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Vermontville woman turns passion into business

by Sandra Ponsetto
 Staff Writer
 Dale Waddle of Vermontville never intended to become a professional quilter. In fact, she only took up quilting after she literally inherited the craft from her mother.
 "I started quilting in 1998. My mother was a quilter. She pieced by machine and quilted by hand. When she died, she left all these materials and projects in process," explained Waddle. "My two sisters wanted nothing to do with it; so I brought it home to finish some of the things she started — and it was fun and I got hooked and started doing my own patterns and designs."
 Two years later, Waddle gave up her job with a large national department store chain to devote more time to

her craft.
 "I discovered I am a much nicer person when I can sit by my machine part of the day," she said with a smile. "I worked for Sears for eight years. I would get on a plane on Monday, fly somewhere, usually the West Coast, and stay there and fly back again on Friday."
 "I helped design the layout or floor plan of the stores, and teach new ways of merchandising and presenting products. Typically, I would have three or four stores a year in various stages."
 After quitting her job, Waddle said she kept busy machine piecing two to three quilt tops a week.
 "I was too impatient to see the final results so I bought a longarm (sewing machine) in December of 2003, and by 2004 ladies started bringing

me their stuff, and I was in business," she said. "Before I bought the longarm it was, 'Do I buy a new car, or do I buy a longarm?' I never thought anyone would pay me to quilt their stuff. Now I do approximately 150 quilts a year."
 Waddle, who named her business Quilting From Heart, meets a lot of her customers at quilting shows.
 "I get a lot of business from word of mouth. I have a lot of my work hanging at shows. I've had a lot of people say that they are surprised when they meet me because they see my name (Dale) on the quilt and they assume I'm a man," she said with a laugh.
 Her business now draws customers from Lansing, East Lansing, Charlotte, Portland, Albion, Portage, Dimondale, Galesburg, Marshall, Bronson, Eaton Rapids, Detroit — even Wisconsin.



Dale Waddle shows one of her original quilt designs based on a pre-Civil War era design known as 54-40 or fight.



Dale Waddle of Vermontville uses her longarm sewing machine to stitch a quilt top.

After two years of working out of her dining room, Waddle's husband, Carl, converted an old feed shed on their property into a spacious and sun-filled studio.
 "I actually think it has more square footage than our house," said Waddle. "In the dining room, I had to crawl on the floor under the frame when I wanted to load thread."
 The studio has two large floor-to-ceiling cupboards. Inside the cupboards are plastic totes labeled with the names of customers.
 "Each lady has their parts and pieces in their own tote," she explained. "Some ladies have cats or dogs and others are allergic to their hair or dander, so I store them in totes to keep them clean and as allergy-free as possible. When I finish a quilt my granddaughter, Amanda, comes over and helps me clean the totes, squirting and wiping them down and let-

ting them dry so they are ready for the next lady."
 A perfectionist, Waddle said that while she enjoys her work immensely, she worries whenever she is quilting a top for someone else.
 "To me, piecing is the most important part of a quilt, and I really worry about the design I choose for the quilting because it has to suit the person who did the piecing," she said. "All the quilting I do is custom for each design. A few things may stay the same but the size and dimensions will change. It's like a baby, I worry about it until it is finished and I put it in their hands."
 Waddle said she researches every design she quilts.
 "One lady gave me a quilt she had made of the Underground Railroad and she had done it all in reproduction period fabrics," said Waddle. "I wanted to make sure the quilting was as authentic as I could make it

but with today's twist without conflicting the authentic reproduction piecing and fabric."
 "My designs come from traditional and contemporary influences," she added. "Some ladies have very definite opinions about what they want on their quilts; sometimes we doodle a little. I can put names on quilts, anniversary dates. I tell them my preference and usually that will spark them to tell me 'yes,' or 'no, don't do that.' If they come in with an idea of what they want, that's okay, but to me it's more important to know what they don't want."
 "Most just hand me the quilt and say they don't care what I do, and that can be frightening to some extent. Some say they don't care how much it costs and tell me to do what I want. Those are the most stressful but also the most rewarding," said Waddle. "But I always tell people if they don't like what I do to tell me so I can fix it or do it differently next time."

"So far, nobody has ever told me they didn't like what I did. I just want to do what is right for each lady."
 "So many people say they feel like they can't do the quilting, but I tell them that if I can do it, anyone can," she added. "If someone brings in something and I think they can do it on a domestic machine, I will tell them and even show them how they can do it on their own domestic. I don't want them to underestimate what they can do."
 According to Waddle, to be quilted on the longarm, the backing fabric needs to be six inches wider and longer (three inches on each side) than the quilt top to make sure there is sufficient seam allowance. The quilt top also needs to be pressed from the back and all "wild" threads need to be clipped.
 Waddle said that she usually keeps a quilt for two to three months, some up to a year.
 "Some ladies give me three or four quilts before

Environmental workshop is geared toward teachers

Eaton Conservation District and Michigan Arbor Day Alliance will offer a workshop opportunity for educators Saturday, March 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the General Motors Delta Lansing facility.
 The registration fee for the workshop is \$10, and lunch will be provided. To register for the workshop, call the

Eaton Conservation District at 517-543-5848 ext. 5 or go to www.miarbordayalliance.org.
 Project Learning Tree is an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators, parents and community leaders working with youths from preschool through grade 12. Project

Learning Tree uses the forest as a "window" into natural and built environments, helping people gain an awareness and knowledge of the world around them, as well as their place within it. Learn more at www.michiganpl.org.
 The Michigan Arbor Day Alliance program is run out of Eaton Conservation

District. The mission of the Eaton Conservation District is to promote and encourage cooperation with other individuals, groups or agencies in an organized effort to conserve and improve the natural resources in Eaton County.

In This Issue...

- Radon test are available free this month
- MOO-ville Creamery adds butter to product line
- Candidates sought for syrup queen contest
- Lion youth wrestlers win many medals over the holiday break

See QUILTS, continued on page 9

MOO-ville Creamery adds butter to product line

With so many of today's consumers drinking 2 percent and skim milk, MOO-ville Creamery in Nashville has plenty of cream to use to make ice cream during the summer months. To not let any of the cream go to waste during the winter months, the creamery recently added butter to its product line.

"As with any business, it is so important not to have any waste. Therefore, we have decided to add butter to our MOO-ville line," said Louisa Westendorp, who along with her husband owns and operates Westvale-View Dairy and MOO-ville Creamery. "With the butter churn now in place, we will be able to make one-pound blocks." "It will be excellent for families, restaurants, fudge shops or whoever uses real butter."

MOO-ville Creamery began with a farm, and a dream, said Westendorp.

"With farming in our blood, a move from Doug's family farm, 40 cows, six kids and determination to make it possible was the creation of Westvale-View Dairy," she said. "On a hill two miles south of Nashville on the old Pennock farm some 16 years ago, we started the development of a herd of registered Holsteins and strived for a high quality of milk. After building the herd to 80, milk production increased continually, and we changed from two times a day milking to three times a day to help keep the cows more comfortable. When this happened, we noticed a big change in our SCC, or how clean the milk is. By bottling our own milk,

we could now offer it to our local people who could appreciate milk the way milk used to taste."

After almost four years in business, the creamery employs 15 people. Westendorp said the creamery has a loyal customer base in a 50-mile radius from the dairy and creamery located at the corner of M-66 and Lawrence Road in Nashville.

"You will never see MOO-ville milk on sale as you see other brands to sway customers to the back end of their store," said Louisa. "Many stores take a loss on milk in hopes of making up the difference along the way.

"Our philosophy has always been about quality, and we don't plan on changing that," she added. "Coffee shops are finding that with specialty coffees they will froth better with MOO-ville milk. Less processing allows them to obtain the highest quality in their coffee as well."

The success of their bottled milk led the Westendorps to expand their product line to include ice cream. During the summer, customers can have soft-serve ice cream or select from the 32 flavors of ice cream offered in the creamery's dipping cabinet. MOO-ville ice cream is also packaged and available for purchase at the creamery and several local grocery stores.

Westendorp said MOO-ville ice cream is bought by people who want to purchase high-quality, locally produced and less-processed food made with Michigan beet sugar and real vanilla.

The creamery also makes and packages cheese curds weekly. Cheese curds, also known as "squeaky cheese" when eaten fresh, also can be used in cooking.

"To sum things all up, we hope even in our slow economy that our local people will



MOO-ville employee Sherry Shoemaker and owner Doug Westendorp watch as the first batch of MOO-ville butter is churned.

Buttons to highlight historical society meeting

The Vermontville Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Vermontville United Methodist Church beginning with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a short meeting to follow.

Guest speaker will be Mary Jean Baker of Charlotte; she will talk and display some of her collection of antique buttons. If anyone has any unusual but-

tons they would like to learn more about, then bring those along. Mary Jean may be able to tell the history of them.

Vermontville Historical Society encourages people in the community who are interested in maintaining the heritage of Vermontville to join the monthly meetings. Call President Doug Kelsey at 517-726-0574 for more information.

support MOO-ville. Less-processed milk tastes better and is better for you. Studies have shown that non-homogenized milk is easier to digest," said Westendorp, who added that whole milk is only 3.25 percent cream,

which means it is 96.75 percent fat-free.

"If you've heard about MOO-ville, but never made your way in, we invite you to come visit us, bring the family, sit by the fire and warm up with a cup of coffee and an

ice cream dessert," she said. "When the weather is good, we invite you to tour the creamery and farm where you will learn a lot about the life of a cow here in Nashville."

GFWC Vermontville donates to Maple Valley School

General Federation Women's Club Vermontville voted to help Maple Valley eighth grade students in the purchase of required reading novel "City of Embers." Club member Cindy Krolik, who teaches at Maple Valley Schools, explained that they would like all the students to read the science fiction book at the same time for discussion.

Members discuss the disappointment of The Revue leaving Vermontville. It was decided that the club would continue to support The Revue in Nashville with its popcorn popper and volunteers. All proceeds of the

sale of the corn were returned to The Revue for the club's contribution to the arts.

Mary Fisher, Christmas basket chairman, reported that 36 families were given Christmas baskets this year, and 23 seniors in the community were given a gift. Children received gifts from the Toys for Toys program. Teens received a gift with donations from the United Methodist Church.

Fisher said she is grateful for all the assistance of the community toward this event, along with those who helped pick up food, toys and sorted foods and assisted in

the distribution of the baskets.

Club members will be attending Leadership Day Feb. 10 in Grand Ledge.

The next general meeting for Vermontville GFWC will be Feb. 2 at the United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. Members are asked to bring valentines for the veterans. Guest speaker will be Shane McNeil, registered pharmacist at Maple Valley Pharmacy.

As always, anyone interested in GFWC Vermontville or its programs is encourage to join at any time.

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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>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</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH 8950 East M-79 Highway, Nashville Morning Celebration 10 a.m. Contemporary Service, Relevant Practical Teaching, Nursery, Children's Classes, Youth Group, Adult Small Groups, Leadership Training PASTOR: DON ROSCOE Phone: (517) 852-1783 e-mail: grace@gc3.org</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>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</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 Night Service 6:45 p.m. PASTOR MARC S. LIVINGSTON Phone: 543-5488</p>	<p>GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 5505 North Mulliken Road, Charlotte one mile north of Vermontville Hwy. PASTOR KATHY SMITH 517-726-0526 Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School: 10:50 a.m. Weekly Bible Studies United Methodist Women: 3rd Thursday</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>PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARRYVILLE 6043 E. M-79 Highway, 4 miles west of Nashville (cor. M-79 & Barryville Rd.) Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. Other: Prayer Walk, U.M. Women, Bible Study, Mission Projects & more. PASTOR SUSAN OLSEN Phone 517-852-1993 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>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 6 p.m.: PASTOR JEFF SWIFT (517) 852-9154</p>	<p>NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Located on the corner of State and Washington streets Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. PASTOR CATHY CHRISTMAN At Home: 852-0685 Church Phone: 852-2043</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 Rt. Rev. David Hustwick 948-9327 Traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer used for all services. RT. REV. DAVID HUSTWICK</p>	<p>ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 203 N. State, Nashville Sunday Mass 9:45 a.m. FATHER AL RUSSELL 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 6:30 p.m. AWANA 6:30-8 p.m. Wed. PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH</p>	<p>VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 108 North Main, Vermontville PASTOR KATHY SMITH 517-726-0526 Adult and Youth Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m. Weekly Bible Studies United Methodist Women: 2nd Tuesday</p>

The Revue plans "Act II" in Nashville

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

It's not curtains for The Revue — just the beginning of another act, according to founder Bill Reynolds who detailed some of his plans for the long-running theater group's new venue earlier this week. Practices and performances will move from downtown Vermontville to downtown Nashville, from the historic opera house to the former Masonic lodge.

"It's the end of Act I and the beginning of Act II for The Revue," said Reynolds, who sees the move as a chance for the theater group to expand. "With our own building, we will have more options now, like the possibility of running a theater summer camp or expanding

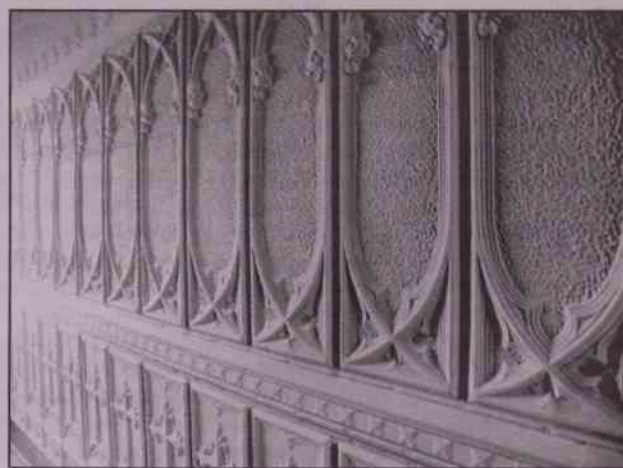
In December, after nearly 13 years and 43 productions in the opera house, Reynolds

Valley," said Reynolds. "Mike really supports the community and sees that

indoor plumbing — which is a big plus," he said. "With the stairs being inside and



This vintage photo shows the building, located at 301 N. Main Street in Nashville before it became the Masonic Lodge.



Pressed-tin ornamentation covers every inch of the walls in the meeting room of the Masonic Lodge.

move the majority of The Revue's props, scenery and costumes from the opera house by the end of the month.

"We're just keeping the things we'll need for 'Forever Plaid' at the opera house; the rest we'll start

moving to our new home as soon as we can," he said. "The biggest thing will be getting the stage built the way we want it. That will be a nice weekend project."

ACT II, continued on page 5



The Revue founder Bill Reynolds stands in front of the former Masonic Temple in downtown Nashville, the new home of the theater group.

"It's the end of Act I and the beginning of Act II for The Revue."

Bill Reynolds, founder

there is nothing bad about bringing all these people to a small town."

Reynolds said that while he regrets having to sever ties with the opera house, he is excited about the new space.

"It has stairs like the opera house but they are indoors, and there is a lobby, balcony, storage, dressing rooms and

having our own space, we may be able to do something in the future about making it handicap accessible by putting in a chair lift or something like that when money allows."

Reynolds said that he and volunteers from the community and The Revue plan to start work on renovating the Masonic Lodge as soon as possible.

"We're going to stay on our schedule and we have our kids show, 'Willy Wonka Jr.' coming up, so we have a lot to do before the last week of May," he said. "We'll hold the auditions here in Nashville at the end of February."

Reynolds said he plans to



Mike Callton, owner of the old Masonic Lodge in downtown Nashville, looks around the space he has donated for the use by The Revue.



The Revue is moving from the historic Vermontville Opera House to the upper floor of the former Masonic Lodge in Nashville.

our offerings if the high school ends up cutting their program."

When The Revue's current production "A Night in Vegas," featuring the musical "Forever Plaid," closes Sunday, Feb. 1, at the Vermontville Opera House, the group will move into the upper floor of the former Masonic Lodge No. 255 Free and Accepted Masons in downtown Nashville.

wrote a letter to Vermontville Township, which owns the historic building, stating that The Revue was leaving due to harassment from township residents and a member of the township board.

Reynolds said that within two days of submitting his letter to the board, Nashville chiropractor Mike Callton, who owns the old Masons building, contacted him about donating the use of the upstairs of the building in exchange for repair and maintenance.

"I actually had two offers — one from Mike, and one from Charlotte. But the Charlotte offer wasn't definite, and I also wanted to keep The Revue in Maple

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- THE TALE OF DESPERAUX (G)
SAT/SUN/TUE 12:00, 2:15, 4:30
FRI/MON/WED/TH 4:30
- BEDTIME STORIES (PG)
SAT/SUN/TUE 11:20, 1:50, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
FRI/MON/WED/TH 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
- MARLEY & ME (PG)
SAT/SUN/TUE 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
FRI/MON/WED/TH 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
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Schools have opportunity to realize savings

Due to a Michigan law on the books since 2007, West Michigan schools will soon have a certified Public Employer Pooled Plan (PEPP) to use for finding health insurance savings, said Sen. Mark C. Jansen of Gaines Township, in southern Kent County.

"After 16 months of this law being on the books, I'm glad to see it finally have an

opportunity to help West Michigan schools save money," said Jansen, a Republican. "This new PEPP shows our schools are being fiscally responsible by searching for additional cost saving measures."

Essentially, a PEPP is a group of school districts working cooperatively to own and manage their health care programs in the most cost

effective manner, said Jansen. The structure allows for access to claims data, which in turn helps districts develop plans and programs to best meet their employees' insurance needs.

Public Act 106 of 2007 was sponsored by Jansen to help local governments and school districts save money on the cost of public employee health benefits. The law allows for the development of optional health care pools and for medical, dental and optical benefits, and opens the process to competition by providing for increased access to claims and health care provider data.

When Jansen's bill was enacted, it was estimated the

new law would allow for significant savings. Any savings will remain with the school districts.

The package received the support of more than two dozen organizations, including the Ottawa, Kent and Muskegon intermediate school districts; the Michigan Association of School Administrators; the Michigan Association of School Boards; the American Federation of Teachers; the AFL-CIO; and the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

"The tireless efforts of schools in West Michigan helped make this vital law a reality," Jansen said.

SUPERINTENDENTS CORNER

School board leaders honored in January

by Kim Kramer

As citizen leaders, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges. They are alternately described as having the most important volunteer jobs in the country and facing the toughest challenge in elected American government. Yet school board members are just ordinary citizens with extraordinary dedication to our nation's public schools. All Michigan citizens should recognize the vital contributions of these men and women and the crucial role these elected public officials play in the education of our children.

In recognition of the dedicated service, January is designated School Board Recognition Month. This is a time to show our appreciation and begin to better understand how local trustees work together to provide a better future for our children. In January, join with others from throughout our district and state to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools. Make a special effort to tell each of our seven school board members — Teresa Allen, Tim Burd, Wayne Curtis, April Heinze, Andrea Montgomery, Kevin Rost and Mark Wenger — that his or her hard work has been noticed and is truly appreciated.

Public education is the backbone of American society, and local school boards are deeply rooted in U.S. tradition. Their origins can be traced to colonial times when the Massachusetts Law of 1642 empowered town officers to compel parents to teach their children to read. Today, local school boards continue to do the most important work of their communities — that of educating

our young.

Their job is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community, and strongly advocate continuous improvement in student learning. Yet local trustees sometimes tackle an often thankless job devoid of any glory. Too often, we are quick to criticize school board members without really knowing all the details that went into a given decision. Now is the time to thank them for their untiring efforts.

Although they wear many hats in the workday world, school board members put on a collective hat when they get down to the business of leading their school districts. Board members must pull together as a team toward a common goal — helping students achieve. Though they may individually disagree on certain issues, their role as a board is to consistently strive toward that goal.

Too often, we forget about the personal sacrifices school board members routinely make. Board members contribute hundreds and hundreds of hours each year leading their districts. The time spent in board meetings represents just a small fraction of the hours school board members spend leading in their districts. They also work hard at seminars and training sessions to keep abreast of the latest trends in educational leadership, are deeply involved in community activities and spend many hours in the schools and at extracurricular events. Their love for learning, and concern and caring for students, staff and community drives board members' desire to lead so students can achieve.

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COUNSELORS CORNER

by Lorraine Benedict, MA
Good night/ study right

Classes are back in session and students are busy at work. We hope all of you had a nice break. I know it has been hard this week to get up early an adjust bedtime back to a reasonable hour, but hopefully everyone will be in a good healthy sleep routine. A few years ago, I was visiting with a pediatrician, and she shared with me the importance of sleep for teenagers. Studies show that most teens need at least 9 to 10 hours of sleep each night to refortify their ever-changing teen bodies. Some kids may require more. Teachers have often noted that many of our struggling kids come to school tired. Some sleep research suggests that reducing "screen time" (computers, video games, etc.) just prior to bedtime may assist students in falling asleep. Some researchers believe the visual stimuli from screen time may make it harder than normal for teens to fall asleep. Teens (and adults, too) may want to stop screen time an hour or so before they plan to go to bed. The start of the year is a good time to establish good routines for our kids.

Family time

Other well-documented studies show that sitting down together to eat meals daily as a family is very important for teenagers' success in school and promotes positive behavior. It is very easy to "grab and go" or grab and "veg" in front of the television instead of eating supper together at the table. Taking a little time to interact helps improve understanding among parents and teens and provides a regular chance for positive communication. Some parents with second- or third-shift jobs have found it useful to have breakfast together or share a snack before going off to work. While teenagers often appear uninterested in interacting, the opposite is true. Family time is important to teens. Parents need to make sure they lead the way in providing time for positive interaction.

Economic stress = other stress

It is no secret that Michigan's economy is really struggling right now. When financial stress hits, many other issues, including marriages and parenting, are impacted. Teenagers seem to want to know what's going on with these stresses but also need to be shielded sometimes from the stress parents are feeling. If you have stresses that may impact your children, it is often helpful to share them with your child's teachers, staff, etc.

Junior high newspaper is published

Mr. Dowling's computer classes have been busy writing a junior high newspaper. Students have been reporting on sports and social events. So far, four papers have been published, with a fifth one on the way. Students get a chance to improve their com-

puter skills in a fun and interesting way.

Parenting classes

We have a brochure available describing several parenting and marriage classes offered in our area. The brochure can be picked up from our resource display shelves located just outside the high school office near the cafeteria. One of the classes offered is "Love and Logic, a helpful parenting class." Another class is a free class called "Nurturing Parenting." This class is geared to parents of teens. "Staying Connected With Your Teen" is a class for parents of teens offered Tuesdays at Barry-Eaton District Health Department. For information on these classes, call Jodi Anthony at 517-541-8765. "Proud Parents Marriage and Parenting" is a class designed to help couples strengthen their marriages through exploration of parenting attitudes and skills. Contact Sharon Rogers or Jeff Keener at 800-585-1504, ext. 113. "Parenting 911" is a free program for parents who are struggling with trying to raise a teenager. Contact Laura Wyble at 517-627-4702. It is often easy to feel alone as a parent. These classes are a great way to gain support and knowledge in raising healthy children.

High school seniors should check the senior board

College scholarship applications are available for students in Mrs. Yager's office. Students should plan to check the bulletin board regularly for scholarship opportunities. Many scholarship applications are due in February, so don't miss out. Students also should apply to colleges as soon as possible.

Finding money for college

Parents of high school seniors and college students should plan to calculate their taxes as early as possible. This information will be needed to fill out important financial aid papers required by colleges. The FAFSA form, as it is called, can be completed most easily when taxes are finished. This form is the official form used by colleges to issue scholarships, grants and loans. It is essential for all students heading to college. Senior students and their parents should begin the process of applying for their FAFSA PIN number. Simply go online to www.FederalStudentAid.gov and click on FAFSA Filing Options or call 800-4FED-AID. Mrs. Yager also can provide assistance to help with this process. The "early bird does catch the worm." Colleges issue many of their scholarship, grants and loans early, and funds may run out if you wait too long to apply. If you missed the financial aid workshop meeting in December, be sure and visit the school Web site, mvs.k12.mi.us, go to Jr./Sr. High, click on Guidance. You will find the financial aid meeting from the December presentation.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Maple Valley Elementary Lunch Menu

Monday, Jan. 12

Chili w/crackers. Cherry tomatoes, mandarin oranges, corn bread.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

Chicken sandwich. Cal. blend veg., peaches, apple crisp.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Taco sticks. Green beans, Jell-O w/fruit, cinnamon bread stick.

Thursday, Jan. 15

Fuller Cottage Inn. Stuffed crust pizza. Tossed salad, fruit cocktail, Goldfish crackers.

Friday, Jan. 16

Sack Lunch Day. Ham/cheese Hot Pkt. Carrot sticks, banana, raisins.

NOTE: Fuller Alternative Entree Choices: Peanut butter and jelly sandwich, honey and peanut butter sandwich.

Maplewood Alternative Entree Choices: 6 oz. Yogurt w/string cheese, chef salad, peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Maplewood offers a variety of healthy snacks for 50 cents each (cash only; quarters or dollars only).

Milk is included with all full meal purchases. Assort-ed bread choices daily.

Breakfast price: \$1.30; Lunch price: \$1.90; Adult price: \$2.75; milk only: \$.45.

Maple Valley Jr.-Sr. High School Lunch Menu

Monday, Jan. 12

Double dogs. French fries, fruit cocktail. Salad bar.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

Chicken pot pie. Broccoli w/cheese, pineapple man. orgs. Mexican bar.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Chicken nuggets. Mashed potatoes, pears. Deli bar.

Thursday, Jan. 15

Kellogg Cottage Inn. Macaroni and cheese. Cal. blend veg., grapes. Asian bar.

Friday, Jan. 16

Sloppy Joe w/chips. Celery w/p.butter, applesauce. Mini bar.

NOTE: Entree's available daily: cheeseburger, variety of chicken sandwiches, pizza, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, fish sandwich, honey and peanut butter sandwich, 6 oz. yogurt w/string cheese.

Side choices available daily: garden salad, juice, fresh fruit.

Milk is included with all full meal purchases. Seconds available on vegetables at no additional charge. Assorted bread choices daily.

Breakfast price: \$1.45; Lunch price: \$2.25-\$2.50; Adult prices: \$2.75-\$3.00. Milk only: \$.45.

Radon test kits are available free this month

Department of Environmental Quality Director Steven E. Chester reminded Michigan homeowners this week to start the new year off right by testing their homes for radon. Gov. Jennifer Granholm has proclaimed January to be Radon Action Month in Michigan, noting that radon is believed to be the second leading cause of lung cancer and the leading cause among non-

smokers. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in almost any kind of soil or rock. It travels through the ground and is quickly diluted when released to the atmosphere. However, when it seeps into homes through openings in the foundation floor or walls, it can build up to unhealthy levels. "Radon is tasteless, odor-

less and colorless, which too often makes it easy to ignore," said Chester. "The reality is that nearly one in eight Michigan homes could have an indoor radon problem, and the only way to know if your family is at risk is to test your home."

The DEQ is partnering with local health departments to ensure a source of low-cost test kits in every county this year. Most local

health departments offer the kits for \$15 or less, and many will be selling them at discounted prices during the month of January.

Residents of Barry or Eaton counties may stop by the health department during the month of January and pick up a test kits for free (limit of two kits per address).

Kits obtained from the local health departments

include the postage to mail the device to an out-of-state laboratory, the fees for having the device analyzed and a report sent back to the user.

For residents who cannot get to their local health department during normal business hours, kits may be obtained online at <http://mi.radon.com>. These kits include postage and lab fees in the price.

Test kits may also be available from some hardware stores or home improvement centers, but not all include postage and analysis, so citizens are urged to read the packaging before making purchases.

The National Academy of Sciences estimates that about 15,000 Americans die annually from radon-related lung cancer, and a Michigan Public Health Institute report estimates more than 600 new lung cancer cases in Michigan are attributable to indoor radon each year.

Radon tests should be

done in the lowest livable level of the home during the cooler months of the year, when windows and doors are normally kept closed. If the test indicates an elevated radon level, more testing should be done to confirm the problem and appropriate actions can be taken to reduce the levels when needed.

To find out more about radon, call or visit the environmental health division of the Barry-Eaton District Health Department in Hastings at 330 W. Woodlawn Ave. or call 269-945-9516. In Charlotte. In Eaton County, visit the office at 1033 Health Care Drive, Charlotte, or call 517-541-2615.

More information also is available at the DEQ Web site at www.michigan.gov/deq/radon, or call the DEQ Radon Program at 1-800-RADON-GAS (1-800-723-6642) for a free packet of information.

Winter reading program begins at Vermontville Twp. Library

The fifth annual winter reading program for adult patrons of the Vermontville Township Library began on Jan. 6, but it's not too late to join the fun.

"Feed Your Mind ... Read" is the theme for this year's program. Participants will have a "menu" of types of books to read that coincide with a food group. They must fulfill the required amount of servings in each food group to complete a healthy food pyramid. When the minimum amount of servings for a section of the

food pyramid is completed, a ticket will be awarded that will be entered into a drawing for prizes donated by local merchants and service organizations. A second ticket will be awarded if the maximum number of servings in a section is completed.

The program is open to all patrons 16 years of age or older with an active Vermontville Township Library card. All books read must be from the Vermontville Township Library.

Reading began on Tuesday, Jan. 6, and will end on Saturday, March 28. All tickets must be turned in before the close of business on March 28. The grand prize drawing will be held on Tuesday, March 31, and winners will be notified.

Without the help of the community and its generosity, library programs would not be possible. Past and present supporters of the library programs include M-C Auto Repair and Towing, Vermontville General Federation of Women's

Clubs, Vermontville Lions Club, Vermontville Maple Syrup Association, Stanton's Real Estate and Auctioneers, Vermontville First Congregational Church, Roadrunners, Vermontville Hardware, Janelle's Tanning and Massage, Tilly Tubbs—Avon Representative, Sallie Moriarty—Pampered Chef Consultant, State Rep. Rick Jones, Kelly Fuels Mobil Station and Vermontville Independent Bank.

Candidates sought for syrup queen contest

The Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival Association is seeking candidates for the annual Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival Queen Contest, slated for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, at First Congregational Church, 110 S. Main St., Vermontville.

A panel of judges will select a queen and three court members who will

reign during the 69th annual Vermontville Maple Syrup Association Festival, Friday, April 24, through Sunday, April, 26. The queen and court members each will receive cash prizes in addition to their sashes and tiaras.

While the queen and her court are no longer required to attend various parades and functions throughout the

year, voluntary participation in such events is encouraged.

The contest is open to all junior girls in the Maple Valley School District who plan to graduate from Maple Valley High School and are taking at least 8 1/2 credits.

Candidates also must be single and have no children. Applications are currently available at the high school

office. All applications must be returned to the office by Friday, Jan. 30.

All queen candidates and their parents are invited to attend an orientation meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at the Congregational church to learn more about the duties of the queen and her court. Information will be provided regarding questions the candidates will be asked during the judging process. The girls also will have an opportunity to learn more about the village and maple syrup during the course of the evening.

The annual Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival Queen Contest is sponsored by the Vermontville Lions Club, which will provide a Swiss steak dinner before the contest.

Vermontville church to host finance classes

Vermontville United Methodist Church will host the nationally renowned Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. To learn more about it, visit the church, located at 108 N. Main St. Vermontville, at 7 p.m. Sunday Jan. 11, to learn how to reduce debt and increase savings.

The classes will begin Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. and will meet each Wednesday for the next 13 weeks. These classes deal with all money matters including real estate, credit cards, mutual funds and much

more and may benefit those who are tired of feeling poor, have out-of-control credit card debt, creditors at their door or are in a bind because of Christmas spending.

Persons taking these classes average a debt reduction of \$5,300 and an increase in savings of \$2,700 in 13 weeks.

The Vermontville United Methodist Church is offering the class for \$92, which is the cost of the workbook (per person or couple) and includes a lifetime membership in Ramsey's organization.

For more information call 517-726-1165 or 517-726-0526.

Free snowmobile safety class offered this week

The Eaton County Sheriff's department will be conducting a free snowmobile safety class from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and

Wednesday, Jan. 13 and 14, for a total of four hours of instruction in the sheriff's office EOC room, 1025 Independence boulevard,

Charlotte. Participants must be at least 12 years of age. For more information or to enroll, call Jerri Nesbitt at 517-543-5257.

ACT II, continued from page 3

"We're going to build the stage up front on the street side. It is also nice because we have a small lobby area and there will be room for people to hang their coats and things," added Reynolds. "Also, it was kind of fun backstage at the opera house where we didn't really have dressing rooms — we were kind of close-knit. But, now and there are two rooms behind the balcony that can be used for storage and dressing rooms. We can hang up all of our costumes and they'll get used more. I've been keeping a lot of stuff in my garage, but now we have a lot more space."

Reynolds said that after building the stage, the next big concerns will be finding

and rigging curtains, upgrading the electrical system and finding and installing stage lighting.

"Amy Jo Parish (a Revue volunteer and the manager of the Charlotte Performing Arts Center at Charlotte High School) is looking into grant funding for the lighting system. But, if there are any electricians out there who would be willing to donate their time and expertise to upgrade the electrical system that would be fantastic," said Reynolds. "Our curtains will probably be makeshift for a while. I hope people will be understanding while we're in our transition time. We're a non-profit organization, and we don't have a lot of funds, so we're not going to

be able to do everything right away, but the space will be very functional.

"We'll probably be scouring eBay and Craig's List looking for chairs and seating. We don't want to have to borrow and lug chairs and stuff up and down stairs when we do a show, but we will if we have to," he added. "Right now we're developing a wish -list, but our priority is to keep the shows on schedule.

"This is not the end; it is a fresh start for The Revue," concluded Reynolds.

Anyone interested in volunteering or making a donation to The Revue may call Reynolds 269-838-4216 or log on to therevue1@yahoo.com.

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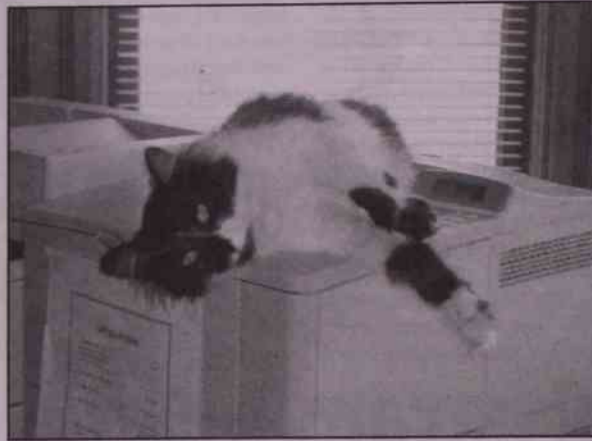
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Putnam celebrates Library Cat Month

Putnam District Library in Nashville invites area residents and children to celebrate January as Library Cat Month. Putnam is part of a long history of libraries that are residents to cats.

In the 1980s, Charles Dickens was a resident at the Nashville library, and his image served as greeter on the old book return. If anyone has memories of Dickens, the library staff would love to



Cleo, Putnam District Library's own cat relaxes on top of the copy machine.

hear them. For more information on cats in libraries log on to www.ironfrog.com/catsmap.html.

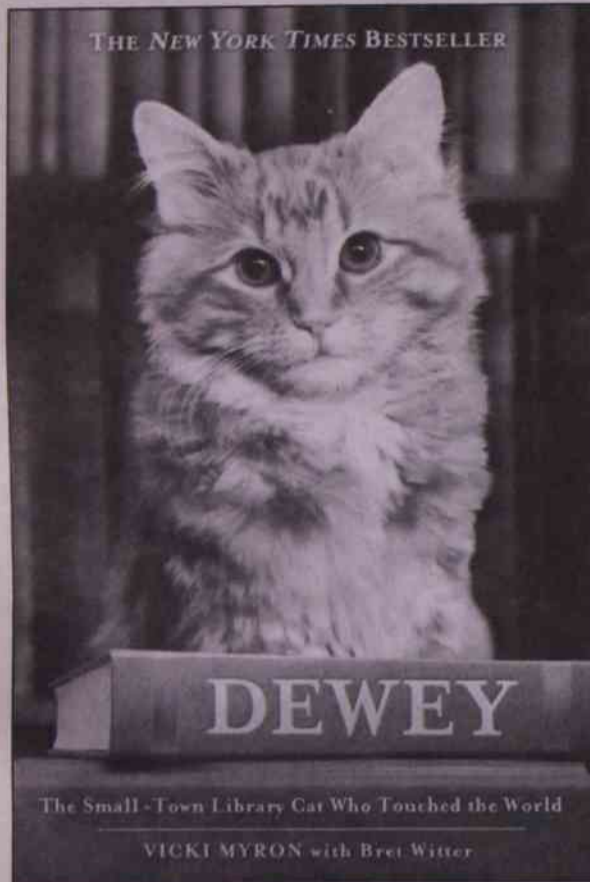
The elementary story time which will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, will be devoted to cats in literature. All ages are welcome to attend this event. A portion of the documentary "Puss In Books" will be shown. Putnam library is included in this movie, and the audience will see glimpses of Charles Dickens in the film.

The current library cat is called Cleo; however, Fuller Elementary students will be helping to choose a literary name for her this month.

At 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, the library will host Cleo's

second birthday party. Cake, cat treats and party games will be on hand, and Cleo's formal name will be revealed. Gifts are welcome, but please check with librarians before purchasing.

Wrapping up library cat month will be a book discussion for adults and teens. Vicki Myron's bestseller *Dewey: the Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World* will be discussed at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3. Stop in to borrow the library's copy or to order one from another library through MeLCat, the library's interlibrary loan system. Read more about Dewey at <http://spencer-library.com/deweybio.htm>.



The story about Dewey, the Library Cat has shone a spotlight on library cats across the nation.

Animal tracks focus of KBS program

Winter is a great time to be outside and see which animals are out and about. The Kellogg Bird Sanctuary invites the public to join a

family program, Tricky Tracks, Saturday, Jan. 17, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Animals can be difficult to see many times of the year,

but their tracks can be easy to see in a fresh blanket of snow. Join the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary staff for a walk through the sanctuary to identify tracks and read the clues left behind by animals.

Participants will have an opportunity to make a track identifier to use at home. Dress for the weather since the program will be outdoors.

Cost for sanctuary members is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children (ages 2 to 12 years). Admission for non-members is \$5 for adults and

\$3 for children (ages 2 to 12 years). The program is recommended for ages 4 and up, but all are welcome. Pre-registration is appreciated.

The bird sanctuary is located at 12685 East C Ave., one mile north of M-89 and just west of 40th Street.

The Kellogg Bird Sanctuary is open to visitors year-round. For additional information, call 269-671-2510 or e-mail birdsantuary@kbs.msu.edu. KBS special events can be found online at www.kbs.msu.edu.

Area Obituaries

Shirlee June Barrett Kobiska

HASLETT - Shirlee June Barrett (Copen) Kobiska, age 71, of Haslett, formerly of Vermontville, passed away on Jan. 2, 2009 at Sparrow Hospital after on going health issues surrounded by her children.

She was born on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 1937. The oldest surviving daughter of Russell (Red) and Agnes (Palek) Barrett, Chester Rd., Vermontville. She had a sister, Joyce passing at birth and a brother that was stillborn. She also had a surviving brother, Ronald (Red) Barrett of Charlotte.

She graduated from Vermontville High School in 1956. Shirlee was involved in cheerleading, plays, the school paper, sports, showing her horse and working on the family farm with her brother Ron Barrett. Her brother at one time, sold his prize farm stock animal to buy her a new prom dress.

She graduated from cosmetology school after high school. She married Frank Copen and had four children from this union. They divorced later. She later married Jay Kobiska of Lake City in 1982. They were married for 14 years until his passing.

She was a homemaker, excellent cook and seamstress making a lot of her children's clothes.

She loved her dog, Cherry. Shirlee also loved the outdoors, especially camping and looked forward to mushrooming with family and friends each spring. She loved the time spent with her husband Jay, near Lake City.

She was preceded in death by her husband and soul mate, Jay Kobiska in 1996



and her brother, Ron Barrett in 2001.

She is survived by her four children in birth order: daughter, Toni Copen (Mark Ostrander) of Holt, son, Russell (Rusty) Copen of Hermitage, TN, daughter, Kelly (Jeff) Hamilton of Vermontville and son, Bill Copen of Jackson; four grandchildren, Tara Copen of Tennessee, Lydia Copen of Texas, Kelia Jean Hamilton and Aleena Hamilton of Michigan; two great grandchildren; two nieces, many friends and close neighbors and her best friend, Martha Ostrander.

Special thanks to close family friends and care helpers, Cindy and Chelsea Tice and also Kathy Thorsen.

Because of Shirlee's wishes, there will be no service and cremation has taken place. She will be laid to rest at Moorestown beside her beloved husband Jay.

In her memory, the family requests any money donations be made to the charity of one's choice.

Funeral arrangements made by Gorsline Runciman Funeral Home, Lansing.

Stacy Picklesimer

NASHVILLE - Ms. Stacy Picklesimer age, 41 of Nashville passed away Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at Hayes Green Beech Hospital in

Charlotte. Funeral arrangements for Ms. Picklesimer are pending at Daniels Funeral Home in Nashville.

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Write us a letter!

The Maple Valley News welcomes letters to the editor from readers, but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published. The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of for-profit businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
- We prefer handwritten letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced.

Send your letters to: Editor c/o J-Ad Graphics, 1351 N. M-43 Highway, Hastings, MI 49058 or e-mail to: news@j-adgraphics.com

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Maple Valley Marching Lions begins sub sales

The Maple Valley Band is holding its annual submarine sandwich sale now through Jan. 16. The sandwiches sell for \$3 each, four subs for \$10 or five for \$12 in a variety of Italian, ham or turkey.

They will be delivered to customers by SuperBowl Sunday. Anyone interested in purchasing subs who doesn't have access to a band member may contact the high school office at 517-852-9275.

Band members are selling subs to help raise funds for a trip to Chicago in the spring,

where they have an opportunity to perform at Great America as well as The Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park.

The trip is being planned by Dennis Vanderhoef with the help of Ryan Rosin. Both are working to ensure that the trip provides band members with as much musical arts culture and performance opportunities as possible. They know that economic times are hard and that it may be difficult for some to participate, but with the help of the Maple Valley Band

Boosters and support of others in the community, every band member will be provided the opportunity to go on this trip. The trip is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for some students and a dream come true for others.

Following the sub sale, the band will raffle off a private performance to the community. At the end of April, the annual pancake and sausage breakfast at the Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival will continue as a fundraiser where students work shifts to earn money for the trip.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a band member or making a donation to a student in need may contact

the high school office or Steve Rathburn at 517-231-1033, or log on to the band booster Web site at

www.mvbandbooster.com and contact one of the officers.

Extension to launch mentoring program targeting foster care youths

Eaton County MSU Extension will address problems facing foster care youths and other at-risk teens at the Supporting Teen Opportunities Mentoring Program kick-off event at Trinity United Methodist Church in Lansing Monday, Jan. 26, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Angelique Day, a foster care alum and keynote speaker, will present her personal story and address the importance of mentoring programs to the community.

"Children are our most precious resource," Gov. Jennifer Granholm said. "It is critical that we work together to do

everything we can, not only to ensure the safety of our children, but also to provide them with a stable environment in which they are surrounded by adults who care about them and will help them learn and grow."

There are currently 22 foster care youths in Eaton County between 14 and 19 years old. The Supporting Teen Opportunities Mentoring Program (STOMP) is focusing its attention on these teenagers because soon they will be aging out of foster care and be forced to provide for themselves.

vide these teens with a caring adult who can help them make positive life choices that enable them to maximize their personal potential," said STOMP Coordinator Roger Tijerina. "This program will directly affect these individuals' character and will promote the healthy development of informed and responsible citizens."

The kick-off event will also provide food, beverages and live entertainment. The event is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, contact Tijerina at 517-543-2310.

"Our goal is to pro-

Vermontville Township Library to hold contest

On Feb. 12, Vermontville Township Library will celebrate 60 years of service to the community. In honor of this event, the library is asking for interested community members to submit designs for a bookmark that will be reproduced to commemorate the event.

All submissions should be no larger than 3 by 8 inches, and can be in color or black

and white. Artwork can be in crayon, marker, pencil, ink or photographed. No computer-generated designs will be accepted. The submission must contain the name "Vermontville Township Library" and must have the years 1949-2009 incorporated into the design. All designs must be submitted to the library no later than the 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31.

The library board will choose the winning design Tuesday, Feb. 3, and the winner will be notified. The design will then be made into bookmarks that will be given out at the anniversary open house to be held Saturday, Feb. 14.

Anyone with questions may contact the library at 517-726-1362 for more information.

Early 4s students learn about winter

This week students in the Early 4s program learned about the season of winter.

The students took part a variety of activities to further explore the chilly season. They enjoyed creating snow

people and decorating mittens. Students also liked exploring real snow in the sensory table and coloring snow in the math and science area.

They also retold the story

of *The Mitten* by Jan Brett. The students pretended to be the characters and squeeze into the mitten (a hula hoop). Students also loved exploring our "indoor snow" while wearing their winter gear.



(From left) Students Isabella Swift, Jamie Steele and Mollie Hoover have fun in Early 4s classroom snow.



(From left) Gage Garrett, Cody Kruger and Gunner Garret explore snow in the sensory table.



Early 4s morning class participating in the retelling of the story *The Mitten* by Jan Brett include (from left) Duncan Seume, Karlie Dahms, Kiara Barke and Jazmyn Smith.

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Olivet College announces fall semester dean's list

A total of 250 students have been named to the Olivet College fall semester dean's list.

To make the dean's list, a student must be attending full time and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. An asterisk (*) indicates

that the student earned a 4.0 grade point average for the semester.

Nashville — Melissa Bender and Joseph Desrochers.
Vermontville — Emily Eldred.*

VILLAGE OF VERMONTVILLE ORDINANCE NO 09-02

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF VERMONTVILLE

Section 1. THE VILLAGE OF VERMONTVILLE ORDAINS:

An Ordinance for amending Article 2 - Zoning, Chapter 23 - Zoning Board of Appeals, Section 2 - Creation and Membership, Sub-section B - Number of Members, Appointments, to read in its entirety as follows:

23.2.B

Number of Members, Appointment. The board shall consist of five (5) members, all appointed by the Village Council. Appointments shall be in accord with Section 5 of Act 207 of 1921, as amended. Two (2) members shall be appointed, one each from the membership of the Village Council and the Village Planning Commission. The Council member so appointed shall not be a member of the Planning Commission. The Village Council member of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall not serve as Chairperson. Each member of the Board of Appeals shall be a resident of the Village of Vermontville and shall be a qualified and registered elector of the Village of Vermontville. Appointed members may be removed for cause by the Village Council only after consideration of written charges. Any appointive vacancies in the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be filled by the Village Council for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Plus the addition of Sub-section E, to read as follows in its entirety:

23.2.E

The Zoning Board of Appeals member who also serves on the planning commission or as a village council member is prohibited from voting on matters that that person previously voted on in his or her capacity as a planning commission member or as a village council member.

This is in accordance with Zoning Act, Public Act 12 of 2008

Section 2. Effective Date/Publication. This ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after its publication or seven days after the publication of a summary of its provisions in a local newspaper of general circulation.

Vermontville Village Council

06685618

VILLAGE OF VERMONTVILLE ORDINANCE NUMBER 09-03

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 2 - ZONING ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 24 - ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT, SECTION 9 - PUBLICATION AND DELIVERY OF NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, SUB-SECTION B

THE VILLAGE OF VERMONTVILLE HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment of Chapter 24, Section 3, Sub-Section B of Article 2 of the Village of Vermontville Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to add 4), so as to read in its entirety as follows:

24.9.B For applications involving the rezoning of ten or fewer adjacent properties; for applications to the Zoning Board of Appeals involving a specific parcel; and for all planned unit development and special land use applications, a notice of public hearing shall be mailed by way of U.S. first class mail or personally delivered to the following persons, at least 15 days prior to the date of the public hearing:

- 1) The applicant;
- 2) All persons to whom real property is assessed within 300 feet of the property that is the subject to the application;
- 3) The occupants of all structures within 300 feet of the property that is the subject of the application and;
- 4) If a structure contains more than four dwelling units, notice of the hearing may be given to the owner or manager of the structure instead of to each occupant of the dwelling unit.

If the above-described 300-foot radius extends outside of the Village's boundaries, then notice must be provided outside of the Village boundaries, within the 300-foot radius, to all persons in the above-state categories.

Section 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its publication or upon the publication of a summary of its provisions in a local newspaper of general circulation in the Village.

Vermontville Village Council

06685620



Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Hearty Menu

Monday, Jan. 12
Bean soup w/ham, Italian blend vegetables, blueberry cobbler, unsalted crackers.

Tuesday, Jan. 13
Baked pollock, white rice, winter blend, vegetables, succotash, mixed fruit, jello.

Wednesday, Jan. 14
Roast turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, pineapple and mandarin oranges, dinner roll.

Thursday, Jan. 15
Spaghetti and meat sauce, mozzarella cheese, broccoli w/cheese, applesauce, garlic bread.

Friday, Jan. 16
Lemon chicken, stuffing and gravy, country potatoes, Calif. blend vegetables, banana.

Cold Menu

Monday, Jan. 12

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MEETING DATES 2009 FOR VERMONTVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

@January 8, 2009	February 5, 2009
March 5, 2009	April 2, 2009
May 7, 2009	June 4, 2009
July 2, 2009	August 6, 2009
September 3, 2009	@October 8, 2009
November 5, 2009	December 3, 2009
January 7, 2010	

@this meeting date has been changed because of proximity to the first of the month. **Meetings begin at 7pm at the village office, 121 Eastside Drive, Vermontville, MI 49096.

Any person or persons requiring accommodations should contact the Village Clerk at 726-1429. The Village of Vermontville has adopted policies of non-discrimination and complies with all federal, state and local laws of the American with Disabilities Act.

06685596

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For Rent

NASHVILLE: 2 BEDROOM trailer, (517)852-9386.

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LOST: JANUARY 1ST Shaggy black Cocker Spaniel, Camouflage collar, 2 years old. Lost in Castleton Twp. Call (269)719-7403 or (269)317-0612

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BARRY CO. EXTENSION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 12 Horse Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Jan. 13 Poultry Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Jan. 15 Fair Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center.
- Jan. 17 4-H Club Finance and Risk Management Workshop, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Hastings City Bank Comm. Room.
- Jan. 17 MSU Collegiate Showmanship Clinic, 2-4 p.m., MSU Campus.
- Jan. 20 Dairy Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Extension Office.
- Jan. 21 4-H Advisory Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Courts & Law Building.
- Jan. 26 Rabbit Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Jan. 27 New Leader Orientation, 7 p.m., Extension Office.
- Jan. 29 Officer Training and Parliamentary Procedure Workshop, 7 p.m., First Baptist Church in Hastings.
- Jan. 31 Green and White Hog Show, 8 a.m., MSU Pavilion.
- Jan. 31 State Rabbit and Cavy Show, 8 a.m., MSU Pavilion.

Miller on Baker's dean's list

Cindy Miller of Vermontville was named to the summer dean's list for part-time students at Backer College of Jackson.

VILLAGE OF VERMONTVILLE ORDINANCE NUMBER 09-01

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 6 - ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE, CHAPTER 53 - BUDGETING, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, SECTION 3 - VILLAGE PLANNING COMMISSION, OF THE VILLAGE OF VERMONTVILLE CODE OR ORDINANCES.

Section 1. Amendment of Section 53.3.B. Section 3, Sub Section B of Article 53 of the Village of Vermontville Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to add the wording, to read in its entirety as follows:

B. The Planning Commission shall consist of not less than five members to be appointed by the Village Council of the Village of Vermontville, Michigan. The terms of each member shall be three years, except that three members of the first commission shall serve for a term of one year, three for a term of two years, and three for a term of three years. All members shall hold office until their successors are appointed and may be removed by the Village Council for inefficiencies, neglect of duties, malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance in office, but only after providing written notice to the member and a public hearing on the removal prior to actually removing the member.

Revised 03-04

Revised 1-8-09 in accordance PA 33 of 2008

Section 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its publication or upon the publication of a summary of its provisions in a local newspaper of general circulation in the Village.

Vermontville Village Council

06685616

See QUILTS, continued from page 1



This quilt featuring two zebras was pieced by Dale Waddle's friend Lynette Wilson of Bellevue. Waddle and Wilson then worked together to design the variety of other jungle animals including a lion, leopard, elephant that Waddle quilted into the piece.

they go away for the winter and then they pick them up when they get back. I'm usually working on practice pieces for two to three quilts at a time, and when I get the

design where I want it, then I will start on the actual quilt," she said.

Waddle said that while she might design the quilting pattern on her computer, her

longarm is not computerized so all the work is done free-hand.

Even though her business keeps her busy, she still finds time for her own projects.

Along with pieces given to her by friends and cus-

tomers, a sampling of Waddle's own work hangs on the walls of her studio. Some feature traditional designs, others are original.

"I made the cat quilt from pattern I found; each cat took four hours to make. I designed the mariner stars by the door and the rosebud. The other one is variation of a traditional 54-40, or fight pattern.

"I piece by machine. I had done some by hand, but it's too slow for me, I always want it yesterday," she said. "I like to do some things that are quick, especially when I do something seasonal, so I will use fusible appliques.

"I have two sons, and each Halloween, Thanksgiving or Christmas, they get something or other made from fabric," she added. "I like all aspects of quilting. I like choosing the fabrics, designing, piecing — I especially like curve piecing and organic shapes. My least favorite part is the binding because the only way I know to do it right is to sew it on by hand."

"It's a much more creative process," said Waddle comparing her current and past professions. "When I start quilting, I go into a state or



Dale Waddle points to one of the earliest quilts she created.

nirvana — and I get to do it every day. It's fun and sometimes there isn't enough hours in the day for me to do everything I want to do."

For more information about Quilting From Heart, call Waddle 517-726-2308.

LEGAL NOTICE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Renee Sias and Gary Sias, wife and husband, to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC fka Centex Home Equity Company, LLC, Mortgagee, dated September 26, 2005 and recorded October 11, 2005 in Instrument Number 1154332, Barry County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Nine and 23/100 Dollars (\$80,879.23) including interest at 11.93% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the Barry County Courthouse in Hastings in Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 p.m. on JANUARY 22, 2009. Said premises are located in the Village of Freeport, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 7 of Block 10 and of Samuel Roush's Addition to the Village of Freeport, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 23. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: December 20, 2008 Orleans Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400 File No. 426.0178 ASAP# 2950983 12/20/2008, 12/27/2008, 01/03/2009, 01/10/2009

LEGAL NOTICE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Karen K. Nicholson and Robert L. Nicholson, married, to Washtenaw Mortgage Company, Mortgagee, dated June 4, 2001 and recorded June 18, 2001 in Instrument Number 1061652, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Chase Home Finance LLC by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Thirty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Six and 13/100 Dollars (\$39,896.13) including interest at 7.5% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the Barry County Courthouse in Hastings in Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 p.m. on FEBRUARY 12, 2009. Said premises are located in the Village of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: The South 1/2 of Lots 714 and 715, except the North 11 feet of said Lots, being in the City, formerly Village of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, according to the recorded Plat thereof. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: January 10, 2009 Orleans Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400 File No. 310.3800 ASAP# 2965432 01/10/2009, 01/17/2009, 01/24/2009, 01/31/2009



This is a detail of a quilt made by Dale Waddle of Vermontville featuring a cat motif.



This is another one of Dale Waddle's beautiful quilts.

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.



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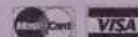
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Lion cheer team looks to keep on improving on mats

The two teams that opened their season at the Barry County Invitational and then returned from break by participating in Saturday's Maple Valley Invitational, both saw their scores improve from meet one to meet two.

Maple Valley improved its score by 93 points, finishing second in the Division 3 competition at its home invitational. Brooklyn Columbia Central took first with a score of 676,5552 and Maple Valley second at 521,8080.

"The girls got some experience under their wings at the Barry County Invitational," said Maple Valley head coach April Wagner. "They came back to practice with a new perspective of the expectations for their sport and stepped it up for the next meet. We came

out strong in round one and kept the momentum going through all of their rounds. We are looking forward to making a huge jump in our scores again next week."

Hastings improved both its first and third round scores from its opening competition of the season.

"We just had finished our round three that week and we haven't had a lot of time practicing full out with it, so I was nervous going in but the girls did a great job," said Hastings head coach Amy Hubbell.

The Saxons totaled 640,8444 points on the day. They scored a 202.1 in round one, a 169,5444 in round two, and a 269.2 in round three.

"We still need to clean up some motions and jumps in all of the rounds, but the sea-

son is going well," Hubbell said.

Clio won the Division 2 title Saturday, finishing with 662,1515 points. Division 2 was the largest of the three varsity divisions, with Charlotte placing third just behind the Saxons at 640,8232 and Battle Creek Lakeview fourth at 572,0816.

The top score of the day came in Division 4, where Michigan Center tallied 722,7194 points.

Maple Valley and Hastings will be together a third time when the Lions and Saxons both compete at the Hastings Saxonfest next Saturday (Jan. 19). This Saturday, the Lions head to St. Johns for an invitational, then on Monday they will be a part of the Lakewood Invitational.



The Maple Valley varsity competitive cheer team celebrates its second place finish in their division at last Saturday's Maple Valley Invitational.

Big Valley comeback ends with win in third overtime

Three times it came down to Maple Valley's varsity boys' basketball team needing to knock down two free throws in order to avoid their third loss of the season.

Three times, the Lions nailed the shots.

Maple Valley scored its first victory of the season, 86-83 in triple overtime at Springport Saturday night.

Josh Burd knocked down a pair of free throws at the end of regulation to tie the game at 56

and send it into overtime. Jeff Burd then knocked down a pair at the end of the first overtime. In the second overtime, the task went to Jordan Sprague.

Jeff Burd finished the game with a team high 16 points, and 13 of those came in the three overtime sessions. He also had a team high seven assists.

Maple Valley had six players finish in double figures. Dustin Houghton had 15 points, Jesse Bromley 13, Riley Fisher 11, and Kyle

Fisher and Josh Burd ten points each. Riley Fisher also had a team high 14 rebounds. Sprague finished with nine points.

It took some work for Maple Valley just to get into the first overtime session. The Spartans built a 41-25 lead in the opening half, but the Lions were able to hold them to just six field goals in the entire second half. The Lions pulled to within 48-41 by the end of the third quarter. Houghton had a

huge third for Maple Valley, pouring in ten points.

Springport got 16 points each from Donnie Cousino and Ben Hawes, and 21 from Brian Vogel.

Maple Valley is now 1-2 on the season, and 0-2 in the Kalamazoo Valley Association. The Lions were slated to return to league action Friday at Hackett Catholic Central, but that game was postponed.

Wank earns FSU pharmacy degree

More than 600 students completed requirements for certificates and degrees at Ferris State University, Kendall College of Art and Design and the College of Professional and

Technological Studies, receiving degrees in August.

Among the graduates was Sara Wank of Bellevue, who earned a doctor of pharmacy degree.

Vermontville makes contribution to Meals on Wheels

During the public comment portion of its regular January meeting, the Vermontville Village Council heard from Jim Allen from the Tri-County Office on Aging,

MVHS looking for volleyball coach

Maple Valley High School is searching for a new varsity volleyball head coach.

The school will be accepting applications until Jan. 19.

Applicants need to submit in writing to attn: Duska Brumm, Athletic Director, 11090 Nashville Hwy, Vermontville, MI, 49096 or e m a i l dbrumm@mvs.k12.mi.us.

who talked about the Meals on Wheels program and what it does for the community and the Senior Dine Card, which can be used at the Sugar Hut. He asked the council for a \$343 contribution for the program for 2009 to help cover projected deficit.

Later during the new business portion of the meeting the council unanimously approved a motion to pay \$343, as a contractual agreement to the Tri-County Office on Aging for its Meals on Wheels program.

Village Council President Doug Kelsey said that the program was, "a worthy cause," but the money needed to be part of a contractual agreement because otherwise it was too close to donating money and the

council shouldn't set a precedence.

In other business the council:

-Received a letter from MERS letter stating that rates for life and disability insurance premiums would go down for 2009.

-Unanimously approved motions to change the wording on Ordinance amendment 09-01, Ordinance amendment 09-02, and Ordinance amendment 09-03, to bring them into compliance with the Michigan State Planning and Zoning Enabling Act.

-Unanimously approved a motion setting the 2009 sewer rates at \$1.80 per thousand based on a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) of 5.8 percent, up from the previous rate of \$1.74 per thousand gallons.

-Approved a motion to allow the treasurer to cash out a passbook savings account of \$3,500 set aside for the sewer project, which is now completed and add the funds to sewer receiving.

-Heard from Eaton County Road Commissioner Mike Hosey who urged council members to contact him with any concerns they may have. He added that the Eaton County Parks Department had purchased a tract of land south of Vermontville, which, if a couple sections could be bought by other counties, could be connected with the Rails for Trails which runs up to Grand Rapids.

-Discussed the situation with Vermontville Township and The Revue leaving the Vermontville Opera House due to, "harassment," from township residents and a member of the township board.

Village Council trustee Garry Patrick said he wished the council had known of the conflict because perhaps members of the council could have mediated the situation. Other council members expressed their concern and but said it was difficult to pass judgment without knowing the whole story.

Maple Valley girls score OT win over Schoolcraft Eagles

by Brett Bremer Sports Editor

Maple Valley's varsity girls' basketball team improved to 3-2 in the Kalamazoo Valley Association with a 47-41 overtime victory over Schoolcraft Tuesday night.

Lion guard Elizabeth Stewart beat her defender for a lay-up twice in the extra session, and The Lions were 3-of-6 from the free throw line in the OT to close out the Eagles.

"We came out with a lot of effort and worked hard. It was a good game for us," said Lion head coach Landon Wilkes.

Schoolcraft scored the first basket of the overtime period, but the Lion defense shut the Eagles out the rest of the way. The Eagles got their only other point at the free throw line, where they were just 1-of-4 in the OT.

Maple Valley trailed by five entering the fourth quarter, and outscored the Eagles 9-4 in the final eight minutes of regulation. Leslee Rigelman hit a big three for the Lions, and Kayla Shaw hit a couple of big free throws after a Schoolcraft technical foul. Shawndenae Rost also hit a couple lay-ups in the fourth for the Lions.

The Lions dodged a couple bullets late in the fourth quarter, as the Eagles pulled down a couple offensive rebounds but were unable to convert.

Rost led the Lions on the night with ten points. Jenn Kent added nine point, seven

rebounds, three steals, and three assists. Mikaela Bromley added eight points, four rebounds, three steals, and three assists.

Wilkes said all nine Lions contributed to the victory. Rigelman and Stewart both finished with seven points.

"We ran our offensive sets fairly well. We put some new stuff in on Monday that I thought we did a fairly good job running," Wilkes said.

Monday in practice the Lions worked on their man-to-man offense and defense, trying to change things up.

The Lions needed a shake up after last Saturday's 33-30 loss in a non-conference game at Springport.

Maple Valley led 18-14 at the half, then saw their edge slip away in the third as the Spartans went on a 14-6 run.

"We came out flat," Wilkes said. "Give Springport credit, they played well and moved the ball fairly well on offense. We never could get in the swing of things."

Kent led the Lions on the night with 12 points. Rigelman had eight, and Shaw and Bromley added four each.

The Lions' contest which was slated for Friday night at Hackett Catholic Central was postponed. It's the third time that has happened this season to the Lions.

Maple Valley is scheduled to host Parchment Tuesday and Constantine Friday next week.

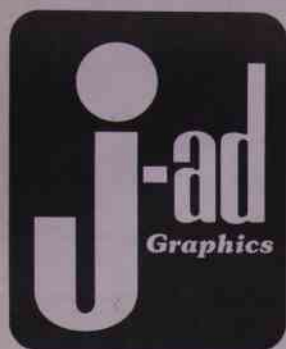
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Lion's lightweights lead way to a win over Olivet Eagles

The Maple Valley varsity wrestling team got its first Kalamazoo Valley Association win of the season Wednesday night, outscoring Olivet 52-24.

The Lion lightweights dominated, as the team won every match from 103 pounds to 145 except for one.

Maple Valley got pins in five of those seven victories. Zack Baird at 103, Anthony Molson 112, Cody Cruttenden 130, Josh Fulford 135, and Lucas Brumm 140 all stuck their Eagle opponents. The Lions also got six points when the Eagles voided at 119 pounds against Breanna Rose.

The two Maple Valley

heavyweights also scored pins, with Dusty Cowell winning at 215 and Donnie Jensen at 285.

Tyler Frank scored the only win for the Lions which took six minutes, knocking off his opponent 11-3 at 145 pounds.

The Lions were 2-0 on the night, also winning a non-conference dual with Paw Paw 52-24.

Cowell and Jensen both won by pin against the Redskins at 215 and 285 pounds respectively.

Others winning by pin for the Lions were Molson at 112, Brumm at 140, and James Samann at 152. Waylon Eaton won by technical fall at 125 pounds, and

Franks scored an 11-4 decision at 145.

Paw Paw forfeited at 103 and 130 pounds, where Baird and Cruttenden took wins for the Lions.

The dual between Paw Paw and Olivet ended tied at 46 with Olivet taking the victory on criteria.

Maple Valley is now 1-1 in the KVA.

The Lions will be a part of the Edwardsburg Invitational this Saturday, then return to league action at home next Wednesday against Galesburg-Augusta. Leslie will also be a part of the three-team meet at Maple Valley Wednesday.

Lion youth wrestlers win many medals over the holiday break



Christian Schrader (Buck) took first place in his weight class at the Spartan Country, MSU Super Bowl of wrestling Jan. 4.

and C.J. Davis placed second, and Austin Zank and Mason Garrison placed third.

"The coaching staff is encouraged by the wrestlers determination and hard work at the beginning of the season," said coach Gary Pearson. "The wrestlers have made great strides and achievements due to their work ethics. They are a joy to watch and coach during competition."

Brumm and Murton both won championships at the Chesaning



Jesse Brumm (top) took second place in his weight class at the Spartan Country, MSU Super Bowl of wrestling Jan. 4.

Maple Valley's Youth Wrestling Club had a busy holiday "break".

The program had three medallists at the Spartan Country, MSU Super Bowl of wrestling on January 4. Christian Schrader won his weight class. Jesse

Brumm was second and Garrett Pearson fourth.

At the Newaygo Tournament Jan. 3, Maple Valley had five flight championships. Sam Bonney, Levi Roush, Wyatt Baird, Chandler Murton, and Person all won titles. Ryan Bennett

Tournament Dec. 28. Garrison and Bonney were second, and Michael Brown and Schrader placed fourth.

In the Boarder Wars Winter Nationals Dec. 27 in Battle Creek, Murton won his weight class and Bonney was sixth.