

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY
121 S CHURCH ST
HASTINGS MI 49058-1893



Published by J-Ad Graphics, Inc.
1351 N. M-43 Highway, Hastings, Michigan 49058
P.O. Box A, Nashville, Michigan
Phone: 945-9554 (Hastings)

Vol. 131-No. 1 December 31, 2002

Looking back: The top stories of 2002

J-Ad Graphics
News Service

For Nashville, Vermontville and the surrounding areas, 2002 was a year of struggles, change and growth for the villages, townships, schools and individuals that make up Maple Valley.

This article is an attempt to provide an overview of some of the events and stories that impacted and shaped the lives of those

who lived and worked in Maple Valley during the past year.

Maple Valley schools

In January, the schools received a grant for "just under \$4,000" from the Eaton Intermediate School District to pilot the "Youth Friends" program that provides volunteer mentoring and tutoring for all grade levels.

"This program has the ability to make sure mentors working with our kids are

safe and trained," said Maple Valley Schools Superintendent Clark Volz.

The adult and high school student volunteers were trained in mid-January to help students with reading and schoolwork on school property, before, during or after school hours. Students who would benefit from the program are chosen by teacher referrals or parental request. Parental permission must be obtained before a child can start the program.

Eaton County received a \$2 million grant to bring the Early Childhood Connections Program to the area. Early Childhood Connections strives to coordinate all county services for children ages 0-5 to make them more accessible when a parent calls and asks for services.

"The program is about looking closely at that age group and what can be done to help them prepare for school. The concept is no wrong door, and the object is to get kids the help they need when they ask for it," said Volz.

In March the Maple Valley Education Association and the school district decided to go to an arbitrator who would decide the fate of what Superintendent Clark Volz called a mistake in which 33 teachers were given a 14.8% instead of 9% pay increase for the 2001-2002 school year.

According to Volz the mistake came about in an effort to boost starting teachers' wages in the district. To do that, he said, it was negotiated in the contract to get rid of the zero step, which was the base rate salary for



Steve Wheeler, Mary Coll and Carroll Wolff were sworn in as trustees on the Nashville Village Council in April.

starting teachers. By eliminating this step teachers coming into the district would start of at the 1 step, which the year before was what a second year teacher was making.

Volz added that a year after the 0 step was eliminated, another step was negotiated out to further boost teachers' wages. The prob-

lem came when some teachers should have stayed on a step. Staying on the step would have still given the teachers pay raises, but they would have had to consider themselves on the same step for two years.

The mistake, according to Volz, occurred when they were accidentally bumped up, giving them a 14.8%

raise instead of the 9% they should have received.

Volz said the mistake was discovered in January when the budget was being updated.

"It was our intent to raise the teachers' salaries, but it was never our intent to give a double step," he said.

See top stories, page 2



Gina Blough, assistant vice president of branch administration for Hastings City Bank turned over the keys to the bank's old building in downtown Nashville to Village President Frank Dunham in October.



Hastings City Bank opened a new full-service branch office in Nashville in January.

Nashville votes to annex Mulberry Fore property

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

During a record-setting seven-minute-long meeting, with only four council members present, the Nashville Village Council unanimously approved a resolution to annex a portion of the property owned by Tad Davis and Orvin Moore, owners and developers of Mulberry Fore Golf Course and Mulberry Gardens Banquet facility.

Village President Frank Dunham and trustees Ralph Kirk, Ronda Edinger and Steve Wheeler approved the resolution with little discussion.

Kirk questioned whether or not four council members were enough to pass a resolution. He expressed concern that the council not delay their part in approving the annexation.

Dunham replied that four should be enough. Wheeler moved to adopt

the resolution, which was support by Kirk.

The roll call vote was all ayes and the motion carried.

Davis and Moore made a formal request for annexation to the council earlier this month. The parcel they have asked to be annexed would include the clubhouse and banquet facility at the golf course and the area where they hope to build

condominiums.

Annexation would allow Mulberry Fore to be hooked up to village utilities.

The resolution now will go to the Barry County Board of Commissioners for final approval. If the commissioners approve the annexation, then the village boundaries will be change as requested.

In This Issue...

- Destination Imagination regionals set for March
- Nashville man to face trial on charges of resisting, obstructing
- SMAA trophies pile high for Lions in 2002
- Host Lions finish third at Jesse Snow Invitational



Top stories, continued from page 1

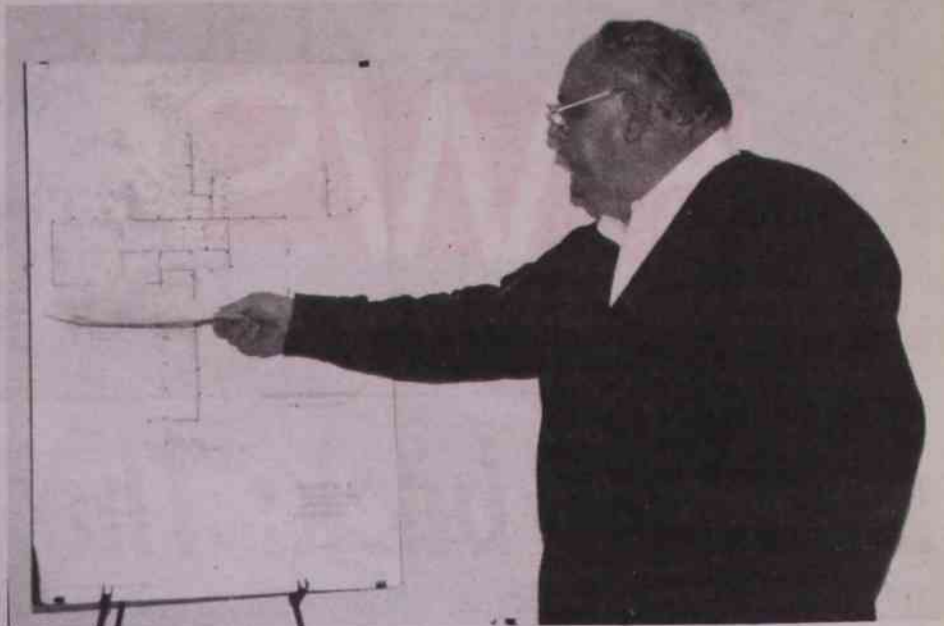
However, the local teachers' union said that the increase was bargained in the teachers' contract and was no mistake.

Volz said the extra increase would cost the district about \$78,000 in one year alone and would compound itself over the next 11 years when the teachers' salary matrix tops out.

Volz said that the district owed it to the taxpayers to correct the mistake.

"When this was initially discovered, we offered the association to hold them harmless for the overpayments made during the 2001-02 school year, and to continue those payments for the rest of the school year,

In October, Fred McCauley took over Monte O'Dell's position with Vermontville's DPW after O'Dell was promoted to street supervisor.



Fleis and VandenBrink Engineer Randy Kriscunas describes the proposed water system improvement plan for Vermontville at a public hearing in April.

on the condition that they forgo their step raises next year to even things out," said Volz.

Volz said this meant teachers would continue to receive the "mistake" pay for the rest of the school year, but would not get a step raise the next year, instead they'd receive their regular 3.5% raise. The next year, they would continue with step and regular raises on schedule.

In May the arbitrator ruled in favor of the schools, concluding that the pay raise was a mistake. The decision of the arbitrator was final and binding.

"I am happy with the decision," said Volz. "I think it's what we were willing to do, and it keeps the district responsible for what was in the contract."

Jeanne Hansen, president of the Maple Valley Education Association, said, "We are disappointed with the decision. I am not sure this is going to be a way to keep teachers in the district."

Hansen said she knew of teachers in the district who were looking for jobs elsewhere because of the decision handed down by the ar-

bitrator.

"We want teachers to be well paid and be part of a

district that is financially

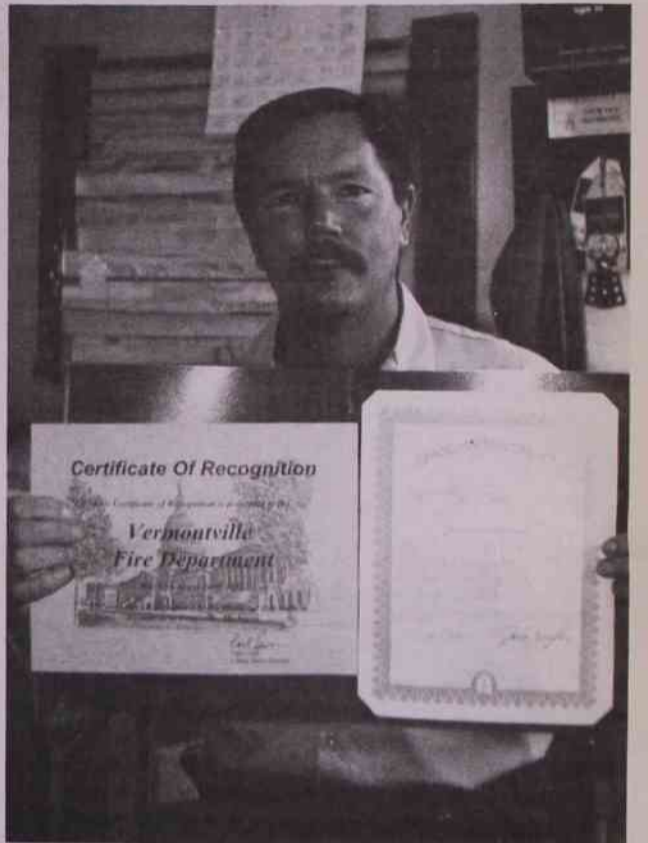
Continued next page

Thank You
For the opportunity to be of service with your insurance.



Stan & Kelly
TRUMBLE AGENCY
178 Main • Vermontville
517-726-0580

Representing: **Hastings Mutual Insurance Company**
Hastings, Michigan • 49056-0091



In June, the Vermontville Fire Department received recognition for its help in the clean up efforts in Potterville after a train carrying toxic chemicals derailed. Here, Assistant Fire Chief Monte O'Dell holds the certificate awarded to the department.

LOCAL CHURCH SCHEDULE

ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

A Spirit-filled Church
Meeting at the Maple Leaf Grange
Hwy. M-66 south of Assynia 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 Some-
one Special." For information call 1-
616-731-5194 or 1-517-852-1806.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

803 Reed St., Nashville
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday:
A.M. Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening:
Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
PASTOR GLENN BRANHAM

BASELINE 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

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

301 Fuller St., Nashville
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday:
A.M. Worship 11 a.m.
P.M. Worship 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening:
Worship 7 p.m.
REV. ALAN METTLER

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.
PASTOR MARC S. LIVINGSTON
Phone: 543-5488

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

110 S. Main, Vermontville
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Church School 10 a.m.
Fellowship Time
After Worship
REV. ERIC LISON

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.:
Children's Classes
Youth Group • Adult Worship
PASTOR JEFF SWIFT

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

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

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,
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

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

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

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

QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

M-79 West
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
PASTOR KENNETH VAUGHT
(616) 945-9392

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. Hutwick 948-9604
Traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer used
for all services. Affiliated with the Independent
Anglican Church (Canada Synod).

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

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

VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

108 N. Main, Vermontville
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Church Service 11 a.m.
PASTOR KATHY SMITH

MOST HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Roman Catholic Latin Mass
314 Main, Middleville
Sunday Mass 9 a.m.
616-795-9030
FATHER PAUL ANDRADE

From previous page

secure," said Volz. "A financially secure district lets the teachers know they have job security."

In June, Maplewood Elementary celebrated its 50-year anniversary with an assembly featuring a program of music and skits by current students, the reminiscences of former teachers and students and the opening of a time capsule that was laid in the school's corner stone in 1952.

The time capsule contained several documents: a copy of the "Vermontville Echo," dated Nov. 8, 1951, which contained extensive articles and editorials supporting the bond issue to build the new school, a bond proposition ballot and a tax limitation proposal ballot, both dated Nov. 8, 1951, specifications for the new school building and the plot plan.

Later that month, Maple Valley High School's class of 2002 graduated with more than half the class maintaining a grade point average of 3.0 or above.

Starting with the 2002-03 school year in August, Maple Valley High school students had to meet both academic and attendance criteria to qualify for exemption from semester and end of year exams.

Now students in grades 9-12 must maintain all As and Bs and miss two days or less of school to be exempt from taking their exams in January and June.

High school Principal Todd Gonser said the change in policy was due to a change in state guidelines, "You have to have 70-75% of the students in attendance to count the day for full funding. We had to be careful because exam exemption put us right at that number or just a little above."

In September, the Eaton Intermediate School District (EISD) was awarded a million dollar abstinence education grant. \$200,000 a year for five years will be dispersed through the EISD to five school districts, including Maple Valley. Student



In July work was still in progress on the Reed Street reconstruction project.

population will determine the amount each school receives.

The EISD was one of 11 sites in Michigan selected to receive grant money, which came from the Michigan Abstinence Partners (MAP). The EISD received the highest amount that could be awarded to a district.

The grant money will be used for after-school abstinence education program for students in grades 4-8 at Maplewood Elementary, parent education and a mentoring program. Public hearings on the curriculum have been set for Jan. 6 and 13.

Nashville

In January Penny Ruff was appointed the new village clerk as former village clerk/office manager Cathy Lentz expressed her disappointment at not being appointed.

Lentz said that up until Ruff's appointment, she believed she was still in negotiations for the position with Council President Frank Dunham. Lentz had wanted to return to the position at the same rate of pay and with the three weeks vacation time she had accrued through her previous seniority.

Lentz had resigned from her position as the village clerk/office manager to pursue other career opportunities during the previous year. However, Lentz stayed on as clerk for a few months to help Sandy Harvey, who had been hired as office manager.

When a dispute over job responsibilities arose between Lentz and Harvey, Lentz quit. Harvey quit a short time later when the Village Council decided to combine the positions and told her she would have to re-apply for the position along with other applicants.

Ruff started the position part-time with plans to start working as the full-time clerk within a month.

Four months later, Lentz returned to the position with

a \$2,500 raise and three weeks vacation after Ruff abruptly resigned from the position to take another job.

At that time, Councilman Steve Wheeler said the village was "almost collapsing" and that if the village did not hire Lentz there would be serious consequences because the village was finding it hard to function without a clerk.

The hiring created controversy on the council and barely squeaked by in a 4-3 vote.

Chelsea Wetzel, the newcomer on the council who



Officers wearing protective gear inventory toxic chemicals found in a Thornapple Estates home where two methamphetamine labs were found.

cast the deciding vote, said she wished she had more time to look into the matter.

"My concern is that she has the upper hand in the situation and that she is making some pretty demanding requests," said Wetzel. "She basically is being hired in with all of her seniority from before."

Councilman Carroll Wolff said that he resigned from the finance committee that had met with Lentz earlier in the week because there was no bargaining or negotiating of salary. He said the committee agreed to everything that Lentz asked for and didn't bargain at all.

"I've got better things to do than sit in on meetings like that," he said.

Both Wheeler and Dunham defended hiring Lentz citing the need to keep the village running.

"It's unfortunate that we had to do this in such a small time frame," said Wheeler. "There's an awful lot of financial things riding

on this right now and Cathy is our only solution. I think you will like working with

See top stories, page 4



Darrell Clements Jr. was named Nashville's acting DPW director and street supervisor in February.

Thank You...



We would like to thank all of our valued customers for placing their trust in us in 2002. We look forward to serving all of your financial needs in 2003.



Hastings City Bank

Here For You Since 1886

HASTINGS 4
 Downtown Hastings on State St.
 1-800-525-7203 945-SHOW
 \$5.00 Kids all shows
 \$6.25 DAILY Matinee 10:00am & Seniors
 \$8.50 Students & Late Shows Fri & Sat
 \$8.50 Evenings Mon - Thurs
 No passes DIGITAL STEREO
 Unlimited Free Soft Drinks & 75¢ Dark Beers
 Stadium Seating Gives YOU An Unobstructed View

MOVIE GUIDE

SHOWTIMES 12:30 - 1:02
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
 (PG-13) DIGITAL/STADIUM SEATING
 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05
LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS (PG-13)
 DIGITAL/STADIUM SEATING
 11:25, 2:55, 6:25, 9:55
MAID IN MANHATTAN (PG-13)
 12:15, 2:40, 5:00, 7:10, 9:25
WILD THORNBERRYS (PG)
 11:50, 1:35, 3:20, 5:05, 6:45
ANALYZE THAT (R) 9:00 PM

COUPON
FREE
 20oz. BEVERAGE
 with \$1.50 (1/2 price) purchase of 40oz. bag of bulky popcorn
 See us at the end of the show.

www.hastings4.com

ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
 201 N. State
 Sunday Mass 10:00am
 Holy Eucharist 7:00am
 A Mass of the Holy Eucharist 7:00am
 Chant 7:00am

VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH
 25th & Main St.
 Sunday School 10:00am
 Morning Service 11:00am
 Sunday Evening Service 7:00pm
 Wed. Evening Service 7:00pm
 444-6444

VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 18 & Main
 Sunday School 10:00am
 Church Service 11:00am
 Pastor: JAMES E. DUFFY

MOST HOLY ROSARY CHURCH
 1st & Main
 Sunday Mass 10:00am
 Pastor: JAMES E. DUFFY

Top stories, continued from page 3

her, she is a good person." In January, Nashville Department of Public Works director Scott Decker resigned from his post after 23 years with the village to accept a sales position with Maple Valley Implement in Nashville.

When he resigned, Decker said that Nashville had always been his hometown and he had no plans to leave the village "high and dry."

"I'll be right here, and if the village needs me I won't be far away," he said.

In February Darrell Clements Jr., who had been with the Nashville DPW for two years, was named acting director of public works and acting street administrator by the village council.

"We feel that Darrell has demonstrated a strong work ethic and he has knowledge of our systems and tests," said Wheeler.

Though there were initially no contests for seats on the Nashville Village Council in the March elections, it turned into a last-minute race when former

Village President Carroll Wolff and Councilman Steve Wheeler decided to throw their hats into the ring as last-minute write-ins. Wolff and Wheeler won seats, as did newcomers Wetzell and Mary Coll, defeating Josh Guthrie and Incumbent Karen Betts. Village President Frank Dunham was re-elected.

In April, Police Chief Garry Barnes came within one vote of losing his job at the regular meeting of the council when members were making routine appointment of positions within the village, including the clerk and the head of the Department of Public Works.

Council members Wolff, Wheeler and Ralph Kirk all voted against keeping Barnes in his position as police chief.

Barnes was promoted to acting chief of police in March 1999 when the former Chief Bob Baker resigned. In September of that year he was recommended as police chief.

After the meeting last April, Wheeler said, "I think

it's time to change directions with the department," when asked why he cast his vote against Barnes.

Dunham, who voted for keeping Barnes, said, "There are some issues that the chief needs to improve on, and reporting skills are one of them."

In October Barnes tendered his resignation, only to withdraw it a few days later amid public support for him, when controversy arose over an apparent miscommunication during a pay period change for village employees.

When a pay period change resulted in a short, four-day work week, Barnes scheduled his officers to work 40 hours during those four days to prevent them from receiving a short paycheck. However, that action aroused controversy because the officers actually ended up receiving more than their regular pay for the month.

Barnes tendered his resignation at a village police committee meeting, but withdrew it before the village meeting two days later



In July work was still in progress on the Reed Street reconstruction project.

when many citizens in the community came forward, spoke on his behalf and asked him to withdraw his resignation.

Infrastructure

Nashville officially was awarded \$11.767 million grant low interest loans in February from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development for the installation of a new water system. The signing of papers and the receipt of the check was the culmination of several years of planning that went into the nearly \$3 million water project, which was designed to provide higher quality water services to the entire village.

The council in December reported that the year-long Reed Street reconstruction and the village-wide sewer and water project was all but finished. According to Clements, the contractors will be back to finish grading a reseeding lawns and widening streets that were accidentally narrowed during the repaving process, and other items on a punch list.

Hastings City Bank opened its new full-service branch office in Nashville on Jan. 21. The new facility offered customers the added convenience of additional space, drive-through banking and a drive-up automatic teller machine (ATM), a night depository, a conference room and expanded hours.

The Nashville Council learned in March that Hastings City Bank was willing to donate its old bank building on Main Street in Nashville to the village to use as for offices.

"With this gift the village will be able to use the building in a manner that benefits the majority of the community as well as have historic place to house their offices," said Mark Kolanowski, president and chief executive officer of Hastings City Bank.

"This is a real blessing because we just had our ADA (American Disabilities Act) evaluation and we would have had to do a lot of costly updating here," said Dunham. "It's really cost prohibitive to do updating on these older buildings, but I bet a lot of it is already done over there and it's a lot nicer building."

In October the final papers were signed and Gina Blough, assistant vice president of branch administra-

tion for Hastings City Bank, presented Dunham with the keys to the bank's former building, making the transfer of ownership official.

Police and court news

In Castleton Township, a Nashville man's failure to use a turn signal in Lake Odessa led to authorities raiding his Thornapple Lakes Estates home and confiscating two methamphetamine labs, four guns, ingredients for making the illegal drug, scales and large amount of the finished product.

Darrell Hobert Watson was arrested and held in the Eaton County Jail on charges stemming from the traffic stop, including one felony count of methamphetamine possession and one misdemeanor count of marijuana possession. Watson's wife, Autumn, was arrested on unrelated Eaton County charges.

When Watson was pulled over for the traffic violation, the Lake Odessa police officer found two containers of crystal methamphetamine and one-half ounce of marijuana on Watson. Chemicals used in the production of the drug were found in the back of the truck also, according to Lake Odessa Police John Shaw.

Barry County authorities enlisted the help of the Southwest Enforcement Team (SWET) and the West Michigan Enforcement Team (WEMET) to obtain a search warrant.

The three agencies, along

with Nashville fire and ambulance department, executed the raid on the home later that day.

In February, almost a month after police raided their home, Watson and his wife were charged with operating and maintaining a drug lab in the presence of children and using a firearm in the commission of a felony. In addition Watson was charged with maintaining and operating a drug lab involving firearms and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

In April when she appeared in Barry County Circuit Court, Autumn entered a guilty plea on one count of operating a meth lab in the presence of minors, a 20-year felony, in exchange for two felony weapons charges being dismissed. She was sentenced to one year in jail.

Watson waived his arraignment on methamphetamine charges and was scheduled for a pre-trial hearing later that month.

Community

In October the gym at Kellogg School was opened for use by area teens amid public concern that area youth have no safe place to hang out especially in the cold winter months. The gym is currently open three nights a week for basketball, floor hockey and other indoor activities with adult supervision.

Both school and community leaders are lauding the

See top stories, page 5



In June, students at Maplewood Elementary helped the school celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Be their Hero from age Zero

HOLD

Hug your child everyday. ("Experts" say at least 20 times!)

Offer to console a child when they are upset. (Everything is better when shared with a friend.)

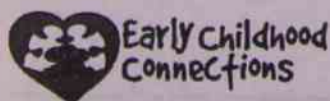
Look for ways to affirm a child with a hug, a squeeze, and a pat on the back. (It doesn't matter whether big or small, everyone likes to be affirmed.)

Devote some time to cuddling with your child and a good book. (The love of early reading, and later school success, has been tied to positive experiences with adults introducing books to infants, and even the unborn.)

We all need someone.

Brianna, age 5, after listening to Celine Dion sing "All by Myself" on the radio, said, "Mommy, that lady needs to get some friends!" (From "The Magic of Children")

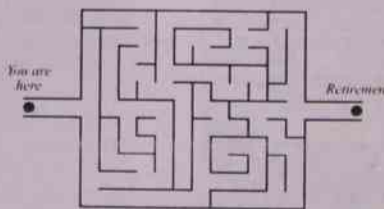
December is National Stress Free Family Holiday Month—Cuddle with your child, for him/her and for you.



400 S. Nelson St., Pottersville, MI 48876
(517) 645-4500



Simplify your retirement investing decisions.



Retirement investing may seem complicated. But I can show you how *State Farm Mutual Funds*™ and the tax benefits of an IRA could simplify your choices.



Tal Gearhart
Registered Representative
816-944-1244



Invest with a Good Neighbor™

For more complete information, visit State Farm Mutual Funds™, including charges and expenses, please contact your registered State Farm Agent or by calling the number above. Please read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate and may rise or fall. Investments may be sold before maturity. State Farm Mutual Funds are not insurance products and are offered by State Farm Mutual Insurance Company, a member of the State Farm Mutual Insurance Group, One State Farm Plaza, Bloomington, Illinois 61710-0001 • 800-345-4333

Top stories, continued from page 4

early success of the program, citing that as many as 30 kids show up some nights, and they hope to see the program expand in the future.

In November, a group of local business people and community leaders and politicians from Nashville met and formed a group which they dubbed "Focus on the Future." The goal of the group is to promote the economic development of the village of Nashville.

"When you drive through town you can take a look and see a lot of new buildings going up. I think it's time we got some good press going about what's happening in our town," said Tad Davis, one of the co-owners of Mulberry Fore Golf Course and one of the groups founders. "We have a lot invested in this town and we want to bring attention to the growth that is happening in our community."

Vermontville

In February Vermontville-based Michigan Magnetics announced it would be moving production to Bulgaria. The company employed 35 people in 2000 and Michigan Magnetics President Maxwell Schwartz said that year that he perceived as a challenge, "overcoming the increasing production costs and competi-

tion from off-shore companies with low labor costs."

In April the Village Council decided not to pursue grants and low interest loans for a potential water project after the majority of residents present at a public hearing on the matter spoke against the proposed water projects.

Fleis and VandenBrink engineers Don DeVries and Randy Kirsunas had been paid \$20,000 to create a report and detail project options.

Kirsunas told people at the meeting that that in the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Vermontville's water system had slipped from "satisfactory" to "marginal." He went over the village's current need for another lift station, said the water tower had reached the end of its life expectancy and said the water main in town does not meet current state regulation for the size of new main being put in.

Kirsunas discussed two proposals, with little price difference. One cost

\$2,431,800, and the second was \$2,432,300.

Kirsunas then talked about low interest loans and grants that may be available to the village.

However, he people present at the public hearing expressed feelings that the village's projected growth over the next 20 years is miniscule, the population increasing only from 789 to 820.

In response to the public's concerns, the council decided to table the issue and not seek grant approval or apply for loans.

Later that same night at the regular monthly meeting, the council voted to increase water and sewer bills by \$2.50 per month.

Councilman Tom Williams said that he wanted the extra \$2.50 to be earmarked for future water projects.

"...This is just to get something in the bank in case we need it," he said.

Personnel

In October, Fred McCauley was hired to take on the duties of Monte O'Dell, a long-time DPW

worker who was promoted to street supervisor when Tony Wawiernia resigned from the post after more than 20 years with the Vermontville DPW.

In June the Vermontville Fire Department was one of 20 Eaton County fire departments to receive certificates

of appreciation for their help during the cleanup in Potterville after a Canadian National train carrying sulfuric acid and liquid propane derailed in that town. The certificates were signed and presented by State Representative Susan Tabor, Senator John Schwartz and

Congressman Nick Smith.

In August the Village Council voted unanimously to hire Russ Raymer of Charlotte as an ordinance enforcer for the village. Raymer's duties are to enforce junk, weed noise and barking dog ordinances as needed.

Happy Holidays
from all of us at Farm Bureau we look forward to serving you in 2003



Lynn & Julie

4695 Middleville Rd. M-37
Middleville, MI
616-795-1670



Kay & Richard

111 N. Main Street
Nashville, MI
517-852-2005

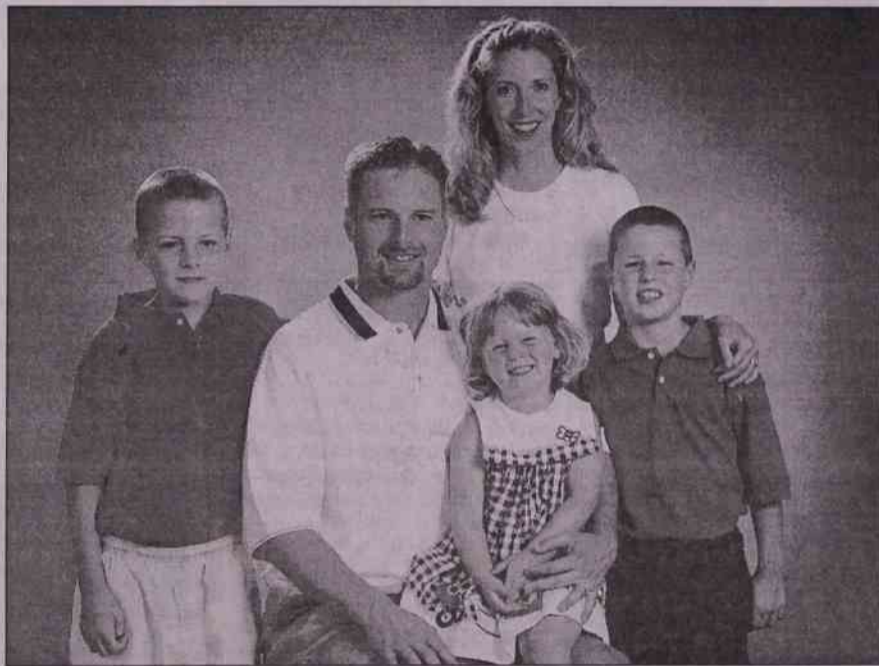
FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE

"At Pennock, Personal Care is More Than a Promise."

Families that could go anywhere, count on Pennock Health Services. Why? Just ask Teresa Heide.

"Kids know when people really care for them and my kids like the people at Pennock."

Pennock's emergency staff and physicians like Dr. Wilgus really understand kids. They ease their fears, and make time to thoroughly care for my kids' special needs. They even call us at home to follow up on our progress. I was born at Pennock, our kids were born there, too. My family and I really appreciate the quality of care so close to home."



Heide Family, Hastings, MI

Find out how Pennock Health Services can be your family's partner for personal, professional and progressive care. To learn more or find a Pennock affiliated physician, call us at (269) 945-1749.

It's Our Pledge.



Pennock Partner,
Carrie Wilgus, M.D.,
Pediatrician

Pennock

HEALTH SERVICES

your partners in personal, professional, progressive care

1009 W. Green Street, Hastings • WWW.PENNOCKHEALTH.COM

Coloring contest winners announced

The six winners the annual Maple Valley News 220 Coloring Contest have been announced.

Winning \$25 gift certificates were Austin Furlong and Lisa Mater. Rhonda Jo Yoder and Amber Matthews won \$20 gift certificate and Alexandria Ermel and Shad Greutz won \$10 gift certificates.

The contest was open to children ages 10 and under. They were judged in two categories: Children 6 and under and ages 7-10.

The gift certificates may be redeemed at participating merchants by Feb. 28.

Card of Thanks

I WANT TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU

for your generous outpouring. I was told that over six hundred people were fed at the benefit for the TATE MIX FAMILY

I was overwhelmed and humbled by the numerous people who came to the benefit. There are too many people to thank individually, but several that need to be recognized: Debbie Baker, Cindy Grant, Kelley Green, Clark & Nora Volz, the students of Maple Valley Alternative Ed, the Jeff Carpenter family and staff at Subway and Carl's Market. The money will be used to cover expenses not covered by insurance. Again, thank you!

Call 945-9554
for classified ads

Destination Imagination regionals set for March

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

The Destination Imagination teams at Maplewood Elementary and Maple Valley Jr./Sr. High are honing their "out of the box" thinking skills in preparation for the 2003 Destination Imagination regional competition in March.

The four teams (two at Maplewood, one at the junior high and one at the senior high) are made up of seven members each. Each team selects an area to compete in and then spends the next five months preparing to meet the challenge.

Karen Kirchoff, a Title I teacher's aide at Maplewood Elementary, has been working with Destination Imagination since Maple Valley Schools became involved with the program six years ago. She said the only way for students to succeed at the competition is to hone their

thinking and problem solving skills.

"The students are given long-term problems to solve amongst themselves," said Kirchoff. "An adult serves as a team manager to facilitate but they don't help with the actual problem solving."

"It's all about becoming a cohesive unit and working together," she added. "These students are our future problem solvers."

Kirchoff's sixth grade team from Maplewood Elementary, chose to compete in "Once Improve a Time," this year.

At the competition the team, using the bare essentials of tape and newspaper the team has to create a unique functioning object and other props to sue in a skit that they have 30 minutes to create at the competition. They will also have to incorporate a last minute surprise prop into their rou-

tine.

To prepare, the team has to choose six of ten classic fairy tales to study. When they get to the competition, they will be asked to present one of the six stories with the surprise element they are given. The story they present in the skit must have a setting and a beginning, middle and end, yet also incorporate the story elements, characters and events from the classic fairy tale.

"They are judged on their demonstration of improvisational technique, character development, mime skills or whatever other technique that the team has decided beforehand that they would like to be judged on," said Kirchoff.

The teams are funded through the Eaton County Intermediate School Districts Gifted and Talented Program with matching funds from Maple Valley



Fifth grade Destination Imagination team members prepare for their presentation at the 2002 Destination Imagination competition last spring. Pictured here are Alicia Strong, Emily Eldrid, Megan VanEgen, Helena Kirchoff, David Turpin and Jacal Kirk.

Schools.

Kirchoff said that each team is given a limited amount of \$100 and the teams have to stay within that budget.

"The students who have been in Destination Imagination before save all kinds of materials that they know they can recycle for another competition," she said, noting that one year a local tam made all of their props, including costumes out of bubble wrap.

Kirchoff said that the Maple Valley PTO also supports the teams by helping the teams purchase T-shirts for the competitions at cost from local merchants.

"We don't do any fund raising unless a team is going to a state competition," she said.

This year's team from Maple Valley High School has set its sights on competing at the world competition this year, according to Kirchoff.

"The high school team came in third last year at the state competition last year," said Kirchoff. "This year they want to win at regionals, then go on to state and worlds."

Brandi Walden is a mem-

ber of this year's high school team, comprised of herself, Amanda Kirchoff, Kelsey West, Joey James, David Benedict, Bekah Welch and Andrea Jarvie, and managed by Lori West. Walden got involved in Destination Imagination when she was in fifth grade.

"My brother was involved in a similar program called Odyssey of the Mind and

I went to all of his practices and it looked really fun," she said. "That's what I like the most about it. It gives me the chance to hang out with my friends, compete against a other teams and have a lot of fun."

This year, in a bid to make it to the Destination Imagination World Championship in Knoxville Tenn., the high school team has chosen to compete in "Theater Smarts."

"We'll have to solve a problem in a certain amount of time, and present it as a skit with a set, costumes when we do the actual performance," said

Walden. "Plus, we'll have to use an improve item that we are given one minute before we present our skit."

"We also compete in an 'Instant Challenge,' which is separate from the central

challenge; we are given one minute to solve a problem by building something or coming up with an answer," she said.

Kirchoff said that Maple Valley could have more Destination Imagination teams if parents are willing to get involved.

"Right now it's a little late to start a new team, but I would encourage anyone who is interested to come to the regional competition in March," she said. "Each team needs a manager and two others who are willing to serve as appraisers (judges) at the competitions."

To be appraisers, parents must attend one all-day training session and then be available on the day of the competition. Managers initially meet with their teams once a week, early in the five months of preparation and then more frequently as the competition draws near.

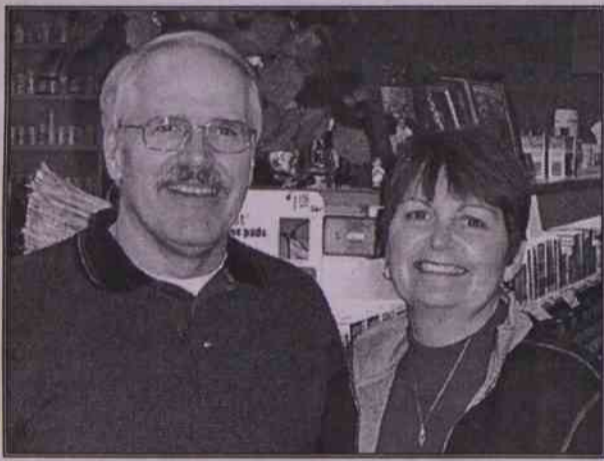
"We could have teams all the way down to the primary level, second grade, if more parents were involved," said Kirchoff.

For more information about Destination Imagination, call Kirchoff at Maplewood Elementary School (517) 726-0600.

Thank You...

To all our customers and friends we give thanks for your support over the years. We look forward to a happy and prosperous year for all.

Mace Pharmacy
219 N. Main Nashville
852-0845



Open
New Year's Eve
from
9am - 3pm

Thank You...

Serving you and taking care of your financial needs has been a pleasure. We look forward to seeing you in 2003.



Standing: Jane, Dawn, Cathy
Seated: Stacey, Nicole



**Eaton Federal
Savings Bank**

109 S. Main Street, Nashville, Michigan 48073 • Telephone 517-852-1830



Real Estate

ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch nestled on a wooded 2.02 acre parcel. Located on a paved road, this custom built home has tons to offer! Built in 1996, very open floor plan, partially finished walk-out basement, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, deck & much more! Priced to sell at \$199,900. Don't wait, call today! 877-802-7172

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 2.2 acres, mobile home ready. Perked for conventional system, on paved road, Maple Valley schools, \$14,900. (517)852-1650 leave message.

Jobs Wanted

LITTLE TREASURES CHILDCARE has full time openings available. Loving, friendly home in town. For more information, please call Ami at (517)726-0466.

Foster Care

OAKVIEW AFC HAS OPENING: Private room, private bath, good location. Close to Hastings. (269)948-2352

Photo Processing



Double Prints

Now at Special Low Holiday Price!

3" Double Prints

4²⁹
24 Exp. Roll

12 exp\$2.29
36 exp\$6.29

4" Double Prints

6²⁹
24 Exp. Roll

12 exp\$2.99
36 exp\$8.99

From 110 to 35mm full frame color print film.
4" prints available from 35mm roll film only. (C-41 process)
Not Available with PREMIUM & Advanced Photo System
Good from Dec. 29, 2002 to Jan. 4, 2003



219 NORTH MAIN STREET • 852-0845

Hours: 9 am to 6 pm Mon-Fri; 9 am to 4 pm Sat.

Nashville man to face trial on resisting, obstructing

Carl Bolinger, 46, of Nashville, is scheduled to be tried Jan. 27 or Feb. 24 (the first date which becomes available) on one count of resisting and obstructing police Oct. 3, causing injury, four counts of resisting and obstructing police, malicious destruction of a police vehicle and drunk driving.

He was previously convicted of attempted resisting and obstructing police on Feb. 16, 1990.

In all, five police officers from the Michigan State Police and Nashville Police Department are listed as victims in the case.

The Barry County Prosecutor's Office has described Bolinger as "extremely violent when under the influence," according to a court document requesting a \$10,000 bond for Bolinger.

During the preliminary exam after which Bolinger was bound over for trial, Nashville Police Officer Bill Gutschke testified that on Oct. 3 he was performing a drunk driving investigation on Reed Street when he observed Bolinger driving by. He said Bolinger was a suspect in an incident earlier that evening at a party store on Thornapple Lake Road.

Gutschke testified that he got into his car and followed Bolinger to his residence at 515 Middle St. While he was asking Bolinger about the earlier incident, Gutschke said he noticed that Bolinger's eyes were glassy, his speech was slurred and he was staggering a bit.

Gutschke said he asked Bolinger if he had been drinking and that Bolinger responded that he had drunk three beers.

When Gutschke asked Bolinger to take a field sobriety test, Bolinger went into his house, where his friend Gerald Lamb was al-

ready inside, and locked the door, the officer testified.

Michigan State Police Trooper Brian Roderick responded to Gutschke's call for backup and there was some discussion about whether or not to break down the door, Gutschke testified.

Roderick reported that he made some loud comments about kicking down the door if Bolinger wouldn't come out.

"It's a ploy that we use to verbally get people to comply to open the door," said Roderick.

The trooper then decided to go around the back of the house to make sure the suspect didn't exit the rear of the residence, and Gutschke said he was then able to convince Bolinger and Lamb to let them into the house.

Gutschke testified that when they went into the kitchen where Lamb and Bolinger were and started asking questions about what had occurred at Thornapple Lake, Bolinger "...was belligerent, was angry, jumped up like he was going to do something to Trooper Roderick."

Gutschke said that Bolinger was instructed to sit down and when he refused to do so, Roderick tried to make Bolinger take a seat.

"The chair broke and they had a small struggle on the floor," said Gutschke.

Gutschke reported that during the scuffle, Lamb encouraged Bolinger to calm down and do what the police asked, while at other times acting as though he wanted to help Bolinger.

When Bolinger still refused to take the sobriety tests, Gutschke said that he and Roderick put handcuffs on him.

When the officers attempted to leave the resi-

dence with him, Bolinger started fighting with them and yelling at them, according to Gutschke.

Gutschke said that as they tried to leave the premises, they somehow tripped and fell and another scuffle ensued on the ground.

After Bolinger was subdued, Gutschke said he left him sitting on the ground while he unlocked the patrol car.

Roderick testified that while Gutschke was unlocking the door of the squad car, Bolinger attempted to spit on Gutschke, "and at that point I'd had enough. I picked him up and he began to kick me about my shin area with his boots to the rear, and try to grab my gun belt and my groin area. So at that time I placed him on the hood of the patrol car to secure him."

Roderick said Bolinger continued to be verbally belligerent, kick at him and attempt to grab his gun belt, but he and Gutschke were able to get him into the back of the car.

It was then that Bolinger attempted to kick the window out of the police car, according to both Gutschke and Roderick.

Gutschke said that then, he and Roderick tried to get Bolinger out of the car to restrain him and another struggle ensued in which Roderick alleged that Bolinger had kicked him in the mouth.

Roderick testified that he sought medical treatment for the injury to his jaw, but tests indicated that nothing was cracked or broken.

Roderick put Bolinger in a "Welch's hitch" that bound his hands and feet together behind his back and then the officers put him back in the vehicle, according to Gutschke.

While Roderick went across the street to talk to a neighbor who had witnessed the event, Gutschke said that Bolinger had managed to crawl through the window that connected the front and back seats and was trying to call a friend on the police radio.

Gutschke said that he got the radio away from Bolinger, got him back into the back seat and secured the window between the seats.

He said that he and Roderick discussed re-securing Bolinger in the Welch's hitch because he had managed to get his hands in front of himself but decided, "it'd be best just to get out of there because we were starting to draw a crowd and Mr. Lamb...Mr. Bolinger's friend, was getting agitated with us."

Gutschke said that when they had driven "maybe a block," Bolinger started kicking the door of the squad car again.

He said that when he and Roderick pulled their cars over and went to take Bolinger's handcuffs off, Bolinger said, "Just give me a chance." When asked what he meant by that remark Bolinger allegedly answered, "You'll find out

when you take off these handcuffs."

Gutschke testified that he took Bolinger's words as a threat to hurt him or Roderick, or an attempt to run away.

Gutschke said that he and Roderick put Bolinger face down on the ground and tried to re-secure the handcuffs behind his back, this time through the belt loop of his pants, then placed him back in the car and proceeded to the Barry County jail.

When they were about half way to the jail, Gutschke said, Bolinger once again got his hands in front of himself and then started making threats to Gutschke and his family and slamming his head into the Plexiglas partition between the seats.

Gutschke said he informed Roderick of this and they decided, "to step it up to get Mr. Bolinger to jail before he injured himself or possibly... injured both of us somehow."

When they got Bolinger to the jail, "he seemed to be OK, other than making some

general statements," according to Gutschke.

However, when Bolinger was placed in a holding cell, "he bent over and ran his head into the steel door of the holding cell, and he had to be told not to do that any more, or he'd be put into a restraint chair," said Gutschke.

Sgt. Jeff Miller from the Nashville Police Department was at the jail and read Bolinger his chemical tests rights despite repeated interruptions from Bolinger, according to Gutschke.

Gutschke said Bolinger was then taken to Pennox Hospital for a blood test and there were five officers present: Miller, Troopers Brad Martin, John Hofmeister and Dan Cook and himself.

Gutschke said that the officers retrained Bolinger on the floor of the hospital while the lab technician did the blood draw. He said the technician was able to draw only one vial of blood before Bolinger started to resist and the technician said he would not attempt another draw.

Bolinger's attorney, Dave

Makled, argued that Bolinger should not be bound over because he was arrested without probable cause and that the arrest and further proceedings were unconstitutional.

"My position is that the rationale easily could have ended in the driveway. It certainly ended once Mr. Bolinger refused twice to continue to cooperate, and in any case he wasn't arrested at that point for OUIL and I think there wasn't probable cause at that point," said Makled.

Judge Gary Holman said that the officers had the right to continue their investigation. He also stated that officers are allowed to use a reasonable amount of force, short of deadly force, to restrain a suspect until their investigation is completed. He also concluded that Gutschke's observations of Bolinger's behavior was sufficient probable cause for his being bound over for trial.

Results of the blood alcohol test were not contained in the preliminary examination transcript.

MAPLE VALLEY Real Estate
 227 N. MAIN ST., NASHVILLE
 Phone (517) 852-1915 Fax: 852-9138
 Web Site: www.lansing-realestate.com
 Member of Greater Lansing Association of Realtors, and Multiple Listing Services; Also Grand Rapids Multiple Listing Service

Broker, **Homer Winegar, GRI**
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES
 • Multiple Listing Service (MLS) • Home Warranty Available

Joan & Homer Winegar, GRI	Eves. 726-0223
Nyle Wells, GRI (Assoc. Broker)	726-1234
Jerry Reese (Sales Associate)	852-5066

LOCATED ON 4+ ACRES - BEAUTIFUL BRICK RANCH
 Large kitchen, breakfast island, 2 newly remodeled baths, paved circle drive, newer roof, cherry & oak throughout, cedar lined closets, central air, located close to town on paved road in a country setting. Call Jerry. \$179,900. (CH-171)

COUNTRY GET AWAY!
 Sharp ranch on 5 acres, 3 car garage, plus small barn for horses etc. Complete with pond and in-ground pool, walkout basement, partly finished. Call Nyle today before it is gone! (CH-176)

NORTH OF VERMONTVILLE SECLUDED SETTING IN THE WOODS ON 10 ACRES OF LAND
 Ranch home, 5 bedrooms & 3 baths. Room for the family to have horses & animals, lots of wildlife to enjoy. Call Homer. (CH-177)

NICE COUNTRY HOME.
 Nashville 2 story 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, fieldstone fireplace, oak kitchen, home office, main floor laundry, two "3 season porches", includes appliances, central air & barn. Call Jerry. \$159,900. (CH-175)

JUST OUTSIDE VILLAGE LIMITS NASHVILLE ON 4 ACRES.
 Great retirement/starter home "in country on 4 acres, 2 bedrooms, full basement, fireplace, central air, some appliances, 2 car garage. Call Homer. (CH-179)

"MANY NEWER IMPROVEMENTS" IN NASHVILLE
 2 story, 3 bedroom home, tastefully decorated, hardwood floors in kitchen & dining room, newer vinyl siding, windows & roof. Some appliances included. Call Nyle to see. FHA/VA Terms (N-174)

OCCUPANCY AT CLOSE - NASHVILLE
PRICE REDUCED!
GREAT "STARTER" OR "RETIREMENT" HOME.
 2 bedroom, kitchen, living room, dining, 1st floor laundry, appliances included, many newer improvements, 1 1/2 car garage. Very nice property & yard. Call Homer. Occupancy at close! (N-173)

NOW \$79,900! PRICE REDUCED!! OCCUPANCY AT CLOSE!! SELLERS WILL LOOK AT ALL REASONABLE OFFERS!
 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen & dining "combo", main floor laundry, 1 car garage, home updated in 90's. Central air & furnace 1 year old, nice shade trees. Great starter or retirement home in Nashville. Call Jerry. (N-169)

VACANT LAND:
VERMONTVILLE - BUILDING LOT - PRICED REDUCED!!
 Suitable for "walk-out" basement, wooded, good location, all surveyed. Call Nyle for details. City water & sewer. (NL-150)

7 ACRES NORTH OF VERMONTVILLE
 On blacktop road, possible walkout building site & pond site, surveyed, perked, permit for driveway, natural gas available. Seeded to alfalfa hay. Call Homer. (NL-145)

Mom's quilts were the prettiest in her quilting circle, but now she isn't interested in talking to anyone about the quilts that she spent so much time on.

We at Woodlawn Meadows offer a delightful alternative to nursing homes with our quality assisted living facility that provides specialized alzheimer's/dementia care.

- 24 Hour Compassionate Care
- Respite Care
- Emergency Call System
- Dementia Care
- Individual Personal Assistance
- Barber & Beauty Shop
- Podiatric Care
- Complete Laundry & Housekeeping
- Activity Programming
- Wheelchair Accessibility
- Medication Management

Woodlawn Meadows Retirement Village
 1821 N. East St. Hastings
 An Assisted Living & Specialized Memory Care Community
 269-948-4921

Processing
 4" Double Print
 6.29
 12.58
 25.16

Obituaries

Yvonne "Bonnie" M. Wood

NASHVILLE - Yvonne "Bonnie" M. Wood, age 69, of Nashville, passed away to her Lord and Savior Thursday evening, Dec. 19, 2002 at Penneck Hospital in Hastings, MI. She was born Jan. 31, 1933 in Battle Creek, MI; daughter of Clair and Laura (Black) French.

Bonnie grew up in Bellevue, MI and attending Bellevue schools.

She married Thomas P. Wood, Jr. on March 5, 1949 in Battle Creek, MI.

Bonnie was known for her beautiful ballroom dancing. She loved growing beautiful flowers, particularly Hibiscus bushes, Stella

D'ora and Amaryllis.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas P. Wood Jr.; mother, Laura French of Bellevue, MI; four children, Dawn (Billy Wellman) Haight of Nashville, MI, Thomas (Debbie Brauer) Wood III of Nashville, MI; Wendy (Bob) Bassett of Hastings, MI, Dennis (Mary-Jo) Wood of Battle Creek, MI; 19 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Arlene (Ken) Thompson of Orange Park, FL, Carol (Ed) Whiting of Battle Creek, MI; two brothers, Clair "Jack" (Bertha) French of Pierson, Keith (Barb)

French of Charlotte, MI, Gaylen "Gay" (Melba) French of Charlotte, MI.

She is preceded in death by: daughter and son-in-law, Loree and John Childers and father, Clair French.

Funeral services for Mrs. Wood was Monday, Dec. 23, 2002 at the Maple Valley Chapel, Nashville. Rev. Susan Trowbridge officiated. Burial was followed in Wilcox Cemetery in Maple Grove Township.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family.

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

Gertrude M. Isham

HASTINGS - Gertrude M. Isham, age 83, of Hastings died Sunday, Dec. 22, 2002 at Marshall Manor in Marshall, MI.

Mrs. Isham was born Sept. 2, 1919 in Hastings,

MI, the daughter of Karl and Hulda (Petersen) Finstrom.

She was a lifelong resident of Hastings except for one year in Sweden as an infant.

She attended Hastings schools, graduating in 1937 from Hastings High School.

She was married to Garrett N. Isham on Dec. 13, 1941 in Bryan, Ohio.

Mrs. Isham had been employed by Hastings Manufacturing Co. as a young woman; she was a homemaker the rest of her life.

She was a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church, a past deacon and very active in the life of the church. Member of the Hastings Women's Club, an avid golfer and former member of Hastings Country Club, member of a weekly Bridge Club, gifted seam-

stresses and especially enjoyed making dolls for children.

Mrs. Isham is survived by her son, Thomas (Nancy) Isham of Marshall; two grandsons, Garrett Isham of Marshall and Adam Isham of Chicago; brother, Roy Finstrom of Lansing; brother-in-law, Neil (Dolly) Isham of Albion; and nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband, Garrett on Oct. 23, 2001; brother: Hartley Finstrom.

Services were held Friday, Dec. 27, 2002 at Hastings' First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Emeritus Willard H. Curtis officiated. Burial was at Hastings' Riverside Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hastings First Presbyterian Church.

Arrangements were made by Wren Funeral Home of Hastings.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act and the Michigan Civil Rights Act which collectively make it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, age or marital status, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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



FROST HEATING & COOLING

Quality, Value & Service



FREE ESTIMATES

(616) 374-7595 (517) 852-9565

Call 945-9554
anytime for
M.V. News
ACTION-Ads!

Maple Valley Schools are Schools Of Choice

Maple Valley Schools is now accepting Schools of Choice applications for the second semester of the 2002-2003 school year. In addition to accepting students residing in other districts within the Eaton Intermediate School District, students who reside in districts in adjoining intermediate districts will also be accepted. There are openings available at all grade levels K-12 and in the junior high and high school alternative education program. Enrollment in the Early 4s or the Young 5s programs is not available.

Maple Valley Schools provides a quality educational program for all students.

- Safe Schools
- Quality Curriculum
- Caring, Student-oriented Staff
- Small Class Sizes
- Up-To-Date Technology Labs
- Newly Constructed and Renovated Facilities

Applications are available at the Superintendent's Office and in each building and must be received by January 17, 2003.

Donald LeRoy Haywood Jr.

HASTINGS - Donald LeRoy Haywood Jr. used his extraordinary combination of heart and intelligence to generate smiles and solve problems for the people he loved.

Don, who was also known to many as simply "JR.", died Monday, December 23, 2002, in Hastings after a short battle with Dermatomyositis, a rare autoimmune disease. He was 51.

The first son of Donald Haywood Sr. and Joan (Hewitt) Haywood was born February 11, 1951, in Hastings. His father recalls JR as being "quite a pistol" as a boy. Once after he was sent to his room for poor behavior, his parents discovered JR playing in the back yard after he had climbed from his upstairs bedroom window via a TV antenna.

A new family business helped shape JR into a man. He and his younger brother and best friend, Marty, began most of their teenage years with 6 A.M. wake-up calls by their father. The family opened the nine holes of River Bend Golf Course, just outside of Hastings, in 1964. JR did everything from helping in the clubhouse to mowing

fairways on the course, which he helped expand to 27 holes.

A 1969 graduate of Hastings High School, JR attended Lawrence Tech and later earned his bachelors degree at Western Michigan University.

In addition to helping his family launch River Bend Travel Agency in 1974, JR worked at Viking, ARMMS and most recently as a toll purchaser for Flexfab in Hastings. Known as an adept worker who earned several awards for perfect attendance, JR also enjoyed making his co-workers laugh with an unusual tie or elaborate Halloween costume.

Away from the workplace, JR's family relied on his keen planning and electrical skills to build nearly a dozen area homes and repair almost any problem. After a \$200 in repairs made by a mechanic failed to fix his nephew's car, JR solved the stalling problem with a simple 10-cent golf tee.

JR and his brother shared an affinity for automobiles. JR restored everything from a 1932 Ford to a 1969 Dodge Charger and he recently bought his second 1994 Honda Prelude.

His love of autos matched his sense of Adventure. JR saw the world during his vacations, which varied everywhere from Iceland to Hawaii. The past few years he and his brother rented trucks and explored the back roads out West. He also enjoyed golfing with his parents and bow hunting.

JR was a super-colossal person.

He is survived by his parents, Don and Joan Haywood of Hastings; one brother and sister-in-law, Martin and Connie Haywood of Hastings; one niece, Sabrina (Matt) Christy and nephew, Jefferson (Jennifer) Haywood.

Preceding him in death are grandparents, Ray & Meta Haywood and John & Olive Hewitt.

Services was held Saturday, December 28, 2002 at Wren Funeral Home. Reverend Dr. Michael J. Anton and Pastor Daniel L. Currie officiated.

Burial was at Rutland Township Cemetery.

Memorial contribution may be made in JR's name to a charity of one's choice.

Arrangements were made by Wren Funeral Home in Hastings.

Madeline L. Herman

WAYLAND - Madeline L. Herman, age 88, of Wayland and formerly of Hastings, died Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2002 at her daughter's home in Wayland.

Mrs. Herman was born on Feb. 8, 1914 in Baltimore Township, Barry County, MI, the daughter of Archie and Millie (Haynes) Matteson.

She was raised in the Hastings area and attended area schools, graduating in 1931 from Hastings High School. She went on to attend Barry County Normal where she received her teacher's certificate. She then taught school at the Week's school for a brief time.

She was married to Robert J. Herman on April 8, 1939.

She was employed at Hastings Manufacturing Company for several years and then at Kellogg's in Battle Creek for 23 years, retiring in 1974.

She was a member of Hastings' Women of the Moose.

Mrs. Herman is survived by her husband, Robert; daughter, Barbara (Orrin) Smith of Wayland; four grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; two great great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Edith Barnes of Eldorado, Ill.; and two nieces.

Preceding her in death were her parents; brothers, Charles, Robert and Russell Matteson.

Services were held on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2002 at Wren Funeral Home. Rev. Willard H. Curtis officiated.

Burial was at the Dowling Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cancer

Society.

Arrangements were made by Wren Funeral Home of Hastings.

Clarence Max Garvie

BELLEVUE - Clarence Max Garvie, age 81, of Bellevue, Mich., died Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2002.

Mr. Garvie was born Nov. 15, 1921, in Lansing, Mich., the son of Virgil and Arlene (Ling) Garvie.

He retired from the assembly line work at Oldsmobile then was a truck driver for Maeward until his retirement.

He is survived by his wife, Doris (Casler); son, Dale (Carol) Garvie of Charlotte, Mich.; daughter, Cheri Cain of Olivet, Mich.;

son, Lynn (Carolyn) Garvie of Charlotte; son, Scott Garvie of Bellevue; daughter, Gail Alvarez of Florida; nine grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; sister, Pat (Art) Lambert of Charlotte; brother, Frank (Mary) Watson of Augusta, Mich.; and sister, Wanita Watson of Athens, Mich.

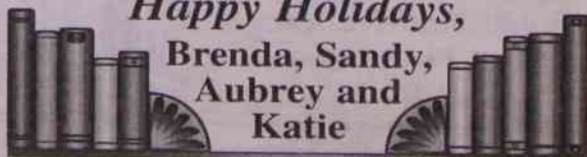
Interment will be in Ft. Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, Mich.

Further information available at www.prayfuneral.com.

The Putnam District Library would like to thank its patrons and residents for the generous donations for the "Food For Fines" campaign. Twenty-six bags of non-perishable items and cash were raised for the Villages' Christmas Baskets.

Happy Holidays,

Brenda, Sandy, Aubrey and Katie



SMAA trophies pile high for Lions in '02

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

In 2002 the Maple Valley Lions took home a host of SMAA titles, and even had some success following conference seasons.

Two of the biggest post season runs were turned in by the football team and the girls' basketball team, who both ironically just missed out on league crowns.

The gridiron was unkind to some area football teams this fall, but the Lions saw their playoff dreams reached.

Maple Valley's gridders broke out with their best rushing performance ever, running over opponents for nine wins.

Eventually the unstoppable force ran into an immovable object. The Lions were stopped by the state champion Montrose Rams in the district finals.

Maple Valley's girls' basketball team did their best to steal some of the spotlight from the guys on the gridiron.

They just missed out on a SMAA title, but got the last laugh by bouncing Olivet in the district final. The title was the team's first in 15-years, but they won it with a new head coach, Craig Kitching.

Kitching ended up earning honorable mention all-State honors as did Lion senior Bricann Treloar.

Treloar, Jessie Grant, and Megan Garvey all earned



The Maple Valley girls' cross-country team poses with the SMAA championship trophy that the girls earned by placing six runners in the top 14 at the league's final meet of the year.



Eric Smith (22) broke the 1000 yard mark rushing the ball for the Lions this fall. He and his teammates combined to set the school rushing mark. That's saying something in the Valley.

all-SMAA first team honors, and Ashley Gordeneer made the second team.

Along the way Garvey set a new school record by shooting 80% from the free throw line.

Maple Valley's girls' track and field team broke loose for an SMAA crown.

The Lions' team had an undefeated regular season, and a trio of Lions went on to place at the state meet.

Miranda Farr set the school record in the pole vault and finished second in the state with a mark of 10'6". Her teammate Ashley Gordeneer was sixth in the state with a vault of 9'6".

Sophomore Stefanie Joostberns finished fourth in the 800M.

Running cross-country,



Maple Valley's girls celebrate a second straight defeat of rivals Olivet. This time it wasn't just for pride, but for the district title. (Photo by Perry Hardin)



Ben Boss wrestled his way to the individual state finals at the Palace last winter, along with teammate Brandon Brooke. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

the Lion girls finished first in the SMAA, placing six runners in the top 14 at the league's final meet.

Muriel Wieland was the second place finisher overall at the league finale. She, and teammates Kari Emerick, Jessica McMillen, Dhanielle Tobias, Summer Hill, and Michelle Silsbee all earned

Continued next page

Happy New Year to You & Yours!



Jeff Hynes



Kirk Cheney



Dave Beach



John Kent



Steve Graham



Adam Brumm



Denise Kent



Lori Courtney



Lesley DeGroot



Vaughn Reid



Dave Olmstead

KENT OIL & PROPANE

735 Durkee (M-66), Nashville, MI
(517) 852-9210 or (800) 638-7484
"Serving Your Heating Needs Since 1936"



Gale Wetzel

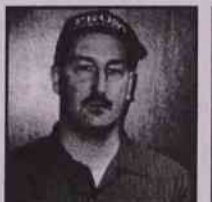
With warm regards...the best thing about the holiday is having the opportunity to express our gratitude and extend our best wishes to all our customers.



Mark Barbour



Joe Baker



Jerry Schray



Tim Allen



Cole Harnsberger



Travis Vanalstine
Lake Odessa
(616) 374-7595

FROST HEATING & COOLING

Quality, Value & Service

FREE ESTIMATES



Nashville
(517) 852-9565



Head Football Coach Guenther Mittelstaedt takes care of his squad after they were bounced from the playoffs by eventual state champion Montrose. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

COBB

Well Drilling & Repair

Residential • Commercial • Farm
Submersible & Jet Pump & Tank
Sales - Service
2", 5" Well Drilling & Repair

Richard Cobb • David Cobb
517-726-0377
270 N. Pease Rd.
Vermontville Mich. Lic. #23-1748

Max Garvie
Putnam
et Library
like to thank its
and residents for
ross donations
ood For Fines"
n. Twenty-six
on-perishable
d cash were
the Villages'
as Baskets.
Holidays,
Sandy,
rey and
Catie



The Lion baseball team set a school record last year for wins last spring with 22. Individual records came along with the team's success. Mike Hirneiss set the school record for steals,...

From previous page

all-conference honors for the finishes at the league finale.

The boys' cross-country team finished third in the SMAA, but Andrew Kenyon



...and when Darin Thrun wasn't pitching he set the school mark for doubles. (Photos by Perry Hardin)

and Jason Wymer each earned all-league honors.

The Maple Valley varsity baseball team won a second straight SMAA title, while



A pair of Lion pole vaulters left their marks on the mats at the state finals. Miranda Farr set the school record at 10'6" while finishing second in the state,...

setting a school record with 22 wins along the way. Maple Valley's boys' golf

team clinched an SMAA crown by winning five of the season's six jamborees. Nick Burpee, Garrett VanEngen, Collin McLean, and Todd Cupp all earned all-



...and her teammate Ashley Gordeneer finished the spring sixth in the state with a vault of 9'6".

SMAA honors. On the wrestling mats last winter a pair of Lions qualified for the state individual wrestling meet. A pair of Maple Valley wrestlers,

Brandon Brooke and Ben Boss, headed down to the Palace last winter for the individual state wrestling finals after finishing third at the Lions' regional.

Thank You...

...for your patronage. We look forward to serving you again in 2003 and wish you the best of the New Year.



Pictured from left to right: Rick, Jeff, Travis and Randy.

VERN'S REPAIR & SPORT

At the corner of M-66 & M-50 - Woodbury
 1-517-566-8353
 Toll Free at 1-877-717-1019
 e-mail: vernsrepair@yahoo.com

~ OPEN 7 DAYS ~

Turner-Bentley exchange vows

On July 20, Terri R. Bentley and Benjamin A. Turner were married in Martha Mary Chapel in Greenfield Village, Dearborn.

She is the daughter of Larry and Sally Bentley of Vermontville, and he is the son of Patricia and Raymond Roach of Bonita Springs, Fla., and Kurt and Carol Turner of Chesterfield, Va.

Attendants were Sarah, TJ and Coty Marie Bentley; Joel and Kathy Moore; Terri Mucciante; Rich Spaiser; Camille Sloan; Andy Christopherson; Jennifer Mueller; Matthew Morabito; Sheri Phelps; and Dan Wilder.

The bride, a graduate of Mattawan High School and Western Michigan University, is a master's degree student at WMU and a third grade teacher at Mattawan Public Schools.

The bridegroom is a grad-



uate of Overland High School and the University of Michigan. He is a master's degree student at WMU and

a biochemist at Pharmacia Corp. They reside in Kalamazoo.

Thank you...

For the opportunity of serving you this past year. We are looking forward to serving you in 2003.



Tony, Maryann, Allen

Mead Sand & Gravel

733 S. Durkee M-66
 Nashville

Thanks...

...for your patronage this past year. We hope to continue to serve you in 2003.



Pictured from left to right: Forest, Tim, Felicity, Ted, Brian

Woodland Auto Body

499 E. Broadway (M-43)
 269-367-4642



In My Own
Write by Sandra Ponsetto

What we take, what we leave behind

It's New Year's, that special time of year when reporters dig deep into their archives, dredge up the past, and try to determine what the top news stories of the year have been.

For me it is an odious task, second only to cleaning the litter box.

This afternoon I found myself typing up controversial stories that had happened before I signed on as the new Maple Valley reporter in May.

My editor recently accused me of growing to like Maple Valley and the people I write about.

My response? Guilty as charged.

There's a lot to like about Maple Valley and the people who live there. I

have met people of great faith and conviction, who live by the principles of their belief. I have met artists who create because to them art is as essential as breathing. I have met ordinary

people who have overcome great

obstacles and people who don't let their differences, past and present, stop them from working together to forge a future for their community.

So, for me, it was hard to rewrite stories about old conflicts that have been already resolved and are being put behind the people who were involved in them. Why dredge up painful memories? What good can come of it?

I had that discussion with my editor just this afternoon.

"I think news had a freshness date and this stuff is starting to smell," I said.

"Just think of this as history," he replied. "Once a year it is our job to be historians."

Maybe he's right. Think of the old adage about those who don't know history being doomed to repeat it. Plus my own experiences during

this past year have taught me that some good can come out of the most painful circumstances.

My husband recently told me that 2002 was a terrible year and he would be glad to put it behind him.

"Can we ever really leave a year behind us?" I asked. "Don't you think that part of it will stay with us forever?"

My husband said he hoped not. But, I'm not sure I share his sentiments.

When my husband finally found a new job in November (the same week his unemployment ran out) I attended my first "Press Club" lunch in months.

When I walked in (fashionably late) and when everyone expressed surprise at my attendance I said, "Hey, my husband has a job! I can eat again!"

There were a few general comments about what a rough year I had been having when someone spoke up and said, "That which does not destroy us makes us

stronger." While he was jokingly chided for expressing, "a dangerously Christian sounding" sentiment, I have to admit that I agreed with him.

It's true. This was the year my husband was laid off from the job he held for the past 12 years, it was the year we struggled to pay our bills, keep food on the table and clothes on our children, and it was the year I lost my beloved grandmother, who raised me since I was a baby. But, it was also the year I returned to the work I love, the year I learned to humbly accept the kindness and generosity of friends and strangers, and the year I was reminded of how a mother's love lives on in her children generation after generation.

As I come to the end of this year, I am somewhat tired and battle scarred, but somehow stronger and better for having endured it.

Perhaps the secret, as we travel through our lives, is to know what to take with us, and what to leave behind.

For Sale

BERBER CARPET: Gorgeous honey wheat, 50 yards, still on roll (bought, never used). New \$600 - Sell \$225. (517)204-0600

CHERRY SLEIGH BED: gorgeous, solid wood, bronze trim. Bought, never used. Cost \$700 - sell \$250. (517)204-0600

FOR SALE: like new dual control electrical hospital beds, \$200 each. Delivery available, (517)852-0115 or (269)945-0000.

QUEEN LOG BED: Amish made. New mattress set. Cost \$1,000 - sell \$185. (517)626-7089

Household

COUCH, CHAIR & LOVE-SEAT: cream & beige, oversized cushions, excellent condition, \$400 obo. (269)758-3763

PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET: plush top, firm in middle. Still in plastic. Cost \$800 - Queen \$175 Kings \$275. (517)719-8062

For Rent

NASHVILLE: nice 1 bedroom upstairs apartment, references. (517)852-0852

Help Wanted

ATTN: HASTINGS POSTAL POSITIONS. Clerks/carriers/sorters. No exp. required. Benefits. For exam, salary, and testing information call (630)393-3032 ext. 3141 8am-8pm 7 days.

National Ads

CITY DELIVERY: to \$13/hr. + great benefits! Local! Start training now! (616)949-2424 Jobline fee.

CONSTRUCTION/LABORS-CARPENTRY: to \$15/hr. + benefits! Many train now! (616)949-2424 Jobline fee.

OFFICE CLERICAL: to \$12/hr. + benefits! Friendly office! Start now! Entry level. (616)949-2424 Jobline fee.

PACKAGING/PRODUCTION: to \$13/hr. + benefits! Many open! Training now! (616)949-2424 Jobline fee.

WAREHOUSE/LOADER: to \$16.82/hr. + benefits! Major local company! Training now! (616)949-2424 Jobline fee.

Call 945-9554 for classifieds

BARRY COUNTY EXTENSION
Calendar of Events

- Dec. 30** Turkey orders for fair must be placed with Kay Booth, 269-623-8015.
- Dec. 31** New Year's Eve, the Barry County Extension Office will be closed.
- Jan. 1** Happy New Year, the Barry County Extension Office will be closed.
- Jan. 7** Dairy Developmental Committee meeting, 7 p.m., Extension Office.
- Jan. 8** 4-H Shooting Sports Leaders Meeting, 7 pm., Extension Office.
- Jan. 13** Horse Development Committee, 7 p.m., HHS Cafeteria.
- Jan. 15** 4-H Advisory Council, 7 p.m., Community Room, Courts and Law Bldg.
- Jan. 20** Extension Office CLOSED, Martin Luther King Day.
- Jan. 27** Rabbit Developmental Committee, 7 p.m., HHS Cafeteria.

Riding program, from page 12

proud to offer this program rewarding people who enjoy riding and driving American Quarter Horses. Enrollees are doing such diverse activities that it's obvious this program literally fits everyone who likes spending time with horses."

AQHA actively encourages horseback riding as a recreational activity that can be enjoyed alone or shared with family and friends.

For more information about AQHA and its programs, visit www.aqha.com or call (806) 376-4811.

Thank You...
from all of us to all of you. We appreciate your business this past year and look forward to serving you in 2003.



Front: Pat Rasey, David Thompson, Tim Allwardt, Kyle Stambaugh, Amy Peters, Lance Mead, Jeff Gilbert, Mike Ewing
Back: Charlene Bowen, Don Rasey, Roger Pierce, Dan Bivens, Dave Mater, Rick Lewis, Jeff Gilbert
Not Pictured: Rex Ann Rasey, Don Blakely, Karla Rasey

Hometown Lumber
Nashville 852-0882

Thank You For your patronage this past year. We hope to continue to serve you in 2003.



Fillmore EQUIPMENT, INC.

HOURS:
Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri. 7 to 5;
Thursday 7 to 6;
Saturday 7 to 12 noon

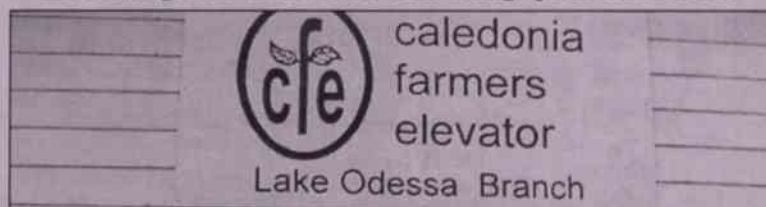
2900 N. M-43 Hwy. T. 616.945.9526
Hastings, MI 49058 F. 616.945.5958

JOHN DEERE

www.fillmoreeq.com fillmore@fillmoreeq.com



THANK YOU for making 2002 a successful year.
Happy Holidays
Looking forward to serving you in 2003.



L-R: Dave Worthington, Tim Marlin, Eric Possehn, Ron Kauffman and Marty Kretovic



Caledonia Farmers Elevator
Lake Odessa • 616-374-8061

Host Lions finish 3rd at Jesse Snow Invitational

Lakewood took the top spot at Jesse Snow Invitational at Maple Valley Saturday Dec. 21 by placing seven wrestlers in the top two spots in their weight class at the nine team tournament.

Caledonia finished second, followed by Maple Valley in third. Each of those two teams had three wrestlers take home individual championships, but Lakewood finished in the top 5 in eleven of the 12

flights to take the title.

Valley's three championships came at 125, 135, and 215.

At 215, Josh Grasman defeated Pat Weeks from Lakewood to take the top spot.

A Lion and a Viking also squared off for the 125 title, where Joey Desrochers of Maple Valley earned a decision over Lakewood's Mike Leiby.

Ben Boss at 135 pinned his opponent from Coopersville to finish in first place.

Valley's Jeff Totten earned second place after falling in the 145 finals.

Taking third for the Lions was Ben Swan at 275, where he fell Gull Lake's Alex Wood.

A fourth place finish for Maple Valley was turned in by Kevin Fassett at 119 after he earned a major decision and a pin in two of his four matches.

Others earning points for the Lion team throughout the day were Lance Harvey with a pin in his second match.

Matt Brumm recorded two pins while working his way through the 150 pound brackets.

Also for the Lions, Andrew Gaber earned a decision in his first match of the

day. In the 103 final, Viking Justin Gillons took the title by pinning Maple Valley's Tyler Greenfield in the final. Lakewood's only other champion was Alan O'Donnell at 275.

Other area wrestlers in the finals included Lakewood's Sean Williams at 112, Alex Phillips at 160, and Eddie Phillips at 171.

In the consolation finals Lakewood had two winners and the Lions had one.

Lakewood's Adam Wruble finished third at 135 with a pin of Kelloggsville's Carl Merchant.

Maple Valley was at the Wayland Invitational on Saturday Dec. 28, and the next time out on the mats will be Saturday Jan. 4 at the Rogers Invitational.

Nashville woman takes part in AQHA riding program

Beverly Warner of Nashville recently earned an award for logging 250 hours in the American Quarter Horse Association horseback riding program.

The program recognizes and rewards AQHA members for time spent with their American Quarter Horses in activities such as trail rides, working cattle, pleasure driving and simply riding.

A unique aspect of the program is its simplicity. Current AQHA members complete a program applica-

tion and pay a one-time \$25 enrollment fee. All enrollees receive an official AQHA log sheet to record their hours driving or riding an American Quarter Horse. Participants need not own their own horse, but all official hours must be accrued with a registered American Quarter Horse.

The first award, a program recognition patch, is given after 50 hours have been logged and verified. Patches and nine subsequent awards are presented at 100- to

5,000-hour levels and range from merchandise gift certificates from Drysdale's Western Store to a Montana Silversmith trophy belt buckle at the highest level.

Other awards provided by AQHA corporate sponsors include a \$25 gift certificate, at the 100 hour level, good toward any item from Drysdale's Western Store, and 750 hours, a Tex Tan basket stamped belt. For each additional hour levels achieved members will receive Montana Silver-

smith products as awards.

Also, at both 500-hour and 5,000-hour award levels, recipients receive recognition in "The American Quarter Horse Journal," AQHA's monthly magazine.

Stephanie Stultz, AQHA Manager of Membership Services, said AQHA is very

See riding program, pg. 11

Nashville children buy food for those in need



Tad and Shannon Mead got into the spirit of the holiday season by using the money they earned to buy food for the needy.

269 • 269 • 269 • 269 • 269 • 269 • 269 • 269 • 269 • 269

j-ad Graphics

Beat The Rush!
Have your printing materials reprinted today!
616 to 269

Business Cards • Letterhead • Envelopes • Forms • Brochures
Flyers • Stamps • Catalogs • Promotional Items

Call us today and let one of our sales representatives help you.
269-945-9554 1-800-870-7085 j-ads@choiceonemail.com

269 • 269 • 269 • 269 • 269 • 269 • 269 • 269 • 269 • 269

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We will be **Open** New Year's Day 9 am to 9 pm

Baby Back Ribs \$3.49 lb

Wampler Deli Turkey \$1.89 lb

Beef Tenderloin Steak \$8.59 lb

Bar S Jumbo 1/4 lb Hot Dogs \$1.09 lb

10 lb. Bag Chicken Leg Qtrs 39¢ lb

Gallon Bareman's 2% Milk **\$1.99**

2 Liters Pepsi **89¢** Plus Dep.

Asst. Var. Di Giorno Pizzas **\$3.99** Excludes Stuffed Crust

4 oz. Pcs. & Stems Parade Mushrooms **5/\$2**

26.5 oz. Hunt's Spaghetti Sauce **89¢**

20 oz. Downy Fabric Softener **\$1.99**

100 oz. Laundry Detergent Tide Liquid **\$6.99**

16 oz. Bareman's Sour Cream **\$1.19**

12.25 oz. Jay's Potato Chips **2/\$5**

4 Roll Double Roll Ultra Charmin Tissue **\$1.89**

5-6 oz. Pringle's Potato Chips **99¢**

18.6-19 oz. Campbell's Select Soups **2/\$3**

64 oz. Asst. Var. Sunny Delight **99¢**

Amish Potato Salad **99¢**

Vermontville Grocery
Phone 726-1570
Store Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9 am-9 pm; Sun. 10 am-6 pm • Prices good thru Saturday
INSTANT LOTTERY • BEER • WINE • VIDEOS • WIC, CREDIT CARDS, DEBIT CARDS, EBT

Check Beer Prices at Vermontville Grocery "NOW"

Given \$15, many young children would head to the nearest store to buy themselves the latest toy, but not Tad and Shannon Mead of Nashville.

Tad, a 7-year-old first-grader at Fuller Street Elementary and Shannon, his 5-year-old sister, enrolled in Young 5s, recently took the \$15 they had earned from helping their grandparents, Allen and Maryann Mead, with chores around their home and business, and used it to buy food for the Christmas Baskets.

"They helped with folding clothes, shoveling the driveway and doing other chores," said Maryann. "We just gave them 25 cents here and there and they said they wanted to use it to buy food for the Christmas Baskets."

The children went to Save-A-Lot, purchased the food and brought it to Hastings City Bank in Nashville.

"They are very special children," said Maryann. "If they could be with their grandparents 24 hours a day they would."

EWING WELL DRILLING INC.

OFFERING COMPLETE WATER & WELL DRILLING & PUMP

SALES & SERVICE 4" TO 12" WELLS

- Residential
- Commercial
- Farm

We stock a complete line of...

- Pumps • Tanks
- Plastic & Steel Pip
- Other Well Supplies

WE OWN OUR OWN EQUIPMENT & DO OUR OWN WORK.

Matthew D. Ewing, Owner

GRAVEL WELLS A SPECIALTY

Estimates Available

(517) 726-0088
10076 NASHVILLE HWY. VERMONTVILLE