

MAPLE VALLEY news

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Vol. 137-No. 5, January 31, 2009

Vermontville Twp. Fire Department receives donated flags

Mark Jorgensen, owner of Valley Plows and More in Vermontville, recently presented Vermontville Township Fire Chief Monte O'Dell with fire department, firemen in mourning, and a

United States flag. Jorgensen said he donated the flags to the fire department so that the appropriate flags could be displayed. He said that after the recent passing of firemen Smokey

Abfalter and Jim Samman, he saw that department personnel had put fire gear out in front of the fire department and thought the fireman in mourning flag would add a little more.



Mark Jorgensen donated these three flags to the Vermontville Township Fire Department (from top) a United States flag, the fire department flag, a fire fighters in mourning flag.



Vermontville Township Fire Chief Monte O'Dell accepts a new fire department flag from Mark Jorgensen, owner of Valley Plows and More, who donated three flags to the fire department.

Citizens question Vermontville Township Board about recent actions

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

Thursday night, approximately 40 township residents attended the regular January meeting of the Vermontville Township Board.

Many of those in attendance expressed concerns or complaints about recent board actions, including a decision to make Vermontville Township Library pay its own utilities and going into closed session in violation of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the possibility of purchasing property for a township hall.

Saturday, Jan. 24, the Township Board held a special meeting to discuss the possibility of purchasing property for use as a township hall. After a 3-2 vote, the board went into closed session, which some in attendance contended was a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Vermontville Township Supervisor Jack Owens said Friday that since the special meeting Saturday, Jan. 24, he has learned that the board likely did violate the Open Meetings Act.

"It's my fault; it's my inexperience showing. It's something I should have known and reviewed beforehand," said Owens who took office after the November election. "I'm going to con-

tact the MTA (Michigan Townships Association) to see what we need to do now."

Robin Herman, from the Michigan Press Association said in an interview with the *Maple Valley News* that a five-member township board must have a 4-1 vote or higher in order to go into closed session to discuss a possible real estate transaction. She said that to rectify the situation, the board would need to re-enact the vote. If the vote is 4-1 or higher in favor of going into a closed session, then the matter would be settled.

Vermontville resident Gene Fisher was one of those in attendance Thursday night and voiced his concerns during the public comment portion of the meeting.

"I asked them if they were going to buy a house to use as a township hall — yes or no? But they didn't answer. But, if they are considering it, I would like each one to tell me why they feel we need a township hall when the economy is so bad. People are losing their jobs, we're in a depression. And, why are they doing this when they are asking the library to pay its own utilities because they are low on funds?" questioned Fisher.

The library is in the basement of the Vermontville

Opera House.

"The library is one of the things that makes this community outstanding. If you go there after school, the place is packed with kids. Why make it a hardship for the library to operate? Why are they telling the library to pay this and pay that after all these years?" added Fisher. "And if they are discussing purchasing property for a township hall, I think they should be open about it."

In December, the Vermontville Township Board voted 4-1, with Supervisor Owens casting the sole dissenting vote, to inform the Vermontville Township Library Board that the township would no longer pay the library's gas, electric, sewer and water bills.

However, Vermontville Township Clerk Sharon Stewart said that since there aren't separate sewer and water meters for the library and the opera house, and separating them would mean running a separate water line, which is cost-prohibitive, the township board has agreed that it will continue paying the library's sewer and water bill.

The Vermontville Township Library Board responded to the township board's decision in an open letter which appeared in last

week's edition of the *Maple Valley News*. The township contends that utilities are an operating expense and the 1-mill levy renewed by voters in November is meant to cover operating expenses. In its letter, the library board members said that having to pay the approximately \$3,000 a month in utility bills may force the library to cut services or programming.

"... \$3,000 equals 120 adult books or 188 children's books or 150 DVDs or all our library programming for one year ... or one year's worth of computer technology upgrades and other supplies including DSL Internet fees ... 375 staff hours or one year of staff continuing education," wrote library board members.

The letter went on to say that the first draft of the township board's proposed budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year included a 5.8 percent raise for itself.

Owens said that while 5.8 percent raises are on the first draft of the budget, it does not mean they will be on the final budget or be approved by the board.

"I understand this is a sensitive subject, especially since we have had to cut the budget in other places," he said.

Other questions and comments addressed to the board

concerned Township Board Trustee Blair Miller and Township Treasurer JoAnne Nehmer attending Eaton County Planning Commission meetings as representatives of the township board.

In a later interview Miller was adamant that he has never presented himself as a representative of the township board when he attends county planning commission meetings.

"There is so much misinformation circulating out there right now," he said. "People are saying that we're looking to buy the blue house next to the opera house for a township hall. They're complaining that we're getting 5.8 percent raises, but the budget is still in draft form, nothing has been approved yet. It's pre-

mature to get up in arms about things yet."

Regarding the county planning commission meetings, Miller said "The last time I was there I was with the Amish. I have been working with them about home occupations. Home occupations look much different in a rural area than do in an urban or suburban setting."

"People have said I have a personal agenda when I go to the county, and I do. My personal agenda is to help the Amish with home occupations, but that is personal, not as a member of the township board," he added.

Nehmer could not be reached for comment on Friday, but Owens said that

TWP BOARD, continued on page 5

In This Issue...

- Winter homecoming court candidates announced
- Early 4's learn about author Eric Carle
- Maplewood announces Students of the Month
- Adding round three moves lions to fifth in SMCCC

Early 4s learn about author Eric Carle



Michaela Cheeseman enjoys her pancake.

"This week we learned about author Eric Carle and his many books," said Early 4s teacher Shannon Powers. "We enjoyed making pancakes after reading Carle's book *Pancakes, Pancakes*. We also enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and retelling the story using puppets after reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle."

The students took part in various crafts and learning activities that were based on Eric Carle's books.

Next week the children will learn about dental hygiene.



Hailey Cross laughs as she feeds the hungry caterpillar some fruit.



Students Rian Rumsey and Kiara Barke look on while Owen Bailey pours his pancake.



Jazmyn Smith gives the caterpillar a bite to eat.

Diners can help students travel to Ecuador

All day Friday, Feb. 6, guests dining at Roush's Sidewalk Cafe in Nashville can enjoy a meal and help three Maple Valley High School honors Spanish students raise money for a trip to Ecuador during spring break.

The restaurant will donate 10 percent of all purchases to the students' fundraising efforts when patrons present a special coupon, which is available by calling Maple Valley High School Spanish teacher Dr. Sandra Cade at

the school 517-852-9275 or 517-974-7188, cell.

Residents also can help the students and people in developing countries by purchasing fair-trade goods from heartofthesky@fairtrade.com. Anyone who would like to purchase fair-trade goods and help the students but is uncomfortable shopping online may contact Cade, and she will place orders.

Thirty percent of online purchases will be donated to the students.

Dam removal project leader gives update

Thursday Chris Freiburger, program supervisor with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources who has donated his time to spearhead a campaign to remove the dam on the Thornapple River in downtown Nashville, gave an update of progress on the project which is scheduled to begin this spring.

Freiburger said he had received three bids from contractors to drive sheet pile along the east millrace wall directly behind the former Good Time Pizza. The sheet pile would protect the wall,

which appears to be in bad shape, from high water velocities when the impoundment is 'dewatered' prior to the dam removal.

"The idea would be to draw down the impoundment over time to reduce sediment movement, allow aquatic critters to move with the water and not become stranded, vegetation to grow on exposed areas and also allow equipment access to the dam area to conduct construction work," said Freiburger.

Since the bids were all more than \$100,000, Freiburger said he plans to

consult with an engineer to see if angular limestone or clean concrete could be used as rip-rap against the wall and as fill if the millrace is filled in after the dewatering.

Ice conditions on the Thornapple River on Monday and Tuesday allowed a survey of the Thornapple River above and below the dam.

"Being able to walk on the ice made this much easier. We were able to survey the thalweg (deepest part of the river) and many cross sections. What has been surveyed to date is from several

hundred feet below the dam up to the island at the bend of the river in the impoundment," said Freiburger Wednesday, adding that he was hopeful the survey would be completed in another day or two if conditions continued to be favorable.

Freiburger concluded by saying that once the survey information is complete, he will provide another update. He added that he hopes to have a conceptual design by the beginning of March, which he will present to the community for comments and questions.

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LOCAL CHURCH SCHEDULE			
<p>ABUNDANT GRACE WORLD OUTREACH CENTER Come as you are but don't leave the same. Meet at Kalamo Twp. Hall 8960 Spore Ave. Vermontville, MI 49096 Morning Service 10:30 a.m. Evening Service 6 p.m. (Every 1st & 3rd Sunday) REV. DAWN GOODMAN Contact numbers: (517) 852-0896 or (517) 852-9606, leave message</p>	<p>BASELINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 9617 E. Baseline Rd. Corner of Baseline & Church Roads (2 miles east of M-66 on Baseline) Church Service 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Youth Groups, Bible Study and many other activities. Phone (616) 963-7710 MINISTER: VIRGINIA HELLER</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERMONTVILLE 110 S. Main St., Vermontville, MI 49096 (517) 726-0258 PASTOR: ISRAEL (IZZY) YOUNG Wed. 5:30 p.m. Family Supper 6:00-7:15 Pioneer Club Sun: 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Church Service 11:00 Fellowship</p>	<p>KALAMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Worship Services 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 a.m. PASTOR BRYCE FEIGHNER 517-541-1144</p>
<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>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>QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH M-79 West Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. PASTOR KENNETH VAUGHT (616) 945-9392</p>			
<p>ST. 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>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>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>			

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Putnam gets gift from Walmart

Shauna Swantek, director of Putnam District Library in Nashville, accepts a \$1,000 check from Johnsy Jones, store manager of Walmart in Hastings. The library plans to use this gift toward programming for children, teens and adults.

Tutors and students being sought, matched

The Maple Valley Community Center of Hope has partnered with the Maple Valley School District and formed the Maple Valley Support for Student Success tutoring program, which began matching students in all three Maple Valley schools, Fuller Street, Maplewood and Maple Valley Jr./Sr. High School with tutors Jan. 6.

Applications for both volunteer tutors and students in need of tutoring in all grade levels and subject areas are still available at Putnam District Library in Nashville and the Vermontville Township Library in Vermontville during regular hours of operation, and at Nashville United Methodist

Church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.

The program is also looking for volunteers to help in classrooms during the school day at both Fuller Street and Maplewood.

A meeting for the tutoring program is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, in the board room of the Maple Valley Schools administration office, 11090 Vermontville Highway.

For more information, call the community center vice president, Roger Trowbridge, at 517-726-0541 or e-mail to rst2001@att.net.

SUPERINTENDENTS CORNER

School board sets public meeting to address boiler and energy issues

by Kim Kramer

The public is invited to the Monday, Feb. 9, Maple Valley School Board meeting at 7 p.m. in the board room. This meeting will be a discussion of the boilers and what options the district has.

Representatives from an energy management company the board has been working with will present their thoughts on how the board might be able to use a Michigan legislative opportunity to replace a couple of the boilers and other energy changes that could save \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually

in energy costs. This savings could then be used to pay off a loan the district would take out to do the work over the next 15 years, resulting in an annual neutral cash-flow situation.

The board is actively seeking any and all options to solve this dilemma. Although this option would not fully take care of the infrastructure issues, it would get the district moving toward fixing the problems.

Please consider attending this meeting and be fully informed of the issues facing your board of education.

Winter homecoming court candidates announced



The 2009 Maple Valley High School Winter Homecoming Court candidates are (front row, from left) king candidates John Mater, Jeff Burd, Alex Williams; prince candidates Levi Westendorp, Ian Cogswell, Michael Caldwell; (back) queen candidates Ciera Royston, Olivia Sprague, Erin Shoemaker; and princess candidates Kayla Shaw, Carrie Hummel and Mackenzie Leinhart.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Elementary Lunch Menu

Monday, Feb. 2
Hot dog, French fries, applesauce, Teddy Grahams.

Tuesday, Feb. 3
Chicken tenders, Mashed potatoes, grapes, Jell-O cake.

Wednesday, Feb. 4
Cheesie bread sticks, Spaghettios, celery w/p.butter, pineapple.

Thursday, Feb. 5
Fuller Cottage Inn. Pizza. Tossed salad, mandarin oranges, cookie.

Friday, Feb. 6
Spaghetti, Broccoli, banana, bread stick.

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).

Kellogg Cottage Inn. Hot Pocket Variety. Glazed carrots, peaches. Potato bar.

Friday, Feb. 6
Spaghetti and B. stick. Broccoli, applesauce. Subway 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.

THE LAKEVIEW CEMETERY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Friends and Volunteers of the Lakeview Cemetery are looking for donations of materials, money, and volunteers to build a 24x24 pole barn, which will be used to store our cemetery equipment. Our goal is to restore our Teen Smith Chapel as a chapel and not use it for storage. For more information please call Sandra Lundquist at 517-852-1543. Your help with this project is greatly appreciated.

Lakeview Cemetery Board 06686088

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SHOWTIMES 1/30 - 2/5

Ⓞ **TAKEN** (PG-13)
SAT/SUN/TUE 12:40, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20
FR/MON/WED/TH 5:00, 7:10, 9:20

Ⓞ **THE UNINVITED** (PG-13)
SAT/SUN/TUE 12:30, 2:35, 4:50, 7:00, 9:30
FR/MON/WED/TH 4:50, 7:00, 9:30

Ⓞ **UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS** (R)
SAT/SUN/TUE 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
FR/MON/WED/TH 5:10, 7:20, 9:40

PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)
SAT/SUN/TUE 12:15, 2:25, 4:40, 6:45, 9:00
FR/MON/WED/TH 4:40, 6:45, 9:00

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Richard Cobb
David Cobb
MI Lic. #1740

Jr.-Sr. High School Lunch Menu

Monday, Feb. 2
Macaroni and cheese. California blend, pears. Salad bar.

Tuesday, Feb. 3
Cheesie bread sticks. Spaghettios, push-up. Mexican bar.

Wednesday, Feb. 4
Chicken enchiladas. Whole kernel corn, grapes. Burger/chicken bar.

Thursday, Feb. 5

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From Our Readers

Local Citizens Speak Out On Issues

True reason for millage seems forgotten

To the editor:

With all of the controversy about the ambulance operation millage by Don Wiggins, it seems the real reason why the operation millage was needed is being forgotten.

Castleton Township, for the past several years, has been using a portion of its fund balance each year to balance its budget. Now that balance is nearly depleted by using it to provide funds to maintain and operate three cemeteries, chloride and gravel for roads, improve-

ments on paved roads, assessing all property in the township including the village of Nashville, all expenses of printing, postage, notices and tax bills, tax collection, fire protection, ambulance service, maintaining voter registration files, holding elections and many other services and information provided out of the office in the township hall.

The township was in need of funds to be able to balance its budget and still provide these services and other serv-

ices when requested. All of the above has been provided from less than one mill (.8877 mills), levied by Castleton Township, plus revenue sharing (approximately \$124,000) received from the State of Michigan.

Don Wiggins is obsessed with the fact that the township provides a pension plan for its elected officials. That is the one and only benefit provided its elected officials. The cost would not pay for more than a couple yards of road gravel or not even one half of the cost of the chloride purchased by the township.

In my case, I was covered by the pension plan for 30-plus years. I was able to contribute from my own personal funds a limited amount equal to but not more than the township contribution until I reached a certain age, then I was not allowed to contribute any more. Approximately one half of the value of my

pension was contributed by the township, the other half is my contribution and interest earned.

In the last *Maple Valley News*, Don Wiggins said CMGNA had a fund balance of \$28,233.51 as of Oct. 31, 2008. That is less than enough to operate the service for two months. The service cannot operate without carrying at least that much to ensure they can operate in case of a shortfall in revenue.

With approval of the millage, Castleton Township will be able to at least balance its budget without using any of their badly depleted fund balance. Hopefully, there will be enough in 2009 to do a portion of the approximate \$500,000 requested from the Barry County Road Commission. With a few extra dollars, the township could use some for improvements in its three cemeteries or anything else that might be requested by residents of the township.

Is Don Wiggins trying to help the township operate more efficiently or is he trying to destroy it? He should spend more time trying to understand the mandated operating procedures for the townships, not continually try to discredit the officials before the public with uninformed statements. The township has never intentionally tried to do anything secretly. Rather, they have always tried to be open to all and keep the public informed.

Justin W. Cooley,
Retired Supervisor,
Castleton Township

Fazolli's Spaghetti Supper
Sat., Feb. 14th • 4:30pm-7:30pm
Nashville United Methodist Church
 (Corner of State & Washington)
 \$7 per person - Advanced tickets only
 For tickets or more information
 call **517-852-2043**
 Hosted by the Nashville United
 Methodist Youth Group



Could You Care for a Foster Child?



Homes are needed in Barry County to care for foster children, especially sibling groups or even one teen. If you enjoy children and have 40 square feet of extra bedroom space, you are invited to consider foster care. Classes for interested singles and couples are periodically held by the Barry-Eaton Department of Human Services.

Reservations are being taken now for **Winter Classes** to be held in **Charlotte, Saturdays, February 21-March 14, 9am-4pm**, with an orientation the evening of **February 18th**.

Spring Classes will be offered in **April/May**. For questions or to pre-register for either of these classes please contact: **269-948-3216** or email: **Mueller-HayesJ@michigan.gov**.

SCHOOLS OF CHOICE

Maple Valley provides:

- Safe Schools
- Caring Student-Centered Teachers
- Full Curricular and Extra Curricular Offerings
- State-of-the-Art Technology

We are now accepting Schools of Choice applications for the third trimester of the 2008-2009 school year. Enrollment is available for all grades K-12 and in the Alternative Education Program. Residents of Eaton, Barry, Calhoun, Ionia or Ingham County Intermediate School Districts are welcome to join our schools.

At Maple Valley Schools, your child receives the best of both worlds. The safety and personal care of a smaller rural school is combined with the program offerings of the larger urban districts. Teachers at "The Valley" will know and care for your child as an individual. Your child will be accepted for their strengths and skillfully challenged to improve on their weaknesses. Maple Valley Schools offers programs that prepare your children for the future.

Applications will be accepted from February 16, 2009 until March 6, 2009. For enrollment information, call 517-852-9699.

Barr Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Hearty Menu
Monday, Feb. 2
 Lemon chicken w/stuffing, gravy, country potatoes, Calif. blend vegetables, diced peaches in jello.

Tuesday, Feb. 3
 Tuna noodle casserole, succotash, mixed vegetables, diced pears.

Wednesday, Feb. 4
 BBQ chicken leg qtr., sweet potatoes, green beans, tropical fruit, wheat bread.

Thursday, Feb. 5
 Home-style beef stew, Brussels sprouts, applesauce, dinner roll.

Friday, Feb. 6
 Split pea soup w/ham, broccoli and cheese sauce, blueberry cobbler, oyster crackers.

Cold Menu
Monday, Feb. 2
 Italian pasta salad, corn O'Brian, apricots.

Tuesday, Feb. 3
 Cheddar cheese cubes, tomato salad, tropical fruit, Ritz crackers.

Wednesday, Feb. 4
 Sliced ham w/Swiss cheese, potato salad, spiced apples, wheat bread.

Thursday, Feb. 5

Chef salad w/ham, turkey and cheese, broccoli raisin salad, pineapple tidbits, whole wheat crackers.

Friday, Feb. 6
 Chicken salad, black bean and tomato salad, mandarin oranges in jello, wheat bread.

Activities Calendar
Monday, Feb. 2:
 Hastings - Feb. Birthday Party; Music with Sam; Card Making 12:30 p.m.; Watercolor 1 p.m. Delton - Bingo, H, W, N - Reminiscence.

Tuesday, Feb. 3: Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Kinship Info Series 1:30 p.m. - Mental Health. GL - 10:30-12:30 Cards.

Wednesday, Feb. 4: Hastings - Bible Study 12:30 p.m.; Music with Sam; Nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m. Delton - Reminiscence.

Thursday, Feb. 5: Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m. Nashville - TV Time; Delton - Puzzles, Trivia.

Friday, Feb. 6: Hastings - Exercise 9 a.m.; Mixed Media Painting, 9:30 a.m.; Bingo 10 a.m.; Model Railroad, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Woodland - Visiting.

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At-risk behavior is next in family workshop series

The family workshop series for the month of February will be "Facing the Facts: Kids and At-Risk Behavior" with speaker Tonya Delnay. At-risk behaviors such as drug use and sexual awareness are not just for teens anymore; children younger than 13 years old are at risk.

Tonya Delnay is an abstinence educator for the Pregnancy Resource Center

in the Grand Rapids area. She presents the center's "Willing to Wait" curriculum to middle and high school students. Before working with teens, she was the director of the Alpha Women's Center in Wayland.

Monday, Feb. 2, at Fuller Street Elementary will be the second in the series of family information nights for the community. Included will be a pizza dinner at 5:30 p.m.

and child care is provided. The workshop starts at 6 p.m.

Registration is needed. Call the Child Abuse Prevention Council at 269-948-3264 or e-mail capcbc@yahoo.com. Children will be doing activities that coincide with the parent presentation. Those who attend will receive a certificate of participation.

The next meetings will be

held at Delton Elementary School Feb. 9, the First Baptist Church in

Middleville Feb. 16 and the First Baptist Church in Hastings Feb. 23, all work-

shops will be on Monday nights.

Maplewood announces Students of the Month



Gunner Tobias



Brock Weiler



Haley Jones



Tia James



Audrey Reid



Rage Sheldon



Vermontville Lions Club President Mark Lawless and Greg Wendorf, owner of the Vermontville Hardware, are holding a Lions Club eyeglass drop box.

Lions Club collecting used eyeglasses

The Vermontville Lions Club is seeking eyeglass donations from citizens throughout the area. Glasses that are donated are sent to missions in poor countries such as Latvia, Honduras, and Peru.

All donations are analyzed, numbered and computerized in Ionia before

being sent to mission sites. Participating Lions members partner with surgeons, eye doctors and other professionals to test and administer eye care to needy individuals in many countries. They see an average of 250 patients daily for 10 days.

All Lions members who travel donate their time and

pay their own trip costs. Any used eyeglasses — adult, youth and especially prescription sunglasses — would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the Vermontville Hardware, says Lions Club member Bill Mason.

Kindergartners go sledding



Fuller Street Elementary kindergarten teacher Andrew Peabody, surrounded by his students, prepares to take off down the sledding hill front of the school.

The students in Andrew Peabody's kindergarten classroom got a treat last week when they braved the cold and had a sledding party.

This was not a typical classroom sledding party; this was a sledding party the children had to earn through good behavior.

Peabody, a teacher for

seven years, has had a "gumball machine" in his room throughout his teaching career. When his students, as a whole, do something great, a paper gumball is added to the machine. Once the gumball machine is full, something special happens.

So far this year, Peabody said his students have filled up

the gumball machine four times. They have had a popcorn party, two 'extra' recesses on the big kids playground, and last week's sledding party.

"It's a real motivator," he said. "The kids do well, and they love seeing it chock-full of gumballs."

Every month, the teachers and staff of Maplewood Elementary School in Vermontville select one student from each grade to be recognized as "Student of the Month," based on citizenship. The school recently announced its students of the month for both January and

February.

Students of the Month for January are Rage Sheldon, Jeanne Hansen's sixth grade; Tia James, Robert Smith's fifth grade; and Audrey Reid, Laura Smith's fourth grade.

February Students of the Month are Brock Weiler, Patty Braun's sixth grade;

Gunner Tobias, Susan Luyendyk's fifth grade; and Haley Jones, Rebecka Jamros' fourth grade.

Sponsors who provide awards to the Students of the Month are Moo-ville Creamery, Nashville Subway and Roush's Sidewalk Cafe.

TWP BOARD, continued from page 1

the township treasurer had never been to the county planning commission to represent the township in her official capacity as the treasurer.

Miller said some people have taken him to task and reported him to the township assessor for operating a business out of his home on Nashville Highway and not paying the appropriate taxes.

"They're talking about a commercial/personal property tax," he said. "BMG Holding, that's the name of my company, has only \$600 in materials, and I paid taxes on them in 2001, 2002 and 2003 but with depreciation, they now have no taxable value and my business had zero income in 2008."

Miller added that his business is "intellectual property" and he consults with clients via e-mail, telephone or by visiting their company.

"It's not the same. There is no sign, no traffic, no retail space associated with my business, so I don't need a business permit."

However, Blair said that if he is in error, he will admit it.

"I am human and just like everyone else I make mistakes," he said. "But, if I do make a mistake I want to be the first to admit it. There are two things I detest and that's

a liar and a thief, and I am neither."

Owens said he thinks it is a good thing that people from the community came to the board meeting Thursday night to air their concerns.

"They brought up several different things during the meeting, and numerous people took the board to task for making the library pay its utilities and looking at possible raises, and I think that is a good thing," he said. "I want people there at board meetings to tell us their opinions. I thought it was a good meeting. Even if they beat up on us a little; it gives us an opportunity to correct things — and I like that."

SERVING OUR COUNTRY



Timothy Wood

Timothy Wood, a 2007 Maple Valley High School graduate, completed boot camp at MCRD San Diego, Calif., Dec. 23, 2008.

He will complete advanced training for three weeks at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and then go to Aberdeen, MD, as a small-arms technician.

He is the son of Kenneth and Debbie Wood of Hastings.

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Lions share the ball, and get to share a victory

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Having a player, or two, or three capable of scoring 20 or 30 points in a varsity girls' basketball game is great, but often times its having a bunch of other players who can get eight, or six, or four points that make the difference in wins and losses.

That's why head coach Landon Wilkes is working so hard to make sharing a part of Maple Valley basketball.

Maple Valley got 14 points from Jennifer Kent, 13 from Leslee Rigelman, and nine from Elizabeth Stewart Friday night, but needed the six from Mikaela Bromley, and four each from Kayla Shaw and Jordan Beachnau to hold off the Delton Kellogg girls.

Bromley was solid all around, with four assists and four steals too. Kent led the Lions with six rebounds, Rigelman had five, and Beachnau four.

Maple Valley improved to 6-5 overall and 5-4 in the Kalamazoo Valley Association with a 51-41 win over the visiting Panthers.

"We've been working hard to get everyone understand-

ing that we need to share the basketball. When we kick the ball around and swing it, we get better shots," said Wilkes.

The Lions didn't need to press too hard on the offensive end, and could make the effort to get everyone involved thanks to their early defense. The Lions held the Panthers to nine points in the first quarter, running out to a 20-9 lead.

"I think our press did a fairly good job in the beginning of the game, but I thought we got a little bit winded," said Wilkes.

Delton was within ten points, at 31-21 at the half. Maple Valley bumped its lead to 38-21 with seven-point run to start the second half, on two twos and a three from Rigelman, but then went through a nearly five minute scoring drought.

Delton got the Lion lead back down to 11, but that was as close as they could get until the final minute of the game.

"We fought back. I called a time-out there at the end to say that to win these games you can't miss those lay-ups and have those turnovers," said Delton Kellogg head

coach Rick Williams. "We learned how to win when we're ahead the other night against Parchment, now we need to learn how to win when we're behind."

Freshman forward Adrianna Culbert kept the Panthers in the game with her biggest offensive game as a varsity player. She pumped in 19 points, and was a force on the boards.

"She's always had the shots inside, but she didn't have the touch," said Williams. "What she's doing now that she wasn't before is making shots."

"She's going to be a talented player. She's so coachable, it's unbelievable. She's so athletic. She just hasn't put the time in to basketball yet that she has put into volleyball."

Culbert is one of three freshmen who see regular minutes for the young Panther team.

"They've got stuff they've got to experience and we can't simulate that in practice," Williams said.

Still, the Panthers showed much more on the court than they did in their first meeting of the season against the



Maple Valley's Shawndenae Rost drives past Delton Kellogg's Alea Hammond during the third quarter Friday night. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



The Lions' Leslee Rigelman rejects a lay-up attempt by the Panthers' Alea Hammond during the fourth quarter of Maple Valley's 51-41 KVA win at home Friday night. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

Lions which was a 57-29 loss on their home court.

"They're vastly improved," Wilkes said of Delton. "You've got to give Rick a lot of credit. Whether his kids have talent or not, they come out and play. They do their jobs and stay where they're supposed to stay. We've got to learn some of that."

Tuesday night, Galesburg-Augusta scored a 71-47 win over the Lions.

After a 13-13 first quarter, the Rams outscored the Lions 22-12 in the second quarter. The Lions never got going again. Galesburg pushed its lead to 55-36 by the end of three quarters.

The Rams two big guns inside, combined for 40 points. Felicia Standley finished with 26 and Sarah Hamilton with 14.

The Lions got 11 points from Kent and 19 from Rigelman, who knocked down five three-pointers on the night.



Maple Valley's Terri Hurosky (left) pulls a loose ball away from Delton Kellogg's Sarah Holroyd during Friday night's 51-41 Lion victory. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

Former Tiger pitcher coming to Vermontville

Former Detroit Tigers' pitcher Milt Wilcox will be at Maplewood Elementary to sign autographs and take

photos with anyone who would like to attend beginning at 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7.

Wilcox is being brought to Vermontville, by the Nashville Shell, to host a pitching clinic for youth baseball players.

Wilcox joined the Cincinnati Reds in 1970, and played for six different teams

before leaving baseball in 1986. The bulk of his career, from 1977 to 1985, was spent with the Detroit Tigers where he was a part of the 1984 World Series Championship team. He was the winning pitcher in game three of the series.

During his 16-year career, Wilcox won 119 games and struck out 1,137 batters.

Adding round three, moves Lions up to fifth in SMCCC

Putting together their round three performance allowed the Lions to move up in the Southern Michigan Competitive Cheer Conference Wednesday night.

After placing seventh in the seven-team field at the opening conference meet, with out taking the mat for round three, the Lions came out had had the fifth-best round three performance of the night at Climax-Scotts.

The 216.1 points they totaled in round three helped them to a fifth place finish overall, leaping ahead of Pennfield and Bronson who had finished ahead of them at the earlier league outing.

The host team from Climax-Scotts took the title on the day, with a score of 607.3420. Schoolcraft, the winner of the first league jamboree, was second with a 590.2274, followed by Delton Kellogg 580.0944,

White Pigeon 530.5430, Maple Valley 528.4000, Pennfield 525.1124, and Bronson 496.9220.

That round three performance helped the Lions get by Pennfield on the day. Pennfield led the Lions by more than 20 points entering the final round, but the Panthers scored just a 199.7 in the third.

The Lions scored a 167.3 in round one and a 153.0000 in round two. That round two score was the fourth best of

the night, and even better than the round two score of the Climax-Scotts team which scored a 156.3420.

Climax-Scotts also scored a 201.3 in round one and a 249.7 in round three. Those were the highest scores in each of those rounds.

The Lions will head to Battle Creek Central today (Jan. 31), then will be off until heading to the Delton Kellogg Invitational next Saturday.

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Lakeview Cemetery Board
06686091

Panthers get passing game going at Valley

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The 15 points Cody Anderson scored Friday night might be the easiest 15 points he gets.

Anderson led the Panthers in scoring as the Delton Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team scored a 60-53 Kalamazoo Valley Association win at Maple Valley.

Time and again Anderson got the ball heading towards the basket for a lay-up, or in great position for a short jump shot against the Lion zone defense. Delton head coach Mike Mohn was pleased, because that's exactly what he's been looking for from his team.

"We spent some time talking this past week about delivering a pass your teammate can catch and have it lead to a basket," said Mohn.

The Lions didn't get many of those easy buckets.

"We struggled executing our half-court offense," said Maple Valley head coach Keith Jones. "We did not do very well moving the basketball."

A 15-5 run late in the second quarter turned an 18-12 Delton



Lion guard Jesse Bromley looks for room along the baseline against Delton's Thad Calkins during the fourth quarter of the Panthers' 60-53 win at Maple Valley High School Friday night. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

Kellogg lead into a 33-17 Panther edge at the half. Even when the Lions had the chance to stop that slide, Delton had an answer. Dustin Houghton buried a three-pointer with just over two minutes to play, after Delton had rattled off eight straight points, but ten seconds later Jordan Bourdo hit a three at the other end of the floor to swing the momentum back the Panthers' way.

Houghton finished with 13 points and seven rebounds. Jesse Bromley led Maple Valley in scoring with 15 points, and had four assists. Kyle Fisher was strong in the paint, finishing with 14 points and ten rebounds.

The Panthers were keeping a special eye on Houghton.

"We did a good job just shutting Houghton down," Mohn said. "There aren't many players around here better than him. We just wanted to make him work a lot harder than we've made him work in the past."

Robbie Wandell added 12 points for the Panthers, and Jeremy Reigler had 11. Anderson had a team high seven rebounds. Bourdo had

just the three points, but also had three rebounds, four steals, five assists, and only one turnover as the Panthers' primary ball handler. Reigler did a great job protecting the ball as well, turning it over only once. Delton had just ten turnovers on the night as a team.

The Lions made their run midway through the third quarter. Back-to-back buckets by Fisher, and a three-pointer from Houghton cut Delton's lead to 36-30. That's when Anderson started to go off. He had 14 of his 15 points in the final 12 and a half minutes of the game.

He scored four straight points to put his team back up double figures, and the Lions went through a stretch of more than four minutes without a field goal.

"This is the first game in a while where we've played man for the most part," Mohn said. "I was pleased with our help defense, except during that three minute stretch where we got kind of silly."

Delton is now 3-6 overall this season, and 3-5 in the KVA. Maple Valley is also 3-6 overall, but just 1-6 in the

league.

Both coaches wore white sneakers on the sideline, as the Lions took part in the national Coaches for Cancer campaign. The schools raised \$330 with a 50/50 drawing, thanks in part of Jerry Kent who donated his winnings back to the cause.

The Lions have two tough ones on the road ahead in the league this coming week, at Pennfield Tuesday and Kalamazoo Christian Friday.

Maple Valley jumped out to a 13-6 edge over the Galesburg-Augusta Rams Tuesday, and went on to a 44-36 win for their first KVA victory.

The Lions' balanced scoring attack was too much for the Rams, and their two big guns on the night, to overcome. Galesburg-Augusta had the game's top two scorers. Ryan Trayer finished with 16 points and Dylan Davis, 14, but only two other Rams scored on the night and they totaled six points.

Maple Valley had three players with at least four points, in the first quarter. Jeff Burd and Fisher had four each, and Bromley five. Fisher finished with ten points and four rebounds, tying Houghton for the team lead in both categories. Bromley finished with nine points.

The Lion lead grew to 33-21 by the end of the third quarter, before the Rams started a late charge that came up short.

Scoring 22 points in the first quarter got the Lions the lead Friday night, but not a big enough lead.



Maple Valley's Kyle Fisher floats a shot over Delton Kellogg's Robbie Wandell for two points in the fourth quarter Friday night. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

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In Memoriam

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VILLAGE OF NASHVILLE 2009-2010

The regular council meetings of the Village of Nashville are the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Nashville Council Chambers. The meeting dates are as follows:

March 12, 2009	March 26, 2009
April 9, 2009	April 23, 2009
May 14, 2009	May 28, 2009
June 11, 2009	June 25, 2009
July 9, 2009	July 23, 2009
August 13, 2009	August 27, 2009
September 10, 2009	September 24, 2009
October 8, 2009	October 22, 2009
November 12, 2009	November 24, 2009 (Tuesday)
December 10, 2009	December 22, 2009 (Tuesday)
January 14, 2010	January 28, 2010
February 11, 2010	February 25, 2010

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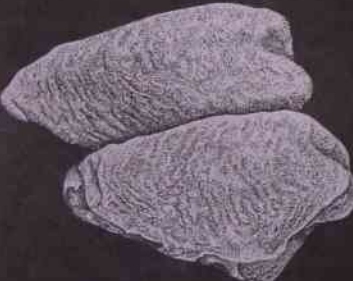
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In My Own Write

by Sandra Ponsetto



A little denial can be a beautiful thing

It was a cold November afternoon in Chicago more than a decade ago when I first learned of the awesome, attitude-changing power of denial.
 "Welcome to our world. Welcome to our world of toys..."
 My friend and I had shopping in FAO Schwartz for about an hour, shopping for Christmas gifts for our then-preschool aged children. The incessant repetition of the FAO Schwartz theme song was starting to get on our nerves. So when we finally reached the checkout with purchases, my friend asked the cashier, "Doesn't that music get to you after a while?"
 "Music? What music? I don't hear no music. You hear any music?" asked the sales clerk, nudging her co-worker at the next register. The girl shook her head as she continued ringing up her customer. "There ain't no music. Nuh uh. We don't hear no music." said the clerk emphatically, looking

my friend right in the eye.
 Of course my friend and I both laughed thinking that the poor girl probably went to bed at night with, "Welcome to our world. Welcome to our world of toys..." echoing in her head. Still, I began to think that maybe the girl was on to something, and over the intervening years, I've often found denial a useful coping strategy.
 "Alarm clock? What alarm clock? I don't hear anything. But, would you mind turning off whatever is making that annoying beeping sound?"

"Fat? I'm not fat, I'm voluptuous."
 "I don't have gray hair, those are highlights."
 "The house doesn't need cleaning. The dust gives everything a hazy, soft-focus look. I think its kind of pretty."
 After years of practice, I have become something of a master of denial. So when I hear people complaining about the snow, I just look them in the eye and say, "Snow? What snow? I don't see no snow. You see any snow? There ain't no snow. Nuh uh. I don't see no snow."

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