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Nashville Village Council approves Taser purchase

by Amy Jo Parish
Staff Writer

A new weapon can be found on the belt of the Nashville Police Department.

The Nashville Village Council Thursday night unanimously passed a motion to allow the police department to purchase a Taser. Trustee Laurie Austhof was absent.

Ron Dehne, a representative from Michigan Taser, attended the meeting and gave an overview of the stun gun and how it is used.

"The bottom line is that the Taser is an electrical control device," Dehne told the council and audience.

"Basically, it interrupts the electrical flow in the body and jams the electrical impulses. It stays in the skeletal system of the body."

Dehne said he has subjected about 450 people to the weapon through his years of training and law enforcement. The threat of using the Taser, is often enough to deter many would-be criminals, said Dehne. Though there have been instances of physical damage being caused by their use, Dehne stressed that proper training can prevent that from happening. The pulse of the weapon lasts five seconds after discharge and causes the skeletal muscles to con-

tract. "If you've ever put a nine volt battery on your tongue, multiply that by about 400," said Dehne. "It changes the attitude in about 90 percent of people that have experienced it because they never want it to happen again."

Police Chief Jerry Sarver endorsed the incorporation of the weapon into the police force and said Nashville is a place where a Taser could be of great benefit due to the delay in getting backup to a scene.

"Backup is 20 to 25 minutes away, and in that time you have to have a smooth tongue because no one wants to draw their weapon or

shoot anybody," said Sarver. "It would be a benefit for Nashville to move up to the times and for the safety of officers and the public."

The weapon shoots two barbs that can penetrate 1/2" into the skin and uses 2.1 milliamps of power. Sarver said he has been awarded a grant of \$2,000 to purchase a Taser. The department also purchased a video/audio recorder that attaches to the bottom of the Taser and records and can be used to record instances when the Taser is used. Sarver said the officers will be able to train through the Hastings Police Department at no charge.

At the meeting, the council also:

- Heard a report from Josh Leatherman concerning a new organization being developed in Nashville. Two or Three Together is a non-profit group that is seeking to provide a positive place and events for local teens to take part in. Leatherman said the group is working to contact area church leaders about their mission and is hoping to expand its services in the near future.

"Our goal is to get them (teens) off the street and give them a place to go," Leatherman told the council. "We want to share the gospel and we want to do stuff for the community. We're look-

ing for community service projects to get involved with." The group currently meets at The Living Room in downtown Nashville.

- Approved Dan Kellogg, president of the car show organization, to pursue obtaining a permit to hold the event on M-66 in downtown Nashville. Due to flooding last year, the event was held on the street and the committee received positive feedback about the show in the new location.

"It was such a good event," said Kellogg. "We didn't have one business downtown that did not like

TASER, continued on page 5

Syrup Queen ready to represent village

Amy Jo Parish
Staff Writer

The path for Hannah Gardner to become the Vermontville Maple Syrup Queen has come full circle. Named as the first Maple Syrup Princess, Gardner is the 2009 queen and couldn't be happier about wearing the crown.

"I was the first Maple Syrup Princess and after that I thought that I definitely want to do it (run for queen) now. It has been kind of a

goal for me to be princess and queen. It's kind of a royal bloodline thing," Gardner joked with a laugh.

Active in her youth group at Nashville Baptist, a trombone player with the high school band, color guard member, part of the Maple Valley Equestrian Team and part-time worker at Moo-Ville Creamery, Gardner stays busy year-round and is looking forward to the activities that come with the crown. The court took part in

the Hastings St. Patrick's Day parade recently and will be part of the Chesning Show Boat parade this summer, along with a variety of other events.

Almost a celebrity in Maple Valley, Gardner, the daughter of Steve and Janice Gardner, said she has been getting a lot of attention from elementary age students. Her mother, works at the Maplewood Elementary cafeteria and has been given the nickname of Queen Mum

by the students. Hannah said all the attention gives her a chance to have a positive influence on others.

"I think it's really cool that the little girls look up to me," said Hannah. "It's nice to give them a good role model instead of what they see in Hollywood and give the village a good image."

As part of Norma Jean Acker's Leadership Class at the high school, Hannah is able to take advantage of a variety of community service

projects and contribute to the village in a positive way.

"I like how we (the leadership class) can offer ourselves to others and not be

selfish," said Hannah. "We get to show people compassion and love. We're volun-

QUEEN, continued on page 4

Vandals damage cemetery

by Amy Jo Parish
Staff Writer

Almost each night on the news, stories of the rough economy make up much of the news. The evidence of the slumping financial situation, however, can be found locally in Vermontville.

Vandals have wreaked havoc at the Woodlawn Cemetery on State Road. The cemetery has been the target of thieves over the past few weeks. Urns, name plates and planters have all turned up missing, and the one thing they have in common is the metal materials from which they are made.

"We've got one monument with two brass flower vases that were screwed on that they stole those," said Jack Rathburn, curator of the cemetery. "On some of the monuments for children, there is a picture of the child and a cover that snaps on and those are brass. They've



Pat Yost and Jack Rathburn look over a site that was recently disturbed by vandals. An urn was stolen from the site and the contents dumped among the other markers.

VANDALS, continued on page 9



Hannah is the daughter of Steve and Janice Gardner and sister to Kylie and Gavin of Vermontville. (photo provided)

In This Issue...

- Nashville community calendars are back
- Michael Schumacher visits Vermontville Township library
- Red Hatters on the move again
- Maple Valley Athletic Boosters plan event
- Wrestling club has four place

Nashville community calendars are back

After a few years absence, Nashville community calendars are available for purchase thanks to the Nashville United Methodist Church. The group has taken up the task to re-launch project as a fundraiser for the church.

The calendar will run from September 2009 through August 2010, to coincide with the Maple Valley school year. As with previous calendars, listings of school activities as well as

community dates will be listed each month.

The church has begun selling advertisements for the calendars. Personal dates (birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, etc) and advertisement block are available. Organizations may also list their monthly or bi-monthly meeting schedules for a fee.

Members of the church will be in the community selling, however, anyone interested in purchasing an

order can call the church at 517-852-2043.

Cheryl Hartwell at 517-852-1650, Herb Frith at 517-852-9756, Tamara Martin at 269-945-0956 or Gary Roach at 269-945-8746. Hartwell, Frith and Martin can also assist any business or individual that would like to purchase advertisement space in the calendar.

The sale ends on May 24 and calendars will be available in August.

Free community dinners offer friendship and good food

by Helen Mudry
Staff Writer

The Monday evening free community dinners at Sunfield United Methodist Church continue to be a popular place to eat.

Guests start arriving at 4 p.m. for the meal. On a typical night, as many as 100 people come to dinner.

Chef Rob Piercefield, of Swede's Restaurant in Mulliken, prepares the main course. The meal includes a tossed salad and dessert treat.

The dinner is made possible by free will donations and donations from local businesses, churches, organizations and individuals who pay for the cost of the food,

paper products, etc.

"This is not just for people who are down on their luck, but for everyone who wants to have dinner with their neighbors and socialize," said Piercefield. "We recognize the need for a meal and for fellowship."

Take-out meals are available too, which Piercefield said adds a flexible component to helping others. For example, people who know of folks who can't leave their homes may take a meal to them or if a spouse or child won't be available until after 6 p.m., a meal can be taken home for him or her.

The reason the meal program starts at 4 p.m. is to

accommodate elementary children (and their families) who are dismissed from school at 3:50.

The inception for the community meal program is reflective of the state's difficult economic times. Pastor Jeff Schrock said the meals will continue as long as people come and there is a need. The venue may change from inside the church to an outdoor location as the evenings get warmer.

Anyone who wants to volunteer at the meal program or donate funds to help support it may call Piercefield at Swedes, 517-649-8941 or Schrock at 517-566-8448.



Putnam ends reading month with special guest

A dragon hunter (library volunteer Gail Chafee) helped close out activities for March is Reading Month at Putnam District Library. She made a special appearance at storytime to try and hunt down the elusive beast. The theme for the month was "Fire up with reading" and included a variety of dragon related games and activities. Above, Chafee poses with a crowd of little dragons who participated in storytime.

Friends of the Library to form

The organizational meeting for the Vermontville Friends of the Library will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the library. Anyone interested in joining this group, whose mission is to promote the library in the community and help with fundraising efforts is asked to attend. This important structural meeting will include presentation of by-laws, nominations of officers, and objectives for the

group. If you have any questions, please contact the library at 726-1362.



Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Hearty Menu Monday, April 13

Baked ham, sweet potatoes, Brussels sprouts, pineapple tidbits, wheat bread.

Tuesday, April 14

All sites closed. Volunteer recognition lunch.

Wednesday, April 15

Roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, spinach, applesauce, dinner roll.

Thursday, April 16

Spaghetti with meat sauce, tossed salad, hot peach crisp, garlic bread.

Friday, April 17

BBQ chicken leg qtr., au gratin potatoes, broccoli, banana, corn muffin.

Cold Menu Monday, April 13

Sliced chicken, coleslaw,

apricot halves, wheat bread.

Tuesday, April 14

All sites closed. Volunteer recognition lunch.

Wednesday, April 15

Cottage cheese, black bean and tomato salad, pineapple tidbits, muffin.

Thursday, April 16

Seafood pasta salad, broccoli raisin salad, mandarin oranges, graham crackers.

Friday, April 17

Stacked ham and cheese, cucumber salad, diced pears, hamburger bun.

Activities Calendar

Monday, April 13: Hastings - Crafts 10:30 a.m.; Card Making 12:30 p.m.; Music with Sam. Delton - Mini Massage 11 a.m. H,W,N- Reminiscence.

Tuesday, April 14: Hastings - No Line Dancing.

Volunteer Luncheon. All sites closed. No Pickle Ball. GL - 10:30-12:30 Cards; 12:45 p.m. Potluck.

Wednesday, April 15: Hastings - Music with Sam; Nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Bible Study 12:30 p.m. Delton - Reminiscence. Nashville - Mini Massage 11 a.m.

Thursday, April 16: Hastings - Line Dancing; Caregiver's Sup. 3:30 p.m.; Cancer Support 1 p.m. Nashville - TV Time; Delton - Puzzles, Trivia.

Friday, April 17: Hastings - Exercise 9 a.m.; Mixed Media Painting, 9:30 a.m.; Bingo 10 a.m.; Model Railroad. Woodland - Visiting, Nashville - Bingo; Friendship Feast.



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QUEEN, continued from page 1

teering, not doing it for the money. I think it's awesome that we get to help out and give of ourselves to others."

Through the queen title, Hannah is hoping to contribute even more to her community and help residents see the history behind the festival.

"My main goal is to teach people what the festival is really about," said Hannah. "It's more than just rides and a social scene, I want to help people see the true depth of the festival and what it's about. It's a piece of history turned into a modern day celebration."

For Hannah, the most interesting part of the festival isn't the games or food but rather the history and heritage behind the maple syrup products that are produced each year.

"I like learning about the sap and syrup. I find it very, very interesting and I think that's probably the coolest part," said Hannah. "It goes from total blandness to something sweet that you

can eat."

Hannah and her court, Kayla Shaw and Shauna

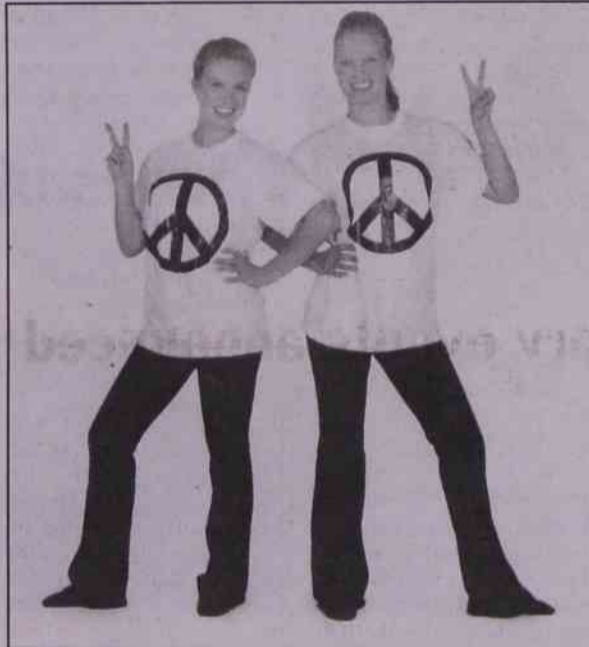
Frailey, will take part in the grand parade at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 during the Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival.



Part of the Maple Valley Equestrian Team, Gardner also shows horses on her own during the summer. (photo provided)



Along with playing trombone in the high school band, Hannah is a member of the color guard and is active in her church youth group at Nashville Baptist. (photo provided)



Junior Hannah Gardner is this year's Vermontville Maple Syrup Queen and will be traveling to various parades and events throughout the year to promote the festival. (photo by Amy Jo Parish)

From Our Readers Local Citizens Speak Out On Issues

A letter of thanks

To the Editor:
The Nashville Police Department would like to thank Allen Childers for removing the graphics on old police car. He volunteered to do remove the decals when he found out we were selling

the cars and we appreciate his services and the time he volunteered.

Jerry Sarver, Nashville
Police Chief

BARRY CO. EXTENSION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Apr. 11 Swine Tagging, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Barry County Fairgrounds.
- Apr. 13 Horse Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Apr. 14 Shooting Sports Practice Shoot, 6:30 p.m., Barry County Conservation Club.
- Apr. 15 Swine possession and pre-registration deadline.
- Apr. 15 4-H Advisory Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Courts and Law Building.
- Apr. 15 Goat pre-registration deadline.
- Apr. 15 Market steer and beef breeding animals pre-registration deadline.
- Apr. 15 Market Goat Weigh-in & Clinic, 6-8 p.m., Fairgrounds.
- Apr. 15 Market and breeding stock sheep pre-registration deadline.
- Apr. 18 Swine Tagging, 9:30 a.m.-12 noon, Nashville area (carpool area on M-66 near M-66 and M-79 intersection).
- Apr. 18 Swine Tagging, 1-3 p.m., Delton area (Osborne farm, 7165 W. Osborne Rd., Delton).
- Apr. 20 Poultry Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Apr. 21 Shooting Sports Practice Shoot, 6:30 p.m., Barry County Conservation Club.
- Apr. 21 Dairy Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Extension Office.
- Apr. 24-26 Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop, Kettunen Center.
- Apr. 25 PQA Training, 10 a.m., Expo Center.
- Apr. 26 Fun Horse Show, 9 a.m., Expo Center.
- Apr. 27 Goat Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- May 1 Dairy & Dairy Feeder Pre-registration deadline.
- May 2 Get the "Bizz" Workshop, 9 a.m., Extension Office.
- May 3 Open Speed Horse Show, 9:30 a.m., Expo Center.
- May 4 Mandatory General Leaders Fair Meeting, 7 p.m., Expo Center.
- May 6 Safe Food Handling Workshop (for Cooking Competition), 6 p.m., Extension Office.
- May 6 Livestock Developmental Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center.

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The family of Vergie Marcella Fueri wish to thank all who attended the services for our Mother. Thank you to everyone for their warm and kind generosity who sent cards and provided food for the family.

A special thank you to Troy Murray and to Brad Green of the Kingdom Hall for their kind words and prayers at the services.

Also thank you to the Hayes Green Beach nurses and the aides of the Eaton County Medical Care Facility for all the good and kind words and care they gave our Mother.

Lois Maurer, Janet Garner & Paul Fueri

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Red Hatters on the move again

By Joyce Martin

It has been sometime since the Red Hats have had any news items in the paper. After we lost our dear friend and reporter, Bernice Trask, who wrote for the paper for a number of years, no one wanted to try and fill her shoes. I'm going to give it a

try. I won't be as good as Bernice, but will do the best I can.

Flo Sayer, our Queen, is back cracking the whip. She had a little bump in the road when she fell, but is doing fine now. We have had several Queens-for-a-day since the last news items. Some of

them have been Grace Vedder, Rosa Fleetham, Delores Jenson, Charlene Goff, Ada Dennie, and Ruth VanHouten to name a few.

Recently, the Red Hatters were at the Independent Village in Grand Ledge for a Red Hat Tea. Frank Sternett, who imitates Barry

Manilow, was there to entertain us. He is great. When he sings, he sure does sound like Barry! He sang to Flo, and she really liked that. When he sang to someone else, it ruffled her feathers! We all had a wonderful time there.

Once a month we go to Lake Manor Apartments in Lake Odessa to eat lunch with the seniors and play Bingo. It is always decorated so nicely for each season or holiday, and it seems that the Sunfield Red Hatters come home as Bingo winners quite often. Even if we don't win at bingo, we sure have a great time there, and we thank them for welcoming us.

Dave and Cindy Rosier, from Rosier's Funeral Home in Sunfield, gave the Red Hats some lovely Vera Bradley purses. There was an assortment of colors and each one was designed differently. They have been used as special prizes for special events, and the group is appreciative to the Rosiers.

We have had quite a winter. Between all the snow and the cold, many of us kept inside this last winter. Now that spring is here, we will be on the move again. That's all this time. God Bless!

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Maple Valley Elementary Lunch Menu

Monday, April 13
Cheesie bread sticks, Spaghettios, pears, Teddy Grahams.

Tuesday, April 14
Macaroni and cheese, Green beans, push-up, cookie.

Wednesday, April 15
Fuller - Cottage Inn Pizza, tossed salad, fruit cocktail and brownie. Pancake wraps, Potato wedge, applesauce, Rice Krispie Treat.

Thursday, April 16
Maplewood- Cottage Inn Pizza, tossed salad, fruit cocktail and brownie, Pancake wraps, Potato wedge, applesauce, Rice Krispie Treat.

Friday, April 17
Kdg. & 1st Sack Lunch - Grape PBJ, carrot sticks, apple slices, and cookie, BBQ sandwich, Whole kernel corn, mandarin oranges, 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, April 13
Grilled cheese, Tomato soup, pineapple, Burger/Chicken Bar.

Tuesday, April 14
Chicken tenders, Cheesie potatoes, peaches, Mexican Bar.

Wednesday, April 15
Kellogg Cottage Inn, Double dogs w/chili, Onion rings, cinnamon apples, Deli Bar.

Thursday, April 16
Kellogg Cottage Inn, Lasagna w/B.Stick, Broccoli w/cheese, mandarin oranges, Salad Bar.

Friday, April 17
Quesadilla, Refried beans, banana, 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.

TASER, continued from page 1

it."

- Voted unanimously to allow the family of Duane Hamilton to make improvements to Putnam Park in honor of Duane.

"I think it's going to be great, it's going to look nice and be a nice addition to the park," said Trustee Jack Holden.

- Gave permission for Police Chief Sarver to place the new police garage out for bids. The new facility would be attached to the back of the village offices.

- Went into closed session to discuss the sale of the police building. After the closed session, the council voted to allow President Pro-Tem Mike Kenyon to contact Gary White of Green Light Driving School about the offer on the building.

The council will hold its next regular meeting April 23 at 7 p.m. at the village offices in downtown Nashville.



Ron Dehne of Michigan Taser demonstrates how the weapon works during the village council at Thursday night's meeting.

Upcoming Putnam Library events announced

Putnam District Library's event calendar for the month of April is available at the library and online at www.putnamlibrary.blogspot.com <http://www.putnamlibrary.blogspot.com>.

Teens are invited to the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) meeting at 3:45 p.m. Monday, April 13. The group will be planning for spring and summer events and continuing to work on the

soon to be created teen space.

At 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, area residents interested in helping with the summer reading program are invited to a planning meeting. This year's theme is "Be Creative At Your Library" and focuses on bringing the arts to life at the library. Artists of all kinds are encouraged to get involved and share their talents with

the community by helping with a summer program. Anyone interested in helping but unable to attend the planning meeting should contact Emily Mater at putnamlibrary.assistant@yahoo.com for more information.

The library board will meet for their annual meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 15. The board's regular monthly meeting is 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 21. The public is invited to attend both meetings.

At 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22,

the library directors will host an Uppercase Living party at the library.

UpperCase Living offers a line of decorative decals that can use to personalize a home. The directors plan to use their hostess rewards to continue the children's room makeover. Catalogs are available to preview at the library or visit www.uppercaseliving.com <<http://www.uppercaseliving.com>>.

AUTHOR, continued from page 2

are Mittenlit.com, Schuler Books & Music and Borders. Media partners are City Pulse, WKAR, Queue Creative and Tom Gennara Photography.

The Library of Michigan is part of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL). Dedicated to enriching quality of life and strengthening the economy by providing access to information, preserving and promoting Michigan's heritage and fostering cultural creativity, the department also includes the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Historical Center. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/hal.

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Additionally, collector coins like Morgan and Peace Dollars, Indian Pennies and Commemorative Coins are in GREAT DEMAND.

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Hours: Mon.-Fri. 5am-11pm; Saturday 6am-11pm; Sunday 7am-10pm

Maple Valley Athletic Boosters plan events

It's not too late to purchase 2009 Reverse Raffle tickets to support the student athletes at Maple Valley High School through the Maple Valley Athletic Boosters.

The 4th annual Reverse Raffle will be Saturday, April 18 at the Nashville VFW. Tickets are \$100 per person and includes dinner, dancing, free drinks until midnight, and a chance to win up to \$4,000.

Registration starts at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., and the raffle begins at 7 p.m.

The event is non-smoking. There will be a DJ and dancing after the Raffle. To purchase tickets, call the Athletic Booster President, Tal Gearhart, at 269-967-1219, or contact other Booster members.

During the Syrup Festival this year, the Boosters will have a dunk tank in front of the bank. Take a shot at dunking your favorite teachers, coaches, and community members. All proceeds will go to support student athletes at Maple Valley High School.

Mulliken man killed in auto accident

Deputies responded to report of a crash on M-100 south of Doane Highway on Monday, April 6 at approximately 8:20 a.m. They arrived to find two mini-vans involved.

The driver, a 38 year old Charlotte woman who was driving a 2004 Chevy Venture van, was transported to Sparrow Hospital by Benton Township Medical Services, and her injuries were unknown at press time. The second driver, identified as 35-year-old Matthew Dupree from Mulliken, was

pronounced dead at the scene.

Preliminary indications are that Dupree was traveling southbound on M-100 and lost control of his vehicle, crossing the center line and colliding with the northbound vehicle.

Both drivers were belted at the time of the crash, and alcohol does not appear to be a factor. Dupree was driving a 2007 Chevy Uplander van. It is believed that weather conditions may have played a significant role in this crash. The crash remains under investigation.

In My Own Write

by Amy Jo Parish



Unscrupulous scrapers

In these economic times, I have done my best to look on the bright side of things but an incident this past week has turned my usual optimism upside down.

Some "unscrupulous scrapers" as my mother called them, decided to visit one of the local cemeteries and take from gravesites. Whether it was to fund groceries or drugs, diapers or liquor, I don't really care. I found it appalling that this would happen, let alone in our community. I can't believe that someone would stoop as low as to take from a gravesite.

I know things are bad but I don't believe that in any way justifies wrong actions. Sure, we all make mistakes but these vandals made a choice to desecrate the sights. Just because life becomes difficult it doesn't make it okay to do something that hurts others.

Well, that's about all the pessimism I would like to put into this column so I'll change the subject.

My 102-year-old great grandmother recently asked about how the Easter Bunny became the symbol for the holiday. Easter, to Christians is a celebration of Jesus, the

Son of God willingly dying on the cross (on Good Friday) for the forgiveness of sin and rising from the tomb after three days (Easter Sunday).

Not knowing how the bunny figured into this picture, I decided to look it up. According to wisegeek.com, here is the answer.

"The Easter Bunny derives from an ancient association of hares, rabbits, and eggs with the fertile season of spring. Since rabbits and hares are prolific breeders that often produce large litters in the springtime, and birds lay their eggs around the same time, both have served as symbols of fertility in Western Europe since antiquity. The Easter Bunny combines these two events in the form of an egg-laying rabbit that heralds the season of new growth and life after the barren winter. The Easter Bunny seems to have started in Germany, where it is discussed in writing as early as the 16th century." So, if you ever wondered how the bunny became associated with Easter, now you know a little of the history. Whatever the reasons, my sweet tooth sure is glad he's part of it.

Putnam library awarded grant

The Libri Foundation has awarded a "Books For Children" Grant to the Putnam District Library in Nashville.

The organization is a nationwide nonprofit group that awards new children's books to public libraries in rural communities throughout the United States. The foundation believes in community involvement and, in an effort to encourage local support of public libraries, requires local sponsors be involved in raising funds to be matched by their organization.

By shopping the Nashville library's ongoing book sale, patrons can help the library raise these funds. The Libri Foundation will match monies raised up to \$250 at a 2-to-1 ratio. Putnam Library will then select \$750 worth of books from the Foundation's booklist, resulting in approximately 50 new children's books.

On Saturday, June 20, Putnam District Library's (PDL) Teen Advisory Group (TAG) will host this year's outdoor book sale during Nashville's annual car show. The goal of PDL's TAG is to

involve more teenagers at the library and to help the library select books, movies, and activities for teens. Currently, the group is working toward creating a teen space for the library before the busy summer season starts. TAG meets once a month and is open to any interested teen age 13 and up.

Young patrons can also support Putnam Library with the ongoing "Lincolns for your Library" canister. Donate coins at the circulation desk and watch the jug fill up. When it is full, kids will have a chance to help select a new book for the library to purchase with the money raised.

"Every little penny counts," said Library Director Shawna Swantek. For more information on these programs or other ways to help the library reach its goals, visit the library during regular hours or call 852-9723. The library is open Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tuesday 3 p.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Area Obituaries

James A. Brown

James A. Brown, age 80, passed away April 4, 2009 at his home.

He was born January 24, 1929 in Saginaw, to the late Colon and Dora (Nolan) Brown.

He was a retired area farmer and former Pet Milk hauler.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time with his family in Roscommon.

He is survived by sisters, Shirley (Donald) Drake of Dowling and Jacklyn

(Russell) Rogers of Howell and loving nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Virginia in 1972.

Visitation will be at the Daniels Funeral Home, Nashville, Saturday, April 11, 2009, 4-8 p.m. Committal will be in Richardson Cemetery, Roscommon.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bellevue Emergency Services.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Daniels Funeral Home in Nashville.

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Vermontville Township Library announces new patron service

In the effort to provide the best service possible to their patrons, the Vermontville Township Library has upgraded our site-based library circulation system, Circulation Plus, to the web-based circulation system Destiny.

Destiny is a program that provides increased access to library materials through a web-based integrated library system. Destiny combines the library catalog and collections into a single database. With Destiny patrons can search for library materials at the library, or from their home computer. This greatly increases the materials available to library patrons. They no longer have to search for library materials only on the shelves, or from a computer that is located inside in the library, and no longer are limited by library hours. They have the option of conducting searches from anywhere that they have a computer with access

to a web browser, and they can search anytime of the day or night.

Destiny has been designed to be an easy system to learn and use. In Destiny patrons can conduct searches by title, author, subject, series or keyword. Patrons can check Destiny for specific information, and a picture of the book cover, catalog "card", and the status of the book appear. The patron can then determine if that item is available in the library or if it is checked out. If the books are checked out, the date on which they are due back at the library will show on the screen, and the patron can request that a hold be placed on the title. When the book is returned, the system will notify the patron that the book is available for check out. Patrons can create a user account, and access their own patron records, see the due dates of their materials, and even renew their materials one time from a remote

location. It also provides the patron with a history of everything they have checked out since the year 2000.

Extra features include a top ten list of the most popular books and a list of new arrivals. Patrons will have the ability to write reviews and recommendations for other library users, to create a personal list of items of interest, and to send a "wish list" to the library staff of items they would like to see added to the collection.

An added feature for younger users is Destiny Quest, a visually appealing and highly graphic online searching experience that allows them to visually browse the library shelves to find related titles.

Destiny has the advanced ability to notify patrons by email as soon as the materials they have placed on hold are available decreasing the time the patron has to wait for the materials. It will also

notify patrons of overdue materials, and any fines they might owe. We are asking all patrons to update their files to include an email address. This can be done in person, or emailed to vermontvillelibrary@yahoo.com.

Destiny is compatible with both the Mac and PC platforms and with different web browsers, so whether patrons are using Internet Explorer, Netscape, or Safari, they should have no problem accessing Destiny - anytime or anywhere.

Patrons may access Destiny by visiting www.vmtlib.webhop.net, create a user account by entering their last name and library card barcode number. User guides are available at the library, and the staff would be happy to assist patrons in utilizing this new feature.

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POLICE GARAGE BIDS

The Village of Nashville is soliciting bids for a 24X44 pole barn construction garage. Anyone interested in bidding should contact Chief Schray at 517-852-9866 for details.

Construction information can be picked up at the Village office. All bids must be submitted in writing before 5:00pm on April 30, 2009 to the Nashville Village Office, 203 N. Main, P.O. Box 587, Nashville, MI 49073. The Village of Nashville reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

06690156

Eaton County 4-H to hold rummage sale

Eaton County 4-H Small Animal Association is having a rummage sale, bake sale, and a swap meet from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, May 2 in Kardel Hall at the Eaton County Fair Ground in Charlotte.

The Small Animal Association is a county wide association that helps kids to expand their knowledge of goats, poultry, and rabbits. There are many opportunities for youth to go to county or state learning workshops. The association is nonprofit and allows anyone in 4-H in Eaton County to join for free. Every year on the last day of Fair at the Eaton County Fairgrounds the association sponsors a Small Animal Auction, where each youth member is allowed to sell animals. Many of them save up their money for college, or use the money to further their knowledge of their animals, or some even put the money right back into their projects.

The rummage sale, bake sale, and swap meet will help support the small animal auction at the fairgrounds on Saturday, July 18, cover other expenses, and help youth and adults further their knowledge of goats, poultry, rabbits, and cavies.

Stop by at the bake sale and enjoy homemade cookies, brownies, cupcakes, cinnamon rolls, and more. There will also be pizza, chips, candy, pop, and water available.

The swap meet is where a person can sell items relating to animals or animals. This is open to the public free of charge. To purchase a swap meet space for \$10 please contact Babette Trudgeon 517-663-8734 or Vicki

LaLonde at 517-663-9190. In order to sell animals at the swap meet vendors must have the appropriate papers

and shots up to date. If For more information call Jean Burk 517-663-6959.

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Restoration of the wild turkey is a wildlife success story

Few wildlife management stories have been as dramatic — or successful — as Michigan's reintroduction of wild turkeys.

Although native to the southern part of the state, wild turkeys were extirpated more than 100 years ago when the last known wild turkey in the state was killed in Van Buren County in 1897. Despite several unsuccessful attempts at releasing birds across the state, it wasn't until 1954, when the Department of Conservation purchased some turkeys from Pennsylvania — where the birds had been reestablished — that the turkeys were successfully reintroduced here.

The original birds from Pennsylvania were released in the Allegan State Game Area. Within a decade, an estimated 2,000 turkeys ranged freely in Michigan. In 1965, Michigan held its first fall turkey hunting season in Allegan County. By 1968, spring turkey hunting was established in selected northern Michigan areas, and spring soon became the primary season for Michigan turkey hunting.

Buoyed by success, the Department of Natural Resources began introducing more birds around the state. Michigan acquired birds from Iowa and Missouri, from habitats similar to southern Michigan. By the late 1980s, local populations

had expanded enough that wildlife managers began capturing and moving birds from those flocks to other areas with suitable habitat. Turkey hunting opportunities expanded quickly as new flocks became established across the state.

By 2000, wild turkey populations were considered fully restored in Michigan. Today, the state boasts a population in excess of 200,000 birds — more than twice as many as existed in pre-settlement times — and wild turkeys can be found in nearly all of the state's 83 counties, absent only in some places in the Upper Peninsula.

More than 100,000 hunters have an opportunity to pursue wild turkeys every spring with a success rate that is the envy of many other turkey-hunting states. Additional fall turkey seasons allow for another harvest, especially in areas where turkeys are thought to be overly abundant.

"Today's unmatched turkey hunting opportunities are the product of a long and careful process that has coupled the wishes of Michigan's hunters with the preservation of a quality hunting experience," said Al Stewart, wildlife biologist and the DNR's upland game bird specialist.

A little more than a decade ago, not everyone who wanted to hunt turkeys in

Michigan had the opportunity. According to Stewart, that has changed significantly with today's large quota for the private-land-only hunt in southern Michigan and guaranteed licenses for those who opt for the later May hunt that is open across most of the state.

"Now, everyone with an interest to pursue turkeys can hunt on public or private land and have a quality hunting experience," he said.

Since the inception of modern turkey hunting, Michigan has managed its seasons with a zone-and-quota system. Hunters applied for a limited number of licenses that were good for a specific area during a designated time period. Although the system is still very much in place, wildlife managers recognized that as turkey populations expanded, opportunities could, too.

In 1996, the DNR guaranteed all hunters who were willing to hunt at the end of the season that they would be able to get a license. Hunt 234, as it's now known, allows all those who purchase their license by Feb. 1 the opportunity to hunt anywhere in the state except on the public lands of southern Michigan.

That was followed by a license that allowed hunters to go anywhere on private land in southern Michigan where they have permission during the first two weeks of the season.

The Area ZZ hunt, as it has come to be known, was established in 2002. The hunt has a license quota of 65,000 — enough to accommodate almost two-thirds of the state's turkey hunters, yet virtually guarantees there will be leftover licenses available for purchase over the counter. It is increasing in popularity among participants, according to DNR hunter surveys.

The DNR has stayed with its zone-and-quota approach to prevent crowding among hunters and maintain the high-quality aspect of turkey hunting that Michigan hunters have come to expect. Attitude surveys show the majority of turkey hunters are pleased with their experience.

"Turkey hunters in Michigan have the opportunity to spend more time afield and roam over more territory than anyone thought

possible when population restoration first began," Stewart said.

The DNR currently is in the midst of a three-year experiment with stabilized hunting regulations to determine if the current licensing system continues to meet the needs of state turkey hunters.

Some have suggested doing away with the zone-quota-hunt period system and opening turkey season statewide like deer season. Some say they'd like to see a more liberal bag limit. But many hunters say they like the emphasis on quality that comes with the more restricted approach.

"Managing wild turkey hunting is a balancing act involving both opportunity and quality of the experience," said Stewart.

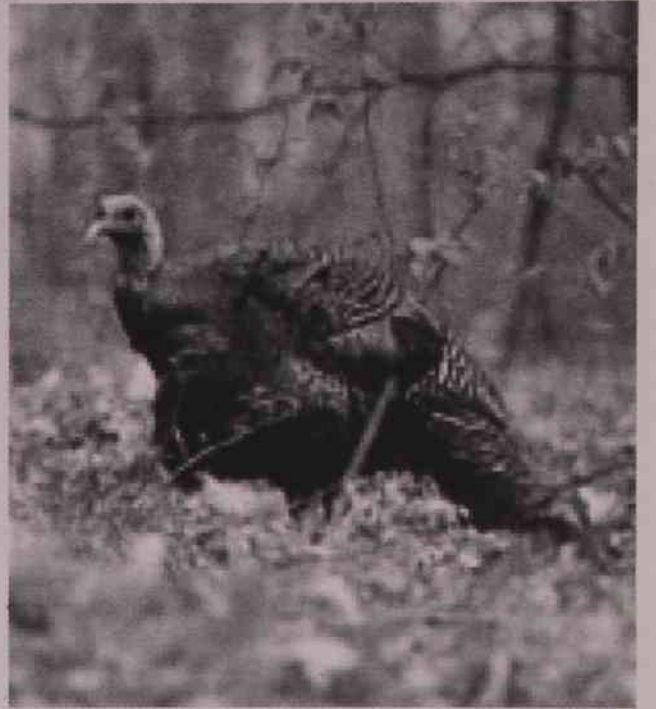
Although opinion surveys will help determine the direction turkey management takes, Stewart warns that Michigan's turkey populations will not continue to expand forever.

As with virtually every wildlife species, Stewart knows turkey populations are likely to peak, then find equilibrium at a somewhat lower level with intermittent fluctuations that have more to do with weather, habitat quality and food availability than hunting pressure.

"Although there is no indication that we've reached that point yet in Michigan — especially in southern Michigan — others states with long turkey-hunting traditions report declining populations," cautioned Stewart.

DNR wildlife managers believe turkey hunting provides hunters with an excellent opportunity to teach others what makes hunting special. Because turkey hunters must exhibit a wide range of skills — woodsmanship, camouflage, calling and marksmanship — the opportunity to mentor others, especially youngsters, is unparalleled. The sounds and sights in the spring woods offer a unique glimpse into the wonders of natural systems.

As Michigan becomes increasingly developed, and more people are separated from the land, turkey hunting has become one of the best vehicles for connecting neophytes with Michigan's long tradition of wildlife-related outdoor recreation.



Spring signals the opening of the wild turkey season in Michigan, and an estimated 100,000 turkey hunters statewide are preparing for the spring hunt which begins April 20. The spring season also offers the perfect opportunity for experienced turkey hunters to introduce the sport to a new generation of hunters, eager to bag their first gobble.

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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 Kirk Robert Reed and Candace Kay Reed, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated February 3, 2003 and recorded February 11, 2003 in Instrument Number 1097473, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Twenty and 39/100 Dollars (\$153,220.39) including interest at 7.625% 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 MAY 7, 2009. Said premises are located in the Township of Yankee Springs, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Lots 92 and 93, Valley Park Shores Number 2, according to the recorded plat thereof in Liber 5 of Plats on Page 62. 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: April 4, 2009 Orlans Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400 File No. 426.0423 ASAP# 3048851 04/04/2009, 04/11/2009, 04/18/2009, 04/25/2009

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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 Arden D. Wilder and Carolyn R. Wilder, joint tenants with the rights of survivorship, to Option One Mortgage Corporation, a California Corporation, Mortgagee, dated May 31, 2001 and recorded June 13, 2001 in Instrument Number 1061417, and re-recorded on January 10, 2005 in Instrument Number 1139922, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2001-C, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2001-C by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-Six Thousand Six Hundred Twelve and 82/100 Dollars (\$96,612.82) including interest at 8.8% 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 MAY 7, 2009. Said premises are located in the City of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Lots 4 and 5 Block 8 and the 3 feet off the North end of Lot 6 of Block 8 of Kensfield's Addition, City of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan. 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: April 4, 2009 Orlans Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400 File No. 356.2660 ASAP# 3048855 04/11/2009, 04/18/2009, 04/25/2009

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The Vermontville Township board will be accepting letters of interest from any Township resident interested in serving on the Vermontville township Fire and Ambulance board.

Please submit letters to Vermontville Township, P.O. Box 215, Vermontville, MI 49096 by Thursday, April 30, 2009.

Questions may be directed to any Vermontville Township Board member.

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Wrestling Club has four place in top eight at the state meet

The Maple Valley Youth Wrestling Club had four of its wrestlers reach the 2009 State Championships March 4-5 at Michigan State University.

Christian Schrader, Jesse Brumm, Garrett Pearson, and Chandler Murton all wrestled at the state finals. Schrader was the champion in his weight class. Brumm

finished as the runner-up. Person placed third. Murton ended the tournament in eighth place.

Those four made up less than half of the Maple Valley

youth wrestlers who finished in the top six in their weight class at the March 21 regional meet in Holt.

Brumm was a regional champion, and Schrader,

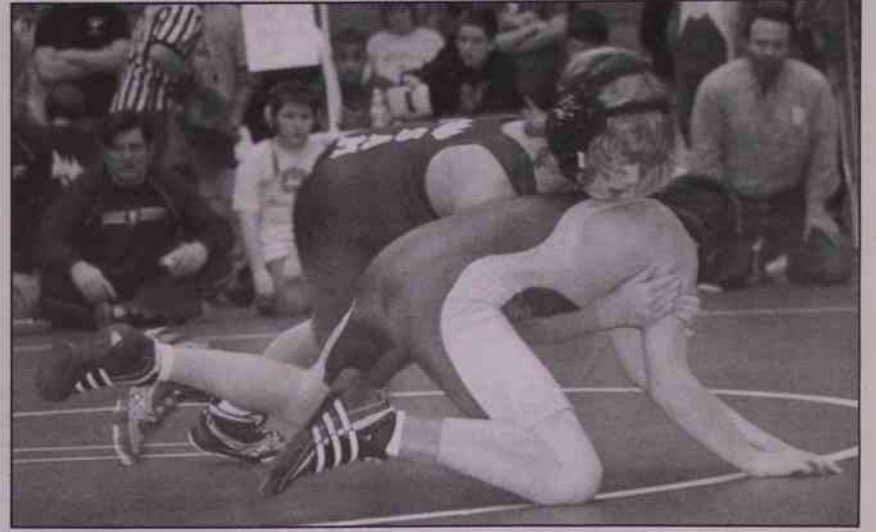
Pearson, and Murton all were runner-up finishers.

Maple Valley's Chase Schriver was third at regionals, Zachary Rosenberger and Sam Bonney both placed

fourth. Christopher Davis and Austin Zank were fifth place finishers, and Travis Franks placed sixth.



Maple Valley's Austin Zank (top) placed fifth at his team's regional tournament March 21 in Holt.



Maple Valley's Sam Bonney (top) was a fourth place finisher at his team's regional tournament March 21.

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Maple Valley wrestlers Christian Schrader (on podium from left), Jesse Brumm, Garrett Pearson, and Chandler Murton celebrate their medal winning performances at the State Finals. They are joined by their coaches Jason Murton, Chris Schrader, Gary Pearson, and Lane Brumm.

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CORN DOGS
 1 Lb.

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SUBWAY Nashville IGA Express Accepts: 

Quilt raffle to benefit library

The Vermontville First Congregational Church will hold a quilt raffle on at 5 p.m. April 25. The proceeds from the raffle will be shared between the church and Vermontville Township Library.
 Library Director Carla Rumsey said she is grateful

to the church for allowing them to participate.
 "They have generously offered to split the raffle proceeds with us, and we provided the lap quilt for second prize," said Rumsey.
 First prize is a queen quilt handmade by Joan Hanson, second prize is a lap quilt

handmade by Janet Valdick and third prize is a basket of maple syrup products that was donated by local producers.
 Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 and may be purchased from any church member, library board member, or library staff member.



This is the quilt being raffled

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