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Vermontville library to hold 60th anniversary open house

Everyone is invited to attend when the Vermontville Township Library holds its 60th anniversary open house from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. Guests can have cake, punch and an opportunity to visit with current and former librarians, library board members and peruse scrapbooks detailing some of the library's history.

The Vermontville Township Library had its beginning on May 3, 1948, when the Vermontville Women's Club voted unanimously to undertake establishment of a public library. Club President Marge Slout appointed a committee: Mildred Allen, Iva Reed, and Margaret Wilson, who attended the next meeting of the Vermontville Village Council "to start the ball



The librarian's desk was donated by the local school district in 1949.

rolling."

The women were granted use of the Town Hall basement, which was owned jointly by the village and the township. Heat and light were to be furnished by the village. A partition had to be built across one end of the room, a restroom project having been promised to share part of the space. The lumber and door were donated by interested citizens, and the work was done by volunteer labor.

In the fall of the same year the committee arranged a meeting with Public Library Consultant Grace Burgett of the Michigan State Library, who advised the women on correct methods and procedures for establishing a library. Their first step was to contact the presiding officers of each of the communi-

ty's 19 service organizations and ask them to appoint a three-member committee to the new library board.

The first meeting of the group was held Sept. 30, 1948, and the following officers were elected: President Mildred Allen, Vice-president Iva Reed, Secretary Mable Barnes, and Treasurer Mae Perkey. Committees also were assigned to prepare the room, arrange for shelves and solicit furniture donations.

Volunteers had to clear the room of debris which included fire hoses, racks and ladders, voting booths, oil cans and various other objects. Once the room was cleared out, it had to be cleaned of years of accumulated grime before the walls and floor

See LIBRARY, pg. 6

Vermontville family injured in fatal accident

One person died and nine others were injured, including five Vermontville residents, in a head-on collision Saturday, Jan. 31, at approximately 7:35 p.m. on Clinton Trail north of Vermontville Highway.

Eaton County Sheriff's deputies who responded to the scene reported that a Dodge Neon, driven by a 19-year-old Charlotte man, struck a Chrysler Town and

Country mini-van head-on. Gregory VanGelder, 18, of Charlotte, a passenger in the Neon, died of his injuries. The name and age of the second male passenger in the Neon is unknown.

The mini-van was driven by a 57-year-old Eaton Rapids man.

Passengers in the mini-van included a 55-year-old Eaton Rapids female, and a 33-year-old male, 29-year-

old female, 6-year-old male, 8-year-old male and an 8-year-old female, all of Vermontville. The injured were transported to Sparrow Hospital. The extent of their injuries and their conditions were not available at press time.

The roadway was covered by blowing snow. It is unknown if drugs or alcohol played a factor in the accident, which remains under investigation

Local duo seeks to keep memory of friend alive

by Amy Jo Parish

Thanks to the work of Leroy Starks and Brian Chaffe, the memory of Tony Dunkelberger will continue for many years to come.

The two have been working for the past several years to develop a scholarship fund in Tony's name. This year, the pair is hoping to install a special brick at the Maple Valley High School athletic field as one more way to honor their friend. The 16-by-16-inch brick will feature an etching of Tony's likeness and will be placed in the wall of the tunnel in the athletic field entrance.

"He was such a big athlete for Maple Valley," said Chaffe. "It just seemed appropriate to put his face up there."

To help cover the \$500 cost, an account has been set up at Eaton Federal Bank in Nashville. Special envelopes are available both at Eaton Federal and Hastings City Bank in Nashville. Donations may be made anonymously or information can be written on the envelope for those who wish to receive a receipt for tax purposes.

"I think it will be very exciting for his family to be able to see the brick and also for people in the community who knew him," said Starks.

Along with the brick, a golf outing has been held in Tony's name each year. All proceeds from the outing are deposited into a scholarship



Tony Dunkelberger

fund with the Maple Valley Scholarship Foundation. Starks and Chaffe said they are working to raise \$10,000 to ensure that Tony's memory will live on for decades into the future.

"We have to get to \$10,000," said Starks. "They

(MV Scholarship Foundation) give the interest away. This is a way that his name can go on forever."

The golf outing is more than just an ordinary shoot-out. Games or special activities add fun to each hole and an added twist comes in the form of ladies apparel worn by the men golfers. Participants are asked to dress up in skirts, dresses and other accessories for the day. Awards are given to the best costumes.

This year, the outing will be held July 11 at Mulberry Fore in Nashville, and the group is hoping reach the \$10,000 goal this year.

"It's going to be difficult to reach the goal without another fundraiser this year," said Starks. "I'm going to be relieved when we hit that, but we plan on having the golf outing as long as people are interested in playing."

High school announces winter homecoming week activities

Disney movies make up the theme for Maple Valley High School's 2009 Winter Homecoming Feb. 11 to 14.

Leadership classes have prepared a roster of activities such as noon-hour events, dress-up days, bleacher decorating and pep assembly games to pump up class and school spirit and dispel the midwinter gloom. Points will be awarded to each class based on their participation in each activity.

Each class will be asked to decorate a section of bleachers for the pep assembly according to its theme and colors: Seniors orange and yellow and "The Lion King;"

juniors, black and red and "The Incredibles;" sophomores, green and brown and "Tarzan;" and freshmen, purple and pink and "Finding Nemo."

Ten students will be able to get passes from the fourth and fifth period classes to decorate the bleachers. Sign-up is in Duska Brumm's office. After the pep assembly, students will need to clean up the bleachers. However, the decorations on the wall may stay in place until after the basketball game Friday evening.

Pep assembly games will include musical chairs (two boys and two girls from each

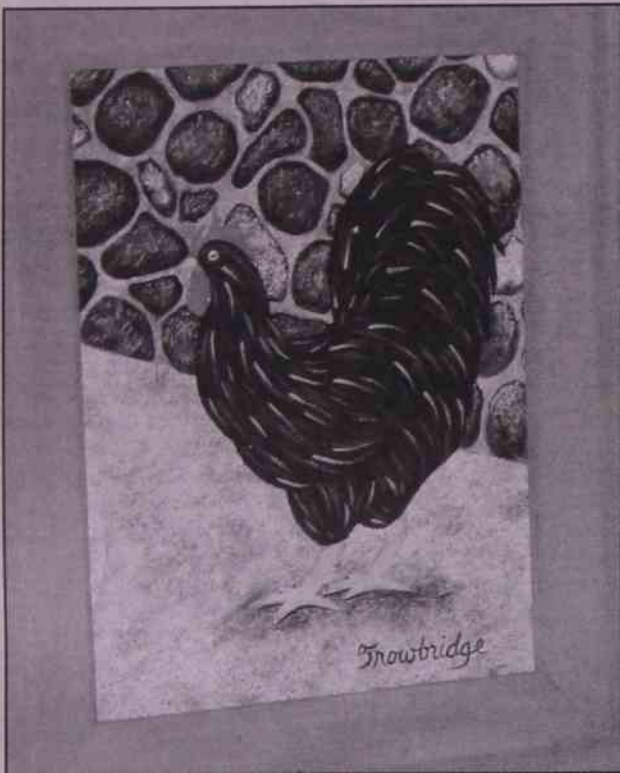
class); Wrap 'Em Up (two people from each class will wrap a third student in streamers from head to foot. That student will then hop from one end of the gym to another. The first person to make it across the finish line wins); Mystery Balloons (two people from each class must perform the tasks attached to each balloon. The first team to complete all of the tasks wins); three-point shot (three people from each class take a three-point shot into the basket. Each person gets 10 shots. If they make it they continue, if they don't

See HOMECOMING, pg. 2

In This Issue...

- Vermontville man wins state honors for maple syrup
- Library board stands behind librarian
- Lions even their KVA mark at 3-3 by beating Pennfield
- Lion cheer team hosts league championship meet Saturday

Vermontville bank to host art show



This painting of a rooster is the creation of Vermontville artist Sue Trowbridge.

Valentine's Day will be even sweeter this year at the Independent Bank of Vermontville because of an art show featuring new paintings by Sue Trowbridge. The show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, in the lobby of the bank, which is doing its part in promoting local businesses.

Because of the slow economy, Trowbridge is selling her new paintings in the frame for \$25, which she

said is reasonable for original art. She is able to offer these low prices because of the size (8-by-10-inch) and the use of acrylic paint, which dries quickly and cuts her painting time considerably from when she paints in oils.

Trowbridge said she is offering art for the popular audience because so few people understand her abstract art, which appeals to a more critical audience.



Vermontville artist Sue Trowbridge will sell her original acrylic paintings such as this during her one-woman art show at Independent Bank in Vermontville on Friday.

This new work is symbolic, she said, with recognizable images, mostly of animals and religious objects such as the elements for Communion (the bread and the cup.) All of Trowbridge's art has religious meaning, she said, and these new pieces are easy to understand and appreciate.

Trowbridge also will offer her jewelry, puppets and small pottery for sale.

"It's easy to find Valentine's Day gifts that are made in China these days, but here is an opportunity to buy a gift for your sweetheart that is made in Vermontville and stimulates the local economy," said Trowbridge. "Even if you don't have a gift in mind, this art is worth the trip to downtown Vermontville. There is nothing

like art to lift one's spirits in the middle of winter."

Girl Scouts learn first aid

On Saturday, Jan. 17, the Castleton-Maple Grove-Nashville-Ambulance Service put on a first aid workshop for Junior Girl Scouts.

"We would like to thank Sarah, Chris and Heath (at the ambulance service) for doing this for the girls," said Diane Davis. "They provided much information to the girls and made it fun to learn it."

After leaving Nashville, the Scouts also toured Barry County 911 Central Dispatch where they learned the workings of a 911 call.

HOMEcoming, from page 1



Candidates for the Maple Valley Winter Homecoming Court are (clockwise from top center) princess candidate Carrie Hummel, prince candidate Levi Westendorp, princess candidate Kayla Shaw, king candidate Jeff Burd, queen candidate Olivia Sprague, king candidate John Mater, queen candidate Ciera Royston, king candidate Alex Williams, queen candidate Erin Shoemaker, prince candidate Michael Caldwell, princess candidate Mackenzie Leinhart, and prince candidate Ian Cogswell (Photo by Adam Zank).

they are out. The last person to make a shot wins).

In addition to activities during the school day, the traditional powerball game between the junior and senior boys will be held in the old gym at the high school at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11. The winning team will then play the male staff team. Admission is \$4.

Scheduled noon-hour activities include: Wednesday, Lightning (three boys and three girls from each class, the first person shoots the ball to start the game, if it goes in they go to the back of the line, if they miss they have to keep shooting, but if the person behind them makes the basket they are out); Thursday, marshmallow toss (two students from each class are needed. One person will hold a bucket on his or her head. The other will stand behind the line and toss marshmallows into the bucket. Each marshmallow caught will equal 1 point); Friday, Life Saver game (four girls and four boys from each class will pass a Life Saver from one

end of the line to the other via toothpicks held in their mouths. Teams will be awarded first through fourth place based on speed).

Dress-up days are: Wednesday, Class Color Day; Thursday, Pajama Day; and Friday, Maple Valley Spirit Day. First-hour teachers will record participation points. Afternoon co-op and vo-ed students should report to Brumm to be counted. Hats will be acceptable during dress-up days. All attire must be school appropriate.

Finally, Winter Homecoming Week will wrap up with a Valentine's Day themed dance sponsored by the leadership classes from 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. Admission is \$4 per person. Punch and light refreshments will be served. Pictures will be available.

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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: (Every 1st & 3rd Sunday) 6 p.m. 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 FEIGNER 517-541-1144</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>ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES A Spirit-filled Church Meeting at the Maple Leaf Grange Hwy. M-66 south of Assynia Rd. Nashville, MI 49073 Sun. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m. Jesus Club for boys & girls ages 4-12. Pastors David & Rose MacDonald. An oasis of God's love. "Where Everyone is 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 9 & 10:30 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>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>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>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>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>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>	

Crowds turn out to celebrate library cat's second birthday

In honor of its cat's second birthday and first anniversary at the library, Putnam District Library held a party Saturday morning. Fifty children and their parents came to help celebrate. Many guests brought gifts of cat food, treats, litter and toys. The children decorated treat bags which they filled with goodies throughout the party.

Assistant Director Emily Mater read the story *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake* and treated the children in attendance to homemade cupcakes. While the kids enjoyed their treat, Cleo enjoyed a wet cat food cupcake in the middle of the party. Several games were played and a banner was signed showing Cleo's full name which Fuller Street Elementary students voted on earlier in the week when Director Shauna Swantek visited each classroom.

It is clear that, like Dewey Readmore Books from *Dewey: the Small-Town Cat Who Touched the World*, Cleo Page Turner has a special place in the hearts of many library patrons.



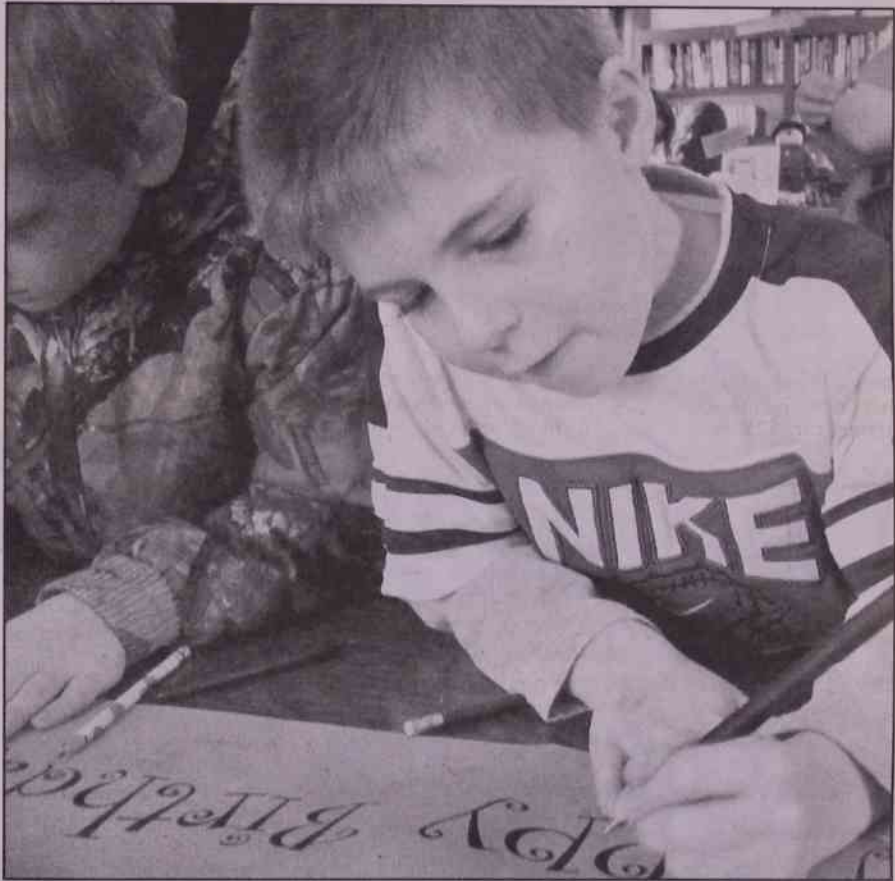
Cleo admires a balloon sculpture made in her honor by the Kopka family.



Matthew Slaughter shakes the cat toys he brought and unwrapped for Cleo.



This father-son duo works hard on the "Name That Cat" party game.



This young man is signing the banner announcing the cat's full name: Cleo Page Turner.

KCC names honor's list students

Highest honors (3.9 to 4.0 gpa) among full-time students at Kellogg Community College in the 2008 fall semester went to the following local students:

Bellevue — Angela Hart, Ryan Prater, Luke Schafer.
Dowling — Connie Brooks, Loretta Franklin.
Nashville — Meghan Howard, Tina Schrupp, John C. Smith.

High honors (3.5 to 3.89 gpa) among full-time students at Kellogg Community College in the 2008 fall semester went to the following:

Bellevue — Michael Church, Kecey Clevenger, Cody Cook, Kalyn Gable, Michelle Goshom,

Devon Kauffman, Amber Kelly, Jennifer Mason, Wendy Pierson.

Dowling — Derrick McKee.

Hastings — Jesse Alender, Owen Anderson, Josh Angoli, Kevin Armstrong, Catherine Chandler, Theresa Constantine, Nicole Cordray, Ashley Downing, Catherine Engle, Miranda Fay, Heather Huska, Monica Livingston, Evelyn Mix, Sarah Okamoto, Michele Price, Tammy Ray, Martha Reyff-Banash, Jeremy Rogers, Christopher Sanders, Dakota Storey, Kevin Taylor, Kristin Williams, Stephanie Wingeier.

Nashville — Sarah Olson, Jennie Pettengill, Rachael Thames, Felicia Tomich,

Kathleen Welch.

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GRAN TORINO (R)
SAT/SUN/TUE 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:20
FR/MON/WED/TH 4:25, 6:50, 9:20

TAKEN (PG-13)
SAT/SUN/TUE 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:40
FR/MON/WED/TH 5:00, 7:10, 9:40

THE UNINVITED (PG-13)
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Vermontville man wins state honors for maple syrup

by Amy Jo Parish
 Brian Moore of Vermontville is celebrating his 10th year of membership in the Michigan Syrup Association in a big way. Moore recently earned first place in the medium syrup category at the association's annual competition.

Adding to the honor, Moore's sweet concoction also was chosen as "Best of Show."

"To me, that was a big honor. It really shocked me," said Moore.

Nearly 50 producers entered their syrups in the contest's three categories — light, medium or dark. Creams and candies also could be entered into the competition.

Moore has entered the contest for the past four years and said the awards mean a great deal more than just a plaque or ribbon.

"This showed me that I'm doing it right," said Moore.



Using a wood fire and steam-away system, Moore boils sap as soon as he collects it from the trees.

"It's not something that you just jump into, and when something like this happens, your confidence jumps because you are being judged with people that have

been doing it all their life."

The syrups are judged in four categories: color, clarity, density and flavor. The Haigh family in Bellevue won first place in the maple cream category, third in candy and third in medium amber syrup. Fogel Family Farms of Mason won first place in the light syrup category, and Art and Jan Currey of Fowlerville took home the top prize in the dark category.

Moore's first venture into syrup making happened back in 1993 when his children were small and he thought it would be an interesting and fun activity for the family to

take part in.

"I had friends and family that were involved in it and figured it would be something for the kids learn," said Moore.

That first year, he took his sap to local producer Don Hickey to cook into syrup. Now, Moore has his own business, B Moore Sweet, around 1,200 taps and boils sap for other collectors in the area. He also sells his product from his home on West Main Street and at Duey's Corner Store south of Vermontville.

Not only does he tap in Vermontville, each year Moore travels to Sugar



After more than 15 years of producing syrup, Brian Moore of Vermontville won best in show at the Michigan Syrup Association's annual competition.

Island near Sault Ste. Marie where he has identical production equipment. The weather usually cooperates and Moore is able to finish the syrup season in Vermontville before hastily heading north just in time to collect syrup at the Sugar Island site.

Each producer has tricks

of the trade he or she believes will yield the best product, and Moore is no different.

"I boil as soon as I get the sap home," said Moore. "I believe that makes for a better quality of syrup. When the sap is fresh, it just makes for a better quality of product." At both of his sites, Moore uses a 3b-by-12-foot wood-fired evaporator and steam-away unit to boil the sap. While using the more traditional wood system offers less consistency in the temperature, Moore said it allows him to use the natural resources around him to their full potential.

"I'm using what nature's providing," said Moore. "I'm cleaning up the woods and using stuff people would throw away."

Like the sap running through the veins of the maple, Moore said syrup making has become an integral part of his life and is something he isn't likely to give up anytime soon.

"It's just in my blood, it's there. That's where my heart is," said Moore. "Being outside, doing the nature thing — you just have to like being outside, or it's not you. You have to love it to go through the mud, snow, the hot and the cold."



With the help of family and friends, Brian Moore has been collecting sap in the Vermontville. Here, Brian poses with his wife, Becky, during a boiling session.

Revue holding auditions for 'Willy Wonka' in Nashville

Auditions for The Revue's children's theater production of "Willy Wonka Jr." will be held Sunday, Feb. 22, from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Masonic building in Nashville.

Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir comes to life in this stage adaptation of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The show features songs from the classic family film "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

The score features "The Candy Man," "Pure Imagination," "Oompa Loompa" and "I Want it Now" by Academy and Grammy award winners Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley.

Rehearsals will be Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:30 or 4:30 to 7 p.m., beginning Thursday, Feb. 26. The cast will include approximately

90 fourth through eighth grade students.

Performances will be May 1 to 3 and 8 to 10. On Fridays, May 1 and 8, a matinee will be performed for local schools in addition to an evening performance. The majority of the cast will be split and will perform a single weekend of the two scheduled performances.

Please arrive a few minutes early for the audition. Parents will need to fill out an audition form. Children will be called in groups of five or six to learn a portion of one of the songs and sing for the director, music director and producer. Some children will be asked to stay until the end to read from the script.

Each child cast in the show will be required to pay a \$25 participation fee. This fee, to be collected at the first rehearsal, will cover a rehearsal CD of songs from

the show, a souvenir short-sleeve T-shirt, and any minor costume pieces that might be needed (shoes, tights, etc.).

Willy Wonka Jr. will be the first production for The Revue in its new location in the old Masonic building in Nashville. The location is still a work in progress, but will be ready when the curtain rises on May 1.

The Masonic building is on the corner of Washington and Main streets. The Revue is housed upstairs, above the Green Light Driving School. Use the side entrance off Washington and go up the stairs to find the new theater.

For more information, contact Hollie Auten at 517-726-0959 or e-mail therevue1@yahoo.com.

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The Men of Vermontville United Methodist Church
 would like to invite the community to **Breakfast**
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CHECK OUT OUR BREAKFAST SPECIALS & DAILY SPECIALS MON.-FRI.

Putnam library plans February activities

Youngsters are invited to a special story time at Putnam District Library at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10. Books presented will be *If You'll Be My Valentine* by Cynthia Rylant and *Franklin's Valentines* by Paulette Bourgeois.

Kids can make a valentine for the library and one for someone they love. The librarians will discuss ways to love the library and how to take proper care of library books. Elementary and pre-school students are invited to attend with their parents or

caregivers.

Other library programs are keeping Putnam patrons busy in the chilly February weather. The adult/teen winter reading program, "Warm Up With a Good Book," is ongoing through March 28. Participants, ages 13 and up, are challenged to read 10 books in 10 weeks. After reviewing the books they read, patrons can earn prizes, and even a Putnam library coffee mug.

Upcoming story time themes are "Lincolns for your Library" at 11 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 28, and "Get Fired Up with Reading" in March. Stop by the front desk to pick up a calendar with more details or visit the blog at www.putnamlibrary.blogspot.com.

Putnam District Library is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, 3 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Two local students make Michigan Tech dean's list

Michigan Technological University has released its dean's list for the fall 2008 semester, recognizing students who achieved grade point averages of 3.5 or higher.

Among the honorees are Nicholas Childs of Bellevue and Christi J O'Dell of Vermontville.

"Fireproof" to be shown at Vermontville Bible Church

"Fireproof," the nationally acclaimed movie, will be shown at Vermontville Bible Church on Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. All adults are invited to attend.

The film features Cap. Caleb Holt, who at work lives by the old firefighter's adage: Never leave your partner behind. At home, in the cooling embers of its marriage, he lives by his own rules. Growing up, Catherine Holt always dreamed of marrying a loving, brave firefighter, just like her daddy.

Now, after seven years of marriage, Catherine wonders when she stopped being 'good enough' for her husband. Regular arguments over jobs, finances, housework, and outside interests have readied them both to move on to something with more sparks.

As the couple prepares to enter divorce proceedings, Caleb's father challenges his son to commit to a 40-day experiment: The Love Dare. Wondering if it is even worth the effort, Caleb agrees, for his father's sake more than for his marriage.

While trying to stay true to his promise, Caleb becomes frustrated time and again. He finally asks his father, "How am I supposed to show love to someone who constantly rejects me?"

Come and enjoy the film to discover the answer to Caleb and Catherine's marriage crisis.

Vermontville Bible Church is located at 260 N. Main St. in Vermontville. For more information, call 517-726-0647.



Florys to observe 65th wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Glendon H. Flory, formerly of Nashville, will observe their 65th wedding anniversary on February 19, 2009. Beulah Priddy returned with him to Camp Crowder, Mo., when he was home on leave from the Army. They were married in Joplin, Mo. They were together only a short time before he was sent overseas. He returned the last day of 1945. He retired from Oldsmobile. She retired from the State of Michigan.

They have two daughters, Jeanne (Don) Graeber of Nashville, Ellen Coon of Hastings, and two sons, Donald (Sharon) Flory of Gould City, and Roger (Cheri) Flory of Pahrump, Nev.

They have nine grandsons and two granddaughters and have three great-grandsons, and 11 great-granddaughters.

Cards or letters sent to them at 360 E. Tuttle Rd., Lot 115, Ionia, MI 48846 would be very much appreciated.

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Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Barry County Commission on Aging Menu and Activities
Monday, Feb. 9
Chicken Teriyaki, white rice, sweet and sour carrots, Oriental vegetables, mixed fruit in jello.

Tuesday, Feb. 10
Sheppard's Pie, corn, stewed tomatoes, tropical fruit, biscuit.

Wednesday, Feb. 11
Chicken and green bean, casserole w/cheddar, green peas, Oriental vegetables, plums.

Thursday, Feb. 12
Hearty chili, winter blend, vegetables, peach cobbler, corn muffin.

Friday, Feb. 13
Sliced turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, banana, dinner roll.

Cold Menu Monday, Feb. 9
Meatloaf, marinated vegetables, diced pears, wheat bread.

Tuesday, Feb. 10
Ground bologna and cheese, cucumber salad, mandarin oranges, hamburger bun.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Chicken and pineapple salad, carrot raisin salad, plums, wheat bread.

Thursday, Feb. 12
Turkey and pasta salad, marinated vegetables, diced peaches, whole wheat crackers.

Friday, Feb. 13
Sliced pork, corn and tomato salad, diced pears, wheat bread.

Activities Calendar Monday, Feb. 9:
Hastings - Music with Sam; Crafts 10:30 a.m.; Card Making 12:30 p.m.; Watercolor 1 p.m. H, W, N - Reminiscence.

Tuesday, Feb. 10:
Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m. GL - 10:30-12:30 Cards

12:45-1:30 p.m. Potluck lunch; 1:30-3 p.m. Lifeline presentation.

Wednesday, Feb. 11:
Hastings - Bible Study 12:30 p.m.; Music with Sam; Nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Low Vision Support 1:30 p.m. Delton - Reminiscence.

Thursday, Feb. 12:
Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Cancer Support 1 p.m. Nashville - TV Time; Delton - Puzzles, Trivia.

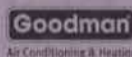
Friday, Feb. 13:
Hastings - Valentine Party 10:30 a.m.; Exercise 9 a.m.; Mixed Media Painting, 9:30 a.m.; Model Railroad, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Woodland - Visiting-Nashville - Feast & Valentine Party.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 9** Horse Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Feb. 12** Master Gardener Class, 6:30 p.m., MSU Experimental Station in the Clarksville (registration required).
- Feb. 14** Project Leaders Training, Thornapple Valley Church, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Feb. 16** Poultry Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Feb. 19** RUP Training, 9 a.m.-noon, MSU Experimental Station in Clarksville.
- Feb. 19** RUP Testing, 1-3 p.m., MSU Experimental Station in Clarksville.
- Feb. 20** State Awards Workshop, 6 p.m., Ionia County MSU Extension Office.
- Feb. 20** Dairy Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Extension Office.
- Feb. 24** BKC Workshop, "RELAX-Alternatives to Anger," 6:30 p.m., Pennock Conference Center.
- Feb. 25** Crop Insurance Update, 7 p.m., MSU Horticulture Station in Clarksville.

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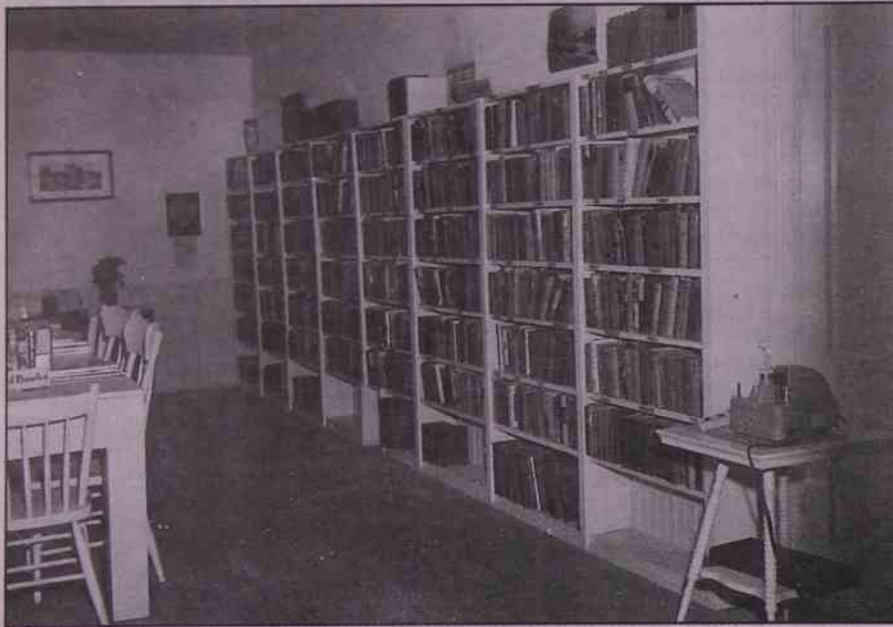
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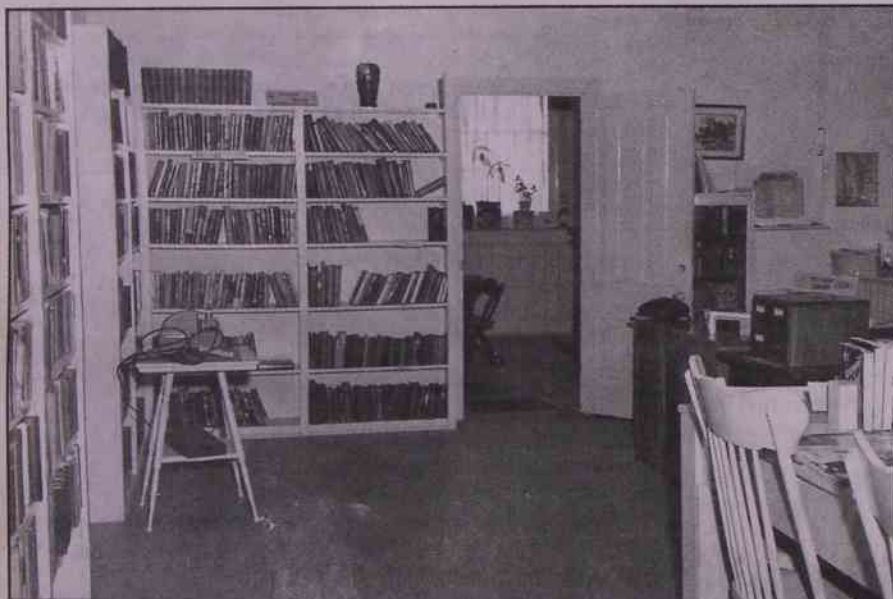
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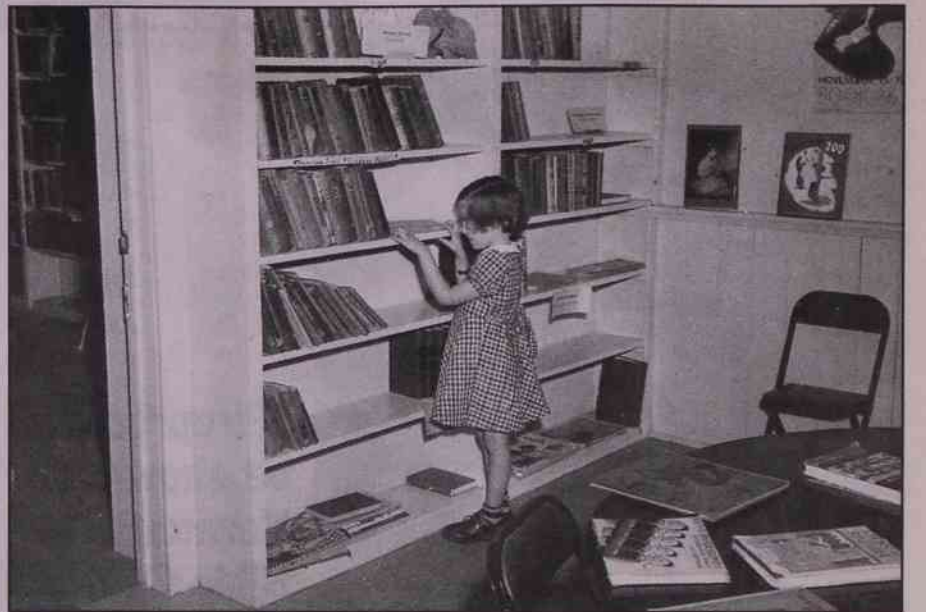
The south side of the Vermontville Township Library as it appeared in 1949.



The library is prepared for guests during a 1949 Book Week open house.



The door to the children's room stands open.



The shelves in Vermontville Township Library were depleted during Book Week in November 1949.

were painted, curtains hung and flowers placed in the windows.

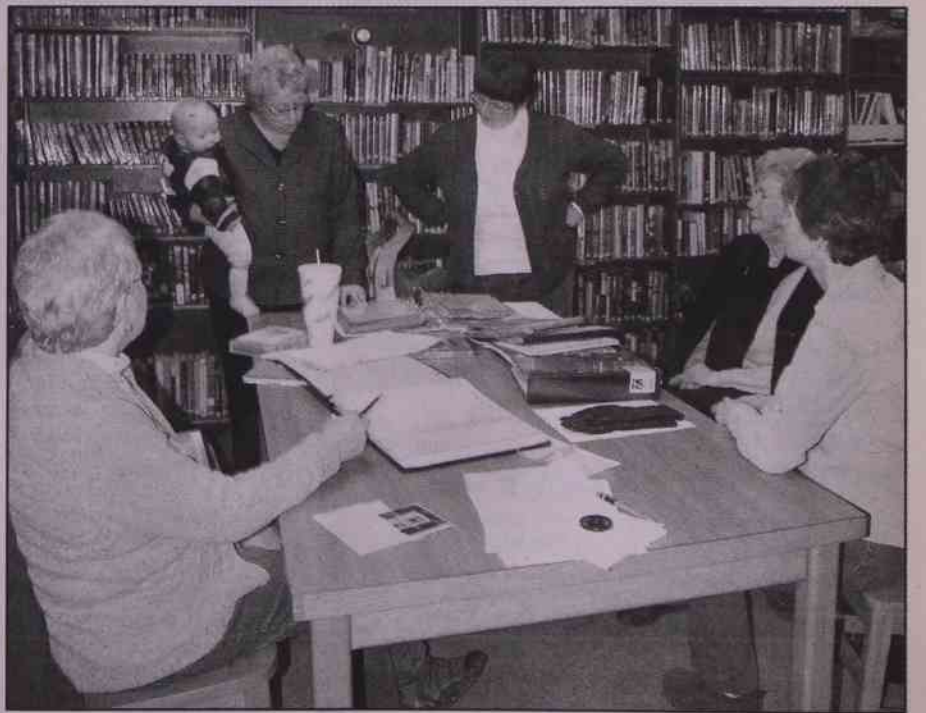
Lumber for the shelves was donated by William Barnillgham and Nick Vierick and volunteer labor

provided by George Hall, Hugh Parker, Ben Slout, Dean Hansen, Bernard Allen, Lloyd Faust and Ralph Perkey. The local school board donated a librarian's desk which had

been refinished by the high school's manual training department.

Donated shelves, chairs and tables were painted by Iva Reed, Mrs. Reeve (first name unknown), Isabelle Zemke and Margaret McLaughlin in a "mild green shade" to blend in with the walls. These women also made the curtains and "arranged suitable art displays."

In January 1949, the library board mounted an intensive drive for books, more furniture and money. Chairperson Margaret Wilson mapped out the entire village and township, and the women went door to door seeking donations. A loan of several hundred books was secured from the Michigan State Library, and the Charlotte Book Club



Vermontville Township Library Board President Janet Valdick, Library Director Carla Rumsey with grandson Bryce Rumsey, Treasurer Shirley Harmon, and Trustees Kay Marsh and Doty McDougal look through library scrapbooks that will be on display during the library's 60th anniversary open house.



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donated 100 books, which brought the total of holdings to 1,800 books when the Vermontville Public Library was declared officially ready for operation.

Feb. 12, 1949, the library held an open house for the public. Tea and cookies were served to the 200 visitors who registered from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. that day.

More donations rolled in, and the library's books soon totaled 3,325, and 439 people became registered borrowers. A librarian was hired by the

Vermontville Township Board at a rate of 75 cents per hour for 12 hours a week. A sum of \$200 a year was set aside for books and equipment.

The village council was soon able to give the rapidly expanding library use of the adjoining room, which was transformed into a children's room stocked with juvenile books. The new children's room was opened by Book Week, which was observed Nov. 13 to 19, 1949.

That week, all children

from local schools visited the library and were shown about by hostesses. During their visit, the children got to see the new ceiling projector in use and received a book-mark to take home as a souvenir of their visit. A second open house was held that week for the community, and 291 people attended.

In 1950, Vermontville Township put the operation and maintenance of the public library on its April ballot — and the rest is history.

Library board stands behind librarian

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

During the regular January meeting of the Vermontville Township Board, Township Treasurer JoAnne Nehmer read a letter to the board in which she alleged misuse of public funds by a library board member and misuse of the library's Walmart credit card by a library employee.

Vermontville Township Library Board members, however, say there has been no misuse of public funds and they stand behind the library's employees.

In her letter Nehmer wrote, "I, as township treasurer has (sic) been asked to sign a recent check dated 1/13/09 for personal expenditures of the Library funds on their Walmart charge card."

"While the discussion was going on in September and October of 2008 about the issues of the Library, I did not bring out in the public what that issue were (sic). I felt rather than embarrass the Library Board in public it should be handled discreetly. As you know the issues were rooted from the auditor report, of the Library expenditures, thus advising the Township Board that personal items were purchased on the Walmart credit card and not paid back in a timely matter (sic), and one incident a Library Board member purchased a computer with public funds, at audit it was not fully paid back ... Our Township auditor advised our board to obtain monthly Walmart charges for review to monitor charges."

The Vermontville Township Board voted last fall to assume responsibility for the library's funds based on the advice of the township's lawyer who said that it needed to be done in order to comply with ML 397.205. Nehmer said that since she must now sign all checks issued by the library board, she felt compelled to make the alleged misuses public.

"I was presented the check to sign for payment of the Walmart invoice; I signed it only to review the statement to find the personal charges," wrote Nehmer. "This puts

me in a most peculiar position of signing a check to cover expenses occurring for personal use of public funds. The fact that it was paid back does not excuse the occurrence of happening in the first place ...

"I am asking the Township Board to write a letter to the Vermontville Library Board in my support, expressing our disappointment of the reoccurrence of this situation, stating that our board feels that this kind of action of an employee is jeopardize (sic) the office of Treasury of the Township as well as the integrity of the Treasurer by signing the check for payment," she concluded.

Nehmer put a copy of her letter on file for the township's auditor, Walker Fluke and Sheldon Accounting of Hastings, and the Michigan State Tax Commission.

"JoAnne has never come to the library board with her concerns," said Library Board President Janet Valdick. "If she had taken the time to come and talk to us, we could have explained all of this to her. As it is, bringing these things up in a public forum has taken time and attention away from much more important things and disrupted Carla's life."

Vermontville Township Library Director Carla Rumsey said the alleged misuse of the library's Walmart credit card were simply mistakes that were quickly rectified. She said last summer the clerk at Walmart rang her personal purchases through with items she was purchasing for the library.

"There were five or six people behind me in line and rather than make her void everything and ring it up again, I just let her finish ringing it up together," explained Rumsey. "I had every intention of paying it back as soon as possible. However, I did forget but the library board caught it at their next meeting, and as soon as they brought it to my attention and reminded me, I paid it. That was my intention all along; I simply got distracted and forgot but our

own checks and balances caught it."

The second time, referenced in Nehmer's letter, Rumsey said she was in the Hastings Walmart store and realized she had left her own debit card and checkbook at home so she had the items added to the library purchase with the intention of reimbursing the library for her personal purchases.

"If I had been shopping in Charlotte, I would have just run home and got my checkbook or debit card, but I was in Hastings, so I just had her put it all on the card," said Rumsey. "I put the money in the bag the very next day but I didn't fill out the form until we were ready to deposit. That's why it looks like I paid seven days later."

Rumsey said she takes her responsibilities for purchasing library materials and supplies seriously and would never intentionally misuse funds.

"As the library director, I am responsible for purchasing supplies for the library. I do this on my own time, and more often than not, I am also doing my personal shopping at the same time. And I don't think it is unreasonable to think that an error may occur from time to time. I do regret the errors, and will make a concerted effort to avoid them in the future," said Rumsey, adding, "I do wish to point out that I have been in possession of the library-owned Walmart credit card for 13 years, and using the card in error has only happened twice, and I did repay the library for the items that were added to the card in error. The only way to completely avoid an error of this kind, would be to order every item that comes into the library either online, by phone, or by catalog, and allow it to be delivered to the library."

"This is neither practical nor cost-efficient. It is our practice to purchase new DVD releases on the day they are available at Walmart, usually at a sale price. Even if the items are pre-ordered from our regular book and DVD/audio suppli-

er, they are not shipped until the release date, and then may take a week or more to arrive. Even with a library discount, the pricing is often more than the sale price that Walmart offers, and the delay time is unfair to our patrons."

Rumsey went on to say that she often uses her own funds to purchase items for the library and is later reimbursed by the library board.

"The Walmart credit card is the only credit card the library has. If it cannot be purchased at Walmart, then we order from mail order or online supply catalogs. If the company will not invoice or accept a purchase order, or if an item is purchased from a store other than Walmart, I use my personal funds for the purchase, and am then reimbursed at the next pay period for those purchases," said Rumsey.

"Having been a library employee for 13 years, first as the assistant director and currently serving as the library director for two years, it is my hope that my employment history and job performance speak for itself with my employers — the trustees of the Vermontville Township Library Board and the patrons of the Vermontville Township Library. My goal is to have the best library we can possibly have, to provide quality services to our patrons, and for this library to be an active part of the community. I would never intentionally do anything to undermine those goals."

The library board's credit card policy, adopted Jan. 14, 2003, states: "Library credit cards may be used only by the head librarian or treasurer of the library for the purchase of goods or services for the official business of the library ... Transactions that do not appear to comply with this policy shall be reported to the library board ... Officers who use a library credit card in a manner contrary to this policy shall be subjected to the following disciplinary actions, as deemed appropriate by the library board: a. verbal coun-

seling b. verbal reprimand c. reimbursement to the library for unauthorized expenditures."

Library board members say they have faith in Rumsey and are satisfied that she paid for her personal purchases initially put on the library's credit card.

"I think it is wrong to imply that library funds were deliberately misused and that the board condones it," said Library Board Secretary Dotty McDougal. "The card was used in error, and the money was paid back before the credit card payment was due. No public funds were ever misused."

"We can assure anyone that is concerned that everything is fine," said Valdick.

The library board also denies Nehmer's allegation that public funds were used by a library board member to purchase a computer for personal use.

"We have a small business account through Dell, and Shirley (Library Board Treasurer Shirley Harmon) ordered a computer for her home, which she uses for library business. She paid half up front when the computer was ordered and the other half when it was delivered," explained Valdick.

Harmon explained that because the computer was ordered and a downpayment was made before the audit, and the computer was delivered and paid off after the audit, it at first appeared that the computer was not paid in full when it actually was.

"The purchase was questioned at audit time, and we explained it at that time," she said.

The library board produced receipts and canceled checks indicating that both

Harmon and Rumsey, who ordered a computer from Dell in November, both paid for their computers in full and no public funds were used. They also produced copies of the Walmart credit card receipts and library deposit slips which also indicated all personal purchases were paid in full before the payments were due, and no public funds were involved.

"All of our records are public and so are our meetings. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month and anyone who is interested is welcome to attend," said Valdick.

"I think it is wrong to accuse Carla of wrongdoing; the library has flourished under Carla's care," said Harmon. "She has brought in all kinds of grant money and programming."

"We've added \$3,000 in junior nonfiction thanks to the grants she has brought in," said Valdick. "We are proud of our library ..."

"And we are proud of our staff," added McDougal. "We have great employees."

When Nehmer was told of the library board's response to her letter, she replied, "I wrote the letter and presented it in public because, if I am going to have to sign these checks and records are going on file with the Michigan Tax Commission, I feel I need to protect myself from any allegations of wrong-doing."

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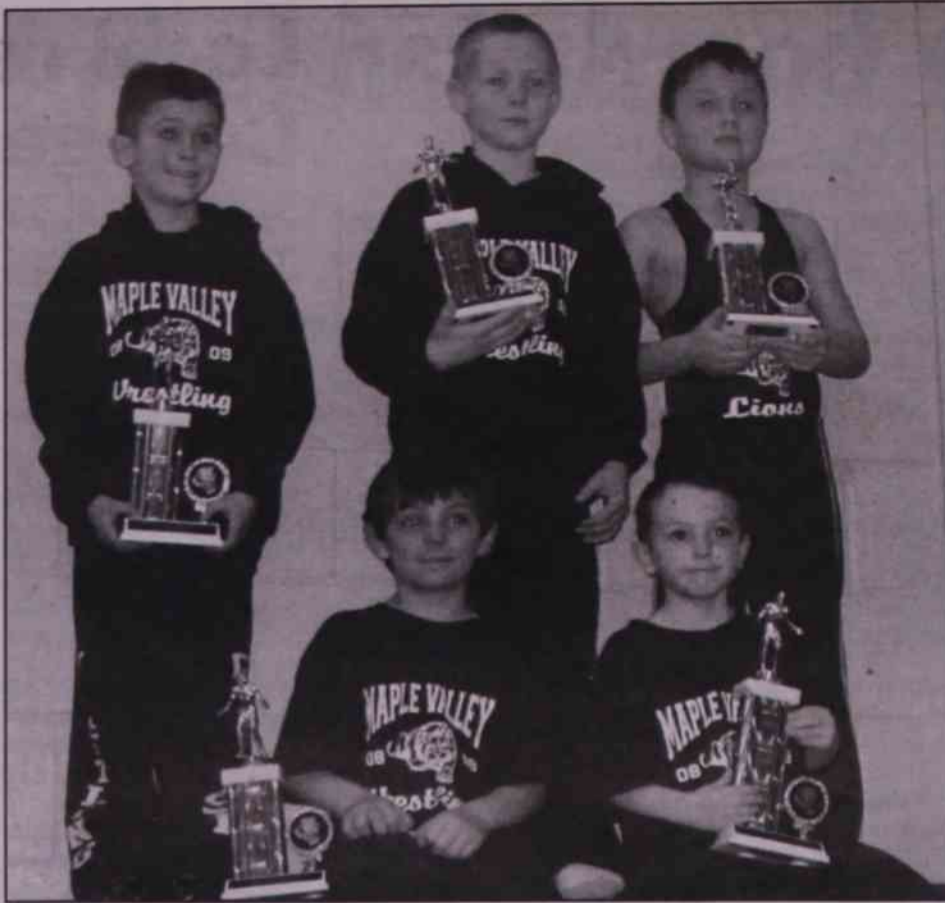
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Attorneys: Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Blvd. Suite 100 Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 844-5123 Our File No: 09-05217 ASAP# 2989220
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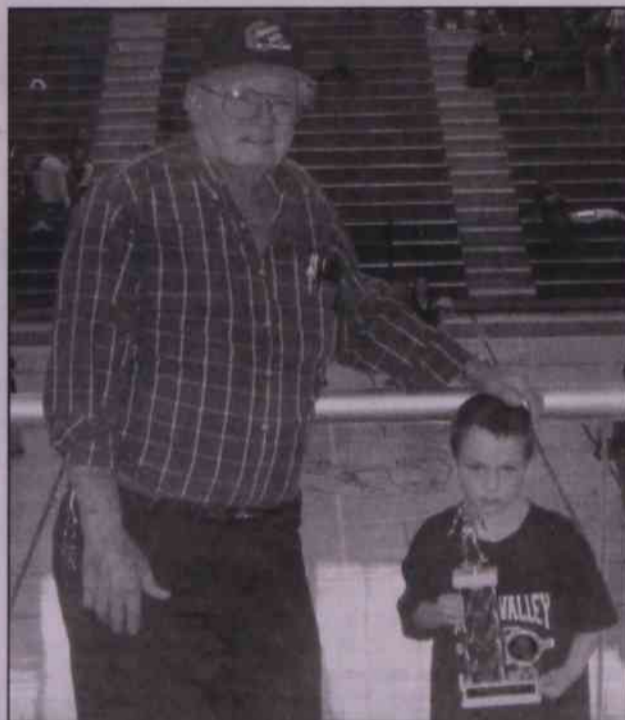
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Maple Valley's Youth Wrestling Program had a number of wrestlers score medals and trophies at last Sunday's Byron-Center and Mason tournaments. Chandler Murton, (front from left) Jesse Brumm, (back from left) Garrett Pearson, Wyatt Baird, and Austin Zank all placed in the top four in their weight classes, as did (missing from photo) Christian Schrader and Zach Orsborn.

Wrestlers have good days at Mason and Byron Center



Jesse Brumm shows off his trophy, with great-grandfather Ray Barlund, at the Mason Tournament Sunday afternoon. Brumm won his weight class on the day.

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.

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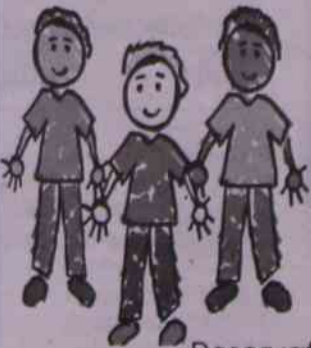
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We are now accepting Schools of Choice applications for the third trimester of the 2008-2009 school year. Enrollment is available for all grades K-12 and in the Alternative Education Program. Residents of Eaton, Barry, Calhoun, Ionia or Ingham County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

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.**

Nashville native to lead programs at Transformations

Gertrude Maurer CSJ, who is on the staff of Transformations Spirituality Center, will help lead upcoming programs at the Kalamazoo-area center.

Maurer is a 1951 graduate of Nashville High School. She went on to Michigan State College where she earned a bachelor's degree in English. She then continued her education at the University of Notre Dame, receiving a master's degree in English and a Ph.D. in 20th Century American literature.

Beginning Tuesday, Feb. 24, she will lead the Spiritual Literacy: Books You Have Been Meaning to Read session on *Mystical Hope: Trusting in the Mercy of God.* Two subsequent programs on the same book will be held Tuesdays, March 10 and March 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

This slim volume, written by Cynthia Bourgeault, illustrates a way of living with hope that is not tied to outcomes and is not linked to the future, but is rooted in the now, writes Christine Parks about the book.

"Through reading, reflection and discussion, we will explore how to recognize this hope in our lives and the ways in which we are transformed by it," said Parks, a Transformations staff member.

Maurer has served as an educator, retreat and spiritual director, and minister for justice in the U.S. and Ghana. She also holds a certificate in spiritual direction and is a trained facilitator.

After spending several years in the west African country of Ghana, Maurer returned to the Kalamazoo area, where she frequently leads workshops and classes. In May, she will be one of the facilitators for the Centering Prayer Introduction.

For more information, to register, or to purchase the book, call 269-381-6290 ext. 310, or visit www.transformationscenter.org. Transformations Spirituality Center is located on M-43 (Gull Road) just east of Kalamazoo. The deadline to register is Feb. 17.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Maple Valley Elementary Lunch Menu

Monday, Feb. 9

Mini corn dogs, Tater tots, peaches, brownie.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Macaroni and cheese, Green beans, pears, muffin.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Pizza bagels, Tossed salad, bread stick, mandarin oranges.

Thursday, Feb. 12

Sack Lunch Day. PBJ, Chips, carrot sticks, juice.

Friday, Feb. 13

Valentine's Menu. Heart shaped nuggets, Mashed potatoes, cinnamon apples, heart shaped snacks.

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. Assorted 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, Feb. 9

Corn dogs, Baked beans, pineapple. Salad bar.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Ravioli, Whole kernel corn, fruit cocktail. Breakfast bar.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Grilled cheese, Tomato soup, grapes, Asian bar.

Thursday, Feb. 12

BBQ Sand. w/chips.

Celery w/p.butter, apple-sauce, Mexican bar.

Friday, Feb. 13

Valentines menu. Heart shaped nuggets, Mashed potatoes, peach crisp, Country chicken 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.

M.V. annual "free yearbook" pizza sale begins next week

The Maple Valley Junior-Senior High School yearbook staff is offering the opportunity for all students in grades 7-12 to earn a free 2009 yearbook.

The annual fundraiser will officially begin Monday, Feb. 9. Orders will be due to Cynthia Gatewood in Room B-3 by Thursday, Feb. 19, and all orders will be delivered Wednesday, March 18.

Order brochures and sales

information will be distributed to students in their first hour classes on Monday, Feb. 9.

Students interested in obtaining a free yearbook need to sell a minimum of 24 individual items from the Choice Products sales brochure. These items range in price from \$9 to \$16.50.

Students who have already paid for their yearbooks will receive a full reimbursement

from the yearbook staff provided they have earned a free yearbook by selling the required minimum of 24 items and their names appear on the sales list generated by the yearbook publishing company. As an added incentive, a grand prize of \$50 will be awarded to the Maple Valley student who sells the highest number of pizza and dessert items.

Toddler Time is changing venues

Toddler Time is changing everything — the day, the time and the location. After spending the past year and a half at the Congregational Church, Toddler Time will be once again meet at the Vermontville Township Library.

"We have genuinely enjoyed the church's preschool room and sharing the space with Peas in a Pod, but the 11:35 a.m. time slot is right at the time most toddlers expect lunch," said volunteer Amy Laverty-Meeker.

Toddler Time will now meet at 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday at the Vermontville Township Library.

Vermontville Toddler Time is specifically geared for children ages 0 to 5, but children of all ages are welcome. Sessions typically run 40 to 50 minutes. The program is free and run entirely by volunteers of Eaton Intermediate School District, with a focus on pre-literacy, school preparedness and fun. Activities typically consist of story time, dancing, singing, ABCs, 123s, a craft project and occasional guest speakers.

The schedule for February and March is as follows:

- Feb. 11 — Valentine's Party.
- Feb. 18 — Snowmen.
- Feb. 25 — Snowflakes.
- March 4 — Lions.
- March 11 — St. Patrick's Day.
- March 18 — Maple syrup.
- March 25 — Lambs.

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Local resident in Olivet College production

Olivet College is hosting its biennial V-Day benefit for the SIREN/Eaton Shelter in Charlotte with two performances of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues." The production, which is sponsored by the Betsy Dole Women's Resource Center, will be held Friday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Margaret Upton Conservatory of Music Recital Hall. Tickets are \$8.

Among the cast members is Lori Poyer of Vermontville.

An open dress rehearsal Thursday, Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m. is set for Olivet College students. Those in attendance are asked to bring a canned food donation.

Director for the production is Joanne Williams, assistant professor of journalism/mass communication and theater.

V-Day is a global movement to end violence against women and girls by raising funds and awareness through benefit productions of Ensler's award-winning

play. To date, V-Day has raised more than \$60 million. This is Olivet's fourth time hosting the production, which is held every other year in February.

(The show contains adult language and situations.) For tickets or information, contact Dianne Thomas, director of the Dole Center, at 269-749-6638 or dthomas@olivetcollege.edu. Tickets are also available at SIREN/Eaton Shelter.

Bioeconomy opportunities to be explored at MSU Extension program

Production of feedstocks for biofuels and use of alternative energy may hold possibilities for farmers, entrepreneurs and resource managers. Learn more about them by attending a Michigan State University Extension program called "Energizing Your Future: Opportunities in Michigan's Bioeconomy," set for Feb. 24 in Charlotte from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The program will be hosted at three other locations in Michigan.

"Many farmers are interested in alternative energy, and they have lots of questions about various aspects of production and use," said Mark Seamon, Extension educator and MSU Product Center bioeconomy innovation counselor. "During this program, they'll hear an update on the status and potential of bioenergy projects in Michigan."

Chris Peterson, director of

the MSU Product Center, and Ruben Derderian, the center's associate director, will start the day with a look at the current status and future opportunities presented by Michigan's bioeconomy.

Additional topics include energy policy programs and grants, anaerobic digesters, biomass feedstocks, agronomic considerations, the sustainability of energy crops and woody biomass. Speakers will include MSU

Extension specialists and educators.

A local farmer may discuss farm-scale energy opportunities that he or she has successfully put to use. Participants will be able to ask the speakers questions.

The \$15 registration fee is due one week prior to the meeting and includes lunch and all materials.

To register for the Charlotte program, contact the Eaton County MSU Extension office.

Red Cross blood drive set for Thursday

The Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 1 to 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at Mulberry Gardens restaurant and banquet facility, 975 N.

Main St, Nashville. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in reasonably good health.

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Card of Thanks

CARD OF THANKS A big thank you to all the friends and relatives that provided food, flowers, cards, donations, support and prayers.

To the Eagles Aeries 3552 for the nice luncheon. To the American Legion for letting us use their hall.

A special thanks to Spartan Motors and employees for all their help and work to make Tim's wishes a reality. To Reverend Chuck Jensen for his hours of time spent with us at the hospital and for his services. To Pray Funeral Home for their help and services.

Tim always told the nurses he had wonderful friends. The Tim Gearhart Family

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Lion ladies fall below .500 with pair of league defeats

The Lions played well in the first quarter, and the third quarter, and actually outscored the Comets 35-33 in the second half.

That second half performance turned out to be too little too late, as Kalamazoo Christian's varsity girls' basketball team scored a 59-46 win over Maple Valley in Kalamazoo Valley Association action Friday night.

The loss drops the Lions to 6-7 on the season, and 5-6 in the KVA.

After trailing just 10-9 at the end of the first quarter, the Comets went on a 16-2 run in the second to take a 26-11 half-time lead and take control of the ball game.

"It was a lack of ball movement," said Maple Valley head coach Landon Wilkes of his team's second quarter struggles. "A lack of working together. That has seemed to be our main issue, working together as a team for a complete game."

The Lions did fight back in the second half. They had the Comet lead as low as three, but in the fourth

quarter the Comets took control back at the free throw line. They were 21-of-27 from the foul line for the night, and 11-of-13 in that fourth quarter.

Maple Valley was just 9-of-11 from the foul line all night.

"They went to the basket pretty strong, and got a lot of offensive rebounds, and did what they had to do," Wilkes said of the Comets. Mikaela Bromley led Maple Valley with nine points. Jennifer Kent, Elizabeth Stewart, and Leslee Rigelman had seven points each, and Shawndenae Rost had six.

Kalamazoo Christian got 16 points each from Emily Corning and Michelle Westerman.

For Bromley, it was the second game in a row that she's led the Lions' in scoring.

Bromley's recent offensive success is thanks to her having the confidence to shoot a little further away from the basket.

"She's just taking the open shots that she gets. She used to go to the basket a lot, and pass up the open eight-foot shot for a

contested two-footer. Now she's taking the open shots," Wilkes said.

Tuesday at Pennfield she led the Lions with 12 points. Kent chipped in ten and Stewart seven, but that wasn't enough offense as the Panthers scored a 44-38 KVA victory.

Maple Valley jumped in front 14-4 in the opening quarter and still led 24-18 at the half, but scored just 14 points the entire second half.

"We shot the ball very well the first two quarters," said Wilkes.

In the second half Pennfield picked up its play, doing a better job of getting the ball inside to its center Breanna Pelloni.

"We've got to learn to stop people," said Wilkes. "We've just got to learn to play lock down defense. That just comes from a hard work ethic and mental toughness."

Maple Valley has to head right back to the court today (Feb. 7), to take on Constantine. Tuesday the Lions host Schoolcraft, then next Friday they'll be home against Hackett Catholic Central.



Maple Valley's varsity competitive cheer team performs in round two Saturday afternoon at Battle Creek Central's Bearcat Competitive Cheer Invitational.

Lion cheer team hosts league championship meet Saturday

Maple Valley finished behind a trio of Southern Michigan Competitive Cheer Conference foes at Saturday's Bearcat Competitive Cheer Invitational hosted by Battle Creek Central High School.

The Lions finished fifth out of five teams in the Division 3 competition, behind leaguemates Delton Kellogg, Coloma, and Pennfield. The SMCCC will hold its final jamboree of the season this Wednesday at Delton Kellogg, then the Lions will host the league championship meet next Saturday (Feb. 21).

Delton Kellogg took the Division 3 championship at Battle Creek Central, scoring a total of 631.7160 points. Coloma was second with a score of 627.1270, followed by Napoleon 621.7688, Pennfield 581.7754, and Maple Valley 556.6230.

The Lions scored a 172.5 in round one, 155.1230 in round two, and a 229 in round three.

Delton had the best round one score in the competition, and that carried the Panthers to the championship despite being outscored by Coloma in each of the next two rounds. Delton

got a 199.9 in round one, 178.2160 in round two, and a 253.6 in round three. The Comets scored a 191.6 in round one, 178.6270 in round two, and 256.9 in round three.

The highest score in the four varsity competitions of the day came in Division 4, where Albion took the title with a total of 650.7874. Battle Creek Central won the Division 1 title at 646.3470, and Hastings won in Division 2 at 646.2804. Hastings' girls also won the junior varsity championship with a score of 565.5304.

Date of Wilcox visit moved to February 28

The date has been changed for the area's visit from former Detroit Tigers' pitcher Milt Wilcox.

He 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. 28.

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 five 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.

Lion boys score two tough losses in their conference

Maple Valley's varsity fell to 1-8 in the Kalamazoo Valley Association with a pair of league losses last week.

Pennfield scored a 59-43 victory over the visiting Lions Tuesday night.

The Panthers got 16 points from Derek Morris and 15 from Eric Johnson.

The number 17 stood out for the Lions. They scored just 17 points in the first half, as Pennfield raced out to a 31-17 edge by the break.

Dusting Houghton led the Lion team with 17 points. Jesse Bromley

chipped in nine points and four assists.

The number 17 is one the Lions would like to forget after Friday night. That's how many points they had all night, in a 70-17 loss at Kalamazoo Christian.

Maple Valley scored just three points in the first quarter, two in the second, five in the third, and seven in the fourth. The Comets had a 17 point lead after one quarter, 20-3.

Matt Hall and Kyle Fisher had four points each for the Lions.

Kalamazoo Christian

had 13 different players score in the ball game. Jordan DeHaan was the only one to reach double figures, finishing with 11. Jacob Ryske and Tyler DeKoekkoek had eight each. Three different players had seven points each for the Comets.

Maple Valley has to turn things around fast. They host Constantine tonight (Feb. 7), then will be back in action next week at home against Schoolcraft Tuesday and Hackett Catholic Central Friday night.

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Lions even their KVA mark at 3-3 by beating Pennfield

Maple Valley's varsity wrestling team will look to end the Kalamazoo Valley Association season with a winning dual meet record when it heads to Parchment to take on the Panthers this coming Wednesday night.

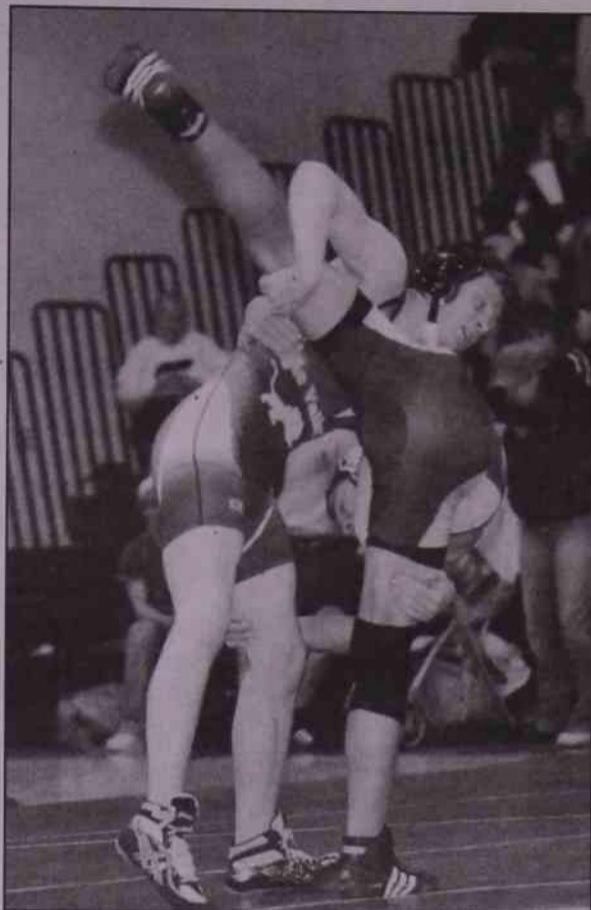
The KVA championship meet is Feb. 14 at Pennfield High School.

The Lions are 3-3 in the league now, after scoring a 42-24 win over Pennfield Wednesday night. Dansville, ranked third in the state in Division 4, scored a 52-24 win over the Lions in the nightcap.

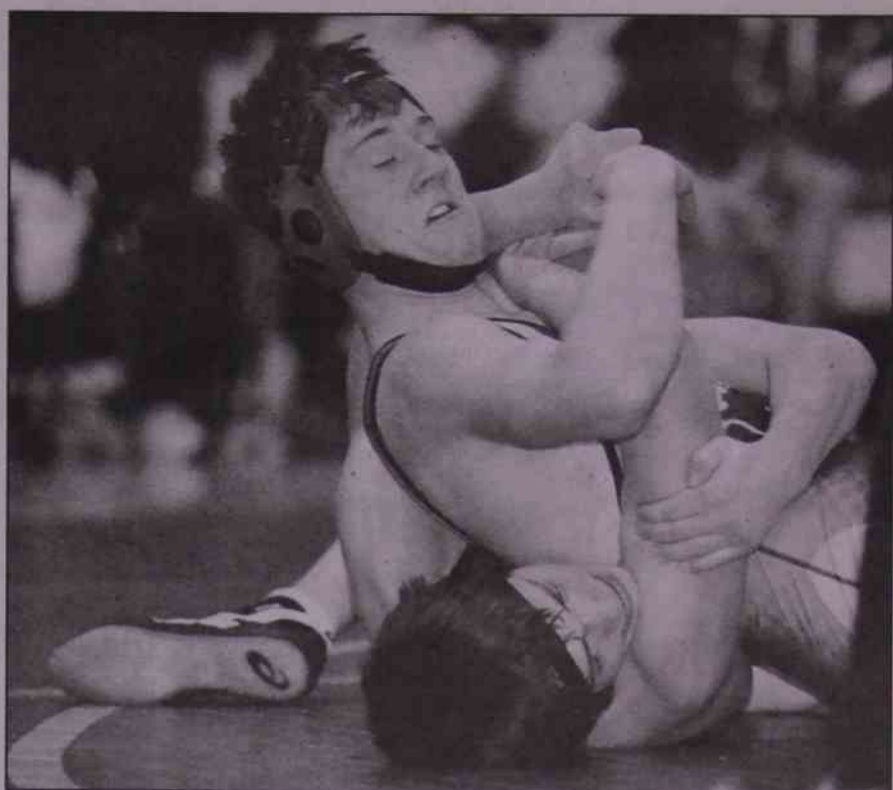
Zach Baird, Tyler Franks, Dusty Cowell, and Don Jensen were all 2-0 for the Lions on the evening.

The dual between the Lions and Panthers was tied at 15 halfway through. The two Lion heavyweights broke the tie with pins in the first minute of their matches. Cowell stuck Aaron Squires 53 seconds into their 215-pound match. Jensen, at 285, pinned Wade Willivize in 48 seconds.

Pennfield then forfeited the 103-pound weight class to Baird, and the Lions' Anthony Molson followed that up with a big 11-10 win over A.C. Putman in the 112-



The Lions' Tyler Franks (left) drives Pennfield's Tyler Mughey down to the mat during their 145-pound bout Wednesday. (Photo by Perry Hardin)



Maple Valley's James Samann (top) nears a third-period pin against Pennfield's Kyle Damerow in their 140-pound match Wednesday night. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

pound match which sealed the win.

In the dual, the Lions also got a pins from Cody Cruttenden at 130 pounds, Lucas Brumm at 140, and James Samann at 152. Tyler Franks scored a 5-3 win for the Lions in the 145-pound match against Tyler Mughey.

Pennfield had wins on the night from Josh Smith (119), Zack Case (125), Ray Hammer (135), Eric Clements (160), Seth Walter (171), and Kevin Wezensky (189).

Only three Lions scored wins in competition for their team against the Aggies.

Baird scored an 8-6 decision against Cole Ragon in the 103-pound bout. Jensen won 13-11 against Johnny Heinz at 285. At 145 pounds, Franks pinned Jacob Hause in 1:10.

Cowell won by forfeit at 215, as did Waylon Eaton in the 125-pound flight.

In the other nine matches, the Aggies scored seven pins and had one forfeit win. The lone Lion wrestler to go the distance in a loss was James Samann, who lost a major decision 15-7 against Andy Parsons at 152 pounds.

Luke Ragon (112), Cody Mulhollen (130), Ben Breslin (135), Kaleb Meyer (140), Blake Mayes (160), Grant Cooke (171), and Taylor Trim (189) scored pins for Dansville.

Legislative Coffee will be in Nashville Monday

The Barry County Chamber of Commerce will host a Legislative Coffee Monday, Feb. 9, at 8 a.m. at the Mulberry Gardens Banquet Hall at 975 N. Main St. in Nashville.

The public is invited to join this opportunity to meet

with state and federal officials to discuss current issues affecting the area. These coffees are free, informal and open to the public.

For further information, contact the chamber at 269-945-2454.

Girls fast-pitch softball league forming

The opportunity for players and communities to rally around summer fast-pitch softball is a reality through the editors of community coordinators.

Planners have been meeting from Maple Valley, Bellevue, Olivet, Potterville and Pennfield to bring another option to interested teams

in the area. A new league is forming for U10, U12 and U14 girls fastpitch in the local area.

The new league, Eaton County Softball, is a parent-driven grass-roots effort to bring a quality program to the area. The objectives in creating something local were to help provide working parents with closer games, provide a fun and competitive league to further the players' experience and to offset some of the pain facing families from high fuel costs.

In travel leagues, long distances are to be expected. In smaller communities, there is no option of playing another schools without a high registration cost. This league is offering a balance of the two.

Eaton County Softball aims to better prepare players for high school softball. The league offers a competitive program during the week, while allowing teams to register for area tournaments on the weekends to improve skills and increase

levels of play.

Whether a local team is a recreational league or a tournament team, the focus is to make softball fun for all players irrespective of their ability. Eaton County Softball is a league to promote softball for all girls and to encourage all girls to strive for a higher level of play.

If teams want to step out and play in a few tournaments for the experience, they should and are encouraged to do so. Eaton County Softball offers an end-of-season tournament as part of the league registration.

The new league would not be possible without the many volunteer parents bringing the players to games and working the concession stands. For more information, contact Ed Bartha at 269-763-3596 or Jody Franklin at 517-726-0387. General information and league registration can be found online at www.byronline.org by clicking Eaton County Softball.

Powerball tournament set for Wednesday

The Maple Valley High School junior and senior boys will face off in the annual powerball game at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the new gym as part of winter homecoming festivities. The winners will face a staff team in a play off for the championship.

All tickets are \$4. "The seniors are really looking forward to this game, since last year's event was canceled due to bad weather," said senior Jesse Bromley. "We plan to beat the juniors and this year's staff, as well, with style and ease."

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Center offering free session on winter golf conditioning

The Hayes Green Beach Wellness Center is offering its sixth annual golf workshop with customized golf conditioning programs through personal training, individual or group classes.

Free informational sessions will be held Thursday, Feb. 19. The first starts at 10:45 a.m. and the second is at 5:45 p.m. Both sessions will be held at the HGB wellness center and will feature PGA Golf Professional Ron English and Certified Personal Trainer Cheryl Jackson.

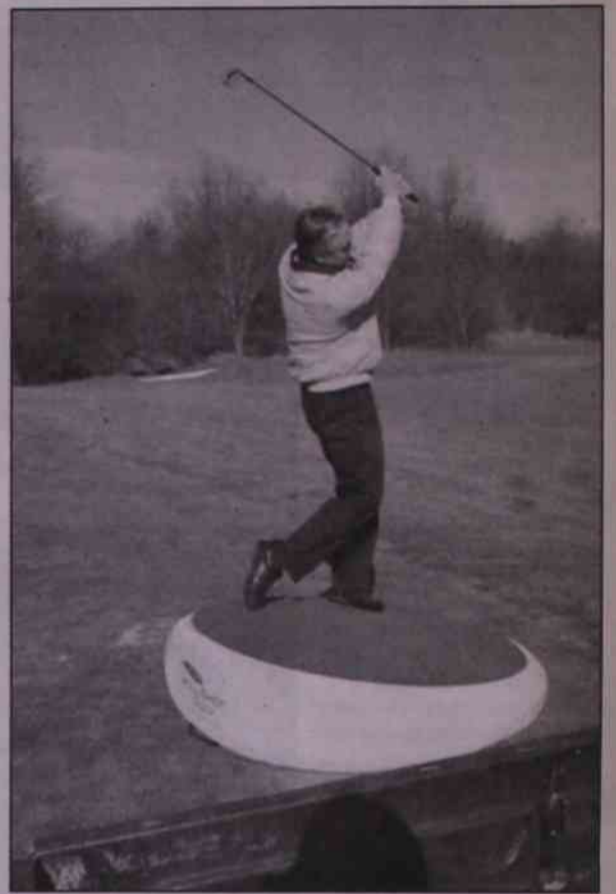
Those who sign up for the full program will join English and Jackson for eight weeks of structured, sport-specific golf exercises and lessons starting in March. Space is limited to 12 people.

Off-season conditioning is one of the most important variables in a golf game, according to Jackson. She explains that exercises to build cardiovascular endurance, strength, flexibility, balance and mental focus can improve a golf game.

"If you or someone you love is a golfer, consider adding golf conditioning in the pre-season months," said Jackson. "Pre-season programs are popular and extremely effective when conducted three months prior to hitting the links."

Jackson pointed out that professional golfers often incorporate specific exercises into their pre- and post-training regimens.

"We all get into repetitive



Golf professional Ron English demonstrates a golf swing.

movement patterns and over time, certain muscles become shorter and stronger, while opposing muscles may become longer and weaker. This creates muscle imbalances that lead to poor posture, injury, pain and decreased mobility. Proper exercise improves imbalances and leads to better posture alignment," said Jackson.

Previous workshop participant Lee Howser added, "I found golf conditioning helped me with balance in my stance and swing. I was pleasantly surprised how the exercises improved my core strength and the overall flexibility in my muscles."

To sign up for the free session on Feb. 19, call the HGB Wellness Center at 517-543-9575.

Olympic wrestler to give local clinic

Ken Chertow, a United States Olympic wrestler, will be at Maple Valley Jr./Sr. High School Thursday, Feb. 12. Chertow will run a practice with Maple Valley varsity, JV, junior high and youth wrestlers from 4 to 7 p.m. and then will hold a later session from 7 to 9 p.m. that is open to all area wrestlers.

Areas of instruction will include technique, set-ups, timing and combinations, mental preparation, nutrition, strength training, goal setting and more.

Chertow has performed at all levels, both as a competitor and a coach. After winning two state championships and Outstanding Wrestler awards, Chertow culminated his prep career by winning Junior Nationals in both freestyle and Greco at the Junior World Championship. While studying and training at Penn State, he was a three-time NCAA All-American, World Espoir Champion, Pan American Champion and 1988 U.S. Olympian. He also was a three-time Academic All-American, graduating

with a 3.6 GPA.

Chertow conducted summer day camps throughout college and started a training system upon graduation from Penn State in 1989. During Chertow's first five years conducting camps, he also coached at Ohio State and Penn State. During his three years at Ohio State, he helped build the Buckeyes' program. Ohio State finished fourth and fifth in the 1991 and 1992 NCAA Championships, respectively, the program's best finishes in school history.

Chertow returned to Penn State in 1992 and joined the Nittany Lion coaching staff. His team won the national dual meet championship and was second in the NCAA Championships, PSU's best finish since 1953.

In 1994, Chertow left college coaching to focus his time and energy on helping young people through his local wrestling school and to devote more time to developing his camp system.

Chertow's summer camp draws and develops many champions. From 1998 to

2008, high school campers won 500-plus state championships, while younger campers won more than 250 AAU, NHSCA, and USA National Championships.

Chertow conducts clinics throughout the country, has produced a series of instructional videos, and is the broadcast analyst for College Sports Television (CSTV). Chertow has also written a motivational book entitled, *Wrestling: A Commitment to Excellence*.

For more information, or to register for the Chertow clinic to be held at Maple Valley, call Coach Gary Pearson at 517-852-9275.

Call anytime for Maple Valley News classified ads...
269-945-9554 or 1-800-870-7085