

# MAPLE VALLEY news

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## Early leave buyout offered to district employees

### District works to overcome \$1 million projected deficit for next year

by Amy Jo Parish  
Staff Writer

After a unanimous vote by the Maple Valley Schools Board of Education Monday evening, staff and faculty are being offered an early leave incentive program. Employees taking advantage of the plan will receive 75 percent of their wages spread over a four-year time period.

Superintendent Kim Kramer said the percentage plan, rather than a lump sum, allows those teachers who have gone above and beyond by serving on committees, coached a sport or led an extracurricular program to include those extra payments in the payoff amount.

"Those types of extra things are part of their earnings, so what we tried to do is create a plan that would

recognize that. What we did is we came out with a plan that would say we will pay, over the course of the next four years, 75 percent of whatever they were earning," said Kramer. The deadline for employees to take advantage of the plan is April 30.

Kramer also said the plan is only available to those teachers who have reached the top of the pay scale.

"This will save the most money for the district when that senior teacher is replaced by an educator at the low end of the pay scale," he said.

During their 10th year, teachers are at the top of the scale. Support staff wishing to take the buyout must have worked for the district at least 11 years.

The Michigan Education Association has been dis-

cussing a retirement incentive plan for several weeks, and Kramer said the district's program would become null and void if the state offers a program before June 30.

The program is one way the district is hoping to close up a projected deficit of more than \$700,000 for next year.

"If we were to have six teachers leave us and we were to not replace them because of cost-cutting measures or because of the decline in enrollment... with this plan in place, we would still realize \$438,385 in savings. And you'll see in a later presentation, we're going to need every penny we can get in order to try and balance the budget," Kramer told the board.

If no teachers were to take the buyout, Kramer said the staff will have to be reduced by five or six teach-

ers next year. Both Fuller Street and Maplewood elementary schools would lose one position while the junior/senior high school would lose three.

"The high school is down 53 students so it will have to have three less teachers," said Kramer. "One will be easily absorbed at the junior high because of the class numbers that are shifting from sixth grade to seventh grade. The other two will come from smaller sections in the courses that we offer at the high school.

"It's going to hurt people; it's not going to be fun. We're going to end up offering less electives for our kids at the high school (that's) where it's going to hurt the most. Yet, philosophically and educationally, we are going to be hurting at the early elementary

grades because we've got class sizes that are running much higher than what I would like to see or what I think the staff likes to see."

The winter student count for the district totaled 1,464, down 10 students from the fall count. This number is also down 96 students from the February 2008 count.

"Darryl (Syldoski, business manager) and I have to make a decision on next year's budget in terms of, what number do we use? What do we predict? As you've heard us talk about this before, that is like throwing a dart at a dartboard. There is no way to know exactly how many students we are going to have," said Kramer.

The superintendent said he researched the past seven years of enrollment figures and found that the district is averaging a 36-student swing each year. Currently, there are 23 fewer kindergarten students, compared to students in the senior

class. Adding the numbers together, Kramer is predicting a loss of 59 students for next year.

Kramer also detailed to the board a projected deficit of nearly \$1 million for the next school year. The district is currently \$233,000 in the red. That amount, totaled with the student loss figure of \$541,384 and added with the increasing costs of utilities and insurance, brings the total to \$973,408.

Kramer, as the only appointed official on the board, expressed support of an upcoming millage by the Eaton Intermediate School District. Maple Valley currently provides some of the funding for the special education program from its general fund. If the millage passes, Kramer said the district would receive about \$281,000 each year, which

**BUYOUT, continued on page 6**

## Nashville council continues talks to turn zoning over to county

by Amy Jo Parish  
Staff Writer

The Nashville Village Council voted Thursday night to move forward with discussions on Barry County taking over zoning for the village.

Though several council members expressed a hesitancy to sign the zoning responsibilities over to the county, they did endorse the proposal to look into the costs and issues of doing so.

Council President Frank Dunham said there were a couple of reasons for looking into the possibility.

"We're looking at the eco-

nomics and keeping the same policies. We're looking to be more consistent," said Dunham.

Audience members voiced both opposition and support of moving the zoning to the county level.

"I serve on both the Nashville and the county zoning boards, and one of the big advantages the county has is that they have a budget and full professional staff," said Mike Callton. "If there's an enforcement issue, they already have a prosecutor. I know you got into an issue a few years ago that cost tens of thousands of dol-

lars and you would no longer have that problem..."

Others in attendance expressed displeasure toward the proposed change.

"At the planning and zoning meetings, we're pretty much divided," said Ron Ohler, a member of the zoning board. "I think you would lose the local flavor and understanding, and you're a little more likely to question the actions of the (local) zoning administrator versus dealing with the county administrator. Financially, I can't tell you it's a bad idea. It would just mean a loss of local control."

Council and audience members also discussed the lack of interest from the community to serve on the planning and zoning boards.

"Everyone in the room knows I'm a big local-control guy," said Trustee Mike Kenyon. "I think it's worth looking into. I cannot recall a time that I ever saw a full ZBA (zoning board of appeals)."

Jim McManus, Barry County planning and zoning director, was on hand to answer questions during the public hearing and said if the council pursues the change, Nashville would be the first

village or city to have its zoning controlled at the county level. The county currently handles the zoning for 11 of its 16 townships.

Later in the meeting, the council voted to continue discussion with the county and gather more information before making a vote on the issue. McManus said the next step is to work on developing an intergovernmental agreement between the two entities.

"I would do it (start developing the agreement) no matter what you are thinking," said McManus. "It doesn't hurt, but would I

would get that started because the process is going to require attorneys and a lot of work to be done."

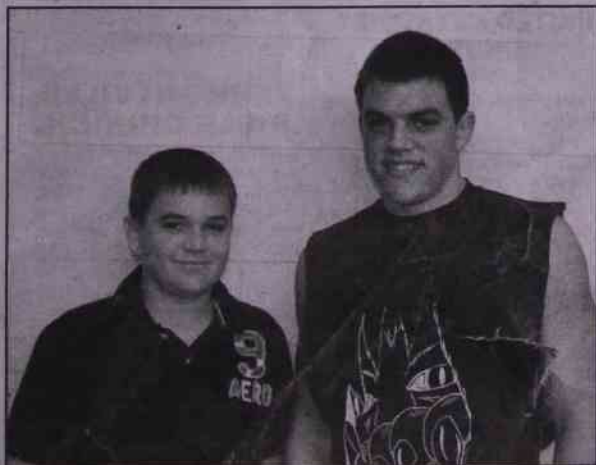
There is no cost associated with these first steps of developing the agreement, however, McManus said the price tag for creating Nashville's ordinances would total less than \$10,000.

At their meeting, the village council also:

- Voted to allow the current free-standing wood-burning ordinance to be sent

**ZONING, continued page 4**

## Local brothers recognized by American Angus Association



Justin and Dylan Kennedy of Nashville were both recently recognized with special awards from the American Angus Association.

Justin and Dylan Kennedy of Nashville have each earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze and Silver Awards, according to Robin Ruff, junior activities director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Justin, 17, is a senior at Maple Valley High School. Twelve-year-old Dylan attends Maple Valley Junior High School. They are the sons of Jeff and Heather Kennedy.

Justin is a member of the Michigan Junior Angus Association, where he is the current president. He has attended the Leaders

Engaged in Angus Development conference. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Justin has participated in the NJAA team fitting and team sales contests as well as the All-American Certified Angus Beef Cook-off. He has shown his cattle at local, state and national shows. Justin submits weights on his calves to Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR), and he has consigned cattle to the Michigan Angus Association fall sale. Justin has been a member of the NJAA since 2005.

Dylan has been building his herd of Angus for the past five years and submits

weights to AHIR, as well. In 2006, he joined the NJAA. Dylan is a member of the Michigan Junior Angus

Association, where he serves as a director. He has shown

**BROTHERS, continued on page 5**

### In This Issue...

- 'West Side Story' ends today
- Local students recognized by Optimist Club
- Fire up with reading at Putnam Library
- Board of review answers tax questions
- Aggies edge past the Lions

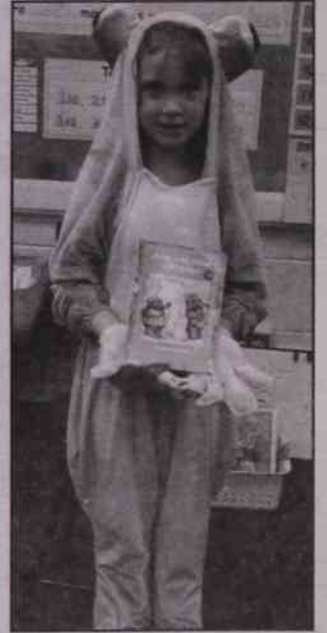
# Reading month continues at Fuller Elementary



Emily Mater and her son Jared Mater dress as Harry Potter from the series.



Cindy Baker's second graders dress as their favorite storybook characters.



Megan Walker dresses as her favorite character, Frog, from *Frog and Toad are Friends*.

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Issac Christopher and Carson Hasselback dress as Henry and Mudge from the series of books written by Cynthia Rylant.



Students and staff at Fuller Street Elementary dress as their favorite storybook characters Wednesday to help celebrate March is Reading Month. Emily Mater, Putnam Library librarian, dressed as a dragon, reads her favorite book, *How Many Dragons are Behind the Door*, to Cindy Baker's second graders.

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## Sweet Anointing to perform at Kalamo UMC

The Kalamo United Methodist Church will welcome "Sweet Anointing" to perform on Saturday, March 21, at 6 p.m. at its next

Saturday Night Special worship service. Sweet Anointing is a trio of women who sing a variety of Christian music. The

women say they love sharing their God-given talents spreading His message of love and acceptance. Everyone is invited to join this experience. For more information, call 517-652-1580 or visit the Web site [www.kalamochurch.org](http://www.kalamochurch.org).

### LOCAL CHURCH SCHEDULE

<p><b>ABUNDANT GRACE WORLD OUTREACH CENTER</b>                  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 &amp; 3rd Sunday) . . . . . 6 p.m.                  REV. DAWN GOODMAN                  Contact numbers: (517) 852-0896 or (517) 852-9606, leave message</p>	<p><b>BASELINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b>                  9617 E. Baseline Rd. Corner of Baseline &amp; 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><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERMONTVILLE</b>                  110 S. Main St., Vermontville, MI 49096                  (517) 728-0258                  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><b>KALAMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b>                  Worship Services . . . . . 9:00 &amp; 10:30 a.m.                  Sunday School for All Ages . . . . . 10:30 a.m.                  PASTOR BRUCE FEIGNER                  517-541-1144</p>	<p><b>MAPLE GROVE BIBLE CHURCH</b>                  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><b>PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARRYVILLE</b>                  6043 E. M-79 Highway, 4 miles west of Nashville (cor. M-79 &amp; Barryville Rd.)                  Sunday Worship . . . . . 8:30 a.m.                  Other: Prayer Walk, U.M. Women, Bible Study, Mission Projects &amp; more.                  PASTOR SUSAN OLSEN                  Phone 517-852-1993                  IGNITING MINISTRY                  Open Hearts-Open Minds-Open Doors</p>	<p><b>SOUTH KALAMO CHURCH</b>                  Corner of Kalamo Highway &amp; 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><b>ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES</b>                  A Spirit-filled Church                  Meeting at the Maple Leaf Grange Hwy. M-66 south of Assyria Rd. Nashville, MI 49073                  Sun. Praise &amp; Worship 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m. Jesus Club for boys &amp; girls ages 4-12. Pastors David &amp; 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><b>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b>                  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><b>GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b>                  8950 East M-79 Highway, Nashville                  Morning Celebration . . . . . 9 &amp; 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><b>NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  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><b>QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b>                  M-79 West                  Sunday School . . . . . 10 a.m.                  Worship . . . . . 11 a.m.                  PASTOR KENNETH VAUGHT                  (616) 945-9392</p>	<p><b>ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b>                  203 N. State, Nashville                  Sunday Mass . . . . . 9:45 a.m.                  FATHER AL RUSSELL                  A mission of St. Rose Catholic Church, Hastings</p>	<p><b>VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH</b>                  250 N. Main St., Vermontville                  Sunday School . . . . . 9:45 a.m.                  Worship Service . . . . . 11 a.m.                  Sunday Evening Service . . . . . 6 p.m.                  Wed. Everling Service . . . . . 6:30 p.m.                  AWANA . . . . . 6:30-8 p.m. Wed.                  PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH</p>
<p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH</b>                  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><b>CHESTER GOSPEL CHURCH</b>                  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><b>GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b>                  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><b>NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b>                  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><b>ST. ANDREW &amp; MATTHIAS INDEPENDENT ANGLICAN CHURCH</b>                  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><b>VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b>                  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>	

# Extension offers new bulletin series for horse owners

Many Michigan horse owners call county Extension offices each year worried that there may be toxic plants present in their

horse pastures or hay. Although numerous plants can create problems to horse health, the reality is that poisonings from toxic plants are

not that common, under most circumstances. In addition to toxic plants, horse owners also have questions about establishing and

maintaining pastures and hayfields, problems associated with feed additives for other livestock species, and moldy feed.

To address concerns about toxic plants the MSU Extension equine area of expertise (AoE) team developed a series of four bulletins. These bulletins describe the most common toxins to horses that are found in hay, grain, pastures, landscaping and various trees. The bulletins include full-color photos to make identification easy.

owners who have pastures near lakes, streams, or wetlands; MSU Extension staff teamed up with the Michigan departments of agriculture and environmental quality, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop a bulletin to address housing livestock in these sensitive areas. This publication addresses acceptable practices for fencing and watering livestock while protecting the water quality at the same time.

To assist with the area of pasture and hayfield establishment and maintenance, the equine AoE team worked with the MSU Extension forage AoE team to update an older publication titled *Hay and Pasture for Michigan Horses*. This publication will help horse owners make decisions about which plant species to use in various soil types, pest management, maintenance techniques, and renovating existing pastures. Finally, for those horse

These bulletins are all available on the Internet through the MSUE bulletin system at <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/>. They can be ordered through this site or they can be downloaded or printed at no charge. Bulletins also can be obtained by calling the Eaton County Extension office at 517-543-2310 or 517-485-3417 ext. 2310.

## MV graduate writes grant for science program

by Amy Jo Parish  
Staff Writer

Emily Eldred of Vermontville doubled her rewards recently when she was able to earn full credit on a project and also help out

the science program at Maple Valley High School. Eldred needed a project to complete for an environmental science class she is currently taking at Olivet College. For ideas, she

turned to Aaron Saari, one of her teachers from Maple Valley High School. Saari teaches a variety of science courses and also leads the FFA program at the school.

Ultimately Eldred, a freshman at Olivet, decided to apply for a grant that would help purchase a fish tank and supplies for the school to use.

"I think it's something the students can learn from, and it's a lot different than anything else they've got," said Eldred.

The school was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Michigan FFA Foundation to purchase equipment for use in the science department. A fish tank and supplies were purchased with the grant money and about \$700 from the agri-science department budget.

The 500-gallon tank will

be used to raise fish for dissection in the biology classes, water quality tests in the physical science courses and also lessons in the natural resources classes, making the tank a good investment for the students, said Saari.

"I think it'll give the kids a different aspect of agriculture and natural resources they have not been exposed to," commented Saari. "If at least one kid is interested in working for the DNR or in the natural resources field, it'll be worth it."

Currently, the tank is being stored in the FFA building next to the school until a home can be found inside the building. Saari said Eldred's project has helped more than just her grade and will be a learning tool students will enjoy for years to come.

"That was amazing, to have her complete the grant," said Saari. "I've done other grants, but that was great, especially to have a student who is interested in environmental science do the project."



Emily Eldred and Aaron Saari show off the 500-gallon fish tank that was purchased with funds from a grant written by Eldred for a project in one of her classes at Olivet College.

## Songs, skits planned for Maple Valley band bust

Maple Valley High School Band will host its annual 'band bust' Friday, March 20, and Saturday, March 21, at 7 p.m. The students perform the band bust as a way to unwind after its concert season. Not only is this a production used to let loose

and have fun, it serves as a fundraiser for the band program. Funds from the event will be used to help fund the band's trip to Chicago in May.

The name of this year's program is, "Who are who? What? Oh... welcome to

the freak show!" Some of the skits that will be performed include Napoleon Dynamite, Banana Salute, and Cops and Robbers. The jazz band will also perform a few songs.

Tickets are \$5 for all ages.

## Correction

An article last week concerning Vermontville Township's ambulance service and contracts stated that the township's basic life support ambulance is unable to transport patients with life-threatening injuries. The BLS ambulance is able to transport those patients but cannot administer IVs or medication to patients; only advanced life support ambulances may do so.

## 'West Side Story' ends today



Lakewood and Maple Valley High School's have joined together and will present 'West Side Story'. The tale places Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet into the 20th century. Above, the cast and crew pose for a photo before Thursday night's performance. The show will conclude today with a 3 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m. show. The roles of Tony, Maria, Anita and Anybodys have been double cast, with alternating performances. All shows will be at the Maple Valley High School Auditorium. For reservations, call Amanda Wells at 616-902-4193.

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## ZONING, continued from page 1

back to the policy and ordinance committee for possible revisions. Trustee Mary Coll introduced the topic and said restrictions in the ordinance create a difficult situation for residents.

"For anybody to have a wood-burner, this ordinance makes it almost impossible. I would like to send it back to policy and ordinance to have it re-done," said Coll.

A lengthy conversation with a local resident caused Coll to take a second look at the ordinance and its restrictions.

"I was dead-set against these, and I fought against having these," said Coll. "I just want to sit down and

take this apart to make it a little more better because, to me, this doesn't make sense."

• Heard a report from Scott Decker of the department of public works regarding a water system reliability study that the village must undergo. The test is required every five years. The last time Nashville completed the test was in 1999. Though the village has not been penalized for the overdue test, Decker stressed the importance of completing the work in the near future.

The test evaluates the water system's supply, storage and distribution and would cost approximately \$7,300 to

complete.

• Decker also reported the possibility of replacing the 1989 Chevrolet one-ton dump truck currently used in the village. The vehicle would be put up for bids which will be presented at the next meeting.

• Heard a report for Nashville Police Department Chief Jerry Schray. The department issued 16 citations during February, along with 20 violations and 14

arrests during the month. The department saw a decrease in complaints compared to the February of 2008. This year, there were 81 complaints, down from 115 last year. Schray also reported that the department received four chemical masks, a case of filters and four safety vests through a grant awarded to Emergency Management of Barry County.

• Trustees Sandra

Lundquist and Jack Holden reported on a dam committee meeting they attended. Holden said the dam possibly could be removed in October with the draw-down of water starting in April. Currently, the project has been awarded \$275,000 in grants, with the possibility of \$125,000 being awarded in the future.

There will be a special meeting of the Downtown Development Authority

Wednesday, March 18, at Castleton Township Hall. The next regular meeting of the Nashville council will be Thursday, March 26, at 7 p.m. in the village hall.

## Eaton Conservation District awarded Arbor Day mini-grant

The Eaton Conservation District is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Delta Township District Library. The district will be contributing natural resources books for adults and kids to expand the library collection.

The conservation district was awarded an Arbor Day mini-grant by the U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry and Michigan DNR's Urban and Community Forestry programs to work with the Delta Township District library on outreach. The district will also be creating an environmental stewardship display

with funding from the Grand Ledge Meijer to encourage kids to get outside and connect with the environment. The display will be up in the library during the month of April.

The Delta Township Library is in the process of becoming LEED certified which makes them an ideal partner for the conservation district to work with. The LEED certification is part of a program from the US Green Building Council rating system to recognize Leaders in Energy and Environmental Design. It is a nationally recognized symbol demonstrating that a

building is environmentally responsible, profitable and a healthy place to live and work. Part of the libraries mission in being a green building is to educate and provide resources to the community about eco-friendly living.

The mission of the Eaton Conservation District is to promote and encourage cooperation with other individuals, groups, organizations, or agencies in an organized effort to conserve and improve the natural resources in Eaton County. Stop by the Delta Township District Library in April to check out a book on trees,

plants or wildlife. Learn about ways your family and friends can enjoy the outdoors. Plant a tree, take a nature walk, go bird watching or learn about local flora and fauna. To learn more, visit the library or contact the district at (517) 543-5848 ext 5.

Andrea Stay Executive Director Eaton Conservation District 551 Courthouse Dr, St 3 Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-5848 x 5 (517) 543-5962 fax www.eaton-county.org/departments/EC D



### Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

#### Hearty Menu

**Monday, March 16**

Chicken w/Ziti, Brussels sprouts, apple crisp, wheat bread.

**Tuesday, March 17**

Corned beef and cabbage, carrots, potatoes, pears in green jello.

**Wednesday, March 18**

BBQ chicken leg qtr., country potatoes, buttered carrots, tropical fruit, biscuit.

**Thursday, March 19**

Meatloaf and gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans, spiced apples, dinner roll.

**Friday, March 20**

Vegetarian pizza casserole, Italian blend vegetables, banana, garlic bread.

#### Cold Menu

**Monday, March 16**

Chicken pasta salad, Spanish bean salad, pineapple and mandarin oranges, saltine crackers.

**Tuesday, March 17**

Calif. Reuben spread, garbanzo bean salad, plums, rye bread.

**Wednesday, March 18**

Hard boiled eggs, sweet and sour carrots, diced pears, jello, wheat bread.

**Thursday, March 19**

Chef salad, black bean and tomato salad, mandarin oranges, apple spice muffin.

**Friday, March 20**

Tuna pasta salad, Spanish bean salad, tropical fruit, whole wheat crackers.

#### Activities Calendar

**Monday, March 16:** Hastings - Crafts 10:30 a.m.; Card Making 12:30 p.m.; Nashville 5 10:30 a.m.; H.W.N-Reminiscence.

**Tuesday, March 17:** Hastings - St. Pats Fun 10:30 a.m.; Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; No Pickle Ball. GL - 10:30-12:30 Cards.

**Wednesday, March 18:** Hastings - Bible Study 12:30 p.m.; Music with Sam; Nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Red Hat PJ Party Big Boy 9:30 a.m. Delton - Reminiscence.

**Thursday, March 19:** Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Caregiver's Sup. 3:30 p.m.; Cancer Support 1 p.m. Nashville - TV Time; Delton - Puzzles, Trivia.

**Friday, March 20:** Hastings - Exercise 9 a.m.; Mixed Media Painting, 9:30 a.m.; Bingo 10 a.m.; Model Railroad, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Woodland - Visiting. Nashville - Nashville 5+ 11 a.m.; Friendship Feast.

## — NOTICE — MAPLE GROVE TOWNSHIP

A public hearing on the proposed Maple Grove Township budget for the coming fiscal year, April 1, 2009, through March 31, 2010, will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting at the township hall, 721 Durkee St., Nashville, on Saturday, March 28, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will also be a subject of this meeting. Copies of the proposed budget may be obtained at the township hall.

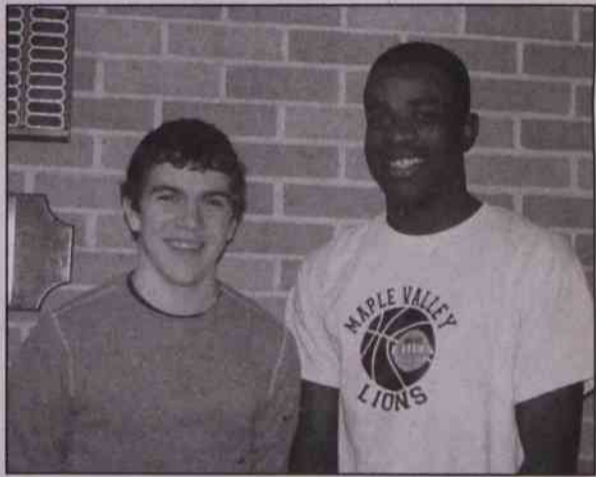
Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Susie Butler, Clerk, by writing 9752 Evert Rd., Nashville, or by phoning 517-852-1859.

A special meeting of the Maple Grove Township Board will be held immediately following the annual meeting.

Susie Butler  
Maple Grove Township Clerk

06688179

## Local students recognized by Optimist Club



The Charlotte Optimist recognized several local youth during their youth appreciation week recently. The group seeks to recognize the accomplishments of youth in the home, school, church and community through special recognition.

Maplewood student, Abby Mater (left) was sponsored by Laura Smith and received a special award. Maple Valley High School students Joe Benedict (right) and Jeff Burd were also recognized. Benedict was sponsored by Valerie Hynes McCaul and Burd was sponsored by Dawn Yager. A ceremony was held recently to recognize all 36 students who received an award. Maple Valley Superintendent Kim Kramer was the master of ceremony for the event.

## Local singer wins youth Karaoke contest

With talent rivaling some of American Idol's top contestants, Marissa Pierce was the audience favorite at January's youth Karaoke night at the Dyerhart studio in Bellevue. Marissa, a seventh grade student at Maple Valley was excited to find a new local venue for vocal performances that caters to her age group.

The Dyerhart studio was equally excited to have a new vocalist competing for the 2009 season.

"It was apparent from the first verse of Marissa's performance of Carrie Underwood's hit song 'Too Small' that our new participant was stepping up the competition," said Jani Hart, co-owner of the Dyerhart stu-

dio. "At first, we were afraid that some of our regular performers would be intimidated. However, it seemed to produce an opposite reaction, inspiring the contestants. Performers sounded more polished as they sang their standards. Kids broke free from their more comfortable chorus performances to finally perform solo.

"By the end of the two-hour event, it was very difficult for the judges to narrow it down to the top three performers in preparation for the audience vote," she added.

Jessica from Bellevue and Kelsie from Olivet were chosen along with Marissa as January's top three performers. The final selection for the

monthly karaoke star is based on votes by the youth participants.

After counting votes, it was declared that Marissa was the Dyerhart's Karaoke star for January 2009. She was asked to get back on the stage to perform her winning song, "Too Small." The audience listened with admiration and roared with applause.

Previous winners are encouraged to continue attend the monthly competitions. They can find new songs to sing and work on polishing their standards while seeing who they will be invited to compete with for the "Best of 2009" title. All the monthly winners will be invited to attend the "Best of 2009 New Year's Eve Party where they

will compete against eleven other finalists.

If you enjoy singing you should attend the next youth karaoke night Saturday February 28th. Admission is \$5 for youth 14 and under. Chaperones may attend for \$2. The Dyerhart studio is located at 100 North Main Street downtown Bellevue. Call Jani Hart at 269-209-6313 for more information and a complete schedule for 2009.

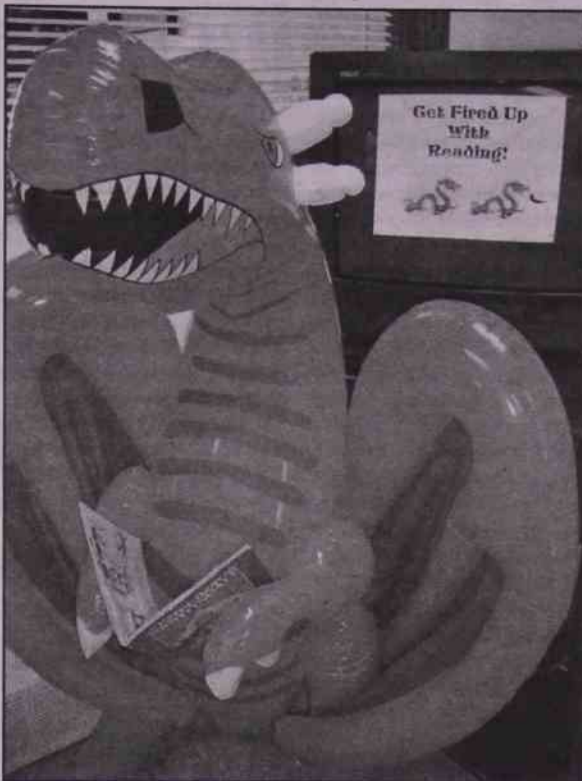
# Fire up with reading at Putnam library **BROTHERS, continued from page 1**

The children's room at Putnam District Library in Nashville has turned into a dragon's lair. In partnership with Maple Valley elementary schools, March is Reading Month is being celebrated with the theme, "Fire Up With Reading"

In addition to dragons and Chinese lanterns, there are tons of good books to get fired up about, say library staff members. In fact, every child who checks out 20 books in the month of March



Olivia Williams, Julia Mater, Travis Mater, Damien Arnold, Christy Brooke, Justin Heinsen, Allison Dodge, Flame the Dragon, Ana Brooke, Esther Brooke, Jared Mater, Abigail Mater and John DeVoss participate in the Bubble-Blowing Dragon Night at Putnam Library.



his cattle at local, state and national shows. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Dylan has participated in the NJAA quiz bowl, team fitting and team sales contests, as well as the cook-off. In 2008, he consigned a cow to the Michigan Angus Association fall sale.

The bronze and silver awards are the first two levels of the NJAA recognition program that began in 1972. Junior Angus breeders must apply for the awards and then meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving the honors. Applicants are evaluated in areas of junior Angus association activities and leadership, participation in showmanship, contests and shows, using performance testing to

improve their herd and their progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

The NJAA promotes the involvement of young people in raising Angus cattle, while providing leadership and development opportunities for nearly 7,000 members nationwide.

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## BARRY CO. EXTENSION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 16 Poultry Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- March 17 Mandatory Horse Participants and Parents Meeting, 6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church in Hastings.
- March 17 Dairy Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Extension Office.
- March 17 Risk Management Series, *Marketing 101 & What We Learned Last Year*, 7 p.m., Clarksville Hort. Station.
- March 18 4-H Advisory Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Courts & Law Building.
- March 19 Fair Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center.
- March 20 Extension Office Closed for Inservice.
- March 23 Rabbit Cavy Mandatory Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- March 24 Risk Management Series, *Marketing With Options*, 7 p.m., Clarksville Horticulture Station.
- March 26 Rabbit Cavy Mandatory Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- March 31 Risk Management Series, *Market Update*, 7 p.m., Clarksville Horticulture Station.
- April 1 Livestock Developmental Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m., Expo Center.
- April 2 Fair Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center.

can receive a free ice cream coupon from Roush's Sidewalk Café. See the library or Roush's for more details.

On Tuesday, March 10, a dozen kids attended "Bubble-Blowing Dragon Night." This special nighttime story time was held at 6:30 p.m., and youngsters came in their pajamas. They had fun acting out a dragon hunt and chasing bubbles while volunteer Gale Chaffee read *Cinder, the Bubble-Blowing Dragon* by Jessica Anderson.

The library's reading month festivities will conclude with "Is there a Dragon at the Library?" Saturday, March 28, at 11 a.m. All elementary students and their siblings are invited to participate. Surprises and prizes

await those who dare to attend.

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

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



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## BUYOUT, continued from page 1

would free up those funds to go back into the general fund and help fill in the deficit. If passed, the millage would mean a \$100,000 home would pay around \$50 per year.

With the budget in the dire shape it is, Kramer detailed a positive change in the classes at the high school that may have an even bigger impact in the coming years.

This past year, 23 high school students took online courses in areas not offered at Maple Valley. Digital photography, advanced placement chemistry, French, oceanography and bioethics are just a few of the courses taken. Of the 23 students, 16 earned A grades, four earned B grades, two earned Cs and one student failed. Kramer said it is a possibility that in the next year and a half, a grant may come through that could expand the district's networking capabilities and allow more students to take advantage of online courses.

The school board will also hold a special meeting Monday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m. to take a look at bids that have been submitted for an energy management plan in the district. Link Mechanical approached the district with a plan that would replace one of the boilers in the district by cut-

ting energy costs. Kramer said that under a state plan, the district could borrow from a local lending source and use the money to help pay for a boiler replacement. Link Mechanical would make the energy changes to the district and be repaid for its work through the energy savings.

"It would cost about \$600,000 over the life of the program, about 15 years," said Kramer. "They (Link) will guarantee that there will be enough savings to pay for it and if they're not, they will pay the difference."

The district has put the energy plan out to bid and will look at the offers at the meeting before deciding which company to partner with.

"The hope is to try to address the aging boilers. We are in financially tough times, and we cannot carve enough out of the general fund to replace the 45- to 50-year-old boilers," said Kramer. "This is not an uncommon program, and it's not unusual. I was involved with one maybe 10 years ago, and it's nothing new, just a alternative way."

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

- Heard a report from Jody Franklin on behalf of the Maple Valley Little

League Softball organization. She expressed appreciation for the school district allowing the program to use the high school fields last season and asked about the possibility of doing so again this year. Kramer said the school would work with the organization to go over any scheduling conflicts that may arise.

- Heard a report from Maplewood Elementary Principal Fred Davenport about recent activities at that school. On Feb. 15, 12 girls participated in a math and science conference where they learned about geology, forensics and veterinary science. Sixth grade camp funding has come through, due to a donation from a community member, said Davenport. The students have also been celebrating March is Reading Month with a variety of activities.

- Received news that the district has been awarded a grant of \$23,800 from the Great Start Readiness Program. The money must be used in early childhood programming and must be spent this year.

The board will meet again on March 23 to review the energy management plan bids and will hold its next regular meeting April 20 at 7 p.m. in the administration building.

# Police Road patrols increased next week

Drivers who follow the law by not drinking and driving the weekends before and after St. Patrick's Day could be savin' the green.

Local law enforcement agencies will be out in force over the next week with an "Over the Limit, Under Arrest" crackdown. Barry County drivers will find stepped-up patrols looking for drunk drivers beginning March 14 through March 21.

A drunk driving conviction is costly, with fines,

legal fees, driver responsibility fees, court costs and higher insurance rates. In many cases, the highest price of all is a life lost.

In Michigan, a motorist can be arrested for drunk driving with .08 percent blood alcohol content or higher. Every 39 minutes and nearly 40 times a day, someone in the United States dies in an impaired driving-related crash.

"We want people to have a good time and be responsi-

ble. By stepping up enforcement during the week of St. Patrick's Day, we can keep motorists safe by removing drunk drivers from the roadways," said Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf.

The extra enforcement is a joint effort between Michigan's Office of Highway Safety Planning, Barry County Sheriff's Department, the City of Hastings, Barry Township and Prairieville Township police departments.

## Alzheimer's support group to meet Thursday

A local Alzheimer's caregiver support group will meet Thursday, March 19, at the Barry County Commission on Aging, 320 W. Woodlawn, Hastings, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Respite

care is available on site; call ahead 269-948-4856.

The discussion group meets on the third Thursday of each month, offering support, education, problem-solving and guest speakers.

The group is open to all family and friends of those suffering from memory loss.

For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call 800-272-3900.

# Gardens can reap other health benefits

There is more to growing vegetables and flowers than

## POLICE BEAT

### Car search turns up marijuana

Barry County Sheriff Deputies responding to a single-vehicle accident on Thornapple Lake Road near M-79 arrested Daniel Andrew Kranz, 38, of Nashville after his blood alcohol level was determined to be .146 percent.

Kranz, who was injured in the accident, was transported to Pennington Hospital for treatment. While he was being taken to the hospital, his vehicle was searched by another deputy.

The second deputy found a baggie containing what authorities believed to be marijuana. The contents of the baggie were sent to the Michigan State Police Forensic Laboratory in Lansing. Additional charges may be filed when the results are returned.

many might think. Jeffrey Restuccia, a leading authority on gardening and health, and author of *Get Fit Through Gardening*, reveals common mistakes made by even the most experienced gardeners and the right ways to improve health.

"Gardening by itself is not good for you; it's only when you garden using proper form and technique that you reap its benefits," he said.

Restuccia suggested the following tips for the healthiest gardening:

- Stretch before and after weeding, digging, or hoeing in the garden. Warm up for five minutes before stretching and stretch again before a cool-down.
- Change garden activity every three to five minutes. Don't hoe or rake for hours on end. Mix up the gardening chores.
- Ease into it. After a long

winter, be gentle on the body when beginning early spring gardening.

- Protect the back from soreness and injury. Bend from the knees and raise straight up using the legs.

- Keep gardening ambitions in line with time and ability. A smaller garden will be less work. Plan the garden to plant bed one in April, bed two in May, bed three in June, and so on.


- Choose tools that are pulled and pushed, like a scuffle hoe, which slices the earth as it is pulled.

- Make certain tools are of adequate length to avoid stooping. Don't exacerbate a previous back or knee problem using poorly designed, short-handled tools. Use ergonomic tools to help accomplish more and work longer with less risk of injury.

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Participants will meet at Moo-ville twice a month from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Meetings will start April 15 and run through September 30th with a Celebration on October 7.

Registration Deadline April 3, 2009. Call Barry County MSU Extension at (269) 945-1388 to register.

This program is supported by the Barry Community Foundation and Barry County United Way.

**For more information contact**

Laura Anderson, RD  
MSU Extension Educator  
e-mail: ander359@msu.edu

Kathy Pennington  
4-H Program Associate  
e-mail: pennin25@msu.edu  
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## Area Obituaries

### Donald J. Martin

VERMONTVILLE - Donald J. Martin, age 81, of Vermontville passed away on Friday, March 6, 2009 following a brief, but valiant battle with cancer, at the home of his daughter.

Don was born in Lansing, on Jan. 2, 1928, the son of the late Jay and Myrna (Mingus) Martin. He was raised in the Grand Ledge area and attended area school there graduating from Grand Ledge High School in 1947.

Don was married to his beloved wife, Esther (Meister) Martin for 61 years, after meeting her at a youth fellowship event in Delta Mills. They made their home in the Lansing area until Don entered the Army in 1952. After returning home the couple moved to Vermontville where they raised their family together.

Don was employed at the GM Fisher Body in Lansing for over 40 years until retiring in 1987.

He was an avid outdoorsman who loved to go hunting, fishing and camping. He also dabbled in wood working and always had a remodeling project in progress in their home.

Don was a member of the Peace United Methodist Church of Nashville, the

American Legion of Vermontville, Lions Club for over 30 years and was a Cub Scout leader and Cub Master in Vermontville for over 15 years.

Don is survived by his best friend and wife Esther (Suzie); two daughters, Gail (Bruce) Hulbert of Lansing, Lois (Wayne) Hammonds of Vermontville; a son, Donald J. (Lori) Martin II of Montrose; and a sister, Ila Sealy of Grand Ledge. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Alice Parker, and Lelo Martin, and his brother, Wayne Martin.

Funeral services were held at the Daniels Funeral Home in Nashville on Wednesday March 11, 2009 with Pastor Susan Olsen officiating.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Peace United Methodist Church, 6043 E. M79 Hwy., Nashville MI 49073 or to the Adult Handicapped Program C/O Eaton Intermediate 1790 E. Packard, Charlotte, MI 48813.

Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted to the Daniels Funeral Home in Nashville.

## Board of review answers tax questions

The three-member Vermontville board of review, along with village and township Assessor Jeff Winans, were kept busy last week, answering residents' tax questions.

The group held several sessions at the Vermontville Opera House so homeowners could get their questions answered. Several residents have noticed rather large changes in their amounts, both this year and last. A reassessment of the township was necessary after the Michigan State Tax Commission found the township to be "significantly non-compliant" in an August 2007 review.

Winans said any changes resulting from that reassessment are helping to keep the township in compliance.

"The reason for the changes in the reappraisal are to get an even playing field," said Winans. "If a parcel is low, this brings it back up to where it should be and brings ones that are above down to where they should be."

In a letter from the town-

ship at the time the reassessment was announced, former Township Supervisor Russ Laverty said, "The reappraisal will not increase taxes on those properties that have been previously taxed for buildings on the property (except for the annual level of inflation required by the State Tax Commission on taxable values). If a building is found on the property that has not previ-

ously been on the assessment/tax roll, that building will be added to the assessment/tax roll and will experience an increase in taxes."

LandMark Appraisal Company completed the reassessment process. In late October 2008, Michigan State Tax Commission officials increased the taxable value by 4.4 percent of all properties having a state equalized value

above the tentative 2009 taxable value.

Village Clerk Shirley Harmon said there was a nearly \$700,000 increase in the taxable value on the 468 parcels in town and that any resident wishing to see the tax records may do so at the village hall during business hours. Both the township and village tax records are housed at the village hall.

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06688319

# Summer program teaches leadership

by Patricia Johns  
Staff Writer

Local school districts are being contacted to encourage teens in 10th, 11th and 12th grade to enroll in this year's Barry County Youth Quest Teen Leadership Conference set for June 12, 13 and 14 at Barry County YMCA's Camp Algonquin facility.

Leadership Barry County is hosting this conference in order to provide a unique

opportunity for local students to challenge themselves, use cooperation to achieve success, learn what trust really means, become a team member and have fun creating strategies to overcome obstacles.

The weekend conference involves a hands-on and a "learning-by-doing" approach to leadership development.

Barry Community

Foundation's Jennifer Richards says, "Leadership Barry County Youth Quest Teen Leadership Conference gives area teens the opportunity to define and develop concepts that are vital to building strong leaders."

"We believe that this conference can assist many young leaders to realize their potential and to exercise their experiences as they assume their leadership posi-

tions within their community," she adds.

Activities are designed to help students achieve success through team-building, goal-setting, cooperation and creative problem-solving.

Participants also will learn their own personal leadership styles and how to recognize the leadership styles of others. The goal of this interactive weekend is to help the students become more effective both as leaders and as

members of a team and to realize the full scope of their potential, says Richards.

The program is open to area high school students who are identified and sponsored by area organizations or businesses as future leaders. Students must be entering 10th, 11th or 12th grades.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for the honored youth to further develop their leadership and interpersonal skills through intense interactive exercises, team building activities and group networking," adds Richards.

This program, including all materials, lodging at the YMCA Camp Algonquin, meals and activities, is offered at \$150 per student, a savings of \$150 due to contributions.

Participants in the past have discovered that, "All the talk about leadership and problem-solving are just words, until you get up there and do it. Then it becomes real," relates Richards.

"Safety is the No. 1 prior-

ity of the weekend," she adds. "All participants wear appropriate safety gear, helmets, harnesses and sling lines. All adventure activities are led by trained and certified YMCA adventure facilitators."

The success of the Leadership Barry County Youth Quest Teen Leadership Conference weekend relies on the full participation of all attendees. Students are expected to stay on site for the entire weekend, which begins on a Friday evening and runs through Sunday at 6 p.m.

It is important that once a student is chosen to attend that they make the commitment to attend, says Richards. Class size is limited, so sponsors should register students as soon as possible.

For additional information or to sponsor a student, contact Leadership Barry County at 269-945-0526 or jen@barrycf.org.

## Energy audit applications now being accepted

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that the department is accepting funding applications from eligible entities for grants to conduct energy audits under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

"For the first time ever, USDA will make grant funding available this year through the Rural Energy for America Program to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses obtain audits to identify ways to improve energy efficiency," Vilsack said. "The assistance

provided by this program is in keeping with President Obama's energy conservation goals for our nation."

The program is authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. The audits are intended to help rural small businesses and agricultural producers determine where to make changes in their operations to enable them to reduce energy consumption. Audits are required for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects funded through REAP that exceed \$50,000.

States, tribal and local

governments, land grant colleges or universities, other institutions of higher learning, and electric cooperatives and public power entities are eligible to receive funds to conduct the audits. Parties seeking audits from the grantees must pay 25 percent of audit costs.

Applications for grants must be completed and submitted on paper or electronically no later than June 9. For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, see page 10533 of the March 11 Federal

Register at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/>.

USDA Rural Development intends to publish and seek public comment on a proposed regulation for the REAP program later this year. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's Web site at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov).

### 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 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 06687725

## New group forming for young widowed people

The newly formed Younger Widowed Persons Group will meet for the first time Tuesday, March 17, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Hastings Public Library.

Sponsored by the bereavement services department of

Barry Community Hospice, the group will offer support to those who have become widows or widowers in mid-life.

Attendees of the first meeting are invited to bring their ideas and insights and help determine the course the

group will take. Refreshments with a St. Patrick's Day theme will be served.

The meeting will be facilitated by Bereavement Specialist Dona Battisfore-Krebs and registered nurse

Sandy Marcukaitis. Marcukaitis is a widow herself and will be on hand to offer personal perspectives on coping with the loss of a loved one.

For more information, contact Krebs at 269-948-8452.

## Turkey federation banquet is March 21

The Thornapple Valley Hunting Heritage banquet will be Saturday, March 21, at the Barry County Expo Center on M-37 in Hastings.

The event is sponsored by the Thornapple Valley Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Doors will open at 5 p.m.

The event is the group's largest fundraising activity of the year; funds raised go to support various wildlife conservation efforts with an emphasis on turkeys. Among the activities planned for the evening are live and silent auctions, raffles, a prime rib dinner and more.

Tickets are \$55 for a single and \$80 for a couple.

For more information, contact Phillip Kuhtic at 269-792-9587 or via e-mail at [jkuhtic@accn.org](mailto:jkuhtic@accn.org), or Dan Erskine at 616-891-1126.

### BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING (TRUTH IN BUDGETING) NOTICE

The Castleton Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for the fiscal year 2009-2010 at the Castleton Township Hall on March 16, 2009 at 7 pm.

**THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.**

A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the township office at 915 Reed St., Nashville, Michigan 49073.

The Castleton Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 7 days notice to the Castleton Township Board.

Note: Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids and services, should contact the Castleton Township Board by writing or calling the following:

Lorna L. Wilson, Clerk  
915 Reed St. Box 679  
Nashville, MI 49073  
517-852-9479

There will be a special township board meeting to follow the hearing.

Lorna L. Wilson  
Castleton Township Clerk

Notice complies with MCL 141.436 & MCL 211.24e

06688058

## 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:

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FRI/MON/WED/TH 5:00, 7:10, 9:20

**FIRE UP (PG-13)** DAILY 7:20, 9:40

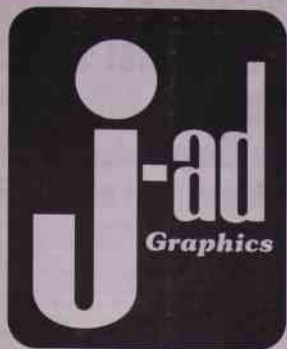
**THE INTERNATIONAL (R)** DAILY 4:15, 9:50

**WATCHMEN (R)**  
SAT/SUN/TUE 12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30  
FRI/MON/WED/TH 6:20, 9:30

**CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG)**  
SAT/SUN/TUE 12:10, 2:30, 4:50  
FRI/MON/WED/TH 4:50

**PUSH (PG-13)** SAT/SUN/TUE 1:15, 7:00  
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## From Our Readers

### DDA proposal creates questions

To the editor:

I am concerned regarding the imposition of the Downtown Development Authority in Nashville. I lived at 429 S. Main St. It is in a residential zoned area; there are no businesses near me.

posed increase of government bureaucracy? What other costs will there be? Who will run this, and what further controls will be imposed upon my neighbors and me?

Nathan J. Erwin,  
Nashville

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### Board Meeting & Election Notice Maple Valley Junior Cheerleading Organization

Monday, March 16, 6:30pm  
at the High School

All interested volunteers are encouraged to attend.  
Any questions call Susan Morris at  
517-852-1897

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## Chili dinner planned at Vermontville Methodist Church

The Vermontville United Methodist Church will hold its 10th annual chili dinner on Saturday, March 21.

The event will feature a variety of chili recipes, including white-bean, corn, five-alarm and others. The dinner will also include rolls, salad, cookies and drinks.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the New Beginnings Camp at Albright Camp to help fund the arts and crafts program.

The dinner will be held church at 517-726-1165 for more information.

## Little League sign-up this week and next at MVHS

As the weather warms up and the Detroit Tigers are training in Florida, it is time to think about playing baseball and softball.

The Maple Valley Little League will be having two dates to sign kids up for the 2009 season. This season will prove to be fun for all involved and will improve on last year's successful season.

Boys and girls ages 4 to 12 will be eligible to play this

spring. A few changes will include improved facilities, an expanded season, different age brackets, and a 14-and-under baseball team.

Parents are asked to please come out, get information and sign-up their children on Wednesday March 18, or Thursday March 26, between 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Maple Valley High School Cafeteria.

## New program to benefit Nashville VFW

The Men's Auxillary of the Nashville VFW Hall is beginning a new fundraiser for the hall. Visitors will be able to build their own burger with all of the fixin's and trimmings they can imagine. The burgers will be cooked outside on the grill and the funds raised will help support the hall's community service projects and the operation of the hall. The first build a burger event will be held on March 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information call the post at (517) 852-9260.

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## Could You Care for a Foster Child?



Homes are needed in Barry County to care for the increasing volume of foster children coming into care. 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 Dept. of Human Services.

Reservations are being taken now for Spring Classes in Hastings the 24-hour class will be held Saturday, April 18-May 9, with a required Orientation on Wednesday, April 15 from 6-9pm.

For questions or to pre-register classes please contact:  
Email: Mueller-HayesJ@michigan.gov. or  
269-948-3216

## Write us a letter!

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

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

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

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## Pierce Cedar Creek Institute offers spring break programs

Looking for something for children to do to kick off spring break? Pierce Cedar Creek Institute has a variety of hands-on programs for students age 6 to 15. Each class is age-specific and an exciting way to learn about the natural world.

Each day has its own theme and is a great way to live up spring break, say organizers. Students will be outside for most of the classes and should dress appropri-

ately for the weather conditions.

### Ages 6 to 10

Monday, April 6: Nature Detectives — become a nature sleuth and search for the clues animals and birds leave behind that help to understand their lives.

Wednesday, April 8: Sense of Survival — explore nature using all five senses to gain an understanding of what it takes to survive as an animal in the wild.

Friday, April 10: Artistic Endeavors — from short stories to framed art, participants will use natural materials to help tell a story they create themselves.

### Ages 11 to 15

Tuesday, April 7: Outdoor Survival Skills — learn how to build survival shelters, start a warming campfire and make fire-starting candles.

Thursday, April 9: Aquatic Life — explore aquatic environments to

determine the health of the quality of the water by searching out and identifying its aquatic invertebrate inhabitants.

The classes run from 8 a.m. to noon. The cost for members is \$20 per student and \$25 per student for non-members. Pre-registration is required, and class size is limited.

Call 269-721-4190 for more information or to register.

## Putnam Library and Center of Hope team up to offer new programs

As part of a local economic stimulus package, Putnam District Library, in cooperation with Maple Valley Community Center of Hope, will host several events during March.

On Wednesday, March 25, at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., free

resume creation workshops will be held.

At 5 p.m. that same day, there will be a free "Getting Started on Ebay" seminar. This seminar is for anyone who has ever thought about selling on the Internet auction site to earn some extra

income. These events will be held at the Maple Valley Community Center of Hope in downtown Nashville.

Tuesday, March 31, a representative from Michigan Works in Hastings will be at the library to help residents "Get the Most From

Michigan Works," which is a free employment service.

For more information about any of these events, visit or call the library at 517-852-9723 or send an e-mail to putnamlibrary.director@yahoo.com.

## Meals on a budget can be healthy

Eating healthy doesn't have to mean spending more money.

According to Jill Graybill, cardiovascular dietitian with Spectrum Health Healthier Communities, wholesome eating requires just a little careful planning for shopping and cooking.

"We need to stay focused on providing nutritious meals for ourselves and our families. There are ways to maintain a healthy diet while

staying within a budget," said Graybill.

The following steps can help make the most of food dollars:

- Buy fresh produce in season.

"Buying fresh produce can sometimes be expensive, unless you buy it when it is in season," said Graybill. "For example, during winter months, citrus fruits are usually less expensive." Most fresh produce is more abun-

dant and cheaper in the summer. In other seasons, buy frozen fruits and vegetables which are less expensive and can be used as needed without the worry of going bad. Canned produce is also a good choice, but Graybill recommended buying low-sodium vegetables and fruit in its own juice or light syrup.

- Reduce food waste.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the average American family throws away 14 percent of its food or almost \$600 in meats, fruit, vegetables and grain products each year.

To help reduce food waste, Graybill recommended planning meals in advance and making a shopping list. And, when shopping, "stick to your list so you're not tempted to buy food you don't need." Not only does this decrease food waste, but it saves money, too, she added.

- Check the refrigerator each day.

Graybill said to eat or freeze anything that is nearing the end of its safe storage period. Check the refrigerator, freezer and cupboards when making a shopping list, and plan meals around what is already in the house.

- Use a slow cooker.

Cooking with an energy-

saving electric crock or slow cooker can turn inexpensive cuts of meat into delicious, nutritious meals simply by adding a few vegetables, spices and a small amount of broth, she said.

- Recycle leftovers

Plan to have a leftovers night at least once a week.

"Leftover food in the refrigerator tends to be forgotten until after it goes bad," said Graybill. Try serving leftovers buffet style and make it fun to enjoy "seconds" of earlier meals.

- Use it up.

Don't throw away even small portions of leftovers. These can be used for lunches or can be combined in soups, stews or casseroles. Cook or use fruit that is past its prime — even that very brown banana or mushy apple. They can be used for sauces, smoothies or ingredients in muffins, pancakes and breads. Try putting slightly wilted lettuce, celery, or peppers in an ice bath for 10 to 15 minutes to crisp them up.

## SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

### Maple Valley Elementary Lunch Menu

Monday, March 16

No school.

Tuesday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day. Grilled cheese. Tomato soup, celery w/p.butter, St. Patrick cookie.

Wednesday, March 18

Chicken fries, Whole kernel corn, grape tomatoes, peach cobbler.

Thursday, March 19

M.W. Cottage Inn. Pizza Hot Pocket. Tossed salad, apple-sauce, cookie.

Friday, March 20

Goulash. Bread stick, fresh broc. caul., pears.  
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 16

No school.

Tuesday, March 17

Burritos. Mexican rice, pineapple/man. orgs. Salad bar.

Wednesday, March 18

Chicken nuggets. Mashed potatoes, cinnamon apples. Potato bar.

Thursday, March 19

Kellogg Cottage Inn. Club sandwich. French fries, peaches. Mexican bar.

Friday, March 20

Chicken fries. Whole kernel corn, pears. Asian 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.

## BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Vermontville Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2009-2010 at the Vermontville Opera House on Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. during the regular March 26, 2009 Vermontville Township Board meeting. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Vermontville Township Fire Station, Vermontville Public Library and Village of Vermontville office.

The Vermontville Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon reasonable notice to the Vermontville Township Board.

Note: Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Vermontville Township Board by writing or calling Sharon Stewart, Township Clerk, P.O. Box 215, Vermontville, MI 49096 or 517-726-1159. 06688091

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## Aggies edge past the Lion boys in first district contest

Dansville ended the Maple Valley varsity boys' basketball team's season Monday night, with a 47-42 victory in the team's Class C District opener.

After falling behind by eight points in the first half, Maple Valley battled back late in the game. They pulled within three points with less than ten seconds remaining on a three-pointer by Jeff Burd.

Dansville wound up clos-

ing things out at the free throw line though to advance to Wednesday night's district semifinal against Pewamo-Westphalia.

Kyle Fisher led the Lions with 14 points. Burd had 12, and Dustin Houghton nine.

Dansville got 16 points and ten rebounds from Cody Schiebner and 15 points from Eli Tinkle.

In the other opening round games at Maple Valley High School Monday, Pewamo-

Westphalia topped Laingsburg 56-44 and Leslie beat Bath 53-43.

Leslie was slated to face Pewamo-Westphalia in Friday night's district championship game. The Blackhawks topped Potterville 66-62 in one semifinal Wednesday evening, while the Pirates downed the Aggies in the other 47-33.



Maple Valley takes a time-out to talk things over while trailing Dansville in the final seconds of Monday night's Class C District opener at Maple Valley High School. (Photo by Amy Jo Parrish)

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Lunch (chili) & Soft Serve is Back!  
Soup, Sandwiches & Burgers!

Stop in and welcome Sue from Good Time Pizza to the MOO-ville staff!

**COME CHECK IT OUT!**

It's Garage Sale Month at MOO-ville Creamery. New people with new items each week.  
• Tuesday - Friday 9-7 • Saturday 9-2

STORE HOURS: M-TH. 9-7 • FRI. & SAT. 9-9 • CLOSED SUNDAYS