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Nashville makes final amendments to 2008-09 budget

With two council members absent, Trustees Jack Holden and Laurie Austhof, the Nashville Village Council voted unanimously to approve amended activity budget for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

The amended budget showed a \$121,641 increase in general fund receipts while general fund expenditures increased \$95,674. That leaves a final general fund balance of \$389,339, which is \$25,967 more than projected when the budget was first approved in February 2008.

The beginning total fund balance in February 2008

was \$944,805. Total receipts were projected to be \$1,340,928, but in the final amended budget showed an increase of \$111,102. However, total expenditures rose from the \$1,248,790 projected a year ago by \$262,890, decreasing the fund balance \$151,788 for an ending total fund balance of \$855,155.

Increases in general fund expenditures were seen in the following items: administrator \$2,562; buildings and grounds \$9,200; cemetery \$223; department of public works \$30,100; sidewalks \$21; locally administered streets \$9,015; street

lights \$5,000; parks department \$3,387; fringes \$7,350; unemployment \$3,000; and miscellaneous \$54,556.

General fund expenditures were reduced in the following areas and amounts: Governing body \$725; audit \$420; elections \$475; attorney \$5,500; police \$8,498; planning commission \$10,350; zoning board \$674; Putnam District Library \$1,356; and retirement \$700.

Areas of the 2008-09 activity budget that saw increases in their ending fund balances were the cemetery \$381, memorial fund \$148, the newly established DDA fund \$200, and

sewer \$3,332. Areas of the budget that had decreases in the ending fund balance were: major streets \$56,167 less, local streets \$101,233 less and water \$24,416 less.

In other business, the village council:

- Unanimously approved a new policy for the Nashville Police Department regarding the use of the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN).
- Accepted a bid of \$515 from Paul Kesler for the purchase of wood from trees removed from village property. Kesler has 90 days to remove the wood as long as

it is done in a consistent and timely manner.

- Heard comments from the Nashville Syrup Association regarding its desire to tap the sugar maples lining the roads in Lakeview Cemetery.

Members of the association said they would tap only trees along the road, with buckets only on the side of the trees facing the road. Four-wheel drive equipment would be used, and only adults would gather the sap in the cemetery in order to minimize any potential damage to the roads. Any damage incurred while tapping trees or gathering sap would

be repaired by the association.

Council Trustee Mike Kenyon said that there had been many complaints about tapping trees in the cemetery in the past and that is why the practice was stopped.

Trustee Sandra Lundquist said she thought that the village should allow the association to tap the trees in the cemetery as long as families who had loved ones buried near the trees did not object. If family members object then the trees in question would not be tapped.

Vermontville Township cancels dust control

by Amy Jo Parish

At its regularly scheduled meeting Monday night, the Vermontville Township Board moved to cancel the last dust control treatment of this fiscal year. Joanne Nehmer made the motion to cancel the \$18,000 treatment.

"I would like to propose canceling all dust control and put that \$18,000 towards the ambulance," said Nehmer. "We've already done away with one dust control, and if people want dust control, they can have it for \$75 for 200 feet (from the county)."

Since the ambulance

budget is part of the general fund budget, the money would be put back into the general fund which raised some concerns for Board Trustee Brian Moore.

"I just feel funny telling people that they're going to lose dust control and telling them it's going into the

ambulance, but it's just going into the general fund," said Moore.

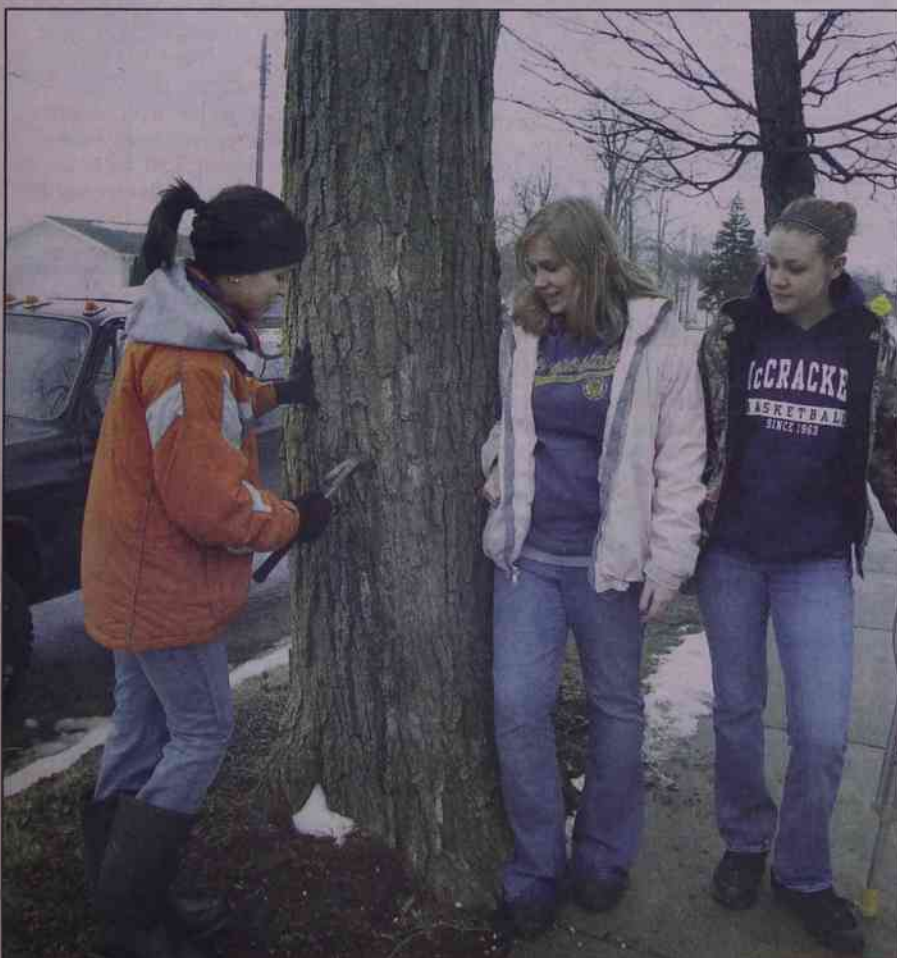
Under the advisement of audience member Joe Harvey, Township Supervisor Jack Owen said that no formal motion would have to be made on the decision and the change could be

made without a vote. If dust control is canceled completely for the next fiscal year, \$30,000 would be available in the budget for use in the general fund.

At the meeting, the board also approved offering contracts for fire and ambulance service to Kalama

Township. The two townships have been negotiating the amounts of the contracts for several months. The revised fire contracts include a 4.4 percent increase, an increase of the alarm dispatch fee to \$600 from \$500

TOWNSHIP, continued on page 5



It's Tree-Tapping Time

It's a sure sign that spring is just around the corner when metal buckets start seem to sprout from the sides of the sugar maple trees lining the streets of Vermontville. Among the many volunteers helping to tap trees are (from left) 2009 Vermontville Maple Syrup Queen Arrianna Perez and court members Shauna Frailey and Kayla Shaw.

Complaint lodged against township trustee

by Amy Jo Parish

A confrontation at the Feb. 19 meeting of the Vermontville Township Fire and Ambulance Board has resulted in a report filed with the Eaton County Sheriff's Department against Vermontville Township Trustee Blair Miller.

At the meeting, Miller referenced a study completed by the board concerning changing the boundaries of ambulance coverage. Under the proposed change, Charlotte Ambulance Service coverage area would extend to the Barry County line.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, audience member Marcia Grant requested a copy of that study through the Freedom of Information Act.

"When public comment came about, I said I would like to request a copy of the study that was discussed at the last township board meeting concerning changing the boundaries, giving total ALS (advanced life support ambulance service) to Charlotte," said Grant. "The (fire and ambulance) board said they didn't know

of any study being done. They had talked about numbers, but there had not been physical study."

After Grant's comments, Miller spoke about the study he had mentioned.

"It was my turn to speak to respond to some accusations that people were making," said Miller. "I was making a rebuttal and had to raise my voice over Marcia Grant's. I was asked to lower my voice."

Grant said she did interrupt Miller while he was speaking but it was in direct relation to what was being said.

"He started talking about

Don (her husband) and Marcia Grant, and I said it has nothing to do with Don. This is my FOIA request," said Grant. "Because I interrupted him, he started yelling and asking the board chair (Tim James), 'Are you going to let her interrupt me?' Tim then told Blair that he would have to lower his voice or leave."

Grant filed a complaint with the Eaton County Sheriff's office on Wednesday of this week concerning the incident. Though the sheriff's office

COMPLAINT, continued on page 6

In This Issue...

- HGB HealthFest next weekend
- Modeling strategies used in Fuller Street classrooms
- Residents can join the Zumba party
- Sugaring off party marks start of syrup season
- Lions get Jensen and Miller through tough district

Swipe or swap gently used books March 7

Saturday, March 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. Grace Community Church at 8950 E. M-79 Highway in Nashville will host the first of a series of "Book Swipe and Swaps."

Because March is "Reading Month" the church's children's ministry team will hold a series of book swaps throughout the month of March in addition to next Saturday's event.

Scheduled swaps will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 9; 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 21; and 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 23.

Anyone with books at home that have been read only a few times and are still in good condition may bring in their books and swap them for someone else's books. Those who do not have books to bring in may still

visit and select some books to take home. There is no cost for the books; this is a free community event.

There will be books for adults, teens and children and a chance to enter a drawing for popular book series giveaways.

For more information, call Grace Community Church 517-852-1783.



HGB personnel test blood sugar levels of a HealthFest participant.

Eaton board calls for smoke-free work places

In an effort to eliminate the adverse effects of secondhand smoke on workers and patrons, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution Feb. 18 encouraging all workplaces, including bars and restaurants in the county, to voluntarily go smoke-free.

The resolution was presented in support of a Bary-Eaton District Health Department campaign that will be focusing on the business and health benefits of providing smoke-free workplaces.

The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that secondhand smoke contributes to heart disease and lung cancer,

and recent research shows it also causes cognitive impairment in children and adults.

Since air-cleaning technologies cannot completely control exposure to secondhand smoke, the only effective way to prevent exposure in the workplace is to prohibit smoking altogether.

The Barry-Eaton District Health Department, supported by a grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health, will be working with local bar and restaurant owners to help them make the business decision to go smoke-free.

The board of commissioners and the health department

view this partnership as a means to make Eaton County a healthier, more family-friendly place to live, work and play by improving the community's health as a whole.

Two from area make CMU honors list

Central Michigan University's fall semester honors list includes two local students, Brianna Ferrier and Kyle Pash, both of Nashville.

To be named to the honor's list, students had to earn 3.5 grade point average or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Annual HGB HealthFest coming next weekend

It's back — the Hayes Green Beach HealthFest. The family-friendly event that provides health information, screenings and resources takes place from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 7, at Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital in Charlotte.

Community members will enjoy free health screenings, interactive activities, chair massages and the latest information on health and wellness. More than 50 stations will provide interaction with clinical specialists, local organizations and support groups, as well as activities for children. The event is open to the public and free of charge. Information will be available and updated regularly at www.hgbhealth.com.

Activities range from skin cancer and blood sugar screenings to lab draws and information about diabetes, nutrition, cancer, physical fit-

ness and smoking-cessation, among many other topics.

Caricature artists and storytellers will entertain families and children, who can also participate in hands-on activities. The Charlotte Police Department will be on hand with the canine unit to demonstrate how the dogs are trained to sniff out drugs and other dangerous materials.

Some screenings require pre-registration. Call HGB at 517-541-5950 or sign up online at hgbhealth.com.

HGB is also adding a new feature this year. After HealthFest, the Charlotte Fire Department and Charlotte-Area Emergency Medical Services will team up for a demonstration on how they help vehicle crash victims after an accident. Personnel will extricate simulated patients from a damaged vehicle using equipment such as the Jaws of Life and show

how the patients might be treated for their injuries.

After the demonstration, tours of the ambulance, fire truck and equipment will be available.

Once again, HGB will have local high school artists, who provide artwork that reflects their visions of healthy behaviors and their community. Their creative projects will be on display throughout the HealthFest venue.

Nashville man on Iowa dean's list

Fred Koning III of Nashville has been named to the 2008 fall dean's list at Upper Iowa University in Fayette, Iowa.

To be honored, undergraduates must have earned a minimum 3.50 GPA for the semester and be enrolled full-time.



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<p>ABUNDANT GRACE WORLD OUTREACH CENTER <i>Come as you are but don't leave the same.</i> 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) Vermontville, MI 49096 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>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 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>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 UNITED METHODIST 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>PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARRYVILLE 6043 E. M-79 Highway, 4 miles west of Nashville (cor. M-79 & Barryville Rd.) Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. Other: Prayer Walk, U.M. Women, Bible Study, Mission Projects & more. PASTOR SUSAN OLSEN Phone 517-852-1993 IGNITING MINISTRY Open Hearts—Open Minds—Open Doors</p>			
<p>QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH M-79 West Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. PASTOR KENNETH VAUGHT (616) 945-9392</p>			
<p>SOUTH KALAMO CHURCH Corner of Kalamo Highway & Ionia Rd. Sunday A.M. Worship 10:30 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening at 6 p.m.: PASTOR JEFF SWIFT (517) 852-9154</p>			
<p>ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 203 N. State, Nashville Sunday Mass 9:45 a.m. FATHER AL RUSSELL A mission of St. Rose Catholic Church, Hastings</p>			
<p>VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH 250 N. Main St., Vermontville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m. Wed. Evening Service 6:30 p.m. AWANA 6:30-8 p.m. Wed. PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH</p>			
<p>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>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>			

Modeling strategies used in Fuller Street classrooms

Rose Dunham, a reading teacher and instructional consultation team facilitator is now teaching "reading tips" in Fuller Street Elementary classrooms.

Earlier this year, students took a note home to their parents or guardians promoting the use of the reading tips at home. The tips include:

- To develop listening, responding, and comprehension, parents are encouraged to read to their children daily. After a parent reads a paragraph, they may say to the child, "tell me what I read." When students are unable to respond to "tell me what I read," parents should ask who, what, when, where, why questions from the story.

- Students also are asked to read aloud to adults at home. After reading a paragraph, students may say, "let me tell you what I read."

- To become fluent readers, students need to use three cueing systems: meaning, structure and visual cues. When students mispronounce a word to cue meaning, parents can ask, "Does that make sense?" To cue language, parents may

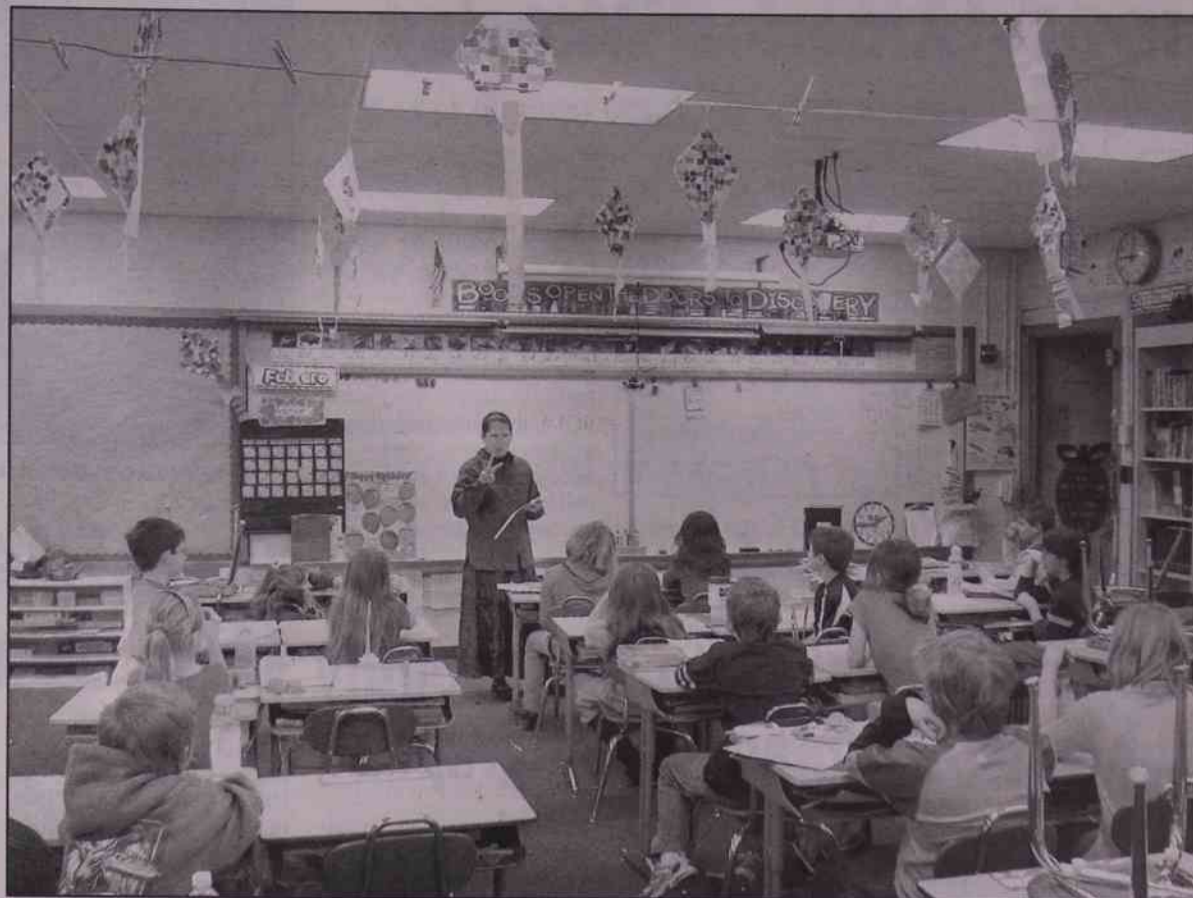
ask, "Does that sound right?" And, to cue visual clues, parents might ask, "Does that look right?"

- When choosing books, parents are encouraged to use an "instructional match formula," which has three key components.

The first is frustration level. A child should be able to read a book alone with 93 percent accuracy, which means the child would know all but seven out of every 100 words. The second component is instructional level. When a child reads with the help of an adult, he or she should know all but four to seven words, meaning they should be able to read it with 93 to 96 percent accuracy.

The third component is independence level. A good book for a child to read alone is one that he or she can read with 97 to 100 percent accuracy. Working at a child's instructional level allows for a high rate of on-task behavior, task completion and comprehension.

Optimal learning conditions are present at this level, said Dunham. If parents are unsure what level book to choose for their child a



Fuller Street Elementary reading instructor Rose Dunham teaches three cue reading strategies to Amy Billings' third grade class.



teacher or librarian could offer assistance.

Other factors affecting learning are age and working memory capacity. According to studies cited by Dunham, children can only hold a certain amount of new information in their minds at one time. For example, according to a study, generally a 3-year-old can learn one new piece of information at a time; a 5-year-old two; a 7-year-old three; a 9-year-old four, and 11-year-old five, a 13-year-old six and a 15-year-old seven new things, and so on.

"When a student practices the number of items out of

their working memory capacity, they don't learn anything," said Dunham, "by this I mean that a 7-year-old's working memory is three new items. If the

seven-year old practices or is taught five, six, or seven new items, the student doesn't even learn the three

FULLER, continued on page 6

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These third graders take turns reading and responding using, "Tell me what I read."

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HealthFest weekend

Nashville man Iowa dean's list

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517-726-1506

VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH
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Worship Service
8:00 AM
Prayer & Fellowship
517-726-1506

VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
150 N. Main
Sunday 10:00 AM
Worship Service
8:00 AM
Prayer & Fellowship
517-726-1506

Michigan students to 'read across America' Monday

Sneetches, Horton and Yertle the Turtle team up to help

Thousands of Michigan students will pick up a favorite book to celebrate the 12th annual National Education Association's Read Across America Day Monday, March 2.

Many will also get a special surprise. From Cat in the Hat to Thing One and Thing Two, beloved characters from Dr. Seuss books may visit local schools to help kick off the fun.

Read Across America, which always falls on or around Dr. Seuss's birthday, expects more than 45 million

readers, both young and old, to stop what they're doing

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

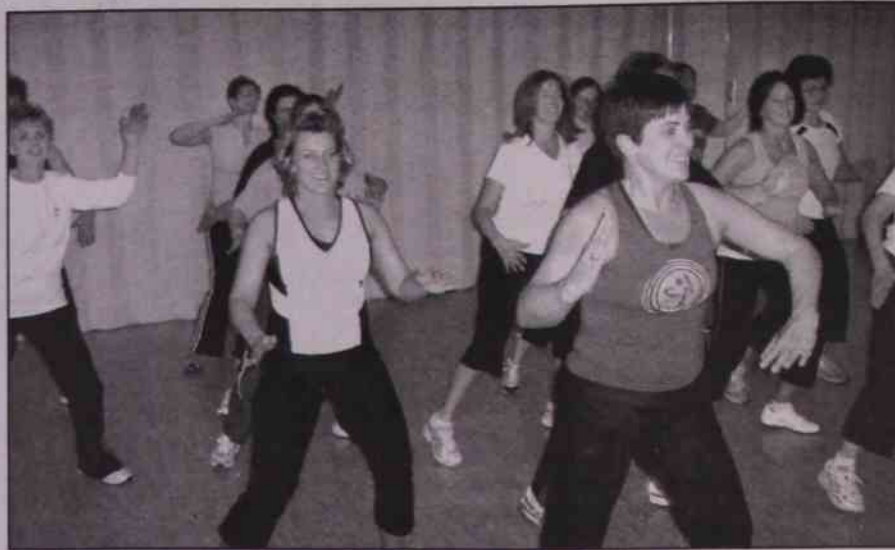
— Dr. Theodore Seuss

and read. The day honors the good doctor and encourages students to begin a lifelong love of reading.

Events around Michigan are designed to bring reading to life and teach valuable lessons.

Lakewood Public Schools will serve green eggs and ham for lunch. And the Cat in the Hat and his friends, the Things, will delight students in Manistee. In Grosse Pointe Park, Dr. Seuss's King Yertle will face a fifth grade jury in a mock trial, and the Sneetches will toss beach balls to kindergartners to encourage inclusion.

For more information on special events, contact Kerry Birmingham at 248-421-7222.



Hayes Green Beach fitness instructor Cheryl Jackson leads a Zumba class.

Residents can join the Zumba party

Didn't get in on one of the first Zumba classes at Hayes Green Beach? Due to the popularity of the routine, there will be another chance this spring.

Free Zumba samplers held at the Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital Wellness Center during the Christmas holiday season were packed with people of all ages wanting to discover what the fitness craze is all about, said Dawn Rodman, director of the HGB Wellness Center.

"Since the new year, Zumba fitness has infiltrated the Charlotte community, leaving participants wanting more," she explained.

"I have enjoyed every minute of the first six weeks in the current session. Zumba is a great workout. It's fun, fun, fun," said Jill Wright. "Having participated in group exercise fitness programs for more than two decades, I needed variety. I totally enjoy the rhythms of the international and Latin music. Zumba fitness classes are not overloaded with choreography, so everyone can focus on having fun."

Twenty-year-old Kylie Allen says Zumba fitness is a unique alternative to regular cardio exercise. As a member of the wellness center, Allen can enjoy Zumba for free as part of her membership.

"I enjoy the cross-training opportunity the Zumba cardio fitness classes provide me. I have fun while getting healthy," said Allen, "and it's something different than the treadmill and elliptical machines."

Certified personal trainer and Zumba fitness instructor Cheryl Jackson talks about the excitement Zumba has brought to the wellness center and the community.

"I honestly view Zumba as a great gateway to exercise for people who have not previously embraced exercising. Classes are full with people of all fitness levels. Currently, the participants range from their late teens to over 70 ...

truly unbelievable," said Jackson. "As a fitness coach, I give friendly reminders before the class starts to encourage participants to keep the workout appropriate to his or her current fitness level so it can be effective and safe."

"There are movements where your heart rate soars and your balance and coordination are challenged, but it's always to music and it's always fun," added Jackson. "Both men and women enjoy the relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere. No dance talent is needed for Zumba, trust me."

Bill Prahler, Potterville resident, said he enjoys

Zumba because he "can't fail."

"I really enjoy that there's no right or wrong way to do Zumba," said Prahler.

HGB is adding more Zumba offerings to its group exercise classes starting in March. Instructors Kim Kaminski and Becky Toozio will be teaching the two new sessions: an early morning, before-the-workday-starts class and a late Friday afternoon, "TGIF" class.

For more information on Zumba and other group fitness classes at the HGB Wellness Center, call 517-543-9575 or visit www.hgbhealth.com.

Community asked to help identify subjects of vintage photographs

Last week *The Maple Valley News* ran a story about a cache of photographs, newspapers, books

vating the former Masonic lodge in downtown Nashville.

This week, the staff at *The Maple Valley News* is asking for help identifying the sub-

jects of six vintage photographs found in the attic of the lodge. Anyone who may



Unidentified man 1



Unidentified man 2



Unidentified woman 1



Unidentified woman 2



Unidentified man 3



Unidentified man 4

and other items that were discovered by volunteers from The Revue theater group while they were reno-

UNIDENTIFIED, continued on page 6

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Thank goodness for Goodman.

'Eat Smart, Play Hard' topic of Family Workshop in Nashville

Laura Anderson, a registered dietitian with Barry County's Michigan State University Extension, will help people discover ways to feed their families smart and

economically during the Family Workshop Series in March. She will be at Fuller Street Elementary in Nashville at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 2. A pizza

dinner and child care are provided. Registration is needed.

"You already know that healthy eating is important for the entire family," Anderson said. "As parents, we can help our children make powerful choices. Teaching them healthy habits is a gift they will use for life. Making sure that our children and family are eating healthy foods is not always an easy task."

Anderson will be giving four presentations around the county in March. In addition to Nashville, she will be at Delton Kellogg Elementary School March 9, First Baptist Church in Middleville March 16, and First Baptist Church in Hastings March 23. All workshops begin at 5:30 with a pizza dinner and child care. Registration is needed. Call the Child Abuse Prevention Council at 269-948-3264 to register.

She has been an Extension educator in the county for seven years. Her background as a registered dietitian has enabled her to educate the community about healthy food choices and the importance of physical fitness to promote a healthy lifestyle. Anderson has worked with area elementary schools, teaching students about good nutrition and healthy food choices through interactive lessons. She also oversees the Family Nutrition Program, which works with families, helping them to plan menus, budget food dollars and eat healthier on a budget.

"Over nine million children over the age of six are considered obese. In the past three decades obesity rates for children between age 6-11 years has tripled. With these statistics and the economy in a tailspin, it is more important than ever to offer opportunities for families to learn about how to eat smart and play hard economically," Anderson said.

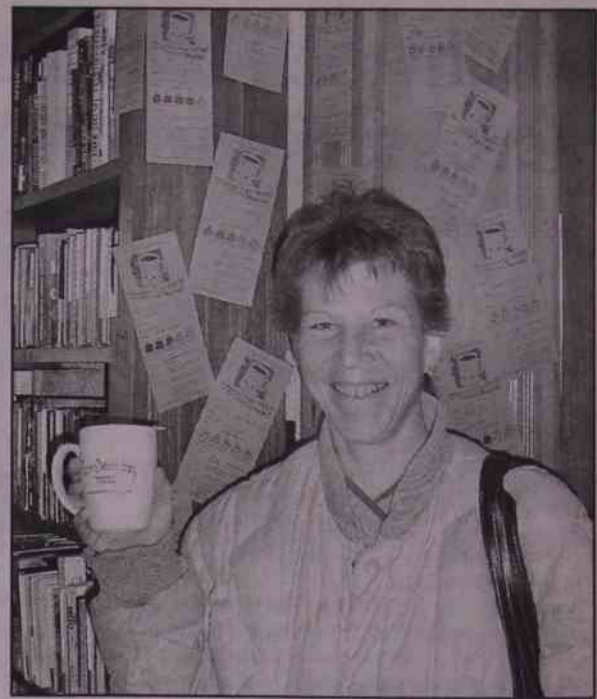
"This workshop will bring a wealth of information to the community on how to make the necessary adjustments in order to eat healthier as a family and increase physical fitness and make it a regular part of the family lifestyle.

"We all know deep down that planning and making healthy meals shows our love for our families and gives them hope for a good future. Participants will learn how to plan quick, healthy and inexpensive meals using foods from every food group. For parents having difficulty getting their kids to eat right, this program will explore some tips and tools to make meal time easier," she said.

"Grocery shopping can be very stressful at times especially when we take our kids. But with a plan in hand, this task can take less time and save you money as we discuss ways to make it more manageable. We will talk about planning ahead, making a list and how to involve the kids in the experience of shopping for food.


"New studies are showing the vital importance of physical fitness for not only kids but also adults. Physical activity in adults revitalizes the brain and helps to prevent deterioration as adults age as well as keeping the body healthy and strong," Anderson said. "Physical activity for kids keeps their growing bodies healthy and helps to build necessary muscle and bone strength while keeping the heart (a muscle) strong for pumping blood throughout the body. We will look at different forms of physical activity that can be incorporated into the family structure as a regular routine.

"We can help our children make powerful choices and create healthy habits to last them a lifetime."



Reading has many rewards

The winter reading program "Warm Up With a Good Book" continues at Putnam District Library. Lisa Trumble shows the Putnam District Library coffee mug she earned by reading and rating books using the bookmarks shown hanging behind her. The reading program is open to teens and adults and continues through March 28. Contact the library 517-852-9723 for more information.



Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Hearty Menu Monday, March 2

Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered carrots, applesauce, dinner roll.

Tuesday, March 3

Baked chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans, tropical fruit, dinner roll.

Wednesday, March 4

Hearty chili, winter blend vegetables, peach cobbler, corn muffin.

Thursday, March 5

Hawaiian meatballs, white rice, cauliflower, diced beets, apple.

Friday, March 6

Macaroni and cheese, California blend, vegetables, cherry cobbler.

Cold Menu Monday, March 2

Tuna salad, pea and peanut salad, mandarin oranges, wheat bread.

Tuesday, March 3

Roast beef and Swiss cheese, carrot and raisin salad, pineapple and mandarin oranges, wheat bread.

Wednesday, March 4

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

Thursday, March 5

Turkey and Swiss cheese, potato salad, mixed fruit, wheat bread.

Friday, March 6

Seafood pasta salad, tomato salad, fruit compote, graham crackers.

Activities Calendar

Monday, March 2: Hastings - March Birthday Party; Music with Sam; Crafts 10:30 a.m.; Card Making 12:30 p.m.; Mini Massage 9-2 p.m. H,W,N- Reminiscence. Delton - Bingo

Tuesday, March 3: Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Kinship Info Series 1:30 p.m. Internet Safety. GL - 10:30-12:30 Cards.

Wednesday, March 4: Hastings - Bible Study 12:30 p.m.; Music with Sam; Nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m. Delton - Mini Massage 11 a.m.; Reminiscence.

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

Friday, March 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 - Mini Massage 11 a.m.; Visiting.

TOWNSHIP, continued from page 1

for five hours and \$120 per hour after that and an increase to \$150 for each medical service support run the fire department completes in which they do not transport any patients.

The township also approved a contract for ambulance service to Kalamo Township with a 4.4 percent increase. Owen made the motion to offer the contract at 4.4 percent after Kalamo turned down an offer of contract from Vermontville Township at the rate of 5.8 percent. The motion failed with Blair Miller, Joanne Nehmer and Sharon Stewart casting dissenting votes. Kalamo

Township will now have a chance to review the contract again at the 5.8 percent and vote whether to accept the increase in charges.

The next township board meeting will be held March 26 at 7 p.m. in the Vermontville Opera House.

Peas in a Pod

Child Care & Pre-School

Open Enrollment for 2009-2010
Preschool Classes Begins March 2, 2009
• Preschool Classes will run from September 2009 to May 2010

Offering 2 Preschool Classes

- 2 1/2 - 3 year olds: Tue & Thur 9-11:30am
- 4 year olds: Mon, Wed, Fri 9-11:30am

\$40 registration fee reserves your child's spot in class

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SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Maple Valley Elementary Lunch Menu

Monday, March 2

Chili/crackers. Potato wedge, pineapple, brownie.

Tuesday, March 3

Reading Awareness. Letter shaped nuggets. Mashed potatoes, peaches, letter shaped snacks.

Wednesday, March 4

Kdg.-1st snack lunches. Cheesie bred sticks. Spaghettios, carrot sticks, peaches.

Thursday, March 5

Fuller Cottage Inn. Pizza Hot Pocket. Tossed salad, pears, animal crackers.

Friday, March 6

Macaroni and cheese. Green beans, fruit cocktail, cookie.
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, March 2

Cheesie bread sticks, spaghetti, applesauce, Salad Bar.

Tuesday, March 3

Grilled cheese. Tomato soup, peaches. Burger/chicken bar.

Wednesday, March 4

Chicken tenders. Mashed potatoes/gravy, apple crisp. Mini bar.

Thursday, March 5

Kellogg Cottage Inn. Chili w/corn bread. Whole kernel corn, pears. Mexican bar.

Friday, March 6

Pizza sticks. Veg. medley, mandarin oranges. 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.

FULLER, continued from page 3

things he or she could have learned."

Dunham added that the studies also showed that age determines how long a child can focus on a particular task. To determine how long a child can stay focused, simply add two to the child's age. For example: a 5-year-old can focus on a task seven minutes, a 6-year-old eight minutes, a 7-year-old, nine minutes, and so on.

Finally, children learn new information through repetition. The number of repetitions are determined by the age and learning ability of the individual child. For example a 7-year-old would need to practice his or her three new pieces of information 25 to 55 times — 25 times if learning comes easy, 55 if learning is more diffi-

cult for that child. A practical application would be if a 7-year-old is presented with a list of 12 spelling words on Monday, optimally he or she would practice three new words that night after school (approximately nine minutes for each word) then add three more the next night, and so on until all 12 words are learned, said Dunham.

Sources: *Instructional Match-Betts, E. A. (1957) Foundations of Reading Instruction New York, American Book Company, Working Memory and Time on Task-Edward E. Gickling Ph.D. Instructional Assessment Consultant, Repetitions-Gates, A. I. (1930) Interest and Ability in Reading, New York, MacMillan.*

COMPLAINT, continued from page 1

took the complaint, they said no formal investigation would be done since it involved a verbal assault with no direct threat to person or property.

Local resident Tony Fayner attended the Monday night Vermontville Township board meeting and also raised concerns about the study referenced by Blair.

"I asked Blair specifically after the meeting (on Feb. 19) if as the township representative, would he get me a copy of the study. He refused and suggested I call around to Charlotte and other agencies. I did so and they don't know about any study," said Fayner.

In the minutes from the meeting, both Miller and James addressed the issue off

the contended study.

"Miller stated that he did not make up the numbers for the response times which the fire board looked at to make its recommendation to the township. The numbers came from the EMS director and fire chief," according to the minutes. "James stated that the term 'study' is misleading, and that no formal study was done. The FOIA request to be forwarded to the township as no formal study was done by the fire board."

Miller said he is open to any questions or concerns residents may have.

"I look forward to answering any of these stories that are going around town about me," said Miller. "You always have to consider the source and who's got an ax to grind."

Area Obituaries

Marvel J. Cooper

NASHVILLE - Marvel J. (Tyler) Cooper age 70 of Nashville, died Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009 at her residence after a long illness.

Marvel was born Oct. 25, 1938 in Windsor Township, Eaton County, the daughter of Lawrence and Eleanor (Cole) Tyler and had lived most of her life in the Nashville, Charlotte and Olivet areas. She was a 1956 graduate of Charlotte High School.

Surviving are, her husband of 50 years, James A. Cooper; daughter, Bonnie (Michael) Silsbee of Nashville; son, Frank Cooper of Lynnville, TN; six grandchildren, Randy, Jason and Michelle Silsbee, Malinda (Clint) Pape, Barry and Lauren Cooper; two great grandchildren, Macie and Charlotte Pape; four brothers, DeWayne (Nancy) Tyler of Charlotte, Larry (Bonnie) Tyler of New Port Richey, FL, Lyle (Irma) Tyler of Lansing and Gareth (Alicia) Tyler of Olivet; three sisters, Leona Martens of Lakeview, Marilyn (Darrell) Clements of Bellevue and Karen (Darrel) Reid of South



Carolina. She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters, Arlene, Donna and Carol and brothers, Lowell, Daniel and Neal.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009 at the Burkhead-Green Funeral Home, Charlotte with Pastor Michael Fuller and Pastor David Ames officiating. Interment will be in the Wilcox Cemetery in Maple Grove Township.

Visitation will be held from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may go to the family.

UNIDENTIFIED, continued from page 4

know the identity of the men and women in these photographs is asked to call Sandra at 269-945-9554 or e-mail sandra@j-adgraphics.com.

Also, anyone having information about the building (when it was built, by whom,

etc.), which also served as a furniture store and funeral parlor prior to being bought by the Masons is asked to share what they know. The information will be used for an upcoming story in *The Maple Valley News*.

50% OFF TAX PREPARATION

Liberty Tax Service will charge you half of what it cost to have your taxes done last year. That means if you paid \$100 last year, we'll only charge you \$50. Just bring in last year's tax preparation bill along with your records for the current year, and we'll not only save you 50% off the preparation price, we'll offer you a money-back guarantee. Come see the professionals at Liberty Tax Service today. For first-time customers only. Valid 3/1-3/31 at participating locations only. Must present coupon. Not valid with other offers.



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Sugaring-off party marks the start of maple syrup season

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

The basement of the First Congregational Church of Vermontville was filled to overflowing on Feb. 26 for the annual sugaring-off party.

The evening began with a potluck supper that couldn't be beat, and Eugene Fisher welcomed everyone to the community event that marks the start of the maple syrup season.

Honored guests of the evening were the young ladies on the Vermontville Maple Syrup Queen's court including queen Arrianah Perez. Along with the m was an honorary member of the court, Monte O'Dell, who wore a paper sash and crown.

Some of the maple syrup producers have already started collecting sap and some are ready to begin boiling off.

The sugaring-off party has been held since the 1960s.

While everyone was dining, Larry and Karen Haigh



Everyone had a chance to show off their candy-making techniques during the sugaring-off party. (Photo by Elena Gormley)



Kayla Shaw and Queen Arrianah Perez attended the annual sugaring-off party which is the start of the maple syrup season in Vermontville. (Photo by Elena Gormley)

SUGARING OFF, continued
next page

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Putnam seeks local crafters

In recognition of March as National Craft Month, Putnam District Library in Nashville invites area residents to display their creations throughout the month.

All residents are welcome to participate and should contact Library Director Shauna Swantek 517-852-9723 or putnamlibrary.director@yahoo.com for more information or to arrange to drop off their work.

The craft club meets at the library 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays; all are welcome to attend.

Pennock

Partner

When You Speak, We Listen

As part of the process of planning the future of health care in Barry County, we are examining national trends and issues specific to our area. Your opinion, as a member of this community, is very important to us as we solidify our plans. We invite you to attend one of the following meetings to contribute your thoughts and ideas regarding the use of the current hospital property.



Location

- Hastings Penneck Conference Center, 1009 W. Green St.
- Hastings Penneck Health & Wellness Center, 1005 W. Green St.
- Hastings Commission on Aging, 320 W. Woodlawn Ave.
- Hastings Hastings Public Library, 227 E. State St.
- Nashville Putnam Public Library, 327 N. Main St.
- Delton Delton District Library, 330 N. Grove St.
- Woodland/Lake Odessa Lakewood Middle School, 8699 E. Brown Rd.
- Middleville TK Middle School, 10375 Green Lake Rd.

Date/Time

- Feb. 17, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 19, 9:00 a.m.
- Feb. 19, 2:30 p.m.
- Feb. 26, 4:00 p.m.
- March 2, 5:00 p.m.
- March 3, 7:00 p.m.
- March 9, 7:00 p.m.
- March 10, 7:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served.
Share Your Input Online at info@pennockhealth.com



Sheryl Lewis Blake
Pennock Hospital, CEO

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Castleton Township BOARD OF REVIEW Meeting Schedule

The Castleton Township Board of Review for 2009 will be held at the Township Hall at 915 Reed Street, Nashville, Michigan 49073 on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 3 - Organizational Meeting - 9:00 am
Monday, March 9 - Appeal Hearing - 9:00-12 noon & 1-4 pm
Tuesday, March 10 - Appeal Hearing - 2-5 pm & 6-9 pm

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2009 assessments. Written protests may be sent to the above address by Monday, March 9. The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2009 are as follows:

Agricultural	50.31%	0.9938
Commercial	51.28%	0.9750
Industrial	49.12%	1.0179
Residential	51.70%	0.9671
Personal	50%	1.00

Cheryl L. Hartwell, Supervisor
Castleton Township
517-852-9479

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the township clerk at least seven (7) days in advance of the hearing. This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) MCL441.72a(2)(3) and with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 06687465

2009 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE Vermontville Township P.O. Box 215 Vermontville, MI 49096

2009 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Vermontville Township Board of Review for 2009 will be held at the Vermontville Opera House, 230 S. Main St. on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 pm for an **Organizational Meeting**.
Petitions will be heard on: Monday, March 9, 9:00 am to 12:00 and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm = **Appeal Hearing**
Tuesday, March 10, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm = **Appeal Hearing**.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2009 assessments. **By board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 9.**

The tentative ratios and multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2009 are as follows:

	RATIO	MULTIPLIER
Agricultural	50.00%	1.00
Commercial	50.00%	1.00
Residential	50.00%	1.00
Industrial	50.00%	1.00
Personal Property	50.00%	1.00

Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice: The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon three (3) days notice. Contact Jack Owens, 7540 Vermontville Hwy., Vermontville MI Telephone No. 517.726.1241. 06687649

SUGARING OFF, continued from previous page

were in the kitchen heating maple syrup up to 240 degrees and checking the thermometer constantly.

As the dinner dishes were stowed away, the Haighs and their helpers poured hot maple syrup into waiting bowls, and everyone stirred

like mad. The more experienced shared their helpful hints on how to create sweet, soft candy instead of maple sugar.

The annual Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival is on April 24, 25 and 26 this year in downtown Vermontville.



Members of the Maple Syrup Court have first dibs on the hot syrup. (Photo by Elena Gormley)



The best cooks in Vermontville brought their specialties to share during the potluck supper which precedes the sugaring-off event. (Photo by Elena Gormley)



Maple syrup candy is definitely spoon-licking good. (Photo by Elena Gormley)



Hot syrup is poured into pitchers to go out to waiting bowls. (Photo by Elena Gormley)



Larry Haigh checks the candy thermometer to see if the syrup has reached 240 degrees. (Photo by Elena Gormley)

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Colleen Walls, a single woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated January 30, 2007 and recorded February 1, 2007 in Instrument Number 1175877, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by CitiMortgage, Inc. by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight and 2/100 Dollars (\$129,728.02) including interest at 6.875% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the Barry County Courthouse in Hastings in Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 p.m. on MARCH 19, 2009. Said premises are located in the Village of Middleville, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 7, Misty Ridge according to the recorded plat thereof in Liber 9 of Plats, on Page 30. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: February 14, 2009 Orlans Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400 File No. 514.0078 ASAP# 2995081 02/14/2009, 02/21/2009, 02/28/2009, 03/07/2009

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Colleen Walls, a single woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated January 30, 2007 and recorded February 1, 2007 in Instrument Number 1175877, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by CitiMortgage, Inc. by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight and 2/100 Dollars (\$129,728.02) including interest at 6.875% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the Barry County Courthouse in Hastings in Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 p.m. on APRIL 2, 2009. Said premises are located in the Village of Middleville, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 136, Middleville Downs Addition Number 7 to the Village of Middleville according to the recorded Plat thereof. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: February 28, 2009 Orlans Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400 File No. 241.6600 ASAP# 3008653 02/28/2009, 03/07/2009, 03/14/2009, 03/21/2009

Maple Valley Early 4's Preschool is now enrolling for 2009-2010

Early 4's is Great Start Readiness Preschool (GSRP). We are funded by a grant through the Michigan Department of Education.

This is a FREE program to those who qualify.

Students must:

- be 4 years old by December 1, 2009
- meet at least 2 qualifying factors set forth by the State of Michigan
- reside in the Maple Valley School District. We are unable to take school of choice students.

Call today to receive an enrollment packet and to schedule an appointment for our preschool round-up.
852-2075



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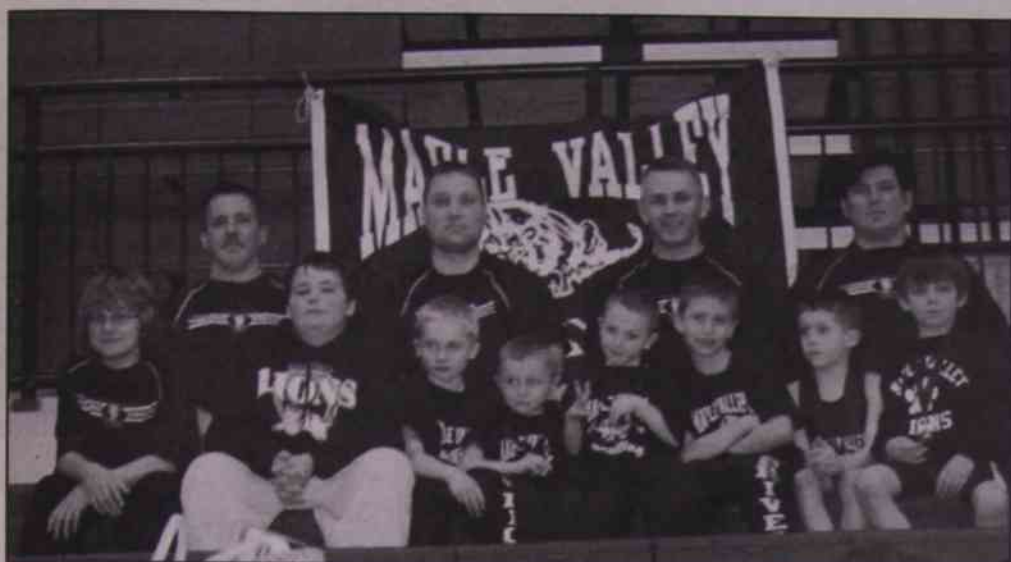


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Team has eight medallists, 3 champs, at Eaton Rapids



The Maple Valley Youth Wrestling Program had eight medallists at the Feb. 22 tournament hosted by Eaton Rapids. Some of the participants in the tournament were (front from left) Sam Bonney, Zach Rosenberger (fourth), Levi Roush (third), Jesse Brumm (first), Chase Schriver, Garrett Pearson (first), Chandler Murton (second). They were joined by coaches, Brumm (back from left), Schrader, Pearson, and Murton. Other Maple Valley medallists on the day were Christian Schrader (first), Seth Geasel (second) and Kodee Crouch (third).



Maple Valley youth wrestler Levi Roush works a half against an opponent at Eaton Rapids Sunday.

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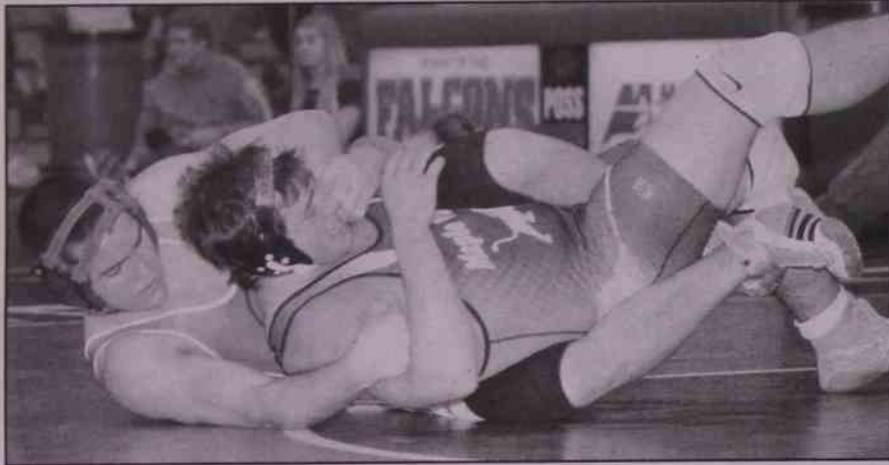
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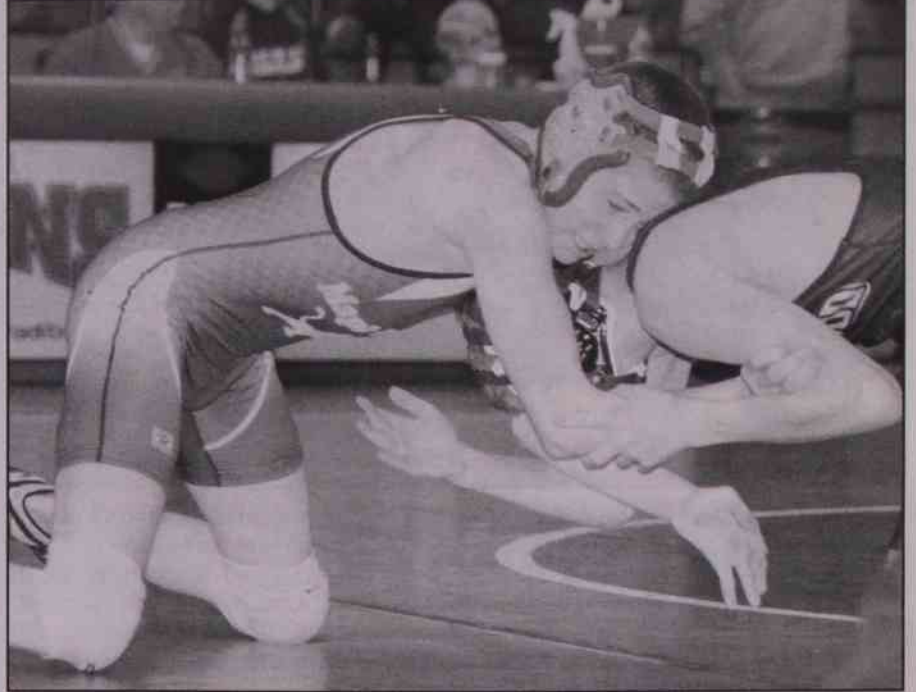
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Lions get Jensen and Miller through tough district



Maple Valley's Dusty Cowell is held down by West Catholic's Frank Bastien in the first period of their 215-pound championship semifinal match Saturday at Allendale High School. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



The Lions' Zack Baird (left) fights for control with Lakewood's Dylan Shoup during their 130-pound consolation semifinal Saturday at Allendale. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Lakewood heavyweight Ryan Steverson lost for the first time this season on Saturday afternoon, in the 285-pound championship match at the Division 3 Individual District Tournament hosted by Allendale.

The host Falcons' Dan LaJoie scored a 4-3 win over the Viking heavy-weight, but both still advance to Saturday's Division 3 Individual District Regional Tournament at Hamilton High School. Steverson's now 29-1 on the year, and LaJoie 43-2.

The Vikings and Falcons met again in Wednesday night's Division 3 Team Regional Tournament at Comstock Park High School, with the Falcons coming out on top.

Those two teams dominated Saturday's Division 3 Individual District as well, with Allendale sending ten wrestlers through to today's (Feb. 28) Individual

Regional Tournament at Hamilton High School. The Vikings had nine individual regional qualifiers. Hamilton was right behind, with eight. Maple Valley is sending a pair of wrestlers on to today's meet.

The Lakewood boys were just 1-5 against the Falcons Saturday, with the other Viking to reach the championship round also falling to an Allendale wrestler in the finals. Allendale's Ryan LaJoie topped Kurtis Powell 5-3 in the 189-pound final.

Allendale had five district champions. The top four in each weight class Saturday earned a spot in the regionals, and the top four at regionals will earn places in the Individual State Finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills March 13-15.

Maple Valley's Don Jensen fell to Dan LaJoie in his second match of the day, but bounced back to finish fourth at 275 pounds. Jensen's teammate Jesse Miller was third at 171. This will be the first regional appearance for both.

"It's pretty big," said the senior Jensen. "It's a good accomplishment. I took a year off last year, and coach wasn't too happy."

"I just figured I'd lift weights for football. That didn't turn out too well."

The Lion varsity football team went 4-5, but Jensen was a better football player and has become a better wrestler.

"They needed a heavy-weight, so I figured I'd fill the void," said Jensen.

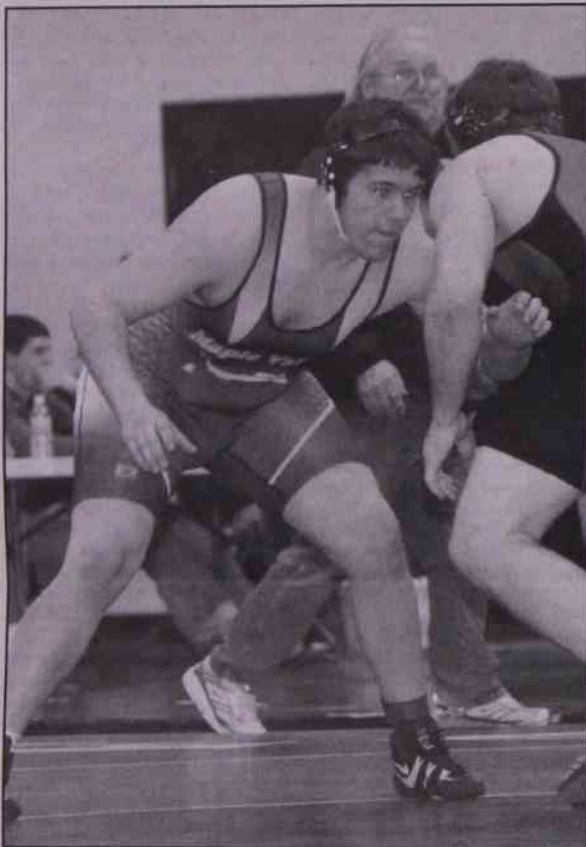
"I'm glad now. At first, I

wasn't sure if I'd do too good."

Godwin Height's Frank Castillo wound up topping Jensen 3-1 in the match for third place.

Miller won his last three matches of the day to finish third at 171 pounds, topping a pair of Unity Christian wrestlers in his last two matches. He downed Ryan Koop 7-3 in the consolation semifinals, then beat Chad Scholma 13-11 in the match for third.

Maple Valley's Zack Baird at 103 pounds, Anthony Molson at 112, Josh Fulford at 135, and Lucas Brumm at 140 pounds all won two matches on the day, but were defeated in the consolation semifinals.



The Lions' Don Jensen (left) faces off against Allendale's Dan LaJoie in the 285-pound championship semifinals Saturday during the Division 3 Individual District Tournament hosted by the Falcons. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

Olivet tops Lions by 25 on final night

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Eagles haven't given their opponents much hope early in games this season.

Olivet's varsity girls' basketball team closed out an 18-2 regular season with a 67-42 Kalamazoo Valley Association victory over the Maple Valley Lions Friday night.

Olivet jumped out to a 20-9 lead in the opening quarter, then pushed that edge to 32-18 by the half.

"They're notoriously fast starters and they did exactly that," said Maple Valley head coach Landon Wilkes.

Kelsey Campbell led Olivet with 25 points on the

night. She scored 25 of those in the first half. Katy Barkley finished with 16 points for the Eagles, and picked up where Campbell left off in the second half.

The Eagles picked things right back up in the second half too, outscoring the Lions 24-11 in the third quarter.

"I thought we rebounded the ball fairly well tonight," Wilkes said. "We played with them at times. I was proud of the girls tonight. Over there, they beat us by 30 and it wasn't much of a game. My kids showed a lot of heart."

The Lion coach was happy with the way his team moved the ball on the offensive end of the floor, and with the solid rebounding night.

Elizabeth Stewart led the Lions with 18 points and five rebounds. Jennifer Kent added 12 points. Terri Huroskey had seven points and six rebounds, while Mikaela Bromley added seven points and five boards.

The Lions end the regular season at 10-10, with a 9-9 mark in the KVA.

Maple Valley opens Class C District action at Leslie against the host Blackhawks Monday night at 7:30 p.m. The winner of that game will play in the semifinals Wednesday, against either Potterville or Pewamo-Westphalia who play Monday at 6 p.m.

"It's a pretty tough district," said Wilkes. "We just have to come and play and I think we'll be all right. Playing in the KVA I think is a good thing come district time. I think in the KVA for the most part anybody can beat anybody on a given night."

The Lions fell in their final two nights in the league. Monday Hackett Catholic Central snapped a three-game Lion winning streak with a 37-31 in Kalamazoo.

The Fighting Irish moved out to a 20-12 lead in the first half, then held off the Lions in the second half.

"We came out and didn't

shoot the ball real well. I think we shot 20-percent for the night. It was one of those nights where we couldn't put the ball in the basket."

Wilkes said that his girls missed 17 shots from within five feet of the basket.

Kent led the Lions with 15 points, and Terri Huroskey added ten.

Hackett got 13 points from Kathleen Hawkins, and eight from Alissa Gadouas.

"We just could not get over the hump," said Wilkes. "We'd steal the ball then turn it over. We'd steal it and turn it over. It was one of those nights."

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Lions 11th at the first district cheer competition

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

"It's nice not really being the underdogs anymore," said Delton Kellogg junior Chana Gehrman Saturday afternoon at Otsego High School.

The Delton Kellogg varsity girls' competitive cheer team didn't advance beyond Saturday's Division 3 District Tournament, but earned lots of respect with its performance this season which included winning the first ever Southern Michigan Competitive Cheer Conference Championship

(Feb. 14).

"It was the best meet we had in a long time," said Delton Kellogg senior Mandy Dye about the SMCCC Championship. "We were comfortable. We dominated. We earned a lot of respect through that league."

"My freshman year was the last year we did KVA (sideline) and we won KVA. Ever since then in competitive we've been waiting for the comeback year."

Dye earned first-team all-district honors, and her teammate Gehrman was honor-

able mention all-district.

Delton Kellogg was seventh at Saturday's district meet, with a score of 629.0200.

Holland Christian took the day's championship, earning one of four regional berths, with a score of 736.3292. Lakewood was second with a score of 723.7064, Otsego third at 722.0510, and Lansing Catholic fourth at 685.8974.

"Today was okay," said Delton Kellogg head coach Zoe Reynolds. "It wasn't our best day, but it wasn't our worst. There could have been a little more excitement. They weren't very excited today."

"I think after they won the conference championship, they felt like the season was over even though it wasn't."

Delton scored a 192.7 in round one, a 174.9200 in round two, and a 261.4000 in round three.

Holland Christian had the highest score in each of the first two rounds, with a 166.9 and 211.6292. Otsego had the number one round three score, at 303.4.

"They're just clean," Lakewood head coach Kim Martin said of Holland Christian's Maroons. "They did three clean rounds. I think where they did get us at is they're better jumpers than we are. But our round three is tough. We're rough when we do the round three we're capable of."

Lakewood's girls scored a 213.7 in round one, 209.4064 in round two, and 300.6 in round three.

"Our round two was pretty clean. Our stunts, our hand-springs and waffles looked good," said Martin. "There were no major errors. We just need that confidence. We had a great round three going until that last 15 seconds."

The Maroons scored a 302.8 in round three.

"Getting to regionals. Getting one step closer to the



Maple Valley's girls throw their arms up in unison during round two Saturday at the Division 3 District Tournament hosted by Otsego. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

state finals. That's where we want to be," said Martin. "Next weekend we're going to have to perform three clean rounds."

Behind the top four teams, Three Rivers scored a 678.0724, Paw Paw 646.1676, Delton Kellogg 629.0200, Coloma 615.9520, Comstock 612.8160, Allegan 593.9856, Maple Valley 581.4560, Berrien Springs 568.7360, Hamilton 565.8270, Hopkins 557.9000, and Pennfield 549.6358.

Maple Valley scored a 186.5 in round one, 159.6560 in round two, and 235.3 in round three.

"All of our scores were higher than they've ever been," said Lion head coach April Wagner. "The girls came out. They knew what they had to do, and got their jobs done."

The Lions' final total of over 581 points was more than 150 points higher than their score at the first meet of the season. They scored a

428 at the Barry County Meet in January.

"We took it back to basics," said Wagner. "The precision, the jumping, we focused on being more together as a team and working on the basic skills."

The Lions and Delton Panthers were together at Maple Valley High School Feb. 14 at the SMCCC Championship.

Delton won the title with a score of 650.5232, breaking a three-way tie with Schoolcraft and Climax-Scotts heading into the final. Schoolcraft was second with a 635.4000 and Climax-Scotts 617.9000.

"I think they were excited," Reynolds said of her girls. "They wanted to win. They walked in ready to win. They were really pumped to do that first round. They knew they had the best round one out of all the schools,

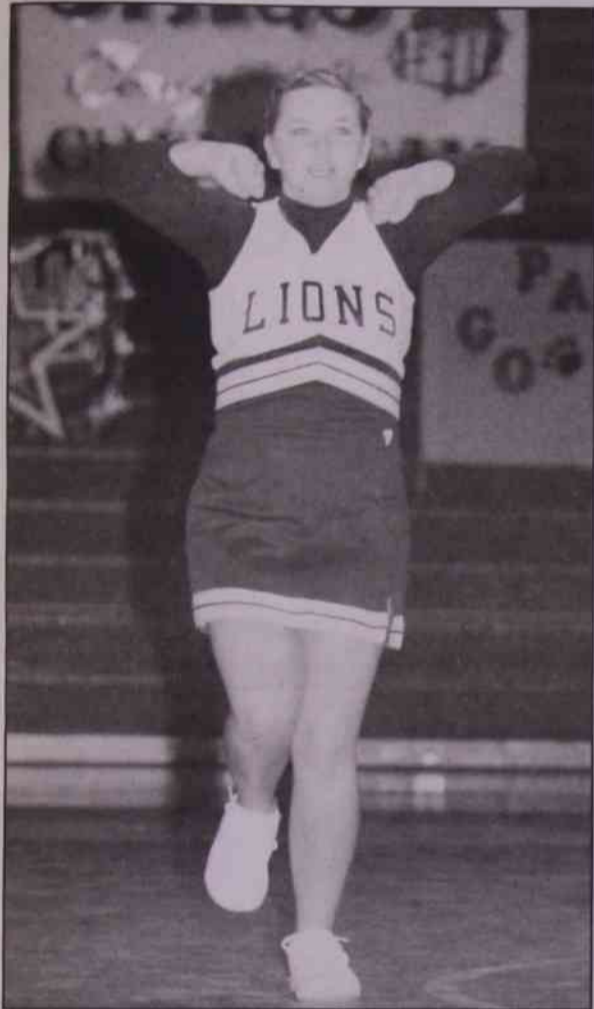
and they went out and proved it."

The Panthers scored a 209.3 in the first round. They just edged Schoolcraft, which scored a 208.7. The Delton girls then scored a 180.3232 in round two and a 262.9 in round three. They had the highest score in each of the three rounds.

Pennfield finished fourth with a score of 573.9310, followed by White Pigeon 546.7990, Maple Valley 535.9000, and Bronson 524.6430.

Maple Valley scored a 159.9 in round one, 143.5 in round two, and 232.5 in round three.

For Maple Valley, Danielle Rosenburger and Shelby Christopher were named first-team All-SMCCC and Lindsey Hoffman was named to the second team.



The Lions' Amber Brownell runs through her team's round one performance at Saturday's Division 3 District Tournament at Otsego High School. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

Eagle boys pass Lions in 2nd quarter

A 27-point fourth quarter for the Eagles spoiled Maple Valley's varsity boys' basketball team's final home contest of the season Friday night.

Olivet outscored the Lions 27-17 in that run, to take a 45-35 half-time lead, and went on to a 74-62 victory.

Jay Cousineau had all eight of his points in the period for the Eagles, and Tim Johnson had seven of his 15.

Jim McManus led Olivet

for the night with 16 points, and did most of his damage in the second half as the Eagles held off the Lions. He had nine of the Eagles' 14 points in the third quarter.

Maple Valley hung with the Eagles early on. Jeff Burd scored eight points in the opening quarter, but finished with ten for the night. He had a great night passing the basketball, finishing with nine assists. Jesse Bromley had

four assists.

Dustin Houghton led Maple Valley with 22 points ten rebounds. Kyle Fisher added 14 points.

Maple Valley is now 3-15 overall this season, and 1-15 in the KVA. The Lions close the regular season with trips to Galesburg-Augusta Tuesday and Delton Kellogg Thursday.

Hackett Catholic Central topped the Lions 62-51 Monday night.

The Fighting Irish got off to a solid start, outscoring Maple Valley 17-8 in the opening quarter. Hackett had a huge night at the free throw line in holding its lead, going 23-of-30.

Jack Rider knocked down seven of those, and led the Irish with 16 points. Hackett also got 13 points from Mac Simotes and eight each from Michael Buday and Zachary

Thayer.

Maple Valley was led by Houghton's 16-point night. Burd added 14 points and eight rebounds. Fisher had six points, and Bromley and Matt Hall added five each.

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Wharton Center docents visit Fuller



Wharton Center docents Barb White, Jan Zimmerman and Joan Forgrave give a "Nate The Great" presentation to Fuller Street second and third graders.

Fuller Street Elementary second and third graders have tickets to the Wharton Center at Michigan State University to see the play, "Nate the Great!" next month. To create and build student knowledge prior to the show and learn how acting works, the Wharton Center docents presented a detective, "Nate the Great!" lesson. Students learned about acting and how to think about the story the actors are telling. They were then divided into small groups and then given a topic to plan and "act out" in pantomime.



Wharton Center docents watch second grader Christian Johnson act out a pantomime.

Maple Valley bands present festival concert this Sunday

The Maple Valley Junior High and Senior High Bands will perform their selections for this years MSBOA Music Festival at a concert beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 1, in the high school gymnasium. (Note the earlier start time.)

The high school band will present "Mustang March," "The Blue and The Gray (Civil War Suite)," and "Overture for Winds."

The junior high band will present "Project March," "Eagle Mountain Overture" and "Liberty Bell Overture."

Both groups have been working on these selections in preparation for MSBOA festivals held next week.

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