MOTIVATED! WILL CONSIDER ALL REASONABLE OFFERS!</b></p> <p>4 or 5 bedroom, 2 story house with 5+ car garage on huge shaded 1.7 acre lot. Newer roof, updated electric service workshop, enclosed porch, all major appliances included. All yours for \$89,000. Call Jerry. (N-164)</p> | <p><b>AFFORDABLE COUNTRY LIVING!</b></p> <p>Cute 3 bedroom, 1 bath home on 1 acre with 2 car garage &amp; additional shop or storage area. Priced to buy. Call Nyle. (CH-167)</p>  |
| <p><b>NASHVILLE - CLOSE TO STORES</b></p> <p>4 bedroom newer ranch on corner lot. Full basement, one block from downtown. Great starter or retirement home. Listed at \$89,900. Call Jerry or Homer for more details. (N-162)</p>   | <p><b>COUNTRY LIVING AT ITS BEST! SOUTH OF NASHVILLE ON BLACKTOP ROAD.</b></p> <p>3 bedrooms, 2 baths, full walkout basement, 2 car garage, fenced back yard are just a few of the features. This one won't last! Call Nyle today! (CH-166)</p>  | <p><b>REDUCED TO \$174,900! "IN COUNTRY" ON MAIN ROAD NASHVILLE ON 3 ACRES.</b></p> <p>SPACIOUS LOG HOME IN SECLUDED SETTING, IN THE WOODS. 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, great room with fireplace, den, finished basement, central air, south of Nashville on M-66. Give Jerry a call to see. (CH-159)</p> |
| <p><b>IN COUNTRY ON 10 ACRES NASHVILLE.</b></p> <p>Beautifully updated &amp; remodeled farm house on 10 +/- acres, oak kitchen cabinets, garden area, fruit trees, too many newer updates to mention. Central air, peaceful setting, horse lovers take a look! Call Jerry. \$159,900. (CH-168)</p>  | <p><b>STATELY HOME IN NASHVILLE - OCCUPANCY AT CLOSE!</b></p> <p>Stately older home with many recent renovations. Great master suite, formal dining room, fenced backyard, corner lot, good option for "no down" financing. Call Nyle to explore the options. (N-163)</p>                            | <p><b>VERMONTVILLE CLOSE TO STORES</b></p> <p>2 bedroom, 1990 single wide mobile home with cathedral ceiling, large master bedroom, shows well on large corner lot. Call Nyle. (V-158)</p>   |
| <p align="center"><b>VACANT LAND:</b></p> <p align="center">BUILDING LOT IN VERMONTVILLE!</p> <p align="center">Suitable for "walk-out" basement, wooded, good location, all surveyed. Call Nyle for details. City water &amp; sewer. (VL-150)</p> <p align="center"><b>7 ACRE PARCEL AND A 10 ACRE PARCEL</b></p> <p align="center">Both north of Vermontville on black top road. Both have possible pond sites, &amp; possible walkout building sites, surveyed, perked &amp; driveway permits. Parcels are seeded to hay. Natural gas available on 7 acre parcel. Call Homer. (VL-137 &amp; 145)</p> |  |  |

YOU'BE ONE OF E 70%?  
 ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
 VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH  
 VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 MOST HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

# Sunfield Farmers Picnic is Aug. 14-18

The Sunfield Farmers Picnic will be celebrated Wednesday, Aug. 14, through Sunday, Aug. 18.

Sunfield salutes "American Heroes" this year with the colors red, white and blue.

### Wednesday Aug. 14

- 6 p.m. SPY's ball games.

### Thursday Aug. 15

- 5 p.m. Farmers Picnic Pig roast sponsored by the Farmers Picnic committee.

- 6 p.m. Ball games.
- 7-8 p.m. Reception for grand marshals Ed and Eunice Black.

### Friday Aug. 16

- 10 a.m. Open class crafts judging.

- Noon to 6 p.m. Open class exhibits.

- 4:30 Chicken barbecue,

sponsored by the Sunfield United Brethren Church.

- 5 to 9 p.m. Arts and crafts sale and independent retail booths.

- 6 p.m. SPY's ball games.

- 6 p.m. Puff the Dragon Peddle Pull.

- 7 p.m. Firemen's bingo.

- 7 p.m. Prince and Princess contest.

- 7:30 p.m. Family scavenger hunt.

- 8 to 11 p.m. Local bands Erik Rishel, Liz Smith, Amanda Wells, Enoch, Walter Ego, Red Cord reunion.

### Saturday Aug. 17

- 7 to 11 a.m. pancake breakfast, sponsored by the Sunfield 4-H served in the Community Room on Main Street.

- 8 a.m. SPY's ball

games.

- 9 a.m. SPY's three-on-three basketball games.

- 10 a.m. All booths are open.

- 10 to 6 p.m. Arts and Craft show.

- 10 to 6 p.m. Independent retail booths from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- 10 to 4 p.m. G.A.R. Hall open (closed during the parade).

- Noon Parade.

- Horseshoes after the parade.

- Firemen's bingo after the parade.

- 1 to 3 p.m. Sunfield Parents Group cake walk.

- 2 p.m. Frog jumping contest.

- 3 p.m. Ming the Mag-

nificent Magician sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

- 3:30 p.m. Family games - pie eating, watermelon eating and relays.

- 5 p.m. Lions Ox Roast.

- 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Nashville Strings.

- 6 to 7:30 Corn Cob Cloggers.

- 8 p.m. Rainbow of Talent variety show.

- 10 p.m. fireworks/pyrotechnic.

### Sunday, Aug. 18

- 11 a.m. Community church service in the tent at the park.

- 2 to 4 p.m. Poorman Pullers Mini Modified Tractor Pull.

- 2 p.m. Food vendors open.



## Landons to celebrate golden wedding anniversary

In honor of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Landon, their children and grandchildren request the pleasure of your company at a Buffet Reception on Saturday, the seventeenth of August two thousand and two at their home from 2 to 6 p.m.

**Barry County Homemakers**  
**45th Christmas Crafts Show**  
Middle School in Hastings  
**Saturday, Nov. 2nd, 2002**  
Now renting craft spaces \$35 - 8x10'  
Non-profit groups \$15 and \$20  
**Nancy Durbin, 269-945-9573**  
traveler49058@yahoo.com

## Practices underway for fall prep sports

Here we go again. Another school year of sports opened last Thursday with the first official practices for high school boys' golf teams. The other seven fall sports statewide — girls' basketball, boys' and

girls' cross country, football, boys' soccer, girls' swimming and girls' tennis — held their first practices Monday.

An up-to-date physical examination is required to participate in any school-sponsored sport. Students still interested in participating in a fall sport can obtain specific tryout and practice information from the Maple Valley High School athletic office at 517-852-9275.

## Obituaries

### Edward Potter McKinstry

HASTINGS - Edward Potter McKinstry, age 86, of Hastings, died August 5, 2002.

Mr. McKinstry was born April 21, 1916, the son of Vern E. and Katherine E. Potter.

He served with the U.S. Army during World War II and completed ten years of serving his country.

He was a member of the American Legion and enjoyed bowling and golf for many years.

Mr. McKinstry had been a civil engineer with the city of Lansing for 15 years,

retiring in 1974.

He is survived by his wife, Jean; daughter, Gail P. (Cliff) Perkins, Dimondale; two sons, James E. (Janet) McKinstry, Hastings, and Ronald R. McKinstry, Mason; eight grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren; sister, Betty Dohr, Portland.

A memorial service was held Friday, Aug. 9, 2002, at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, Mich. Pastor C. Greene officiated. Interment followed in Chapel Hill Cemetery.

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

**Call 945-9554**  
**for Maple**  
**Valley News**  
**classified ads**

**Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission**  
**Presents**  
**"A Celebration of American Music—**  
**Country & Blues!"**  
**FREE SUMMER CONCERT IN**  
**THE PARK**  
**& ANNUAL FIREMAN'S**  
**CHICKEN BARBECUE**  
**Saturday, August 24, 2002**  
**4:00 P.M.—9:30 P.M.**  
**Lake Odessa Village Park**

**Featuring Local Musical Artists:**

- **Mustang**—With their kickin' country rhythms and rock and roll guitar licks, they're best thought of as Montgomery Gentry meets Blondie.
- **Cowboy Logic**—Traditional country sound mixed liberally with modern country flair. Featuring Davina Wood and Bart Hansen from Nashville, TN.
- **Chance Encounter**—Back by popular demand—The consummate horn rock/show band. Sporting a brass section with trumpet and sax, along with lead and bass guitars, keyboard, drums, and male and female lead singers.
- **Beats Settin' Home**—Bear, Jim and Al love to pick and sing the best of American bluegrass music. They'll entertain you with ballads, love songs, sea shanties, topical tunes, jokes, sing alongs, stories and dancing - lines, squares, rounds and reels. Come jam with us!

Refreshment booths  
Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission 50/50 Raffle  
Part of the First Annual Lake Odessa Summer Splash  
August 23 -25

Come join us for a picnic in the park and free live entertainment to celebrate the end of the summer. Brought to you by the Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Migrant program, administered by the Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids.

**Be their Hero**  
**from age Zero**

**LOVE**  
**Free Family Fun Night**  
*For children birth through five and their parents*  
**August 16, 2002**  
**5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**  
Dinner at 6:00 pm  
**Maple Valley High School**  
Call to register: (517) 852-9699 or  
(517) 645-4500

*"Love doesn't make the work go 'round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile." -Franklin P. Jones*

**To get our newsletter with more parenting ideas and information, call Early Childhood Connections at (517) 645-4500**

**Early Childhood Connections** 400 S. Nelson St., Pottsville, MI 48876  
(517) 645-4500 • Toll Free (866) 215-KIDS

## Summer Splash will feature concert in the park Aug. 24



"Beats Sittin' Home" performs at 8:30 on Aug. 24 at the Lake Odessa Village Park.

The Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission is sponsoring a free concert in the park Saturday afternoon/evening, Aug. 24, at the Village Park. The four-band concert is part of the Lake Odessa Summer Splash.

The concert will start a 4 p.m. with "Mustang," a country rhythms rock and roll band. They have vocalists, drummers, guitar players and a saxophone. Their music has been compared to

"Montgomery Gentry meets Blondie."

At 5:30 p.m. the group "Cowboy Logic" takes the stand. They have been part of the local country music scene in Grand Rapids since 1999. In 2000, "Cowboy Logic" won the WSCG Radio True Value Country Showdown in Greenville.

At 7 p.m., "Chance Encounter" takes over. This is a horn/rock show band. It has a trumpet section and sax along with lead and bass

guitars.

"Beats Sittin' Home" plays at 8:30. This group sings American folk music with ballads, love songs, sea shanties, sing-alongs and line dancing.

This concert is made possible by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs Mini-grant program and administered by the Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids.



Davina Wood



Bart Hansen

## Ways to teach kids responsibility

Children learn by observing the world around them. By imitating what their parents, friends and teachers do they often learn what "proper behavior" really involves, from follow-through with tasks to following directions. It's important to show your children that you take satisfaction in acting properly and accomplishing difficult tasks.

Here are some easy tips from the U.S. Department of Education on how to inspire children to act responsibly.

Through your daily activities, show your chil-

dren that you care about a job well done.

Perhaps children's most important tasks are their school assignments both in and out of class. When you check homework and constructively point out mistakes, you help teach them see not only how the error occurred, but how to read over their own work. By allowing them to correct their own mistakes, parents can inspire self-confidence. Be sure to congratulate your child on his or her good efforts.

Teaching self-respect does not mean compli-

menting everything they do. Children also need honest criticism from time to time. When you do criticize, be sure to do it constructively; it should be about things your child has done, not him or her personally.

Most of all, help children form the self-confidence and self-respect that come from opportunities to do good work as students or as family members.

Helping our children form self-respect is based on how we treat them and our own example.

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# WELCOME BACK TO MAPLE VALLEY SCHOOLS

**First Day of Classes: Monday, August 26, 2002**

**Building Starting Times:**

**Fuller Elementary - 8:00 a.m.**

**Maplewood School - 8:00 a.m.**

**Jr./Sr. High - 8:00 a.m.**

**For A Smooth Start For Your Child...**

**Attend Your School's OPEN HOUSE**

**7th Grade Orientation - Wednesday, August 21 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Fuller Elementary - Thursday, August 22 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

**Maplewood School - Thursday, August 22 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

## STUDENT REGISTRATION

**Elementary Buildings:** K-3 grade students should register at Fuller Elementary in Nashville and 4-6th grade students should register at Maplewood School in Vermontville from 8:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**Jr./Sr. High School:** New students may register anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

**ALL STUDENTS MUST have an original birth certificate and proof of updated immunizations.**

Bus Schedules: Bus routes will initially run near the same times as last year. Allow 15 min. flex until routes are established. For new student transportation arrangements: Call 852-9421

### 2002-2003 GENERAL DISTRICT CALENDAR

August 26 - First Day of School  
August 30 - September 2 - No School, Labor Day Weekend  
November 6 & 7 - Parent/Teacher Conferences  
November 8 - No School, Friday of Parent Conferences  
November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving Break  
December 21 - January 5 - Christmas Break  
February 17 - No School, Staff Training Day  
March 26 & 27 - Parent/Teacher Conferences  
April 4 - April 13 - Spring Break  
April 18 - No School, Good Friday  
April 25 - No School, Staff Training Day  
May 26 - No School, Memorial Day  
June 10 - Last Day of School

### BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

*(7:00 p.m. in Jr./Sr. HS Library)*

August 12, 2002  
September 9, 2002  
October 14, 2002  
November 11, 2002  
December 9, 2002  
January 13, 2003  
February 10, 2003  
March 10, 2003  
April 21, 2003  
May 12, 2003  
June 9, 2003

### MAPLE VALLEY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

*The Maple Valley school community believes that all students are entitled to a comprehensive education through the curriculum we will nurture the academic, physical, social, cultural and emotional potential of all students to encourage them to become productive citizens with life-long learning skills.*

# MAPLE VALLEY FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

**- GOLF -**

|       |                           |   |       |
|-------|---------------------------|---|-------|
| 8/14  | TK INVITE YANKEE SPRINGS  | A | 8:00  |
| 8/15  | BARRY CO INVITE DELTON    | A | 11:00 |
| 8/16  | EATON RAPIDS JV           | A | 7:00  |
| 8/20  | LESLIE BLACKHAWK INVITE   | A | 9:30  |
| 9/3   | OLIVET                    | A | 4:15  |
| 9/4   | PENNFIELD INCLUDE JV      | A | 4:00  |
| 9/6   | J-AD BARRY CO HASTINGS CC | A | 12:30 |
| 9/9   | BELLEVUE                  | A | 4:15  |
| 9/11  | ALBION JV                 | A | 1:00  |
| 9/11  | LESLIE                    | A | 4:15  |
| 9/14  | PEWAMO-WEST               | A | 9:30  |
| 9/16  | SMAA MULBERRY FORE        | H | 4:15  |
| 9/20  | PEWAMO-WEST               | A | 9:45  |
| 9/21  | EATON RAPIDS              | A | 8:15  |
| 9/23  | WEBBERVILLE               | A | 4:15  |
| 9/30  | LANSING CHRISTIAN         | A | 4:15  |
| 10/5  | SMAA INV                  | A |       |
| 10/11 | REGIONALS                 |   |       |

**- SOCCER -**

|       |                           |   |      |
|-------|---------------------------|---|------|
| 8/26  | SARANAC                   | A | 5:00 |
| 8/29  | LAKEWOOD                  | A | 5:00 |
| 9/3   | LANSING CHRISTIAN         | H | 5:00 |
| 9/10  | CHARLOTTE                 | A | 4:00 |
| 9/12  | BELLEVUE                  | H | 5:00 |
| 9/16  | PORTLAND HS               | H | 5:00 |
| 9/18  | DANSVILLE                 | A | 5:00 |
| 9/21  | MV INVITATIONAL           | H |      |
| 9/23  | DELTON                    | H | 5:00 |
| 9/25  | SARANAC                   | H | 5:00 |
| 10/1  | WALTER FRENCH             | H | 5:00 |
| 10/7  | DANSVILLE (PARENTS NIGHT) | H | 5:30 |
| 10/10 | OLIVET                    | A | 5:00 |
| 10/14 | BELLEVUE                  | A | 5:00 |
| 10/16 | ALBION                    | A | 5:00 |
| 10/21 | DISTRICTS                 |   |      |

**- CROSS COUNTRY -**

|       |                                |   |       |
|-------|--------------------------------|---|-------|
| 8/22  | LAINGSBURG                     | A | 4:30  |
| 9/7   | BATH                           | A | 8:30  |
| 9/9   | MIDD./THORN. KELLOGG           | A | 4:00  |
| 9/12  | MARSHALL QUAD                  | A | 5:00  |
| 9/17  | BELLEVUE                       | A | 5:00  |
| 9/21  | LOWELL INVITATIONAL            | A | 1:15  |
| 9/28  | CARSON CITY                    | A | 9:00  |
| 10/1  | SMAA JAMBOREE                  | H | 5:00  |
| 10/3  | LAKEWOOD INVITATIONAL          | A | 4:30  |
| 10/12 | GREATER LANSING AT GRAND LEDGE | A | 10:00 |
| 10/15 | SMAA AT LESLIE                 | A | 4:00  |
| 10/26 | REGIONALS                      | A |       |
| 11/2  | STATE                          |   |       |

**- VARSITY FOOTBALL -**

|       |                               |   |      |
|-------|-------------------------------|---|------|
| 8/22  | PERRY SCRIMAGE                | A | 6:00 |
| 8/30  | PEWAMO WEST (ACADEMIC AWARDS) | H | 7:00 |
| 9/6   | MORRICE                       | A | 7:00 |
| 9/13  | PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL          | A | 7:30 |
| 9/20  | LESLIE (KISS THE PIG)         | H | 7:00 |
| 9/27  | WEBBERVILLE (HOMECOMING)      | H | 7:00 |
| 10/4  | DANSVILLE (PARENTS NIGHT)     | H | 7:00 |
| 10/11 | BELLEVUE                      | A | 7:00 |
| 10/18 | OLIVET                        | A | 7:00 |
| 10/25 | ALBION                        | A | 7:00 |

**- JV FOOTBALL -**

|       |                      |   |      |
|-------|----------------------|---|------|
| 8/22  | PERRY SCRIMAGE       | A | 4:00 |
| 8/29  | PEWAMO WEST          | A | 6:30 |
| 9/5   | MORRICE              | H | 6:30 |
| 9/12  | PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL | H | 6:30 |
| 9/19  | LESLIE               | A | 6:30 |
| 9/26  | WEBBERVILLE          | A | 6:30 |
| 10/3  | DANSVILLE            | A | 6:30 |
| 10/10 | BELLEVUE             | H | 6:30 |

|       |        |   |      |
|-------|--------|---|------|
| 10/17 | OLIVET | H | 6:30 |
| 10/24 | ALBION | H | 5:00 |

**- JV & VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL -**

|       |                        |   |      |
|-------|------------------------|---|------|
| 8/27  | PORTLAND ST. PATS      | H | 5:30 |
| 8/29  | SPRINGPORT             | H | 5:30 |
| 9/3   | ST. LOUIS              | A | 5:30 |
| 9/5   | PORTLAND HS            | H | 5:30 |
| 9/10  | WEBBERVILLE            | A | 5:30 |
| 9/12  | PENNFIELD              | H | 5:30 |
| 9/17  | MORRICE                | A | 5:30 |
| 9/24  | LESLIE                 | A | 5:30 |
| 9/26  | BELLEVUE               | H | 5:30 |
| 10/1  | DANSVILLE              | A | 5:30 |
| 10/3  | LANSING CHRISTIAN      | H | 5:30 |
| 10/8  | OLIVET                 | A | 5:30 |
| 10/15 | WEBBERVILLE            | H | 5:30 |
| 10/17 | ALBION                 | A | 5:30 |
| 10/22 | MORRICE                | H | 5:30 |
| 10/29 | LESLIE                 | H | 5:30 |
| 10/31 | BELLEVUE               | A | 5:30 |
| 11/5  | DANSVILLE              | H | 5:30 |
| 11/8  | LANSING CHRISTIAN      | A | 5:30 |
| 11/15 | OLIVET (PARENTS NIGHT) | H | 5:30 |

**- FRESHMAN GIRLS BASKETBALL -**

|       |                      |   |      |
|-------|----------------------|---|------|
| 9/5   | PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL | H | 4:00 |
| 9/12  | PENNFIELD            | H | 4:15 |
| 9/24  | LESLIE               | A | 4:15 |
| 9/26  | BELLEVUE             | H | 4:15 |
| 9/8   | OLIVET               | A | 4:15 |
| 9/17  | HOPKINS              | A | 4:15 |
| 10/29 | LESLIE               | H | 4:15 |
| 10/31 | BELLEVUE             | A | 4:15 |
| 11/5  | HOPKINS              | H | 4:15 |
| 11/15 | OLIVET               | H | 4:15 |

**- JR. HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL -**

|       |                   |   |      |
|-------|-------------------|---|------|
| 9/9   | WEBBERVILLE       | H | 5:30 |
| 9/11  | OLIVET            | H | 4:30 |
| 9/16  | MORRICE           | H | 5:30 |
| 9/23  | LESLIE            | A | 4:30 |
| 9/25  | SPRINGPORT        | A | 4:30 |
| 9/30  | BELLEVUE          | H | 4:30 |
| 10/7  | DANSVILLE         | A | 4:30 |
| 10/9  | BELLEVUE          | A | 4:30 |
| 10/14 | LANSING CHRISTIAN | H | 4:30 |
| 10/21 | OLIVET            | A | 4:30 |
| 10/23 | LESLIE            | H | 4:30 |



Well it's that time of year again. The kids are back to school; the nights are cooling off, and the roar of the crowds. That's right! Fall sports will soon be in full swing at Maple Valley. To get in on the action call 852-9275. For \$120.00 you can buy a pass that will get your family into any sports contest except playoffs and fundraisers. We now offer an individual pass for \$55.00.

For those senior citizens that like to re-live the memories or just watch the grandkids play. Maple Valley offers a Golden Pass. These passes are free to those 62 and older and are good forever.

For those who don't mind working, the sports department offers 1 free pass for every 4 events that you work. You can sign up to sell tickets, keep score-books, or run the scoreboard for various events. Give us a call between 1:00 and 3:30 and we will help you get to your favorite sporting event!

## NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of the Maple Valley School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment.

Any questions concerning Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, should be directed to Mr. Scott Eckhard, Jr./Sr. High School Asst. Principal, 852-9275.

Any questions concerning Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, which prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin or age should be directed to Mr. Clark Volz, Superintendent, 852-9699.

Inquiries related to Title II or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis or disability, should be directed to Ms. Beverley Black, Section 504 Coordinator, 852-9275.

Grievance procedures are located in the superintendent's office.

## NOTIFICATION OF FERPA RIGHTS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are outlined below.

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent of eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Maple Valley Schools to comply with the requirement of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:  
 Family Policy Compliances Office  
 U.S. Department of Education  
 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

It is the policy of Maple Valley Schools not to disclose students lists or directory information to outside organizations. Student directory information may be made available in some cases, such as yearbooks, sports programs, honor rolls or publications featuring school programs and student projects.

# Nashville business owner angry over restraining order

by Sandra Ponsetto  
Staff Writer

Local business owner Jeff Beebe used strong rhetoric about the temporary restraining order (TRO) obtained by the Nashville Village Council that prevented him from continuing construction of his new business at 230 S. Main because of a dispute over a sewer easement.

"I want to be very frank here. I do not want to fight with you," Beebe said. "I want to have a working relationship with council. I have many other plans for this town that is for the improvement and betterment of the community. But if you want

to fight I'm going to fight. You can be guaranteed with all the tenacity that I have, I will fight you whether you are in the plaintiff role or the defendant role."

Beebe approached the council last month about a 12-inch sewer line that runs beneath the Dollar General Store he's building in front of the existing Laundromat at the site. When construction began, neither Beebe nor the council was aware the easement existed. At that time Beebe said that he hoped that he and the council would be able to reach an agreement about relocating the existing line or leaving it where it is without taking

any unnecessary legal action.

The council obtained the restraining order July 22, citing that construction could irreparably harm to the existing sewer and would affect the village's ability to maintain or repair that line.

Beebe stated that at the July 25 meeting off the council that the TRO was

you spit in my face again."

The TRO expired Aug. 5. However, both parties were in court on Aug. 7. The village sought to obtain a preliminary injunction that would prohibit continued construction on the property in question. Circuit Court Judge Gary Holman denied the request.

Beebe told the council, "If you listen to nothing I say

when I'm holding out a hand with an olive branch and you try to cut my arm off again, believe me, mine will be swinging back. I'm prepped and my ax is sharp.

Beebe concluded his comments to the council by saying that he wanted an answer from the council that evening.

"I would hope you have the decency to come down to (my house) and talk to me about this after council," he said.

The council later went into closed session to discuss the matter with their legal council.

After the session the council approved a motion for Council President Frank Dunham and council members Ronda Edinger and Steve Wheeler to seek further clarification as to what Beebe meant by "extending an olive branch to resolve this issue."

According to Village Clerk Cathy Lentz, this motion authorized Dunham and Edinger and Wheeler to speak to Beebe on behalf of the council to seek that clarification.

The council also scheduled a special council meeting for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13, to discuss the issue of the sewer easement at 230 S. Main.

The council heard a report from Sergeant Jeff Miller of the Nashville Police Department. Miller said that he had recently completed the requirements to become a nationally registered Emergency Medical Technician. He said that he expects to get Michigan licensure within the next couple of weeks so he will be licensed

to operate in the community. Wheeler said the council should recognize Miller for obtaining his EMT qualifications.

"It should be very helpful to the community."

Miller also reported that all the officers in the Nashville Police Department attended a "Stress Shoot" for firearm qualification.

"The program uses 'shoot, don't shoot' scenarios to increase our skills in assisting other agencies or situations that require decision making," said Miller.

"It is a three room scenario. They would like to add room each year as they get funding so that they get a more realistic type encounter of houses and barns to represent what we actually face," said Miller.

The program was sponsored through a consortium with the Barry County Sheriff's Department and was held at the Conservation Club in Hastings. The combined funds from other agencies purchased the equipment and the Sheriff's Department also recently received a donation from a federal organization that came in to have shooting practice at their range with their officers, according to Miller.

Miller also reported that he had been in contact with the State Police post in Hastings and they were willing to send out three or four troopers on request to see that the speed limit is obeyed on Reed Street once the construction is completed.

The officers would come out and perform this service

**Continued next page**

"I want to be very frank with here. I do not want to fight with (the council). I want to have a working relationship with the council... but if you want to fight I'm going to fight."

— Jeff Beebe,  
Dollar General Store owner

costing him upwards of \$1,800 per day.

"As of right now I have lost \$45,000 to date. That figure can easily rise to the high six figures or possibly seven," he added.

Beebe suggested the council had two options.

"One is obvious," he said.

"You can continue to spend the taxpayers' money and cause me to spend money on a frivolous and unnecessary legal battle. I believe this is counterproductive. I believe this money should be spent for bettering our community both from your standpoint and mine. You have taken away money slated for improvement to my property in this town and made me spend it on late fees and rental fees, interest, legal fees and expert witnesses.

"The other option we have is that the council can authorize a representative with the authority to negotiate a settlement in this matter. I will no longer deal with anybody from council that does not have that authority," he added. "I will no longer accept an offer made by council representatives and later have it rejected by council and have

tonight, listen to these facts as presented in court:

"One. The easement is 16 feet south of where there are two main lines.

"Two. The TRO is nothing more than to extort (money) out of me."

"Three. The sewer main is not in jeopardy and has not been in jeopardy. It can be maintained and it can be put in new. In 1916 and 1928, it had structures above it."

"Four. The sewer main, at the best calculations of your own estimate, has 40 years.

"Five. You do not have all the elements for a prescriptive easement on my property.

"Six. Not one ounce of my testimony from expert witnesses, nor myself needed to have transpired in that courtroom yesterday to get your case dismissed.

"And last, the judge (Holman) gave a piece of advice, as do I, and I will try to repeat it, 'If further legal action is required, Nashville had better come prepared to pay for most, if not all, legal costs associated with resolving this.'"

Beebe stated his opinion that the costs would be high.

"We ain't talking about a \$35 filing fee here, people. We're talking about some serious money that you have cost me," he said. "I would like a working relationship with the council. But, if you want to pick up a battle ax

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**PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Nashville Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on August 15, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The purpose is to hear comments on a zoning variance request by Nashville Ambulance to erect an addition to the rear of the existing building located at 324 N. Main Street. This request did not meet the requirements of the rear lot line. Any written comments can be sent to the Village Office at 206 N. Main, Nashville, MI 49073, and must be received by August 12, 2002.

Zoning Board of Appeals 117

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# Special savings program offered to low income people

The Community Action Agency of South Central Michigan (CAASCM) launched more than a year ago a new matched savings program, which has three components called Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Homeownership, IDA Post-Secondary Education, and IDA Small Business for low and moderate income residents living in Calhoun, Barry, Branch and St. Joseph counties.

The IDA program will allow recipients to deposit \$20-25 a month into a spe-

cial savings account, an "Individual Development Account or IDA," in order to work toward the purchase of a productive asset - a home, a small business or post-secondary education. Program participants' savings deposits will be matched 3:1 for home ownership and 2:1 for the other two assets.

The CAASCM is part of an approach to combating poverty that focuses not just on meeting the most immediate needs of low-income families, but also on the long-term benefits of helping working poor families acquire a modest but decisive stake in their communities. The CAASCM is supported by the Michigan IDA Partnership and has developed strong partnerships with Southern Michigan Bank and Trust, Homestead Savings Bank in Albion, MSU Cooperative Extension, Neighborhoods Inc., Battle Creek Area Chamber

Foundation's Chamber Business Store, and many others. Southern Michigan Bank and Trust will also be the depository for each participant's IDA savings account.

In order to qualify prospective CAASCM participants must meet income guidelines (annual income of less than \$29,260 for a family of three, for example), must have some regular source of earned income and must be residents of Barry, Branch, Calhoun or St. Jo-

seph counties. In addition, all program participants take part in a 12 part personal finance and money management workshop series designed to help them find the money for regular savings deposits and prepare for asset ownership. This personal finance workshop series is presented with assistance from partners such as MSU Cooperative Extension.

Information about the three different IDA assets, including detailed eligibility

information, is available from the Community Action Agency of South Central Michigan's Intake Center in Battle Creek at (269) 965-7766, Albion and Marshall residents (517) 629-9403, Barry County residents (269) 948-4260, Branch County residents (517) 279-9325 or St. Joseph residents (269) 467-7051.

The Community Action Agency of South Central Michigan is a locally based,

private non-profit organization that provides a wide range of services to low- and moderate-income residents of Barry, Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph counties. CAA's programs include Head Start, Early Head Start, Housing and Supportive Services, Food and Nutritional Services for children and seniors, Transportation and the Foster Grandparent Program.

## From previous page

at no extra cost to the village.

"If it (speeding) becomes a problem, it will be addressed in an expedient manner," said Miller.

He said there is also talk of using portable devices which announce a vehicles speed to increase driver awareness.

"We want to address this problem before it becomes a problem. We've already heard comments about Reed Street becoming a race track, so we just want to be heads up on it."

In other business, the council appointed Edinger to the committee assignments held by her predecessor Chelsey Wetzel, who resigned from the council last month. Edinger will serve on the transfer and recycle, Department of Public Works, Parks, Building and Recreation and Cable Access committees.

## Horse Liniment Eases Arthritis Pain

OCALA, FL -- An ingredient derived from hot peppers that decreases inflammation in racehorse's legs, is now recognized as safe and effective for human use. The ingredient has been formulated into a product called ARTH-Rx™ and comes in a strength designed for humans. Researchers are excited and say the formula can relieve arthritis pain for millions.

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Although the mechanism by which ARTH-Rx works to relieve pain is not totally clear, scientists suggest that pain is relieved because ARTH-Rx intercepts the messenger substance that sends pain signals to the brain.

ARTH-Rx is available in a convenient roll-on applicator without a prescription. According to a spokesperson for the company, due to the overwhelming demand for ARTH-Rx, supplies are sometimes limited. ARTH-Rx can also be ordered by calling 1-800-729-8446.

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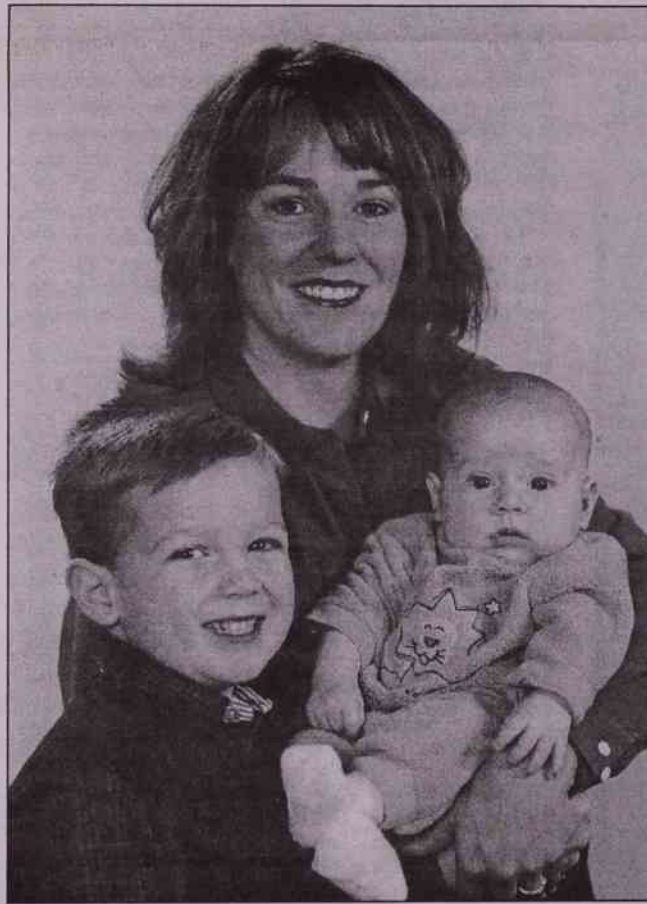
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**From Our Readers**  
*Local Citizens Speak Out On Issues*

**Tragic death of youth teaches painful lessons**

**To the editor:**  
I was surprised and disappointed with the column that appeared last week regarding the tragic death of young Corbin Gardner.

Writer Sandra Ponsetto said she was not trying to inflict more pain upon a grieving family with her statements, but I fail to see how her letter could do anything but that.

Several of Ms Ponsetto's statements were correct, insofar as they went. As parents, we do need to protect our children from too much, too soon. It is important to monitor their associations and activities. And it is important to understand that young people are not capable of handling adult-sized decisions and choices. If anything, this incident should serve as a reminder to increase our efforts in these areas. This is not new information — even television promotes commercials encouraging parents to ask their children questions, referring to them as the "anti-drug."

However, Ms. Ponsetto's column seems to imply that if these things had been done, Corbin's death may have been prevented. This may or may not be true, but it is at best, an oversimplification, and at worst, an uninformed indictment against Corbin's parents.

The fact is that parents may do all the things that Ms. Ponsetto outlined in her column and still weep over the grave of a child destroyed by bad choices — whether his own or someone else's. But the disease spreads much further than this. Wives and husbands may do everything in their power — everything that they know to do — and still end up in divorce court. Family members become estranged in spite of their best intentions

Businesses fail. Investors trusting the advice of their brokers are bilked out of their retirement by people who were already millionaires. Murder, rape and terrorism seem to lurk just out of sight around every corner. People set fire to their own homeland and destroy the livelihood of their own nation due to selfish, small-minded motives.

When America was violated on Sept. 11, we united as a nation and "God Bless

America" was the sentiment on many lips.

But the insanity has returned, and the darkness seems much worse than before in the glimmer of the light that we enjoyed just because the name of God was mentioned more. Once again the media is dark with reports of mass murder, child abduction and murder, road rage, corporate robbery and human evil of every sort — some so unthinkable that we never even had to have laws against it up until now. We cautiously walk, picking our way through the minefield of another day in a world that appears to have gone completely insane.

Why? Obviously, the answer goes much deeper than whether we do the best we can as parents, spouses, employees, or neighbors. We all know people who never did anything, as far as we could tell, to earn the misfortunes that befell them. So what is the answer?

Each one of us is born into this world with needs. If the needs we have as infants are not met, we die. As we grow, other needs may be imperfectly met, or not met at all. We survive, but the needs remain. It may be true that the less stable and nurturing our environment, the more sharply these needs are felt. This may in turn drive us to more extreme measures to get those needs met. More extreme choices such as substance abuse and risk-taking behaviors in the areas

of sexuality, recreation, crime and violence may pack the wallop that we think will temporarily dull the knife edge of need that presses upon our souls.

But regardless of how well or how ill we were nurtured, all of mankind continues to need.

The deepest needs, the ones that press upon us so relentlessly, are frequently the most difficult to define, and therefore the most difficult to fill. In fact, many times we can only define the need after we have finally found that which satisfies it. In the meantime, the world offers us an endless array of options, and many spend a lifetime tweaking their external circumstances and activities to try to find fulfillment and satisfaction. Like a rider trapped on a perpetual merry-go-round, we grasp at one brass ring after another and ultimately come up empty-handed. The void in our soul never seems to cry out in satisfaction and relief, for the "perfect fit" is never

*Continued next page*

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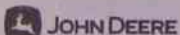


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From previous page

achieved. Blaise Pascal, a 16th century physicist, is credited with a statement that there is, in fact, an incompleteness, an actual hole, in the soul of every human being born on earth. That hole is "God shaped" and can in fact be completely and totally filled — satisfied — by God, all of God, and God alone.

God Himself says it in a somewhat different way. We have a heart of stone, according to His statement in Ezekiel 36:26-27. This impenetrable mass is unable to function in the way it was intended. God says that He can replace it with a heart of flesh — able to receive and pass on, to find its fulfillment in Him. In correcting that spiritual birth defect, He will Himself meet every unmet need.

If a physician tells us we must have a heart transplant, that our heart is virtually useless to us and will ultimately fail us, we know that we are in a serious state indeed. Our need for a replacement would be so specific, so individualized, that our only hope would be that another would die, leaving his heart intact, whose tissues would be compatible with ours.

It would make no sense whatever to proceed to a junkyard or auction barn in search of a suitable replacement. It would be useless to stop people on the street and ask if they would be willing

to give us their heart. No amount of scheming or ingenuity will yield to us the life-giving prize — we can only wait until someone else's death offers us a chance at life.

In the case of the spiritual heart transplant, this is no less true. The Son of God died so that He could offer us life. But the choice is ours — we can have the perfect fit for our deepest needs, once and for all, or we can continue to inflame and infect our souls with our junkyard interventions.

We can look at a perverse religion and understand only too well that God is not in a system which requires its followers to turn themselves into human land mines. But it is sometimes harder to see that we ourselves are participating in more subtle forms of self-destructive behavior to ease the ache of emptiness. Even the best humanitarian effort, the most carefully designed religious system, falls into the category of 'junk' when it falls short of God's plan. (A solid gold migot is as useless as a broken clay brick, if a heart is what is needed.)

The Great Physician is the One who understands your specific and deepest need — and He will meet it in you in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In truth and in fact, the real "Why?" here is not so much that young Mr. Gardner died such a tragic death. The real "Why?" is, why has it not happened to more of us? The madness that comes

upon so many of us as the void within us shrieks to be satisfied can certainly drive us, like lemmings, into our own oceans of self-destruction. But the Scriptures say, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23).

No one is guaranteed tomorrow — or for that matter, the rest of today. May the wound that Corbin's passing left in our community be a reminder, not of God's judgment, but of the mercy that has left us here with one more chance to ponder our souls and our ways.

Ginger Drake, Nashville

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## New agriculture technology organization seeks members

Emerging agricultural technologies are providing farmers and those who work with them with opportunities to better gather, manage and disseminate information. But understanding the range of technological options available and how they may enhance various farming operations is a challenge. To meet this need, the Michigan Agricultural Technologies Consortium is forming.

The consortium will support educational activities and encourage projects and interactions that promote practical applications of technical tools, including precision agriculture devices such as global positioning systems, geographic information systems and remote sensing, agricultural software, Web sites and distance learning. Participants can also explore issues related to biotechnology and learn about new communications

and record-keeping systems.

The Michigan Agricultural Technologies Consortium is open to anyone with an interest in agriculture, from farm managers to consultants, agribusinesses, university researchers and MSU Extension educators, state and federal workers, and others seeking to benefit through collaboration and information sharing.

Consortium members are planning a fall 2002 work-

shop and field day demonstrating the use of low-cost, hand-held global positioning systems in precision agriculture. The date and location will be announced later. To learn more about the Michigan Agricultural Technologies Consortium, contact Tim Harrigan at the Michigan State University Agricultural Engineering Department by calling 517-353-0767 or e-mailing him at harrigan@msue.msu.edu.

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# Michigan producers market fruit to Mexico

Taking advantage of Michigan's reputation for growing and processing high quality, great tasting apples,

blueberries, cherries and cranberries, the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is spearheading ef-

forts to export these commodities and products to Mexico and its industrial baking sector, recently

announced MDA Director Dan Wyant.

"Market research indicates that the Mexican industrial baking industry - currently a \$1 billion annual economic contributor for the United States - represents a tremendous export opportunity for Michigan producers and processors of these fruits," Wyant said. "As Michigan is both a major fruit growing and fruit processing state, we are excited about this potential as exports and other new markets continue to be critical in the future growth and viability of Michigan agriculture."

Wyant noted that while this year's frost freeze weather conditions will unfortunately result in much lower 2002 fruit production for cherries and somewhat for apples, it is still important to lay the initial groundwork now.

Specifically, MDA formed a coalition of various apple,

blueberry, cherry and cranberry (ABCC) commodity organizations and processors, including the Michigan Blueberry Growers Association, the Michigan Apple Committee, the Michigan Cranberry Committee and Cherry Marketing Institute, to develop markets for processed ABCC products in Mexico.

This coalition conducted market research, which highlighted the value and interest of the Mexican baking industry. In 2000 alone, this industry imported more than \$76 million worth of ingredients from the United States. Overall, Mexico imports 17 percent of all Michigan agriculture exports making it the state's second largest market after Canada. Mexico does not produce blueberries, cherries or cranberries and only limited

amounts of apples, so these fruits are relatively unknown to Mexican bakers and considered almost exotic by Mexican consumers.

Based upon this information, a two-part strategy was then devised to enhance demand for processed ABCC products, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Emerging Markets Program. First, several seminars were designed and are currently being held with Mexican bakers to demonstrate how processed ABCC products can be incorporated into traditional Mexican bakery items. They are being conducted by a master baker from Schoolcraft College of Farmington Hills. Bakers attending these seminars are provided Spanish language training manuals on utilizing processed fruit products.

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## Maple Valley Athletic Boosters meet Wednesday

The Maple Valley Athletic Boosters will hold their monthly meeting this Wednesday, Aug. 14 at 6 p.m. in the high school office conference room.

Subsequent monthly meetings in 2002 will be held Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11. Every meeting is on a Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. in the high school office conference room.



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| <p><b>Ground Chuck</b><br/><b>\$1.99</b><br/>lb</p>  | <p><b>Country Style Spare Ribs</b><br/><b>\$1.79</b><br/>lb</p> | <p><b>Smoked Pork Chops</b><br/><b>\$2.99</b><br/>lb</p>   |  |

|   |  |   |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Gallon Bareman's Whole Milk</b><br/><b>\$2.09</b></p>       | <p><b>Bareman's Distilled or Drinking Water</b><br/><b>2/\$1</b></p> | <p><b>32 oz. Kraft Mayonnaise</b><br/><b>2/\$5</b></p>                        | <p><b>12-24 oz. Kellogg's Corn Flakes, Frosted Flakes, Special K</b><br/><b>2/\$5</b></p> | <p><b>24 oz. Parade Lite, Maple Butter Flavor Syrup</b><br/><b>\$1.00</b></p> | <p><b>12 oz. Parade Whipped Topping</b><br/><b>\$1.00</b></p>                 |
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