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Nashville road construction will be finished in the spring

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

Darrell Clements Jr., acting director of Nashville's Department of Public Works, told the Village Council Thursday night that work on the water is finished, but some of the road reconstruction work will have to wait until spring.

"We weren't able to get the catch basins in on Queen Street before the bad weather, the cold weather hit us, so they (Hunter-Prell) will come back in the spring to put those in for us and top that road," he said.

Clements also reported that Hunter-Prell also will be back in the spring to widen the two blocks of State Street they inadvertently narrowed when they were repaving.

"When they did the reconstruction, they narrowed the road by about four feet and nobody caught it," said Clements. "In the spring they're going to take those two blocks of State Street and they're bring in an asphalt chower. They are going to chew up the whole

street and reasphalt it after the asphalt plant opens back up."

Hunter-Prell will also widen the end of Grant Street.

"They were supposed to widen that back out where it was tore up quite a few years back, and that got overlooked also," said Clements.

In response to a question from Council Member Carroll Wolff, Clements said that other than those reconstruction projects, all other road repairs would be the financial responsibility of the village.

Ralph Kirk asked if Clements was making a punch list of properties that still needed to have their yards smoothed out and so forth.

Clements responded, "I've started a list... and they've got to put attention on a lot of this stuff when they come back. I've been told that it has to be as good as or better than they found it. Because they were kind of scrambling, if you will, to get these done, they may be

back in the spring to redo them.

"They just wanted to get the blacktop down," he added. "I think they were hoping that it would be a good job, but some if ain't. I'm not pleased with some of the work they did at the last. The last three days they were here they did some very shoddy work, but I will bring that to their attention."

Wolff suggested that Clements have the contractors in charge of the water project, Flies & VanDenbrink, talk to Hunter-Prell about the road reconstruction.

Clements noted that all repairs to the reconstruction would be the financial responsibility of Hunter-Prell.

Clements also noted that a representative from the Michigan Rural Water Development would be coming by within a week to inspect the project and see how the grant money had been spent.

In other business the council:

- Heard a request from Orvin Moore and Tad Davis, owners of the Mulberry Fore

Golf Course, for a portion of their property at the golf course be annexed by the village. The parcel they have proposed for annexation would include the club house and banquet facility.

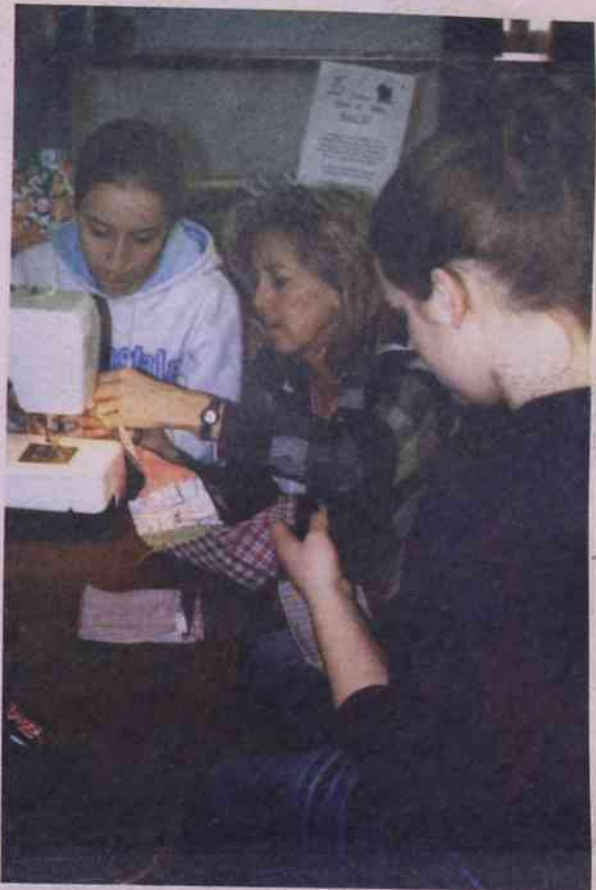
Annexation would allow Mulberry Fore to hook up to village utilities. The Village Council is slated to vote on the matter at its Dec. 26 regular meeting.

- Heard a report from Nashville Police Chief Garry Barnes that part-time officer Mark Divney has resigned to take a position with the Ingham County Sheriff's Department. Adelbert Luther has been hired to fill Divney's position.

- Accepted a construction bid of \$2,950 from Bob Brumm Custom Service Incorporated for renovation to the new village office. The renovations include making the bathrooms compliant with the American Disabilities Act and removing the teller booths and ATM.

- Approved building the

See road construction, pg. 3



Ashley Rassmussen, Maple Valley Alternative Education teacher Cindy Grant and Kaylee Huff sew together small squares of fabric which will be used to make a quilt that will be raffled at the fund-raiser for Tate Mix tomorrow. The quilt is being pieced together by Jean Whitney (absent from photo).

Tate Mix fund-raiser to be held tomorrow

There will be a spaghetti dinner in the Maple Valley High School located at

11090 Nashville Highway at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18. The cost will be \$5 per person.

Proceeds will benefit Tate Mix, a Lake Odessa resident who has been with Maple Valley schools for more than 16 years and has served as the principal of the Maple Valley Alternative Education program since it began in 1996.

Kelly Root, a Barry County CPS worker and an acquaintance of Mix, said she hopes people will come

to the fund-raiser and support Mix in his fight against cancer.

"He's a wonderful person," she said. "He really has the ability to take kids with various difficulties and help them turn their lives around. He really cares and they look up to him. I wish I had half his skills. He can do what most people can't when it comes to getting through to kids."

Mix has been battling follicular lymphoma, a cancer that attacks the body's lymphatic system, for 8 1/2 years. Traditional chemo-

See fundraiser, pg. 3



Nashville Car Club makes donation to Wish Upon a Star

The Nashville Car Club donated \$1,100, the proceed from it's annual car show, to the Wish Upon a Star program. The money will be used to purchase gifts for any stars that are left on the tree the week before Christmas. Pictures are (front row, from left) Lois Elliston from Wish Upon a Star and Don Kellogg, from the Nashville Car Club. Car Club members in attendance are: Pat Priddy, Bonnie Maker, Bill Maker, Barney Silsbee, Ruth Hickey, Ralph Rasey, Shawna Hamel, Anne Staup and Pat Hynes. Absent from photo are: Larry Hynes, Diana Hager, Cassandra Hager, Bernie Hickey, Lori Silsbee, Dennis Priddy, PeeWee Andrews and Tim and Cindy Allwardt.

The club said they would like to express their appreciation for the local businesses that sponsor the annual event. This year we were able to more than double our contribution (to Wish Upon a Star," said Ruth Hickey, speaking on behalf of the club. The next Nashville Car Show is slated for Saturday, June 14, 2003.

In This Issue...

- LEAP out-of-school program previewed for school board
- Brother to brother: The gift of life
- Nashville children send letters to 'Santa'
- Maple Valley students join PAL Exchange Day

LEAP out-of-school program previewed for school board

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

Doug Derdowski, a prevention specialist with the Eaton Intermediate School District, presented the proposed curriculum for a new LEAP (Leaders of Eaton Abstinence Program) out-of-school program to the Maple Valley School Board at its regular meeting last week.

The LEAP program is funded by a million dollar

grant that was awarded to the Eaton Intermediate School District earlier this year. The grant will be for \$200,000 a year for five years through the EISD to five Eaton County school districts, including Maple Valley. The portion allotted to each school is based on student population.

The program, as presented by Derdowski, has three components: An out-

of-school school abstinence program for grades 4-8 (grades 4-6 in Maple Valley) based on the "Sex Can Wait" curriculum, a parent education program based on the "Can We Talk" curriculum and a mentoring program.

Since Maple Valley already has a Youth Friends mentoring program established, the grant funds will be used to supplement the existing program, according to Derdowski.

Times and meeting places have not been proposed for the parent education program; however, the out-of-school program is being proposed to meet from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at Maplewood Elementary.

The "Sex Can Wait" curriculum includes the topics of self-concept, changing

bodies/changing minds, bridging the self-esteem gap, personal values, communication styles, listening skills, my sexual self in relation to others, goal setting and systems of support.

The Maple Valley school district has set public hearings on the proposed curriculums for 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, at Maplewood Elementary and 6:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, in the library at Maple Valley Jr./Sr. High School.

The board is scheduled to vote on the curriculum at its regular monthly meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. that same evening.

The grant funding starts in February and Derdowski said he hopes the board will approve the curriculum at its January meeting so programming can begin the first week in February.

In other business at last week's meeting, the school board:

- Heard a report from Fuller Street Elementary second grade teacher Mindy Otto about the multicultural learning community she has established in her classroom this year. Otto is teaching her students Spanish and incorporating it into their daily routine. She also is teaching the class about customs and culture in Mexico and has invited members of the community who are of Latin American descent to talk to the students about their culture.

Otto said that she also plans to facilitate an after school Spanish program for all elementary students, so her students can continue their studies after this school year is over and students in other classes can also have the opportunity to learn a second language.

- Received a presentation from the Maple Valley FFA officers about their recent trip to the national conven-

tion in Louisville, Ky., and several stops they made along the way, such as the Louisville Slugger Museum, the Indianapolis Raceway and more.

Was formally introduced to the 11 foreign exchange students who are attending Maple Valley Schools this year by counselor Ward Rooks. The visiting students are Sue Splieth, Germany; Kristen Albrecht, Germany; Adriana Bassalo, Brazil; Ulrike Beckert, Germany; Nigar Dargah-Zade, Azerbaijan; Fernando Guerro, Mexico; Veronika Pitukova, Slovakia; Maria Vusupova, Uzbekistan; Jennifer Mueller, Germany; Olga Diener, Germany and Alvaro Urango, Mexico.

Superintendent Clark Volz presented each foreign exchange student who was at the meeting with a Maple Valley Pride pin.

"The world is getting smaller and getting to know each other better is the gift you give to us," he said.

- Heard a report from Fuller Street Principal Judy Farnsworth that the survey of the parents of children who attended the all-day alternate day kindergarten program was complete. She said most of the comments

were positive. The most commonly expressed concern was confusion over the half day on Friday.

To deal with that problem this year, the students have their half day Wednesday and parents were given magnetic calendars with their child's schedule on it. Farnsworth reported that since the calendars were issued, only one child missed school because their parent wasn't sure when they attended.

- Learned from Maplewood Principal Fred Davenport that the fifth grade students' visit to Michigan State University's WIGU (When I Grow Up) Career Exploration Day was a success.

"There were more than 6,000 students from around the state there... but it went like clockwork," said Davenport. "The kids need this kind of experience. It was a wonderful, wonderful experience."

- Was told by Maple Valley High School Principal Todd Gonse that 45 Virtual High School seats have been filled for next semester. Gonser stressed that the computer courses are not to

See LEAP program, pg. 3



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| <p>ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES A Spirit-filled Church Meeting at the Maple Leaf Grange Hwy. M-66 south of Assyria Rd. Nashville, MI 49073 Sun, Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m. Jesus Club for boys & girls ages 4-12. Pastors David & Rose MacDonald. An oasis of God's love. "Where Everyone is Someone Special." For information call 1-616-731-5194 or 1-517-852-1806.</p> <p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH 803 Reed St., Nashville Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. A.M. Worship 11 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7 p.m. PASTOR GLENN BRANHAM</p> <p>BASILINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 9617 E. Baseline Rd. Corner of Baseline & Church Roads (2 miles east of M-66 on Baseline) Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Youth Groups, Bible Study and many other activities. Phone (616) 963-7710 REV. GLEN WEGNER</p> | <p>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 301 Fuller St., Nashville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday: 11 a.m. A.M. Worship 11 a.m. P.M. Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: 7 p.m. Worship 7 p.m. REV. ALAN METTLER</p> <p>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 6:45 p.m. Night Service 6:45 p.m. PASTOR MARC S. LIVINGSTON Phone: 543-5488</p> <p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 110 S. Main, Vermontville Morning Worship 11 a.m. Church School 10 a.m. Fellowship Time After Worship REV. ERIC LISON</p> | <p>SOUTH KALAMO CHURCH Corner of Kalamo Highway & Ionis Rd. Sunday A.M. 10:30 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>GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH 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>GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH One mile N. of Vermontville Hwy. on Mulliken Road Church Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:50 a.m. PASTOR KATHY SMITH</p> | <p>NORTH KALAMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Worship Service 9:30 a.m. PASTOR MARK THOMPSON</p> <p>MAPLE GROVE BIBLE CHURCH 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>NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH 304 Phillips St., Nashville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. A.M. Service 11 a.m. P.M. Service 7 p.m. Wed. Service 7 p.m. PASTOR LESTER DeGROOT PASTOR DEANO LAMPHERE PASTOR MATT ROHDE</p> <p>NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Located on the corner of State and Washington streets Worship Service 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. PASTOR DIANNE BOWDEN At Home: 852-0685 Church Phone: 852-2043</p> | <p>PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARRYVILLE 6043 E. M-79 Highway 4 miles west of Nashville (cor. M-79 & Barryville Rd.) Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. (Includes Children's Sunday School) Other: Prayer Walk, Youth Group, U.M. Women, Bible Study, Choir, Mission Projects & more. PASTOR SUSAN TROWBRIDGE Phone (517) 726-1495 IGNITING MINISTRY Open Hearts-Open Minds-Open Doors</p> <p>QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH M-79 West Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. PASTOR KENNETH VAUGHT (616) 945-9392</p> <p>ST. ANDREW & MATTHIAS INDEPENDENT ANGLICAN CHURCH 2415 McCann Road Sunday Services: 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion For more information call 795-2370 or Rev. David T. Hustwick 948-9604 Traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer used for all services. Affiliated with the Independent Anglican Church (Canada Synod).</p> | <p>ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 203 N. State, Nashville Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. FATHER MIKE STAFFORD A mission of St. Rose Catholic Church, Hastings</p> <p>VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH 250 N. Main St., Vermontville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m. Wed. Evening Service 7 p.m. AWANA 7-8:30 p.m. Wed. PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH</p> <p>VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 108 N. Main, Vermontville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Church Service 11 a.m. PASTOR KATHY SMITH</p> <p>MOST HOLY ROSARY CHURCH Roman Catholic Latin Mass 314 Main, Middleville Sunday Mass 9 a.m. 616-795-9030 FATHER PAUL ANDRADE</p> |
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LEAP program, from page 1

take away from students' participation in the high school's regular curriculum, but to allow them an opportunity to enhance their learning experience by taking courses in their area of interest not offered at the school.

Gonser also reported that the School Improvement Team has been discussing plans to increase the number of semester classes and the grade point average (g.p.a.) students need to earn honors and high honors.

"We need to raise the bar a bit," he said.

Plans being discussed include requiring 14 to 16 semester classes for high honors and 10 to 12 for honors and increasing the grade point average for honors from a minimum 3.0 to 3.3 and high honors from 3.5 to 3.7.

The School Improvement Team also is considering adding a required one-semester government class for all seniors in 2006.

Received a report from Assistant Principal Scott Eckert that the Eaton

County Sheriff's Department recently visited the school with a dog specially trained to detect drugs. He said no drugs were found during the unannounced inspection.

"It doesn't mean that we don't have that kind of thing

going on at the school," said Eckert. "But, this is one way we can let students know that we are serious about keeping drugs out of school."

Eckert said the sheriff's deputy and his dog can arrive at the school unan-

nounced anytime throughout the school year. The dog and his handler make a circuit of all the halls, lockers and the parking lot.

Accepted its annual audit by the accounting firm of Foote & Lloyd PC.

"All in all, I am real pleased with the audit," said Volz. "This is just another

way for us to assure that we are making the best use of our funds for the kids."

Learned that the trip to the Detroit Auto Show is Jan. 14 for the National Honor Society, Jan. 18 for the foreign exchange students, and the senior class trip to Washington D.C. is April 17-22.

Road construction, from pg. 1

storage shed for the water generator at the cost of \$5,759.01, to be paid when the bills are submitted.

Approved a capital outlay policy as requested by the village's auditor from Walker, Fluke & Sheldon PC. The policy is required by the state and defines what is and isn't considered capital outlay.

Approved a request by several local churches to use Central Park in Nashville for a live nativity during the 2003 Christmas season.

Referred a zoning ordinance amendment proposal, regarding off-street parking and loading, back to the planning committee pending legal advice.

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Fundraiser, from page 1

therapy treatments are no

longer working and he now needs a bone marrow transplant.

Mix's brother, Kevin, will be donating marrow for the procedure, which they expect to be scheduled within the next couple of weeks.

"His insurance company is not covering a large portion of the treatment because it is considered experimental. So, in other words, Tate could use all the help we can give him," said Debbie Baker, the secretary at Maple Valley Alternative Education, who is one of coordinators of the fund-raising efforts.

Baker, along with alternative education Teacher Cindy Grant, student Kelly Green and Maple Valley Schools Superintendent Clark Volz, have made the arrangements for tomorrow night's dinner. There will be a raffle for door prizes including a hand-made quilt, gift certificates to Penny's Pizza in Lake Odessa, a \$25 gift certificate from the Floral & Gift Shop in Nashville, two free haircuts from

Sandy's Barber Shop, a 420 gist certificate from Eagle Enterprise and a \$25 gift certificate from DeLynnA Sewing Specialist.

The American Red Cross will have a booth set up at the dinner to provide information about testing to anyone who is interested in registering to be a bone marrow donor.

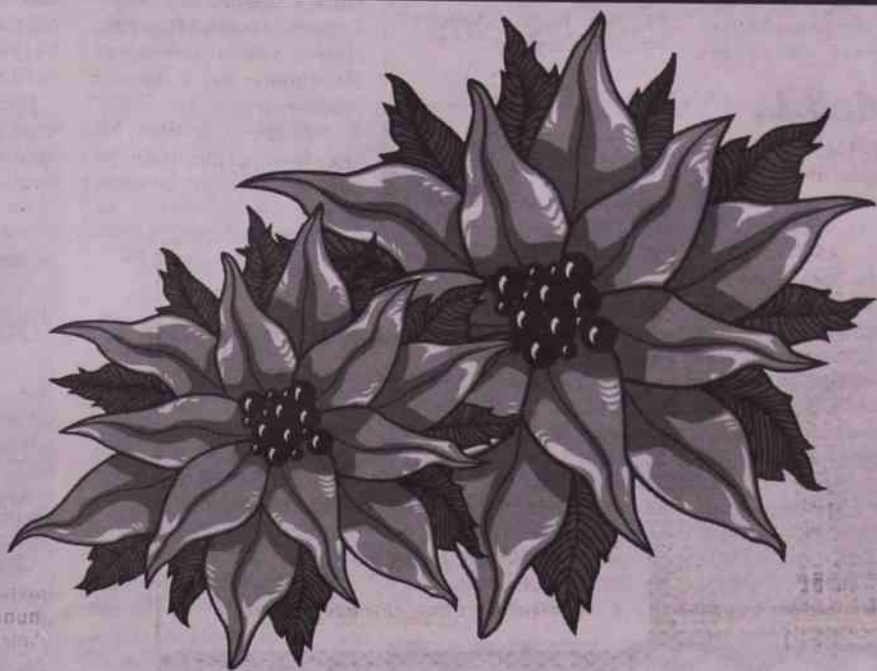
Both Mix and his brother, Kevin would like to encourage everyone who is interested to be tested and have their name put on the national bone marrow registry.

"There are thousands of people who need a transplant and can't find a match," said Mix. "Testing is as simple and painless as giving blood," said Kevin.

For those who can't attend the dinner or would like to make a larger contribution, an account is being set up for Mix at the Eaton County Educational Credit Union in Charlotte. Checks can be made out to Maple Valley Alternative Education.

For more information, call Baker at (517) 852-9794 or Volz at (517) 852-9699.

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DRUMLINE (PG-13)
MO - TH 11:45, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45

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La Leche League to meet Thursday

The La Leche League will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, at 5777 Irish Road, Vermontville.

LaLeche League is a non-sectarian, non-profit organization that encourages women to breastfeed their babies and offers them support and information. The name LaLeche means "the milk" in Spanish.

The group holds a series of meetings Thursday mornings in and around Barry County, including Vermontville, Clarksville and the Yankee Springs area. There essentially are four topics, with one being presented each month.

All women who are breastfeeding or are pregnant and interested in breastfeeding are welcome to attend the meetings. Babies and toddlers also are welcome. The group also has a lending library with topics on pregnancy, childbirth, child development and nutrition.

For more information about La Leche League and its meetings or for help with breastfeeding, call Kathy Othmer at (517) 726-1264.

Obituaries

Kathy (Gunn) Keuhs

KENTWOOD - Kathy (Gunn) Keuhs, passed away Monday, December 2, 2002 at her home in Kentwood, MI at the age of 57.

She was born June 27, 1945 in Lansing, daughter of Adam M. and Evelyn L. (Kirtland) Gunn.

She was the most patient and courageous person I know, my best friend and my mom.

Surviving are her husband, Dan Keuhs of 14 years; her brother, Hugh Gunn; sister, Losia Marks; her daughter and son-in-

law, Deb and Perry Edgecomb and her two grandsons, Perry II and Conner.

A Memorial Service was held Thursday, December 5, 2002 at the Rosier Funeral Home, Mapes-Fisher Chapel, Sunfield, Michigan.

For those wishing, contributions may be made to The Hospice of Michigan.

For more information www.legacy.com.

Arrangements were made by the Rosier Funeral Home in Sunfield.

Wendell L. Phillips

NASHVILLE - Wendell L. Phillips, of Nashville, MI, formerly of Lansing, MI, age 91, died Dec. 12, 2002.

He was born June 13, 1911 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Mr. Phillips retired from Brinks Armored Trucks after 25 years of service and retired from A.D.T. Security after 31 years of service.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Surviving are his wife of 33 years, Marcella Phillips; four children, Sandy Tuck, Edward (Janine) Phillips, Teri (Bob) Lindsey, and

Ricki (Teresa) Phillips; four step-children, Sue (Chuck) Browning, Laura DeWitt, Debi (Hesham) Fayyad, and Pamela DeWitt; and many grandchildren and step-grandchildren; sister, Mildred Jankowski; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Monday, Dec. 16, in the Tiffany Funeral Home, 3232 W. Saginaw. Deacon Bob McPhilamy of St. Gerard Church presided. Interment at Deepdale Memorial Park.

Arrangements were made by Tiffany Funeral Home.

James Dale Roberts

NASHVILLE - James Dale Roberts, age 60, of Nashville, MI passed away at home on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2002.

Mr. Roberts was born Jan. 22, 1942, the son of the late Charles and Laura (Huffman) Roberts.

He married Mary Louise Ledbetter on Sept. 20, 1964 in Aikin, So. Carolina. Jim spent his last few years with Myrt Hager.

Jim loved country music and he had a great passion for songwriting and singing, especially at Prairieville.

Jim is survived by three children, Kathryn (Jeremie) Modine of Columbia, TN, Teresa Roberts of Wichita Falls, TX, and Terry (Julie) Johnson of Ionia, MI; grandchildren, Scott and Amber Hamilton and Rayven Modine; two sisters, Kathy Roberts of Greenville, MI and Dana (Tim) Estep of Sunfield, MI; two brothers, Herb (Barb) Roberts of Hastings, MI and Chuck Roberts of New Paris, IN.



Memorial services for Mr. Roberts will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2002 at the Nashville Baptist Church in Nashville, MI with Pastor Lester DeGroot officiating. Inurnment will be in North Eagle Cemetery in Eagle, MI.

Friends may visit at the church on Wednesday from 10 a.m. till the time of services.

The family is being served by the Maple Valley Chapel of Nashville, MI.

Gary Lee Croff, Jr.

EATON RAPIDS - Gary Lee Croff, Jr., age 17, of Eaton Rapids (formerly of Vermontville), passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2002 at Charlotte, MI.

Gary Lee Croff, Jr., son of Gary Lee Croff, Sr. and Peggy Jo Sanders, was born in Hastings, Mich. on Oct. 27, 1985.

He attended and enjoyed Maple Valley Schools. His hobbies included jet skiing, wrestling, hunting and fishing.

He is survived by his father, Gary (Tina) Croff Sr. of Ionia; Peggy (Art) Maurer of Eaton Rapids; sisters, Amber Croff of Vermontville and Elisabeth Lincoln of Nashville; grandparents, Kenneth and Velma Croff of Ionia, Carol Croff and Clifford VanDeusen of Vermontville and Kathryns

Munchbach of Charlotte; great grandmothers, Mary Kerr of Ionia and Ruth Carrier of Vermontville; aunts and uncles, Kenneth (Wilma) Croff of Marshall, Dennis (Janet) Croff of Vermontville, Brian (Julie) Croff of Nashville, Janet (Cal) Riker of Petosky, Mark (Nora) Sanders of Charlotte, Joe Sanders of Charlotte, CoCo (Bruce) Davis of Charlotte, Tanya Sager (Terry Harper) of Charlotte and Julie (Jimmy) Moonyham of Charlotte; many cousins.

There will be no services held and disposition will be at Woodland Cemetery, Vermontville Township, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family.

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

Robert Misener

OCALA, FLORIDA - Robert Misener, age 80, of Ocala, Florida, formerly of Vermontville and Lansing, Mich., died Sunday, Dec. 8, 2002 at his residence.

Mr. Misener was born May 20, 1922 in Grand Ledge, Mich., the son of Elmer Sr. and Liddie (Griswald) Misener.

He was a brick mason for many years with Bricklayers Local #31.

He is survived by sons, Robert L. (Doreen) Misener, Jr. of Marshall, James (Helen) Misener of Lansing; daughters, Gloria Gilding (Rod) of Bellevue, Rosiland (Richard) Emery of Albion; 11 grandchildren; four great grandchildren; brother, El-

mer Misener Jr. of Grand Ledge; sister, Mary Kelly of Grand Ledge; companion of many years, Kay Billis; and daughters, Bev and Dorothy and families.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Avis, in 1976.

Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2002 at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte, Mich. with Dr. Roy Backus officiating. In-terment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Vermontville.

Further information available at www.prayfuneral.com.

Arrangements are being made by Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte.

Helen Jean Cotton

MULLIKEN - Helen Jean Cotton, age 77, of Mulliken, died Sunday, Dec. 8, 2002.

Mrs. Cotton was born Dec. 26, 1924 in Evart, Mich., the daughter of Harry and Beatrice (Montgomery) Custer.

She is survived by daughter, Helene (David) Larson of Eaton Rapids; sons, Harry (Brenda) Cotton of Montpelier, Ohio, Howard Cotton of Mulliken; granddaughter, Michelle Larson; sisters, Norma Rice of Rodney and Betty Pederson of Evart.

She was preceded in death

by husband, Harold; grandchildren, Dale, Becky and Susan Cotton; sister, Kathleen Bingham and brother, Forest Custer.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2002 at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Pastor Brian Sheen officiated. Interment was at Woodland Cemetery in Vermontville.

If desired, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or Woodlawn Cemetery.

Further information available at www.prayfuneral.com.

Jack Joslyn Barker

SUNFIELD - Jack Joslyn Barker of Sunfield, passed away Monday, Dec. 9, 2002 in his residence at the age of 69.

Jack was born May 14, 1933 in Flint, MI, the son of Lyle Joslyn and Ruth Ann (Carlson) Barker, both pre-

ceded him in death.

He served in the Air Force during the Korean War. He was a state police trooper for 11 years, and retired from the Secretary of State in 1983.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge #412, and a member of the Comm. of Christ Church.

Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Carol (Thulen) Barker; three children, Steven (Donna) of Eaton Rapids, Susan (David Rizor) of Battle Creek, and Kevin (Tonya) of Lake Odessa; six grandchildren, Scott, Crystal, Sean, David, Heather, and Rachel; sister, Donna (Al) Sutton of Flushing, MI, and four nephews.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 12, 2002 at the Sunfield United Methodist Church. Interment was in the Sunfield Cemetery.

For those wishing, contributions may be made to scholarship fund for Youth in Sunfield, aka S.P.Y.'s, c/o RFH P.O. Box 36, Sunfield, MI 48890.

For more information www.legacy.com.

Arrangements were made by Rosier Funeral Home, Mapes-Fisher Chapel, Sunfield.

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William C. Bailey

VERMONTVILLE - William C. Bailey, age 81, of Vermontville, died Tuesday morning, Dec. 10, 2002 at a Charlotte nursing home following a long illness.

Mr. Bailey was born March 14, 1921 in Marion, a son of Benjamin and Maggie (Switzer) Bailey. During the 30's he was a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, was a Army veteran of World War II, a former Boy Scout leader and retired from International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1983.

Surviving are his wife,

Janice; six children, Donietta Ramoro of Texas, Benjamin Bailey and William Bailey, Jr., both of Muskegon, Edward Bailey, Thomas Bailey of California, and Daniel Bailey of Vermontville; nine grandchildren; two sisters; three brothers and several nieces and nephews.

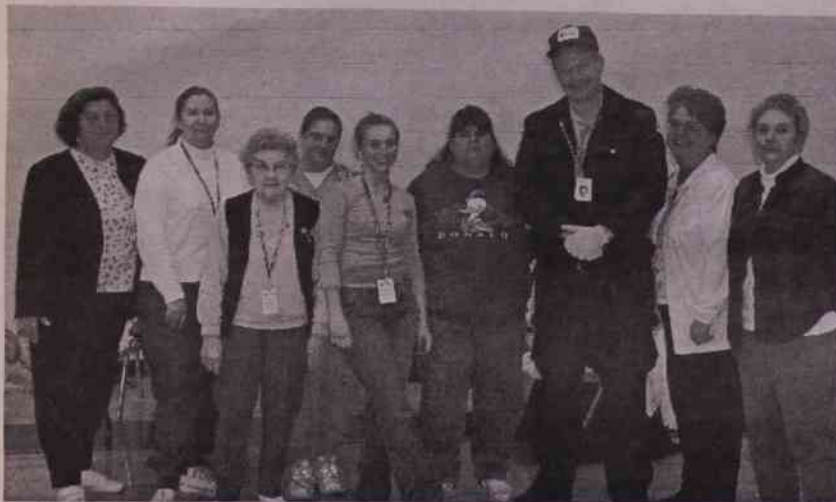
Graveside services with military honors were held Friday, Dec. 13, 2002 at Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Augusta. Rev. James Sherman officiated.

Arrangements were handled by Barker-Leik Funeral Home, Mulliken.

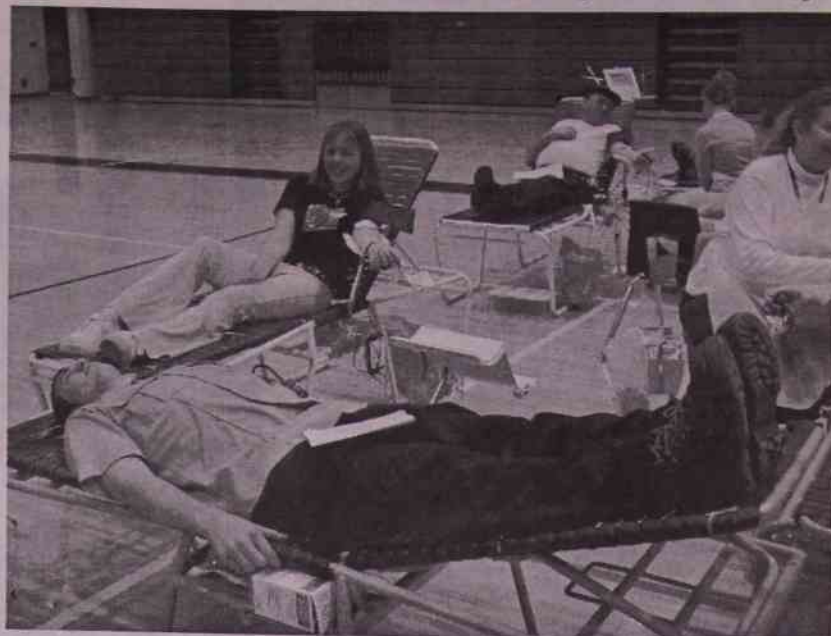
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Luke 2:14

National Honor Society blood drive collects 59 pints



The Red Cross work team. Pictured in the photo are (names are not in order): Catherine Fedewa, Karen Rommel, Carole Soule, Tammy Hochridge, Sherre Underwood, Kim Rowen, Jennifer Fordham, Bill Selleck and Judy Hook.



Maple Valley high school students and first time donors give blood during the NHS annual Red Cross Blood Drive last month.

by Jonathon Denton
NHS photographer,
historian

Maple Valley High School's National Honor Society last month exceeded its goal for the annual Red Cross Blood drive it sponsors.

The NHS members had set a goal of 45 productive units. They overshot that mark by 14, collecting 59 productive units of blood. The drive recruited a total of 77 donors from the community, as well as high school staff and students. For 34 of the donors, it was their first time.

Director Recruitment Representative Eric M. Tasko said, "It was an absolutely outstanding blood drive... as many as 177 patients will benefit from the generous donations."



Elsie Wolever talks with a volunteer as she donates blood.

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Brother to brother: The gift of life

Tate Mix to get bone marrow transplant

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

It's Christmas, a time of togetherness, a time of love and a time of giving. But of all the gifts that are given and received at Christmas time, none is as precious as the gift of life.

This holiday season Tate Mix of Lake Odessa, principal of Maple Valley's Alternative Education program, will receive that priceless gift.

In the next few weeks Tate is scheduled to receive a bone marrow transplant

from his brother, Kevin, in an attempt to cure the follicular lymphoma that Tate has been battling for the past 8 1/2 years.

Late last spring, after six months of remission, Tate found a lump under his jaw a sign that the cancer had returned. His doctor told that continued chemotherapy was not a viable option.

"Basically my doctor told me that the chemo would start affecting my vital organs, my heart, lungs, liver," said Tate. "I was told that the chemo would start to



Tate Mix (left) shares a moment with his brother, Kevin, and his father, Louis, during the Mix family's Thanksgiving celebration.

slowly kill me."

When Tate's brothers, Kevin and Jeff, heard that Tate needed a bone marrow transplant there was no hesitation.

"I thought if there was something I could do, I wanted to do it," said Kevin. "They say that the best chance for a match is with a sibling."

They both went to be tested as soon as possible to see if they were possible donors. Though Jeff and Tate share the same blood type, it was Kevin who was found to be a match.

Kevin said the testing process was relatively simple.

"You go to a hospital lab and they draw a couple of tubes of blood and then you wait about six weeks for the results," he said. "The testing process is as simple and painless as giving blood."

Tate said that while the initial testing was done at the University of Michigan Hospital, but the procedure will be done at the Karmanos Cancer Institute at Wayne State University in Detroit.

"The comfort level at U of M just didn't feel right to me. It felt like a business, not a doctor's office," said Tate. "My brother and I went back to U of M and he had the same feeling."

Tate said he had an entirely different feeling when he went to the Karmanos Cancer Center for a second opinion.

"This place is right in downtown Detroit; you can see urban decay from the windows," said Tate. "It's part of Wayne State University and I felt very comfortable there; they treated me like I was something special. The comfort level there was much, much higher."

Tate and Kevin were re-tested at Karmanos and were again found to be a good match.

Both brothers now are undergoing a battery of tests to assure doctors that they are both healthy enough to undergo the procedure and don't have any pre-existing conditions that would put either of them at risk for complications.

Tate said that he must have a C-T scan of his chest and abdomen, an MRI, a MUGA scan of his heart, a pulmonary function test, and a bone marrow test and blood work done.

Once the test results are in, the stem cells from Kevin's bone marrow will be harvested and a date set for the actual transplant.

"If all the testing goes as well as we want, they won't be extracting marrow so much as doing a stem cell transplant," said Kevin.

Kevin said that six days before the harvesting, he

will give himself a series of shots which will stimulate his body's production of stem cells, which will then spill into his blood.

With the increase of stem cells in his blood, Kevin will go to the hospital where he will be hooked to a machine which will harvest the cells.

"I'll be hooked up to the machine with something like an IV, only the tubes is a little bigger," said Kevin. "The blood will go through the machine where the stem cells will be harvested. Then my blood, minus the stem cells, will cycle back into my other arm."

Kevin said that if all goes well, the process should take about six hours.

"After the stem cells are harvested they can be frozen until they need to be used," said Kevin, noting that he expects the procedure to take place within the next two weeks.

Despite how easy the pro-

cedure has become for the donor, both Kevin and Tate said that it still has a lot of risks for the recipient.

"Tate still has as high a risk of rejecting the marrow as he would with a traditional transplant. But, there is a higher success rate when a blood relative is a match. So, we're hoping Tate will be at the high end of the success rate," said Kevin.

"I'm excited, but anxious," said Tate. "I know I have to have this done; it's the only way to be cured. But, I also know it's going to be a hard and trying experience."

In order for Kevin's stem cells to graft properly, all of Tate's bone marrow must be killed off by chemotherapy before the transplant can occur.

"The process is going to be extremely difficult for Tate," said Kevin. "With that much chemo he will have the total hair loss, extreme nausea and fatigue. It will be a very strenuous process for him."

"There will be three critical times during the transplant procedure," said Tate. "The first is when I get a massive dose of chemo, unlike any I've had before. The second is the two- to three-week period when I will essentially have no immunities at all, while we're waiting for the marrow to graft. The flu and pneumonia can be really serious complications at that stage."

"The third critical stage will be dealing with rejection issues," he added. "They need to allow some rejection because that is what kills the cancer. But, they don't want so much re-

Continued next page

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From previous page

jection that it kills me. It's a double-edged sword."

For six weeks after the procedure Tate will be in a special sterile unit of the hospital.

"There is a special HEPA filtration system on that floor to remove germs from the air," said Tate. "Plus, all visitors will have to scrub up and I'll have to wear a mask when they are in the room."

Tate said that no one under the age of 12 will be able to visit him, only healthy adults will be allowed into the sterile environment.

After six weeks, if all goes well, Tate will move into a special apartment connected to the hospital for a four- to five-month stay.

Because he will often be too weak or ill to take care of himself, Tate will need a caregiver with him at all times.

"Because of rejection issues, I'll need someone with me 24/7," said Tate. "My wife, Pamela, is planning to take time off from work and

"Tate still has as high a risk of rejecting the marrow as he would with a traditional transplant. But, there is a higher success rate when a blood relative is a match. So, we're hoping Tate will be at the high end of the success rate."

- Kevin Tate

stay with me most of the time."

Pamela, who is the postmaster at the Sunfield post office, has saved up enough of her annual and personal leave to cover most of the time Tate is in Detroit.

However, when she is not able to be there, Tate's brothers and some of his friends from church will be able to stay with him.

While in the apartment, Tate will have to adhere to a special diet to make sure

there is no bacteria in his food that may cause complications.

"I can't eat any soft-skinned fruits like apples, grapes, pears, only peelable fruits," said Tate. "I can't have fresh nuts. And strangely enough, no pepper because it isn't cooked. And, I can't have yogurt because it is a bacterial culture."

Tate said that all food has to be thrown away if it is not used within a day or two for the same reason.

"I'll even have to use individual packets of mayo rather than a jar," he added.

Tate said he plans to keep in touch with the students and staff at Maple Valley even while he is in the hospital.

"I'll be in contact with students and staff via e-mail," said Tate. "The

school bought me a laptop and the nurse said that I can do business from my hospital bed if I feel up to it."

Tate said that his doctors told him that he may be well enough to go back to work after four or five months, but because of the nature of his job, he may have to work from his home until a year is up.

"I'm around kids all day at the school and we even have babies here, and I can't be exposed to all the viruses they carry," he said.

Tate said his doctors also warned him that he would have to change the way he

shops by going to all-night stores around midnight when there are fewer people around.

Tate said that once the stem cells have grafted he will should have a carbon copy of his brother's healthy immune system.

"But, a year after the grafting has taken place I

will have to get all my childhood immunizations again because while I will have his immune system, the immunizations don't transfer," he added.

The transplant procedure is considered experimental and Tate's insurance company will not cover a large portion of the treatment,

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Christmas musical set at Vermontville Bible Church

The Vermontville Bible Church choir will present the musical "Hark! The Angels Sing," written by Dennis and Nan Allen Sunday, Dec. 22, at the 11 a.m. worship service.

Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate Christmas at Vermontville Bible Church, 250 N. Main. For more information, please contact the church at 517-726-0647.

Call 945-9554 for Maple Valley News classified ads

NASHVILLE VFW NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION
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Maple Valley students join PAL Exchange Day



Maplewood Elementary students were matched with Riddle Middle School students for PAL Exchange Day at Riddle. Pictured are: (from left) Matthew Slocum, Riddle; Marcos Vargas, Riddle; Dustin Houghton, Maplewood; Kyle Fisher, Maplewood; Trevor Buckner, Riddle; and Duston Frailey, Maplewood.

Sixth grade Peer Assistance Leaders (PALs) at Maplewood Elementary last month participated in the PAL Exchange Day. Sixth through 12th grade

PALs throughout the area spent a day Nov. 21 and 22 at another school and/or host a PAL from another school.

On the first day, five students from Riddle Middle School in Lansing visited Maplewood. The next day, five, sixth grade PALs from Maplewood, under the supervision of Stephanie Hirschert-Walton and eight, eighth grade PALs from Maple Valley Junior High, under the supervision of Jenn Kuchera, traveled to Riddle Middle School to be hosted by sixth- through eighth-grade students, under the direction of Jill Campbell, PAL advisor.

"We hoped this was a unique and fun experience enabling the students to exchange ideas and gain new perspectives," said Hirschert-Walton, who is the PAL advisor at Maplewood Elementary.

Hirschert-Walton said that students from Riddle com-



Riddle Middle School Peer Assistance Leaders (PALs) pose for a photo with their Maplewood counterparts. The middle school students visited Maplewood last month as part of an exchange program. Pictured are (front row, from left) Katherine Green, Riddle; Duston Frailey, Maplewood and Nathan Hicks, Riddle; (back row, from left) Shelby Perron, Riddle; Brooke Cornwall; Kayla Chapman, Maplewood; Yan Zhuana, Riddle; Amy Davis, Maplewood, Miah Dillard, Riddle; Maplewood Principal Fred Davenport and Nick Smith, Maplewood.

mented that they liked the lunches offered at the school and the fact that Maplewood had gym classes.

"As a magnet school for the creative and performing arts that is not one of their options," said Hirschert-Walton. "Those students wanted to come back to visit again and were excited when they could participate in the school subjects-one student got one of the better grades in the class on a math test, his favorite subject. Another scored a goal in crab soccer in gym."

"Pictures were taken and addresses exchanged," she added. "They can't wait until next year."

Maplewood PAL Duston Frailey, who served as a host and visited the other school, had this to say about Riddle: "I like that school because of the specials, the new people and the games."

Dustin Houghton had probably the most negative experience, according to Hirschert-Walton.

"They have too many different classes there (at Riddle)," he said. The lunch there was worse than our lunches here."

Kyle Fisher said that the people at Riddle Middle School were nice.

"I met a lot of nice people. I wish I could go there again," he said.

Olivia Sprague agreed, "The kids were really nice. Sydney was the girl who hosted me and was really sweet. I was glad I was able to go to Riddle Middle School."

Sprague added that Riddle was very different because



Maplewood Elementary student Olivia Sprague poses with Sydney Henry, a student at Riddle Middle School in Lansing where Maple Valley Peer Assistance Leaders (PALs) recently participated in an Exchange Day.

the school didn't offer gym but had drama and other different classes.

Kaylea Piercefield agreed that Riddle was very different, "They don't have any recess or snack. We have re-

cess and snack. At their school they have to switch classes and they have different classes. They have classes like drama because their school is an art school, I like our school better."

NOTICE SUNFIELD TOWNSHIP PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION

I will be collecting W2002 Property Taxes for Sunfield Township at the Sunfield Branch of Ionia County National Bank, during regular working hours, starting at 9 a.m.:

Every Friday & Saturday in December during regular banking hours.

Any taxes received after Dec. 31, 2002, will be dated as received in 2003.

Postmarks will not be accepted as payment date. Dog Licenses: Neutered/spayed dog is \$7.00 and non-neutered/spayed dog is \$12.00. Proof of up-to-date rabies vaccination is required. After Feb. 28, 2003, licenses will be \$25.00 at the Eaton County Animal Control Office. Taxes and Dog Licenses may also be paid by U.S. Mail or at my home by appointment.

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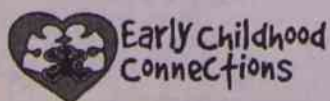
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December is National Stress Free Family Holiday Month--Cuddle with your child, for him/her and for you.



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Nashville children send letters to Santa

The mailbox in Nashville's Central Park has been stuffed with letters during the past two weeks, as children send their letters to Santa Claus, requesting toys for Christmas and asking about his elves, reindeer and Mrs. Claus.

Santa has generously agreed to let the Maple Valley News print a few of these letters before they are forwarded to the North Pole:



Dear Santa,
I have been a really good boy this year. Here is a list of three things that I would like to have.

1. Remote controlled dirt bike
2. Fire truck
3. And something nice for my baby sister. She could use a new toy too! And she has been just as good! Her name is Alison and she is 7 months old.

I hope you like store bought cookies because my mom can't cook.

Sincerely,
Austin Hartwell

Hello Santa, how are you?
Well, I don't have a lot of room so I will cut to the chase.

This Christmas I would like: Meteoroid Prime, Meteoroid Fusion; Zelda, a Link to the Past; a Harry Potter Lego set, Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets for Game Cube, Yu-Gi-Oh Eternal Duelist Soul game, and Yugi-Oh cards.

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

Sincerely,
Austin Earl

Something to keep me busy for awhile.

Dear Santa,

This year I would like an American Girl doll with clothes to go with her, a Kmart ATM and a Kmart cash register, an Ariel Pop doll and a playhouse mansion.

Love,
Ashley Shook

Dear Santa,
-I want a Game Boy Advance.

- I want a snow board.
- and a dirt bike
- and a punching bag
- and a mini checkers game
- and a bunch of CDs

-and I want one of those mini skateboards

-and I want a mini clown bike

-and 50 pairs of pants for Mom.

Alex Reed

Dear Santa,

My name is Cody and I am 6 years old. I would like

for Christmas Pokemon cards and Transformer Toys and Power Rangers. Thank you for the nice presents that you give me and my big brother Josh. We will leave cookies and hot chocolate for you.

Merry Christmas,
Cody Hall

Merry Christmas Santa and Family

Dear Santa Claus,

I have been a good boy this year. How is Mrs. Claus and the reindeer been this year? I've been okay. a piano fell on my toe and broke it. Here are the things I would like:

- ***1. John Deere antique paint green/yellow
2. New mattress for my bed

3. A hunting bow and arrow

4. Zelda Oracle of Time for N64

5. A bean bag chair

****6. Two front tires for my John Deere tractor/model B/

year 1934 if that helps for what kind.

7. Yugi-Oh booster packs

**** 8. a clutch cap for my tractor

*****9. Repair manual for John Deere B year 1939 ID #B68339

These are the things I would really like. Thank

you.

P.S. I put a star for the things I would like mostly. The year and model # are the same for the tires, clutch cap. We will leave your favorite cookies for you!!

Sincerely,
Joshua Sams

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. How are you and the reindeer doing? I hope Mrs. Claus is doing well too. My list is not going to be too big this year. Here it is:

- ***1. A real magic wand
- **2. A laptop computer

**3. Yugi-Oh booster packs

*4. New mattress

**5. Legend of Dragon II

6. Batteries

*7. Any n64 games for boys

8. Metal baseball bat

**9. A wizard hat

**10. a wizard cloak

That is all...

Sincerely,
Brandon Sams

P.S. I'll leave a treat for you and the reindeer.

P.S.S. How is Rudolph's nose doing?

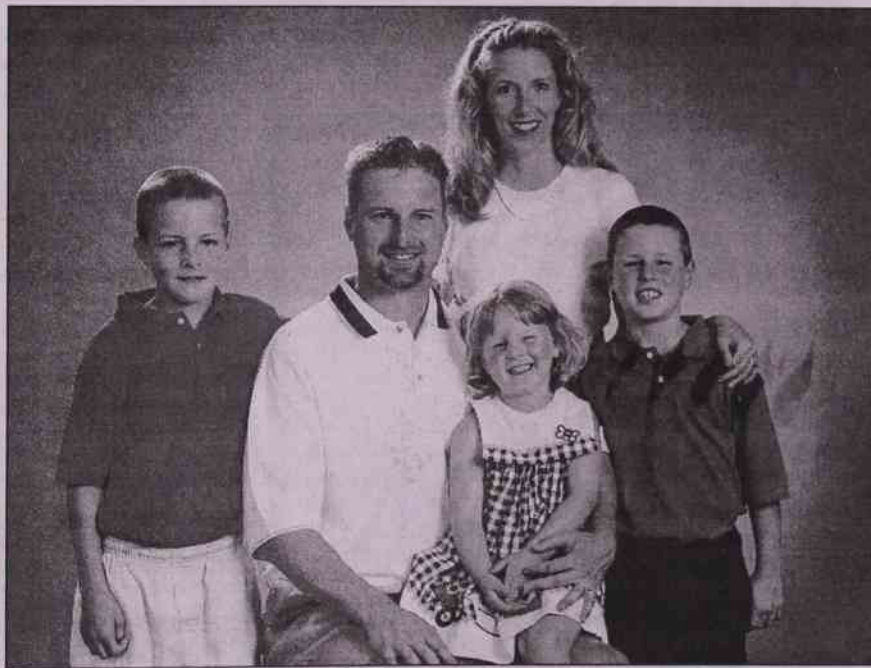
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Local FFA alumni affiliate accepting charter members

Brandon Montgomery, FFA Reporter
 Supporters of the Maple Valley FFA chapter met Nov. 25, for an organizational meeting, officers in which officers were elected for the 2002-2003 academic year.

Larry Ruffner was elected **Lion volleyball opened at Bath**

The Maple Valley varsity volleyball team split two and lost two last Saturday at the Bath Invitational.

The Lions earned splits with Perry 12-15 then winning 15-3, and Buckley 15-5, 10-15.

SMAA foe Lansing Christian got two 10-15 wins over the Lions. Valley's other loss came at the hands of Ovid Elsie 2-15, 9-15.

Ashley Gordeneer had 14 kills on the day and 10 block assists with 4 solo blocks.

Jessie Grant had 11 block assists and 5 solo blocks to go with 10 digs and 9 kills.

Leading the way in service points on the opening day for Maple Valley was

Chayla Robles with 24 and 5 aces to go along with her 11 digs.

Krystal Root was next with 17. Included in that were 8 aces. Root also added 31 assists.

Jessica Mansfield finished with 11 service points, and Jennifer Grant had 13 with 5 aces.

Two aces were included in the seven service points Michelle Silsbee won.

Saturday Dec. 21 is the next time the Lady Lions take the court when they head to Eaton Rapids.

to lead the organization during this year. Also elected were Kim Eldred as vice president, Anita Ruffner as secretary and Andrea Montgomery as treasurer. The constitution and bylaws were adopted and goals were set for the upcoming school year.

According to Ruffner, the organization will be accepting charter members for the organization throughout this entire school year. Anyone

interested in strengthening the support for students can call FFA advisor Aaron Saari at (517) 852-9971.

The next meeting of the Maple Valley FFA Alumni will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, 2003, at the Maple Valley Jr./Sr. High school ag room.

Alumni members will be helping FFA members prepare for District Leadership contests which will be held on Feb. 3.

Girl Scouts to offer gift wrap services

Troop No. 603 of Nashville Girl Scouts of Glowing Embers will have a gift wrapping fund-raiser Saturday.

These fifth grade girls and their leaders will be at the Vermontville United Methodist Church Dec. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. waiting for people to bring gifts they need wrapped for the holidays. There will be a selection of wrapping paper to wrap gifts at \$1 apiece and for an additional 25 cents the

customer can have ribbon or bows added to the wrapping.

The funds raised by these Junior Girl Scouts will go toward a summer trip they are planning. This trip will help their work toward different merit badges in categories such as Money Sense, Outdoor Activities, First Aid and How to Stay Safe.

Leader Julie Khouri said, "We would love to see you and help with your holiday work."

School Lunch Menus

Elementary Schools (Maplewood & Fuller) Lunch Menu
Wednesday, Dec. 18
 Chicken sandwich, mashed potatoes, fruit, trail mix, 1/2 pt. milk.
Thursday, Dec. 19
 Pizza, tossed salad, pear halves, peanut butter brownie, 1/2 pt. milk.
Friday, Dec. 20
 Fuller: Corndogs; MW: Hot pocket, scalloped potatoes, peaches, holiday treat, 1/2 pt. milk.
Monday, Dec. 23
 No school. Winter vacation.
Tuesday, Dec. 24
 No school. Winter vacation.
Note: Maplewood Elementary will be serving breakfast this year starting the first of the school year.

Maple Valley Jr./Sr. High School Lunch Menu
Wednesday, Dec. 18
Choose One - Chicken pot pie, pizza, chicken sandwich, burger bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, fresh fruit, juice. Milk.
Thursday, Dec. 19
Choose One - H.S. Hungry Howies. Pizza, cheeseburger, taco bar. **Choose Two** - Garden salad, broccoli/cheese, trail mix, juice. Milk.
Friday, Dec. 20
Cook's Choice
Monday, Dec. 23
 No school. Winter vacation.
Tuesday, Dec. 24
 No school. Winter vacation.

Athlete of the Week
Ben Boss
 Maple Valley High School (Nashville) Wrestling
 Sophomore Ben Boss of the varsity wrestling team recorded first round pins last Thursday against opponents from Saranac and Leslie. He followed that up with a third place finish at the Jeff Lehman Memorial Tournament in Middleville on Saturday, December 14.

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Area Obituaries

Alberta E. Lancaster

HASTINGS - Alberta E. Lancaster, age 88, of Hastings died Saturday Dec. 14, 2002 at Thornapple Manor.

Mrs. Lancaster was born on Feb. 3, 1914 in Delton, Mich., the daughter of Guy and Rena (Holbrook) Higgins.

She was raised in the Delton/Prairieville areas and attended schools there.

She was married to Richard E. Lancaster on Jan. 14, 1931. She lived in the Hastings area all of her married life.

She was employed at Hastings Manufacturing Company from 1947 until

she retired in 1976.

She was a member of Grace Wesleyan Church, an avid sportswoman enjoying hunting with her family. A life member of Barry County Conservation Club and Barry County Sportswomen's Club.

Mrs. Lancaster is survived by sons, Clarence (Joellen) Lancaster of Hastings, Kenneth (Nancy) Lancaster of Hastings and Allen (Elizabeth) Lancaster of Hastings; 17 grandchildren; several great grandchildren; brother, James Higgins of Grand Rapids; sisters, Lucile Higgins of Wellston and Rose Guernsey of

Hastings; nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were parents; husband, Richard on March 6, 1997; brother's, Donald, Albert, Charles and Guy; 1/2 sisters, Beatrice and Bernice.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2002 at Hastings' Grace Wesleyan Church with Pastor Alvin C. Yates. Burial will be at Barryville Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Disease Foundation or Barry Community Hospice.

Arrangements are being made by Wren Funeral Home of Hastings.

Joy M. Whipple

NASHVILLE - Joy M. Whipple, age 66, of Nashville, died Friday, Dec. 13, 2002 at Hayes-Green-Beach Hospital in Charlotte, MI.

Joy Whipple was born Dec. 21, 1935 in Saranac, MI, the daughter of John and Rachael (Fischer)

Marker.

Joy loved cooking and enjoyed having friends and family to her house for meals. She enjoyed fishing and loved spending time with her family and was very affectionate toward them all; although she was

extremely outspoken and known to be very stubborn at times.

She is survived by her significant other, Dennis Harwood of Nashville; four daughters, Mona Reid of Nashville, Shanon Whipple of Hastings, Linda Curry of Wyoming, Tara Whipple of Hastings; one son, Craig (Rhonda) Whipple of Texas; six stepchildren, Diana (Vaughn) Reid of Nashville, Patty Musser of Vermontville, Dennis Harwood Jr. of Nashville, Marcia (Chris) Ruedisueli of Nashville, Sara Harwood (Brent Martin) of Vermontville and Laura (Steve) Blakney of Marshall; 27 grandchildren, special granddaughter, Jordanna; seven great grandchildren.

Services were held on Monday, Dec. 16, 2002 at Maple Valley Chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family.

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

Ray A. Boise

NASHVILLE - Ray A. Boise, age 79, of Nashville, died Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2002 at Battle Creek Health System.

He was born Oct. 17, 1923 in Nashville, the son of Harry and Etta (Rogers) Boise. He attended school in Nashville.

Ray worked for Eaton's in Battle Creek for 30 years, retiring in 1980. He also operated Ray's Auto Wreckers in Nashville from 1970 to 2000.

He served in the United States Army during World War II. He married Phyllis H. Stambaugh Sept. 23,



1959.

Ray hobbies were working on cars, hunting and fishing.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Ray Boise Jr. in 1975; three brothers, Charlie Boise, Leo Boise, and Roy Boise.

Surviving is his wife, Phyllis H. Boise of Nashville; daughters, Margaret Kane of Texas, Laura (Marshall) Pierson of Hastings; Karen (Paul) McClurkin of Hastings; Molly (Norman) Westrate of Hastings, Aleta (Ron) Jones of Tennessee, Lisa Boise of Hastings; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, stepchildren, Darwin (Kris) McIntyre of Nashville, Louise (Tom) Brundage of Springport, Del'rae Bowers of Hastings, Valarie Smith of Grand Rapids; sister, Eva Pennington of Nashville.

Respecting his wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Dec. 21, 2002 at 2 p.m. at the Girschbach Funeral Home in Hastings. Pastor A. Burgett officiating.

Memorials can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, or Barry County Commission on Aging.

Arrangements are by the Girschbach Funeral Home in Hastings.

Only two wrestle, but Lions earn first dual win



Josh Grasman tries to escape the grasp of Fruitport's Greg Schultz in the 215 pound final at the Jeff Lehman memorial in Middleville last Saturday. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

The Lion varsity wrestling team split against Leslie and Saranac last Thursday night.

The win was a 66-3 match against Saranac the only feature two varsity matches due to forfeits by each side.

Ben Boss got a pin 16 seconds into his match at 135 in the only actual Lion win on the mat.

Matt Brumm at 160 lost a good match in overtime 7-5.

SMAA opponent Leslie got the best of the Lions however, 33-48 when the two teams went head to head.

Tyler Greenfield, Joey Desrochers, Ben Boss, Jeff Totten all won by pin, but it wasn't enough for Valley to make up for four voids in the lineup.

Brumm won a 9-2 decision at 160, and Josh Grasman got a win with a void from Leslie at 215.

In the match against Saranac Greenfield, Kevin Fassett, Desrochers, Totten,

Matt Conklin, Lance Harvey, Grasman, and Ben Swan all won by forfeit.

Last Saturday at the Jeff Lehman Memorial tournament in Middleville the Lions finished at the bottom of the eight team tournament, but had four medal winners.

Grasman had the best finish of the day by a Lion. He earned second place at 215 with a pin in the semi finals, and then falling in a 4-3 decision in the final.

Boss earned a pin in the semi's of the consolation round, then a major decision in the final to earn third place.

At 160, Brumm earned a fourth place finish by pinning opponents in two of his first three matches.

The Lions first medalist of the day was Ben Swan at 275. Swan also pinned two of his first three opponents to reach the consolation final, before falling in a 9-8 decision and taking fourth.

Lakewood again hosts the

Lions, on Tuesday Dec. 17, for a tri-match between the Lions, the Vikings, and the Delton Panthers. On Saturday Dec. 21 the Lions host the Maple Valley Invitational.

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Lion cagers get first SMAA win

The Maple Valley varsity boys' basketball team opened the SMAA season last Friday night with a 47-38 win over Webberville.

By scoring 23 points in the second quarter, and 24 in the fourth the Middleville Trojans were able to pull away for a 75-49 win over the visiting Maple Valley Lions Tuesday Dec. 10 in the season opener for both teams.

The Trojans did the job inside and outside, knocking down seven three pointers and outrebounding the Lions

38-18 in the contest.

Sophomore Jon Yeazel led the way for TK with 17 points, followed closely by Brett Knight with 16.

Knight was the top rebounder for TK with 11, in his double-double performance.

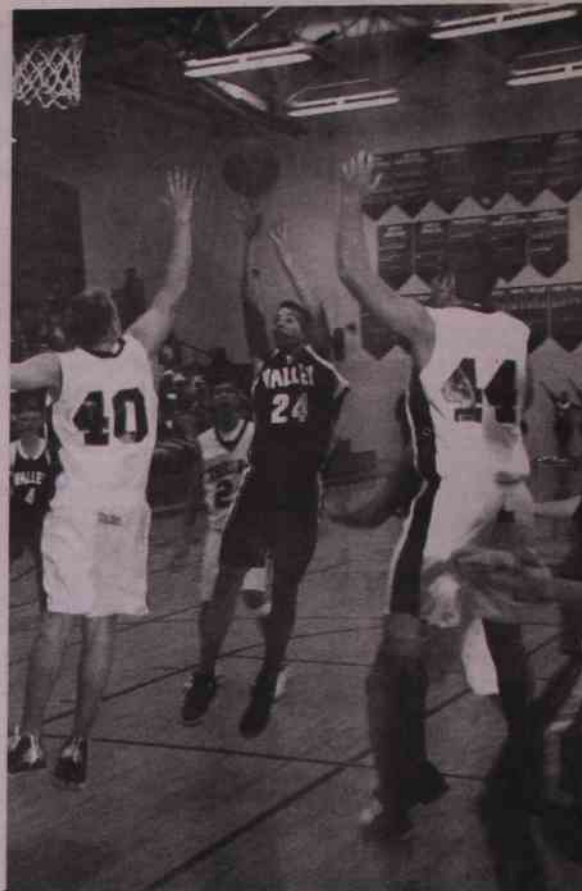
Also in double digit scoring for the Trojans were Chase VandenBerg with 13 and Darrin Tape with 11.

Justin VanSpronsen dished out nine assists.

Jim Hirneiss was the top man for Maple Valley with 16 points, and Jeff Taylor



Lion Jimmy Hirneiss soars through the lane, and through a crowd of Trojans for two of his team high 16 points. (Photo by Perry Hardin)



Jesse Page finds some space between Trojan defenders in the Lions' season opener. (Photo by Perry Hardin)



Maple Valley's Dustin Mead turns the corner on Trojan Bobby Roush at Middleville Tuesday Dec. 10. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

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had nine while going six of eight from the charity stripe.

The Lions jump back out of league play, and out of the normal schedule this week when they host the Hopkins Vikings on

Wednesday night Dec. 18.

Their final game before the holiday break is Friday Dec. 20 at Morrice as SMAA play gets back underway.

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