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Council votes to close road for Summerfest, pursue engineering firm

After a unanimous vote by the Vermontville Village Council, South Main Street will be blocked off to allow for a car show and other events during Summerfest on Aug. 8.

Jim Miller of Miller's Photographic Studio was at the meeting and explained that holding the event on the street will be a boost to both the exhibitors and businesses.

"Blocking off the street so we can have the car show right in town, we felt would be more beneficial to the participants and the other businesses," said Miller. "Last year, the vehicles had to park out on the ball field and there were some complaints about having to drive over dirt roads and be so far away

from everything."

Along with a car, truck, tractor and motorcycle show, the event will feature games, entertainment, motorcycle competitions and a waterball competition hosted by the fire department. Proceeds from Summerfest will be donated to the Latchkey Program at Fuller Street.

Greg Wendorf of Vermontville Hardware also attended the meeting to update the council about the facade grant program and the lack of quality communication with the village's engineering firm, Wilcox.

"I really feel like Wilcox is really snowballing a lot of people," said Wendorf. "I feel like Fred (of Wilcox) has a way he wants these buildings to look, and it

doesn't matter what I think."

The facade project is funded by both a grant and the business owners. Village President Doug Kelsey agreed with Wendorf about the poor communication from Wilcox.

"I've been disappointed with how Wilcox's communication had deteriorated," said Kelsey.

The council decided to set up a meeting with Wilcox on Tuesday, July 6, at 1 p.m. to discuss the project with both the firm and business owners who are participating.

Later in the meeting, the council discussed the search taking place for a new engineering firm. The council is looking into the possibility of working with a new firm and will hold a meeting

Thursday, July 16, at 7 p.m. to detail what they are seeking in a firm. Engineering companies will be able to meet with the council July 21 and 23 to gain further details and be interviewed by the council.

Kelsey also asked the council to consider the possibility of purchasing the home at 146 E. Main St. for possible use as a village office. The manufactured home was the site of an adult-assisted living home before becoming a HUD home and being placed on the market.

Kelsey said the asking price is \$68,000 and that renovations needed to bring the current office up to code would cost approximately \$45,000. The current office was purchased in 1982 from

Maplewood Elementary where it was used as a classroom for many years. Council member Gary Patrick suggested that a time be set up so that the council could tour the facility and determine if it would be possible to convert the space into the needed offices.

In other business, the village council:

- Set a public hearing for July 14 at 7 p.m., during the regular planning commission meeting. The hearing will be held to answer questions concerning the proposed renovations at the Kelly Fuel's Mobil Station in town.

- Heard a report from the DPW's Monte O'Dell about an energy-saving initiative through Consumers Energy. The plan helps communities

and individual residents change their lights to more energy-efficient versions.

- Voted unanimously to allow Miller's Photographic Studio to use the park next to Roadrunner's Bar for pictures during the "Biking for Granny" event that will take place on July 11.

- Detailed that there are openings on both the planning commission and zoning board authority for members at large. The village is now accepting applications for those open seats.

The council will hold its next regular meeting Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. in the village office.

New owners set to reopen Good Time



Good Time Pizza will be open once again due to the work of new owners, Bill and Jenny Reynolds and their family and friends. Pictured with the Reynolds family are Sherri Shoemaker, Marv Raffler and Sue Raffler, just a few of the people who have helped renovate the building. (Photo by Amy Jo Parish)

by Amy Jo Parish
Staff Writer

Anyone who spends time with Bill Reynolds of Woodland soon reaches the understanding that he gives 100 percent to any project he is taking part in, whether it's the next show at The Revue Theatre or one of the many groups he is part of at Vermontville Bible Church. His most recent project takes him and his entire family into the restaurant business.

Bill, along with wife Jenny, purchased Good Time Pizza in Nashville and have been working for several months to renovate the space. Their goal is to recreate some of the positive memories they have of the restaurant.

"I worked at Good Time out of high school and Jenny and Sue (Raffler, mother of Jenny) have worked here for 20-plus years," said Reynolds. "It's always been sitting in the back of my mind that this would be a great place to own."

With the help of their parents, children and others from the community, Good Time Pizza has been given a complete interior facelift. Walls have been painted, tables refinished and new flooring laid to create an atmosphere that the Reynolds hope will provide a comfortable place for the community to dine and catch up with old friends.

"We want this to be a fun, community gathering place,"

said Bill Reynolds. "We want it to be a place where people know they can come and get great service and great food."

Bill's mother-in-law echoed his sentiments, saying that while the renovation has been a lot of work, it will be worth the effort once the business is officially reopened.

"I'm just excited about the thought of Good Time being open again for the community," said Raffler. "It has been a lot of work, but hard work

pays off."

With a focus on quality, both in the menu items and service, Reynolds is hoping the community will provide input on the changes to the restaurant.

"We're going to be very big on comments from customers. We want people's feedback," he explained. "This is Maple Valley's Good Time. We want that feedback, and we're here to

GOOD TIME, continued on page 8



Bill Reynolds (left), along with Marv Raffler work on removing the old finish from one of the tables before applying a new coat of sealer. (Photo by Amy Jo Parish)

Burd signs at Cornerstone University

As a three-sport standout at Maple Valley High School, Jeff Burd has decided to hone his skills in one sport in college and pursue track and field at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids.

The unabashed leader of Maple Valley's team through the years, Burd capped his senior season with a quartet of MHSAA Regional Championships in the 200-meter, 400-meter, 4-by-200-meter and 4-by-400-meter relays. At the Division 3 state meet in May, Burd followed up his three All-State performances from his junior season with four All-State awards.

Burd's 2009 state meet quartet of events included a

fourth place finish in the 200-meter, third place in the 4-by-200-meter relay and a pair of state titles in the 400-meter and a repeat title from 2008 in the 4-by-400-meter relay.

"I first saw Jeff anchor the 4-by-400 at the 2008 state meet and saw the guts he put on display that day. That was exactly what I look for in runners," said track and field recruiting coordinator Paul Koutz.

Topping the school record board in six events, Burd is thought to have considerable range, which will be utilized in college, added Koutz.

Burd's personal records include times of 22.0 for the 200-meter dash and 48.6 for the 400.

He is considering pursuing athletic training at Cornerstone University and will report to school in late

August. He is the son of Tim and Kari Burd of Nashville.



Jeff Burd is joined by his dad, Tim, as he signs on in Cornerstone University's track and field program.

In This Issue...

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- The Disciples to sing at Kalamo church Sunday
- Library program brings out imagination and creativity
- MV baseball team wins tournament

Golf tourney open to ladies and, well, ladies

On July 11, men will don skirts and other accessories when they take part in the annual Crunch Classic at Mulberry Fore Golf Course. The event is in memory of Tony Dunkelberger, and all proceeds will be put toward a scholarship in his name

through the Maple Valley Memorial Scholarship Foundation.

The foundation uses the interest from the \$10,000 donations to award scholarships to local graduates and alumni. This method was appealing to both Brian

Chaffe and LeRoy Starks when they were thinking of an appropriate way to honor their friend.

"This way, it will carry on and on even after the golf outing is done," said Starks. "Hopefully, people will hear his name and the scholarship

is awarded and talk about him."

The golf outing features a twist that makes the event more fun than just an ordinary round of golf, said the pair. Men golfing will be able to tee off from the ladies' markers, provided

they wear skirts during the round of golf. With just one golfer not donning a skirt last year, both gentlemen count it as a success.

"We wanted to have something unique," said Chaffe. "There's a golf outing every weekend, so we wanted to do

something different."

To purchase a \$5 raffle ticket or learn more about the golf outing, contact Starks at 269-838-2873, Chaffe at 517-930-3383 or Steve Augustine at 517-726-1485.



A group of golfers show off their skirts (and legs) at last year's Crunch Classic golf outing. (photo by Miller Photography)

Charlton Park Gas and Steam Engine Show is next weekend

The 38th annual Gas and Steam Engine Show will be held at Historic Charlton Park July 10, 11 and 12.

Visitors will see the history of engines in the making, from steamboats to tractor parades to a working sawmill and more.

An open class horse pull will be held Friday, July 10, at 6 p.m. with the Michigan Horse Pulling Boat. Demonstrations will include shingle making, threshing, hay baling and the operation of an 1890 Corley Sawmill.

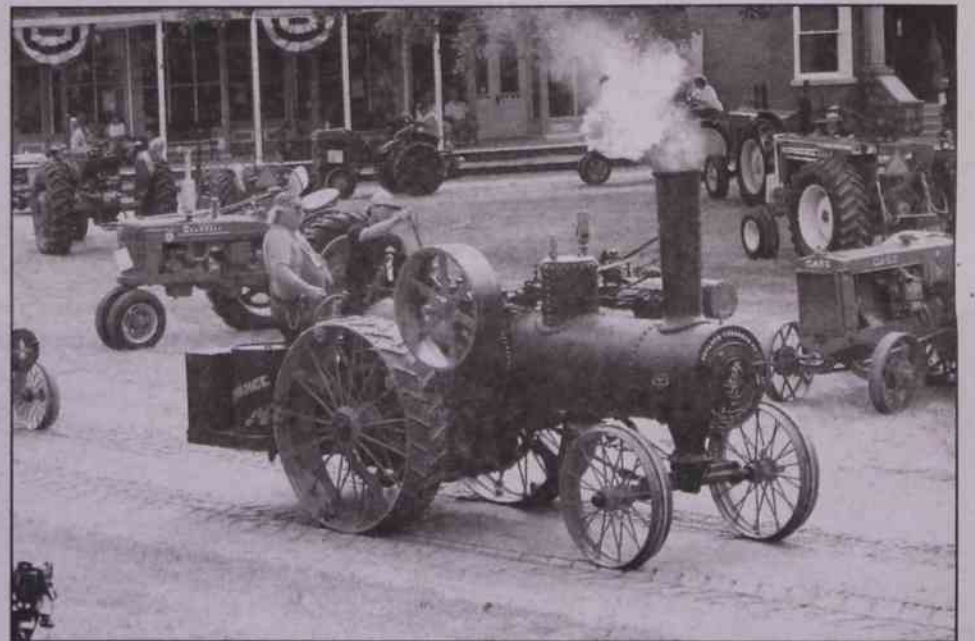
Guests can enjoy Westinghouse steamed corn, strolling the historic village, riding in a steamboat and even a spark show the evening of July 10. More tractors and steamers are expected this year than ever before, said park director Keith Ferris.

Show hours are Friday July 10, from noon until dusk; Saturday, July 11, from 8 a.m. to dusk; and Sunday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission to this event for Friday and Saturday is \$5 for

adults each day, \$3 for children. Sunday the charge is and \$3 for everyone. New this year is a special two-day pass for Friday and Saturday at \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 4 to 12 years.

Charlton Park is located between Hastings and Nashville on Charlton Park Road just off M-79. For more information, call 269-945-3775, visit www.charltonpark.org, or search Historic Charlton Park on Facebook.



All kinds of old-time farm machinery will be displayed or demonstration at the Charlton Park Gas and Steam Engine Show July 10 to 12.

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LOCAL CHURCH SCHEDULE

<p>ABUNDANT GRACE WORLD OUTREACH CENTER <i>Come as you are but don't leave the same.</i> Meet at Kalamo Twp. Hall 8960 Spore Ave. Vermontville, MI 49096 Morning Service 10:30 a.m. Evening Service: (Every 1st & 3rd Sunday) 6 p.m. REV. DAWN GOODMAN Contact numbers: (517) 852-0896 or (517) 852-9606, leave message</p>	<p>BASILINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 9617 E. Baseline Rd. Corner of Baseline & Church Roads (2 miles east of M-66 on Baseline) Church Service 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Youth Groups, Bible Study and many other activities. Phone (616) 963-7710 MINISTER: VIRGINIA HELLER</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERMONTVILLE 110 S. Main St., Vermontville, MI 49096 (517) 726-0258 PASTOR: ISRAEL (IZZY) YOUNG Wed. 5:30 p.m. Family Supper 6:00-7:15 Pioneer Club Sun: 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Church Service 11:00 Fellowship</p>	<p>KALAMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Worship Services 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 a.m. PASTOR BRYCE FEIGHNER 517-541-1144</p>
<p>ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES A Spirit-filled Church Meeting at the Maple Leaf Grange Hwy. M-66 south of Assyria Rd. Nashville, MI 49073 Sun. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m. Jesus Club for boys & girls ages 4-12. Pastors David & Rose MacDonald. An oasis of God's love. "Where Everyone is Someone Special." For information call 1-616-731-5194 or 1-517-852-1806.</p>	<p>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 301 Fuller St., Nashville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday: A.M. Worship 11 a.m. P.M. Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Worship 7 p.m. REV. ALAN METTLER</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH 8950 East M-79 Highway, Nashville Morning Celebration 9 & 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service, Relevant Practical Teaching, Nursery, Children's Classes, Youth Group, Adult Small Groups, Leadership Training PASTOR: DON ROSCOE Phone: (517) 852-1783 e-mail: grace@gc3.org</p>	<p>MAPLE GROVE BIBLE CHURCH 8593 Cloverdrive Road (1/2 mile East of M-66, 5 mi. south of Nashville) Sunday School 10 a.m. A.M. Service 11:15 a.m. P.M. Service 6 p.m. PASTOR GEORGE GAY</p>
<p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH 803 Reed St., Nashville Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday: A.M. Worship 11 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Prayer Meeting 7 p.m. PASTOR GLENN BRANHAM</p>	<p>CHESTER GOSPEL CHURCH 3744 W. Vermontville Hwy. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Family Night Service 8:45 p.m. PASTOR MARC S. LIVINGSTON Phone: 543-5488</p>	<p>GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 5505 North Mulliken Road, Charlotte one mile north of Vermontville Hwy. PASTOR KATHY SMITH 517-726-0526 Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:50 a.m. Weekly Bible Studies United Methodist Women: 3rd Thursday</p>	<p>NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 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>PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARRYVILLE 6043 E. M-79 Highway, 4 miles west of Nashville (cor. M-79 & Barryville Rd.) Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. Other: Prayer Walk, U.M. Women, Bible Study, Mission Projects & more. PASTOR SUSAN OLSEN Phone 517-852-1993 IGNITING MINISTRY Open Hearts—Open Minds—Open Doors</p>	<p>QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH M-79 West Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. PASTOR KENNETH VAUGHT (616) 945-9392</p>	<p>SOUTH KALAMO CHURCH Corner of Kalamo Highway & Ionia Rd. Sunday A.M. Worship 10:30 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening at 6 p.m.: PASTOR JEFF SWIFT (517) 852-9154</p>	<p>ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 203 N. State, Nashville Sunday Mass 9:45 a.m. FATHER AL RUSSELL A mission of St. Rose Catholic Church, Hastings</p>
<p>ST. ANDREW & MATTHIAS INDEPENDENT ANGLICAN CHURCH 2415 McCann Road Sunday Services: 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion For more information call: 795-2370 or Rt. Rev. David Hustwick 948-9327 Traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer used for all services. RT. REV. DAVID HUSTWICK</p>	<p>VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH 250 N. Main St., Vermontville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m. Wed. Evening Service 6:30 p.m. AWANA 6:30-8 p.m. Wed. PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH</p>	<p>VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 108 North Main, Vermontville PASTOR KATHY SMITH 517-726-0526 Adult and Youth Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m. Weekly Bible Studies United Methodist Women: 2nd Tuesday</p>	<p>06652103</p>

Rolling Thunder roars into Lakewood to honor vets

by Helen Mudry
Staff Writer

Lake Odessa Village Park was decorated in red, white and blue last Saturday to welcome the Rolling Thunder motorcycle riders Michigan Chapter 4 on its seventh annual Enduring Freedom ride. The event in Lake Odessa was sponsored by Lakewood Real Estate, Union Bank and the Lakewood Area Chamber of Commerce.

The ride began at 11 a.m. in Saugatuck and the 110 bikes arrived in Lake Odessa about 1 p.m. The Rolling Thunder riders lived up to their name as they were heard entering town. They parked facing south on

Fourth Avenue which was blocked off for the bikes. The Redemption Riders Mid-Michigan Chapter coordinated with the Lake Odessa Police Department on traffic logistics for the event.

Prior to the bikers' arrival, the park was filled with Lakewood area patriots, friends and parents of past and present soldiers. The stage and posts of the pergola were decorated with the 300 stars bearing veterans' names made by Marilyn DeJong for the Winter's Festival of Light.

A trio from Harvest Community Church sang praise choruses as people settled on lawn chairs and

picnic tables for the afternoon's events.

Village Council President Karen Banks welcomed the bikers and introduced Sue VanWieren from the Rolling Thunder organization. She shared information about Rolling Thunder, its mission and goals.

According to its Web site, the major function of Rolling Thunder Inc. is to publicize POW-MIA issues and educate the public that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all previous wars and to help correct the past and to protect future veterans from being left behind should they become prisoners of war or missing in action.

A very somber part of the program was the reading of names of Michigan's 181 fatalities from the Iraq war. Cards with the names were passed out randomly to people in the audience. When the soldier's name, rank and branch of service was read,

the person holding the soldier's name stood. The card holders then formed two rows on either side of the pavilion. A bell was rung for each name, creating a funeral toll.

The names were read alphabetically, and many from the area knew that Nyle Yates, who died in action in 2006, would be one of the last names on the list. With a tearful crack in her voice, Yates' mother, Jamie Edgcomb, read her son's name.

This was followed by a 21-gun salute fired by the VFW. Mike Smith, a professional player from Bugles Across America played "Taps."

Jadelyn Stewart from Vermontville sang the "Star Spangled Banner." The children's choir from Faith Christian School and Faith Bible Church sang "I Pledge My Life" and "The Price of Freedom."

Pastor Bruce Barker from

Faith Bible Church prayed for protection for those military members in harm's way and thanked God for being able to meet for freedom's cause.

A POW flag and an MIA flag were dedicated for the Veterans Chapel on M-50. A "thank you" for the civilians who stay home to take care of business was given.

Music continued with Shannon Hughes from Lake Odessa.

State Rep. Brian Calley sang and played keyboard while Barry County Commissioner Michael Callton played harmonica. Their vocal selections included "All Gave Some and Some Gave All." They commiserated with the Michigan economy singing "They're living it up on Wall Street, but in the real world they're shuttin' Detroit down."

The program ended with America's Got Talent finalist Jessica Price singing songs

from her new CD.

The Lake Odessa VFW Post 4461 and the American Legion Post 45 helped in the day's events.

The patriotic program was organized in part by Pearl Goodmoot from the Lakewood Area Chamber of Commerce.

"The event is our community's way to say, 'thank you' to those who serve, defend and protect our freedom—past and present," said Goodmoot.

2009 Heritage Award winners

Sunfield Historical Society and Jim Zemke of Vermontville are the winners of the 2009 Heritage Awards given by the Eaton County Historical Commission.

From publishing five books on families, schools and cemeteries to hosting four county-wide workshops on local history and genealogy and countless other volunteer contributions, the Sunfield Historical Society has worked tirelessly on behalf of historical preservation in Eaton County. Its large volunteer base is an outward sign of the inclusive, helpful group they are, said the commission's Julie Kimmer.

Zemke has provided countless hours of work restoring and preserving the

museum along with collecting Vermontville and Eaton County history. He is always the first to lend a hand when one of Vermontville's historic structures needs help, said Kimmer.

The awards are made annually by the Eaton County Historical Commission. They are given to individuals or organizations who make important contributions to the restoration, preservation or public awareness of the county's historical heritage. The award presentations are planned for the Heritage Conference Sept. 26, hosted this year by the Vermontville Historical Society. For further information, contact Julie Kimmer at 517-543-6999 or pre-serve@ia4u.net.

Community Notices

CLASS REUNION
Maple Valley Jr./Sr. High School Class of 1994
Nashville VFW
304 S. State, Nashville
August 8th, 6:00PM-1:00AM
Pig Roast, \$10 per person
Potluck-bring a dish to pass
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We are looking for the following classmates:
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FRI-SUN 1:00, 4:10, 7:10, 10:05
MON-TH 4:10, 7:10, 10:05

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG)
FRI-SUN 11:45, 2:05, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
MON-TH 4:20, 6:40, 9:00

Transformers: The Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13)
FRI-SUN 12:45, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
MON-TH 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

The Proposal (PG-13)
FRI-SUN 11:30, 1:50, 4:30, 6:50, 9:20
MON-TH 4:30, 6:50, 9:20

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We'll be fair, honest, and most importantly, keep your money local so it helps support jobs in our store and projects in our community. The big box stores and out-of-state mail order stores provide "service" from people you either never see face to face or never see more than once. If something goes wrong with your prescription, your local pharmacy will make it right. Unlike mail order or the chains, we'll take care of your prescription needs and work with you in difficult times. When you spend your money locally, it stays local. It pays local taxes to support community services. It supports local jobs who often then shop at other local establishments. The big box stores are generally a longer drive to get to, the "service" is often not an accurate description of what you really receive, and your money will never come back to your community. Mail order is even more predatory. Meds get lost in the mail. You don't know where, or by whom, your prescription is being filled. Shopping local assures quality and responsibility from people you know.

At Maple Valley Pharmacy, we are responsible for what we do. We are professionals with more than 32 years of pharmacist experience between Jody and myself. We take our responsibilities seriously and provide the personal care and attention you deserve for your pharmaceutical needs. We strive to help you immediately during regular hours, and are available even after hours for urgent needs—things the big box and mail order pharmacies cannot do. In addition, Jody and myself are immunization certified to administer the Zostavax (Shingles) vaccine, flu and pneumonia shots—right here at the store for your convenience. At MVP, we provide many other unique services, like Medical Massage Therapy, UPS shipping, free Wi-Fi and more. We make every effort to treat you right. Our employees greet you, often by name, because we are your neighbors. We truly care about your health care needs.

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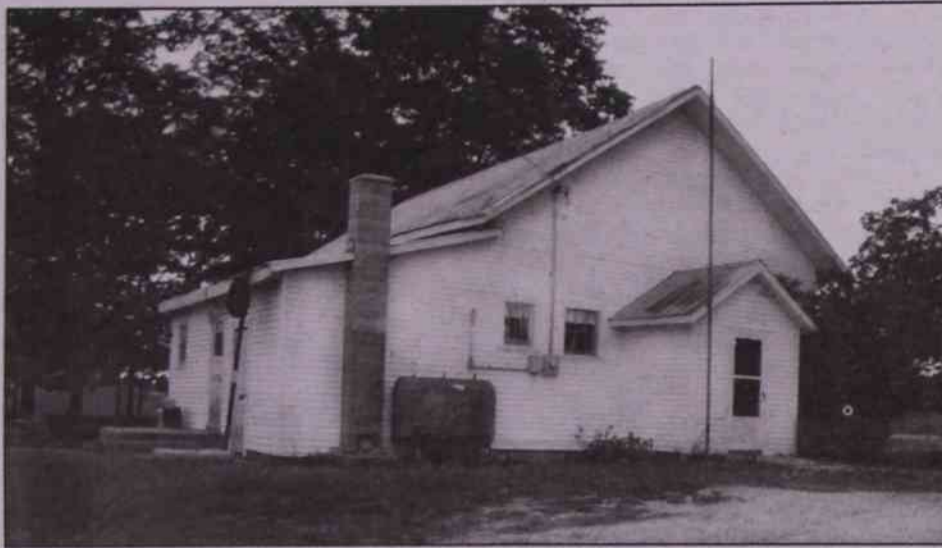
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Bismark community building receives historical grant

The Bismark Community Boosters of the Bismark neighborhood north of Vermontville has received a grant from the Eaton County Historical Commission for its preservation of the old Bismark School.

Built in 1863 to serve the school children of the rural farming community, the building now serves as a community center for neighborhood potluck dinners, boosters meetings and local events. The school is located between Vermontville and Sunfield at the corners of Round Lake Road and Bismark Highway.

"We're very grateful for the help of the Eaton County Historical Commission," said Boosters Vice President Bob Robinson. "In recent years, we've been able to make important repairs to preserve



The Bismark school was the recent recipient of a \$550 grant to restore windows.

the building. The building is historically important to the agricultural heritage of our area."

In addition to resurfacing

the school's original hardwood floors, new appliances and hot running water have been added. The 2009 historical grant for \$550 will go toward renovating the building's original multi-pane win-

dows.

For more information on monthly potluck dinners and other Bismark community events, call Boosters President Ross Jackson at 517-281-4483.

Area Obituaries

Floyd G. Conley

HASTINGS - Floyd G. Conley, age 87, of Hastings passed away Monday, June 29, 2009 peacefully at Pennock Hospital.

Floyd was born in Lansing on June 16, 1922. He was raised in the Bath area and attended area schools there.

Floyd served his country during WWII as an artillery gun crewman where he saw combat in the Rhineland Campaign, and Ardennes Campaign. He was decorated with the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, two Bronze stars and the Good Conduct Ribbon.

He was the widower of Emma J. (Bruce) Conley. The couple was married on October 25, 1959 in Charlotte. Floyd and Emma lived in the Lansing area until October of 1976 when they retired. During their retirement, the couple lived in the Silver Lake area and spent their winters in Archadia, Florida.

Floyd and Emma attended Welcome Corners United Methodist Church in Hastings. Together they enjoyed camping all over the country and were members of the National Camping and Hiking Association. Their favorite camping destination was 6 Lakes Michigan in Edmore as they were especially fond of the 5th lake in the chain.

Floyd enjoyed being outdoors fishing, hunting, and later in life found a passion for golf, and playing horse-shoes.

Floyd is survived by his daughter, Dolline (Aaron) Martin; two sons, David (Lynn) Conley, Floyd W. (Mary) Conley; step son, Richard (Gloria) Moon and daughter-in-law Janet Moon. He is also survived by 18 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren; three great great grandchildren.

Floyd was preceded in death by his beloved wife Emma in 2007; his brothers, David, Wallacette, Wallace, Dorval, and Theron; his sister, Leona, and his step-son, Carroll.

Funeral services were held at the Daniels Funeral Home in Nashville on Friday, July 3, 2009 with Pastor Susan Olson officiating. Interment took place following the funeral service at Floral Lawn Cemetery in Battle Creek.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Eaton Community Hospice or Welcome Corners United Methodist Church.

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

Please visit our website at www.danielsfuneralhome.net for further details.

MAPLE VALLEY LIONS MAPLE VALLEY CLASS OF '82
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Pam Bell	Bob Hubbel	Sonya Slocum
Scott Benton	Candy (Williams) Hummel	Robin Kurtz
Paul Best	Debbie Hummel	Dan Millous
Linda Boucher	Steve Hummel	John Pomeroy
Roni Bracy	Steve Lukasewycz	Debbie Soderberg
Kayleen Brandon	Lorrie Morrow	Mariann Strong
Brian Brass	Sonya Pike	Sharon Symonds
Rachel (Cantrell) Davis	Rick Roberts	Randy VanZandt
Glenn Coffman	Melanie Rogers	Becky Williams
Melissa Coffman	Doug Roof	Robin Wright
Kristina Fuller	Mark Rushford	
Linda Hall		

If you have contact information for any of these classmates please call Lisa (Cagwell) Trumble at 517-726-0002 or Michelle (Frith) Dunkelberger at 231-373-0439.

We are planning a reunion Saturday, August 22nd at the Nashville VFW.

Indoor picnic set to benefit NUMC

The Nashville United Methodist Church invites the public to its annual summer fundraiser, "Indoor Picnic" Saturday, July 18, beginning at 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4 for kids 4 to 12, and kids 3 and under will be admitted free. The menu includes barbecue and regular chicken, all-you-can-eat hamburgers and hot dogs, as well as potato salad, brownies and lemonade.

The community is invited

to enjoy the perks of a picnic without any of the hassle. The church is air conditioned and bug-free. Tickets are available through the NUMC office at 517-852-2043 or numcooffice@att.net.

An old fashioned hymn sing following the meal at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Money raised will help support the church and its various ministries.

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- Designated Funds** make grants to specific organizations chosen by the donor when the fund is established.

Scholarship and Award Funds are established by donors wishing to make education available to individuals in their communities.

You may also wish to:

- consider naming your community foundation as the beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance policy.
- make a bequest to a community foundation in your living trust or will.
- establish a Supporting Organization through the community foundation. A Supporting Organization is a separate legal entity for tax purposes and has its own governing body; by affiliating with a community foundation, the Supporting Organization enjoys public charity status and the professional staff services of the community foundation.

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Social News

Sunfield United Methodist Monday dinners continue



Rasey-Ryan

Don and Pat Rasey of Nashville wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Karla Marie Rasey to Joshua James Ryan, the son of Mike Ryan of Eyart and Scott and Judy Coon of Sunfield.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Maple Valley High School and is currently employed with Hometown Lumber and Hardware in Nashville.

The groom-elect is a graduate of Lakewood High School in 2003 and Kettering University in 2007 and is currently employed with Spartan Chassis in Charlotte.

An August 29, 2009 wedding is being planned at Sunfield United Brethren Church.

The couple will reside in Vermontville.



VanderMeulen-Smith

Dr. and Mrs. Douglas VanDerMeulen of Marshall are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy to Ben Smith, son of Reverend and Mrs. Daniel Smith of Vermontville, Michigan.

The bride-to-be is a 2004 graduate of Marshall High School and a 2008 graduate of Hope College in Holland, Michigan where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education. She currently works at Whistle Stop Child Development Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The prospective groom is a 2004 graduate of Maple Valley High School and a 2008 graduate of Hope College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in secondary education. He is employed by Kelloggsville Public Schools in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The couple will be married July 24, 2009 in Marshall.

The Monday evening free community dinners at Sunfield United Methodist Church continue to be a popular dining option for many in the Lakewood area. Some come because their food budget needs a break and some attend for fellowship with friends.

The simple menu varies but always includes a salad, main course and cookie.

The Monday count is usually around 130. The success of the dinners has spread to the Methodist Church in Mulliken, serving 80 to 100 on Mondays, and Emmanuel

Lutheran in Grand Ledge, serving 60 to 80 people.

Chef Rob Piercefield of Swede's Restaurant in Mulliken does the cooking, and volunteers serve the meal.

The meal is made possible by 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 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.

The inception for the community meal program is

reflective of the difficult economic times. Piercefield said the meals will continue as long as there is a need, as long as people keep coming.

People who need a ride to the meal program may call him at his restaurant. Anyone who wants to volunteer at the meal program or donate funds to help support it may call him at Swede's, 517-649-8941.

Sunfield library summer reading program is ready to launch

Sunfield area kids will "book it" soon during the Sunfield District Library's summer reading program, which runs July 7 through Aug. 3.

Included in this year's program are four special-events day with two performers and two craft days.

Entertainers are Michael Brown and his talkative puppet, Beethoven, at the library on 11 a.m. Monday, July 20, and renowned Frisbee-catching dogs, The Flying Aces on 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 3 at Sunfield's village park.

The performances by Michael Brown and Beethoven, and The Flying Aces, are free and open to kids and families throughout the Lakewood community and will last approximately one hour.

The two craft days are Mondays, July 13 and 27, at 11 a.m. at Sunfield's Main Street Community Room.

Reading and craft events are reserved for Sunfield area kids entering kindergarten through seventh grades.

Sign up begins Tuesday, July 7, when the library opens for the day.

In addition to events each week, reading participants will receive weekly giveaways, earn reading rewards in the form of coupons for free videos, IGA Faygo pop, and Marko's candy. Readers also will take their shot at a candy Guess Jar, which will be awarded at the end of the program to the closest guesser. Other reading incentives and surprises are planned, as well.

Inquiries about the Sunfield District Library's summer reading program may be made by calling the library during open hours, at 517-566-8065. Open hours are Tuesday through Friday, 2 to 8 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Goodner wins grill in drawing



Gloria Goodner (right) was the winner of a grill ensemble from Roush's Sidewalk Cafe in Nashville. Owner Kristy Roush, holding son Joshua Goodner, joins Goodner. The restaurant held a drawing for the grill as a customer-appreciation gesture.

Sunfield blood drive exceeds goal

The American Red Cross exceeded its goal of 25 pints by collecting 31 at Monday's Sunfield United Brethren Church Blood Drive.

Sunny Crest Youth Ranch CEO Ron Coppess helped recruit donors and contacted 18 area churches for volunteers.

American Red Cross Donor Recruitment Representative Susan L. Clements said summer is an important time to donate. There seems to be more need with more accidents, she said. At the same time, donations are fewer with schools and colleges not in session and people on vacation.

One pint of blood can save

three lives, said Clements. She then tallied Lakewood's spring donations of 37 at Clarksville, 54 at Central United Methodist and 31 at Sunfield for 122 units times three means 366 people were helped.

The next drive at Sunfield is Monday Aug. 30 from 1 to 6:45 p.m.

Garage Sale

SALE MOM & DADS: Brand name clothes, boys & girls, teens, guys & gals, womens, air hockey table, car parts, kitchen, bedding, toys & misc. July 10th & 11th 9am-6pm. 7808 Vermontville Hwy, Vermontville.

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FOR SALE: TWO bedroom house, new carpet, roof and hardwood floors. This 2-bedroom house has been completely remodeled and has a large double lot with a large shade tree and room for a garden. \$55,000. Call 616-481-5571.

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The **VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** is holding a Very Exciting **BIBLE SCHOOL PROGRAM** for ages kindergarten through sixth grade, **Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 10, from 6:30 p.m. through 8:00 p.m.**

There will be singing, drama, Bible lessons, crafts and snacks as we search for Good News Clues to find new life in Jesus. So, kids, come and join us and bring your friends.

The church at 108 NORTH MAIN, VERMONTVILLE, is air conditioned, so we can learn and have fun even on the hottest summer nights.
For more information contact Pastor Kathy at 517-726-0526

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From Our Readers Local Citizens Speak Out On Issues

Less politics and more solutions, please

To the editor:
Once again, legislators in Lansing show how partisanship prevents our state from progress toward solutions to our serious problems. This was most recently demonstrated by State Rep. Rick Jones in his recent *Lansing State Journal* guest column, urging lawmakers to reject the lease on Michigan State Police headquarters. Now fully built, funds for the new building were blocked by

Jones and other legislators over partisan bickering. Rep. Jones is hard working and respectable, but as *Lansing State Journal* Executive Editor Michael Hirten asserted in his snub of the debacle, the numbers games are unnecessary. Especially over an expensive building which many feel would have been best not built at all. It is counterproductive to our state, already on the ropes. And why urge

fellow lawmakers about budget considerations by throwing the political gauntlet down in an article in the newspaper?
Wouldn't this "urging" have been better aimed in a cooperative effort at fellow lawmakers? To hurl it toward citizens leaves many feeling even more embittered in a state stalled in troubles.

The message to our legislators should be clear: We, as citizens, are tired of the trench-warfare-like partisanship we see and hear in Lansing that is preventing progress and positive change, when there are so many people hurting. Many have lost homes or jobs. Others have fled the state entirely. Can we not work in unity and cooperation to better serve the average person and stop the public bickering? Then perhaps we can get on with the important task of rebuilding our state.

Bob Robinson,
Vermontville

Making the best better

To the editor:
More than 5 million youths who participate in 4-H every year. This program is phenomenal for instilling hard work, commitment and knowledge into each youth who is enrolled.

In my experience, not only has it instilled hard work, commitment and knowledge but it has also developed long-lasting friendships and strong family bonds. 4-H is a tradition in the Roll family. Generation after generation has participated in the agriculture-based program and especially in one specific area, swine. If you ask the younger members of my family why they like the fair, they would simply say, "Because it's fun."

I have become very active in the Cloverbud Program which is for the younger 4-

Hers age 5 to 8. I felt this part of the 4-H program was a great opportunity to fascinate their minds with all of the different projects that are available.

The Eaton County 4-H Fair is a big attraction to Charlotte. Most individuals associate the fair with carnival rides, grandstand shows and the delicious food.

However, what most people don't know is that the projects and animals displayed by the 4-H members are year-round projects. This is the week when the acquired skills have the chance to shine for other members, family, friends and the public. The opportunities that go along with 4-H are endless.

Kristen Roll,
Charlotte

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Parents are welcome to stay
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Time for a new Maple Valley football coach

To the editor:
I have had the opportunity to teach and coach Maple Valley Schools for the past 36 years. They were the greatest years of my life. Maple Valley was a very good place for our family to live and grow. Our children had many good teachers and coaches. We were a very fine school system and had very competitive athletic teams. Our teachers, coaches and community cared deeply about Maple Valley.

In football, we had unbelievably dedicated players, coaches and community support. Our teaching staff and administration were once very supportive and helped the football program.

The past 24 years I have been the head football coach. We have had many great longtime football coaches: Don Roscoe, 21 years; Gary St. Onge, 19 years; Marty Martin, 14 years; and my friend, Chris Ricketts, who has been very loyal to Maple

Valley for 15 years. Maple Valley has been successful because of dedicated coaches at all levels, and especially because of the passionate and focused players.

The years 1981 to 2005 were some of the Valley's greatest years. In 25 years we had only one losing varsity season and only two losing junior varsity teams.

It was started by Dan Watson and his staff. Maple Valley football was respected in the league, the area, and for many years, throughout the state. From the junior class of 1986 to 2005, every single class won a championship or made the playoffs either their junior or senior years. Sometimes they did both in both years. We experienced 9-0 varsity teams in 1990, 1991, 1997, 1999, 2000, and 8-1 teams in 1983, 1988, 1992, 1995, 2002 and 2004.

Maple Valley was responsible for some outstanding teams. We made the playoffs

13 times, State semi in 1992 and State runner-up 1997. From 1999 to 2005, we had seven straight playoff teams. The past three years, we were only 9-14 in the KVA.

I just spent 2 1/2 months with my wife, caring for my ailing mother, Relscha Mittelstaedt, and it is with a heavy heart that I have decided that Maple Valley needs someone who can give more time than I can to the program this summer. It is time to get a new varsity football coach for Maple Valley.

I appreciate Don, Gary, Marty, Chris, Jared, Tony, Kevin, Mike Schneiderhan, Dave Finkler, and all of the other dedicated coaches at all levels. Thank you very much for allowing me to coach a sport for which I have a tremendous passion. Best wishes. It has been great.

Guenther Mittelstaedt,
Nashville

Chicken barbecue tradition continues at Eaton County Fair

The 4-H food shack, located on the east end of the racetrack at the Eaton County Fair is the place to find barbecued chicken for the whole family with none of the work. The 4-H Council will be selling chicken dinners and proceeds from the barbecue help cover the costs of field trips, state events, camp scholarships and educational programs for Eaton County 4-H members, leaders and clubs.

The chicken barbecue is a long-standing tradition at the fair, started in the 1960's by Fred Dixon. Dixon had help from a young 4-Her named Mark Siple. The two have dedicated countless hours to making the barbecue. Dixon has since stepped down, passing the tongs and his secret recipe on to Siple.

Today, armed with the top-secret recipe and his faithful crew, Siple continues the tradition.

Chicken will be cooked fresh and sold on Friday,

July 17, starting at 11 a.m. and running through the dinner hour or until it is sold out. Chicken can be purchased by the quarter or half or as a dinner special. Prices will be determined according to the current price of chick-

en. There will also, be live entertainment available in the afternoon.

For more information, call the Eaton County MSU Extension office at 517-543-2310.

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Angel Food set for next week The Disciples to sing at Kalamo church Sunday

Orders for Angel Food will be taken Wednesday, July 8, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 11, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at St. Edward's Catholic Church, 531 Jordan Lake St., Lake Odessa.

Orders also will be taken at the Sunfield United

Brethren Church, 8436 W. Grand Ledge Highway, Sunfield Tuesday, July 7, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 11, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Distribution and pickup for both sites will take place Saturday, July 25, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Sunfield

United Brethren Church. Orders for August also can be made during the July 25 distribution.

This month's menu is available online at www.sunfieldubchurch.com.



Pastor Bryce Feighner invites the public to a special service of worship at Kalamo United Methodist Church, with music provided by The Disciples, an energetic, youthful group singing contemporary Christian songs, Sunday, July 12, at 9 or 10:30 a.m.

The church is located four miles east of M-66 on M-79 (Lawrence Highway), then one and a half miles south on Ionia Road.

For more information, call 517-652-1580 or visit the Web site www.kalamo-ochurch.org.

Barry County Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Hearty Menu
Monday, July 6
 Beans and franks, California blend, apple crisp, wheat bread.

Tuesday, July 7
 BBQ chicken, spinach, corn, orange, corn muffin.

Wednesday, July 8
 Roast pork and gravy, cornbread stuffing, sweet potatoes, cabbage, apple.

Thursday, July 9
 Spaghetti and meat sauce, Brussels sprouts, cherry crisp, garlic bread.

Friday, July 10
 Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, scalloped tomatoes, diced peaches, dinner roll.

Cold Menu
Monday, July 6
 Scrambled eggs, sausage, hashbrown potatoes, spiced

apples, blueberry muffin, orange juice.

Tuesday, July 7
 Beef stew, green beans, peach crisp, dinner roll.

Wednesday, July 8
 Sliced roast beef, cheese, coleslaw, apricots, wheat bread.

Thursday, July 9
 Chef salad, macaroni salad, cantaloupe, muffin.

Friday, July 10
 Turkey pasta salad, summer corn salad, mandarin oranges, club crackers.

Activities Calendar
Monday, July 6: Hastings - July Birthday Party; Crafts/music 10:30 a.m.; Card Making 12:30 p.m.; AARP Driver's Safety Class. Delton - BP Clinic/Mini Massage 11 a.m. H,W,N - Reminiscence.

Tuesday, July 7: Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; AARP Safety Class 1-5 p.m.; WhiteCaps Bus Trip; Kinship Info Series Grace Lutheran Church 1:30-3 p.m. GL - 10:30-12:30 Cards.

Wednesday, July 8: Hastings - Music with Sam; Nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Low Vision Support 1:30 p.m. Delton - Reminiscence.

Thursday, July 9: Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Music with Don and Pearl. Nashville - TV Time. Delton - Puzzles, Trivia.

Friday, July 10 - Hastings - Exercise 9 a.m.; Mixed Media Painting 9:30 a.m.; Model Railroad 10 a.m. Nashville - Bingo. Woodland - Mini Massage 11 a.m.; Visiting.

The Disciples will perform at Kalamo United Methodist Church Sunday, July 12.

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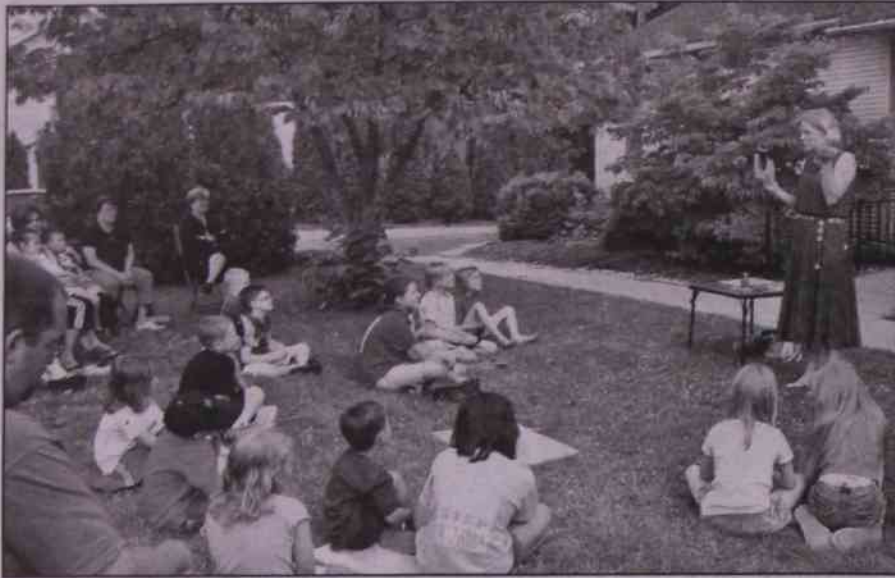
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Library program brings out imagination and creativity



A crowd of attentive readers gathers on the library lawn Monday to listen to a local storyteller.

Summer reading participants at Putnam District Library were captivated by the tales told by local storyteller Beverly Baron Monday. Baron shared several stories involving imagination and transformation. Following the storytelling, she shared instructions with listeners for how to create their own growing beanstalk out of newspaper.

While readers sat still and listened this past Monday, tomorrow's reading program will have everyone up and moving with Christine Kiel. Christine is a student of Middle Eastern dance (belly-dancing), and she will share the folklore of the art as well as beginning instruction.

Younger readers will explore movement with music and manipulatives while the older crowd learns

to shimmy and shake. The program begins at 11 a.m. and all ages (including brave adults) are encouraged to attend.

Tuesday features the summer's only evening story time beginning at 6:30 p.m. Join community leaders from Barry

Community Foundation as they celebrate their 15th year anniversary at the library. They will share stories of philanthropy and information on the Circle of Giving. Participants will work together to create an inspirational community quilt. While the program is geared toward families with young children, all are welcome to participate.

Local artist Sue Trowbridge returns to the library Wednesday to assist artists with acrylic painting. Participants will work on canvas and are encouraged to bring photos or images with them for inspiration. Pre-registration is required for this session, and only a couple of spots remain. Stop by or call the library to reserve a spot. Friday afternoon, the

library's teen advisory group will meet at 2 p.m. Any teen interested in helping to select materials or activities for area teens is encouraged to attend. For more information about the teen group, the new teen area or upcoming events, contact the library at 517-852-9723.



Storyteller Beverly Baron transforms mountains and valleys into a crocodile as she tells a story about a mischievous monkey.

GOOD TIME, continued from page 1

support and have fun with the community."

The community will be able to check out the changes for themselves Friday, July 10 when the Reynolds family will host a grand opening at 4 p.m. The restaurant will be open seven days a week, Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. until 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. and Sundays 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. The building will feature free wifi, big screen televisions and Direct TV in all rooms.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act and the Michigan Civil Rights Act which collectively make it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, age or marital status, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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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*EPIC-MRA November 2007



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— NOTICE — PUBLIC HEARING

VILLAGE OF VERMONTVILLE RESIDENTS

On July 14th at 7pm at the village office, 121 Eastside Dr. Topic for consideration is the Rezoning of 122 Round Lake from RS1 (Low Density Residential) to B1 (General Business) so that Kelly Fuels may expand and reposition the Mobil Station.

Village of Vermontville Planning Commission

06693829

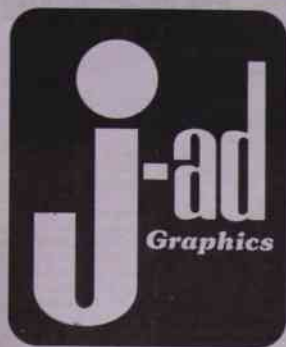
• NOTICE •

VILLAGE OF VERMONTVILLE RESIDENTS

There will NO longer be Brush Pickup in the village

You must call the garage during normal business hours (726-1444) for the lagoon gates to be open for you to haul your brush there. Leaves will be picked up in the fall during posted dates only, at a cost of \$10.00 per month. Winter storm damage brush will be picked up during the second week of April only, at the same cost.

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Michigan ag industry supports proactive, aggressive stance on animal care

Several members of Michigan's agriculture community provided testimony last week in support of House Bills 5127 and 5128 which would ensure that holistic and definitive animal care standards are established in state law for farm animals raised in Michigan, and the standards can be modified with public input to adapt to evolving science.

The bills are sponsored by Representatives Mike Simpson (D-Jackson) and Jeff Mayes (D-Bay City) and have the support of a broad-

based agricultural coalition that includes the Dairy Farmers of America, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Michigan Agri-Business Association, Michigan Allied Poultry Industries, Michigan Cattlemen's Association, Michigan Corn Growers Association, Michigan Equine Partnership, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Milk Producers Association, Michigan Pork Producers Association, Michigan Sheep Breeders Association, Michigan

Soybean Association and Michigan Veterinary Medical Association. The legislation also has the support of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA).

"The agriculture community respects that some consumers want reassurance that farm animals raised for food are well cared for. This legislation validates the ethical standards demonstrated by Michigan's livestock farmers and assures families that the meat, milk and eggs on their tables have been raised

with the highest safety and accountability standards," said Sam Hines, executive vice president of the Michigan Pork Producers Association.

Many livestock sectors already adhere to national animal care standards, but standards are still being developed for some species. House Bills 5127 and 5128 would require that animal care standards be adopted and enforced on Michigan farms with the aid of third-party audits and penalties to bring farms into compliance.

Given the state's limited budget resources, coalition members say the bills are smart to propose using existing scientific standards that are nationally accepted by food companies and retailers as a foundation to build from and requiring that the standards be reviewed once every five years — at a minimum — to ensure that the latest and most advanced standards are followed in Michigan.

They also say forming a citizen-based animal care

advisory council to review the standards and make recommendations to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and MDA for ultimate adoption is only appropriate, since the council provides a public structure and the Agriculture Commission and MDA are the state entities charged with oversight of production agriculture and food safety. To ensure that the council is "evenly stacked" for fair representation of all stakeholders, only two farmers directly involved in production agriculture would be appointed. The remainder of the council would be comprised of veterinarians as well as individuals representing an animal welfare agency, animal welfare research, restaurants and Michigan's food processing and retail food industries.

"This system would give Michigan the most proactive approach in the nation to making changes to animal care standards and ensure that everyone has a voice," said Larry Julian, legislative

liaison for the Michigan Equine Partnership.

Dr. Janice Swanson, director of animal welfare with the Michigan State University Department of Animal Science, said she is neutral on the legislation, but in providing expert testimony, she lent credibility to the utilization of industry standards as a measuring stick for animal care.

"If you asked me 10 years ago, I would have said 'no,'" she said, explaining that animal care standards initially started out as industry-led initiatives that were limited in scope. However, as more food companies have taken an active interest over the years, the marketplace has dictated science-based standards and more public input in the process. "So many of the standards in place today are very scientific and multi-disciplinary. They consider all factors from animal behavior to animal health

COALITION, continued next page

In My Own Write

by Amy Jo Parish



We've all heard the plight of local school districts. Their funding seems to be on a never-ending roller coaster which, lately, has been on that last, stomach-churning descent before coming to the end of the ride. Through all of the cutting and crunching, there has been a lot of discussion about what shouldn't be done.

What seems to be missing, however, is what can be done to help. Personally, I believe that privatization is not a favorable choice. I also believe that cutting extracurricular activities hurts education. What I do not believe, however, is that there is nothing that can be done about it.

I believe that those who truly care about a program will find a way for it to continue, even if it is taken out of the school's budget. Take the Latchkey program as an example. Terry Woodman has worked diligently to continue the program, even without funding from the district. Why? Because she believes it is a worthwhile program that makes a difference. Giving students a safe, educational place to go before and after school while parents are working has become the goal of Latchkey.

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that cutting music from the elementary schools will cause some children to miss out. They may miss out in discovering that they have a talent for music or they may miss out on learning how to appreciate music and what it can bring. The same holds true for sports. Not a sports player in high school (the uniforms always made me look short), I can still see the value the program has for many students.

So, how do we change this? How do we make these programs available in a climate of "just getting by" with school budgets? How do we meet the newer, tougher graduation requirements while still developing the full education of a student?

These and other questions have been asked and re-asked throughout the community and the school district for several months. In midst of all the ruckus, few ideas or solutions have been presented. Mostly what has been presented has been in the form of what shouldn't be done. Recently, however, I heard one community member detail an idea that I believe holds a great deal of potential.

It was suggested that the county takes a look at creating an Eaton County School District. This district would have a 'campus' in each of the communities that now

have a high school. These high schools would become specialized campuses that focus on one curriculum over the rest. For example, Maple Valley could become the building trades campus, Charlotte the performing arts and music campus, Bellevue the technology campus, and so on. This would give students the chance to pursue a specialized high school career in the area of their choosing. It would be similar to Schools of Choice, except that each campus would be part of the same district and would share both the benefits and challenges of such a system.

Sure, there would be transportation issues to work on and commutes may be extended for some students who choose to attend a campus in the opposite corner of the county. Some students are already on the bus for more than an hour as it is, so it might not be that big of a deal.

This plan could save some students from multiple changes of majors in college since they will have already had the opportunity to experience a focused curriculum. Take it from this, education/technical theater/journalism major who probably still be paying student loans into retirement.

In this new 'campus' approach, elementary schools would remain as they are with only those students in senior high having the option to choose. Despite the logistics, this is the only idea I have heard that gives students a chance to have the choices in programs they want while creating an opportunity for districts to meet both the financial and educational constraints they are under. It would also be a chance for local school districts to work together through these stressful stimulus-funded times and pool their resources. With or without funding, what makes an education effective is the people behind it. Think about it, what do you remember the most from high school? Is it the history units about the Civil War or the way the teacher brought them to life and made the class interesting and fun? Is it the books you read or the teacher who helped you realize your knack for writing? Was it the elemental chart or the way the chemistry teacher showed the interactions and the connectedness of the world? With or without funding, the Valley has a great resource in the people of the district. Why not pool our resources with other districts who are in the same situation as we are? Just a thought.

Good News from the Pulpit

Welcoming us home

by Rev. Bryce Feighner
Pastor, Kalamo United Methodist Church

Luke 15:20 — So the son set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; his father ran and put his arms around him and welcomed him home.

Summer is here and it is such a blessing. It is a wonderful time of year that allows us to appreciate the great outdoors by being a part of it. Camping, fishing and swimming are just a few of the things we do to re-connect with our Creator and His creation. Enjoy your summer vacations and be thankful for the beauty of creation that surrounds us.

Summer is also a time of homecomings and reunions with our families. The Luke 15:20 Scripture is from Jesus' very familiar parable of the prodigal son. Some of us will travel great distances to hear those same words spoken by the father in the parable to his youngest son, "Welcome home!" Whether we travel near or far, we all long to hear those words and to be part of a loving family.

Just as our earthly family longs to welcome us home, God also longs for you like

a father who has lost his son. God stands ready to restore you completely to his side, no matter where you have strayed, no matter if the rest of the world thinks like the older brother in the parable — that your restoration is unjust. Our Heavenly Father's love is much bigger than that.

We need to accept these great truths before we can appropriate them. We need to realize that we are loved before we can be loving individuals. The party that the older son wanted in the prodigal son parable and the party we all want from our Heavenly Father, is already here. We are already a part of God's family. All of God's bounty, all of the beauty of creation, all of our heavenly inheritance is already ours. God has already claimed us and redeemed us through his son Jesus Christ. However, we need to accept that fact before we can experience Christ living in us.

I praise God for welcoming me home and for the privilege to serve such a loving God who welcomes others home.

God has prepared for us the greatest family reunion of all time. God is calling you home. Won't you come and help welcome others home to God's family?

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Healthy Youth and Healthy Seniors Fund proposals accepted

The tobacco settlement grant committee of the Barry Community Foundation will be accepting grants for the Healthy Youth and Healthy Seniors Fund.

The advisory committee will give consideration to programs that are geared toward tobacco control, cessation or tobacco prevention for youths, seniors and workplaces. Grants will be accepted at the foundation office on or before Aug. 17 at 5 p.m.

The committee will then review the requests and make a recommendation to the Barry Community Foundation Board of Directors at its September

meeting. The board will review the committee's recommendation, and the applicants will be informed and checks will be issued at the beginning of October.

Previously, the Barry Eaton District Health Department and Barry County Substance Abuse have been the two organizations that have been awarded grants. The health department has sponsored a program toward the promotion of smoking cessation among seniors and others in Barry County through the use of Zyban or nicotine patches along with professional counseling.

Barry County Substance Abuse has put together the Barry County Tobacco Reduction Coalition and started a Youth Education Project and the Teens Against Tobacco Use. These programs were funded by the Healthy Youth and Healthy Seniors Fund with tobacco settlement money.

BCF continues to look for organizations with innovative, proactive grants for tobacco cessation and prevention.

Grant applications may be obtained on the BCF Web site at www.barrycf.org or by calling the community foundation office at 269-945-0526.

State offers summer pet vaccination reminder

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is reminding residents to protect animals and humans from harmful diseases by vaccinating pets and livestock. By following some easy guidelines, owners can take significant steps toward providing a safe and healthy summer for their animals.

A standard vaccination program includes vaccinations required by law, along with those for diseases commonly found throughout the state. Licensed vaccines also are available for horses, cows, sheep and goats.

"Pet and livestock owners should always consider the animal's environment when deciding on vaccinations," said Dr. Steve Halstead, state veterinarian. "If animals will be attending fairs or exhibi-

tions, for example, they should receive additional vaccinations to protect against diseases they may be exposed to in group housing or stressful situations. Owners should consult their private veterinarian to develop an appropriate vaccination program specific for their animals."

In addition, an equine infectious anemia test, also known as a Coggins test, to check for this bloodborne disease of horses, is mandatory for all horses entered into exhibitions, expositions or fairs. MDA also suggests vaccinating all horses against rabies. Eastern/Western equine encephalitis, tetanus, and West Nile virus.

Along with the standard vaccinations, household pets must meet additional requirements. Michigan law

requires owners to license their dogs. To be licensed, an owner must show proof of up-to-date vaccinations for rabies. MDA recommends having dogs checked for heartworm and intestinal parasites, along with vaccinations against canine distemper, parvovirus and adenovirus.

Pet owners also should have cats checked for heartworm and internal parasites. Vaccinations for cats should include rabies, herpes virus, calicivirus and panleukopenia. Ferrets must be vaccinated for rabies and cannot be sold without the Ferret Health Advisory Sheet. This advisory can be found online.

For more information on pet and livestock vaccination requirements, visit www.michigan.gov/mda.

COALITION, continued from previous page

and food safety, and you need this holistic approach."

Swanson points out that many of the standards that the bills would codify address animal care for livestock in all types of housing; this includes animals in caged as well as cage-free systems. Legislative initiatives in other states such as California have focused exclusively on behavioral freedom and, depending on how the performance standards are legally interpreted, they could conflict with an animal's natural behavior, she said. For instance, hens are flocking animals, so providing California-raised hens enough room to extend their wings and turn around without touching another hen could prove challenging to meet compliance even under

cage-free housing conditions.

Coalition members emphasize that animal care standards mandated by the bills go beyond emotion-driven agendas that focus on single issues such as animal housing or farm size.

"They take into consideration everything involved in providing food safety, animal welfare, and a wholesome and affordable food supply," said George House, executive director of Michigan Allied Poultry Industries.

The proposed legislation doesn't go to unnecessary extremes but doesn't underdeliver on animal care either, said Wayne H. Wood, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

"The intent of the legislation is sound, and that's to

guarantee the continued care and ethical treatment of all animals in the food chain," said Wood. "These bills provide a holistic, balanced approach that is good for animals, people, rural communities and our state."

The House Agriculture Committee took initial testimony June 24 and 25. An identical package of bills, 654 and 655, has been introduced in the Senate by Senators Wayne Kuipers (R-Holland) and Gerald VanWoerkom (R-Norton Shores). These bills also have the support of the broad-based agricultural coalition, and have been referred to the Senate Agriculture and Bioeconomy Committee for future action.

Five days of fair fun begin Wednesday

Lake Odessa Fair time is almost here, with five days of traditional family farm fun.

The festivities begin Wednesday, July 8, when the midway opens at 4 p.m. Schmidt is providing the rides. The pay-one-price option is \$12 for Wednesday and Thursday and \$15 for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The parade steps off at 6 p.m. with Laurel Garlinger as grand marshal. Bleachers will be set up on Fourth Avenue. All participants in the parade are asked to give a card with their name and float name to Janet Thomas so the announcer will know the float.

The dodgeball tournament begins at 7:30 p.m. on the fairgrounds.

While youths are dodging balls, antique tractors will be testing their strength at 7:30 p.m., with a pull in the grandstands. This is for tractors 1,300 to 6,500 pounds built in model year 1952 or before.

Thursday starts with the dairy show at 9 a.m. There are many classes and breeds to be judged — Holstein, brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Guernsey, red and white and milking shorthorn. Guests say is always impressive to watch the youngsters lead the cows that outweigh them by hundreds of pounds.

The midway opens at 4 p.m. and the lightweight horse pull at 7 p.m.

Friday begins with beef (Angus and Simmental) and sheep (Suffolk, Hampshire, Dorset, Rambouillet, Oxford, and southdown) judging at 9 a.m.

The 4-H exhibits will be on display throughout the fair after judging at 9 a.m. Visitors can see cakes, sewing, knitting, crocheting, flower arrangements and arts and crafts.

The youth horse show will start at 10 a.m. with many divisions for halter, English under, saddle and Western under saddle.

The midway opens at noon. Volleyball starts in the

afternoon.

Texas Hold 'em Tournament will begin at 6 p.m. the same time as the horse speed show in the horse arena. Scramble track racing begins at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's events begin at 10 a.m. with the draft horse show. There will be many classes for Belgians, Clydesdales and Percherons. The midway opens at noon.

Kids games sponsored by the Lakewood FFA begin at 1 p.m. and will include crawling races, foot races, egg-and spoon-races, egg toss and three-legged race.

The volleyball tournament continues in the afternoon.

The Lake Odessa Fire Department will have a pork and sweet corn roast beginning at 4 p.m. At 7 p.m., the lawn mower races begin.

Sunday, the midway will open at noon. There is bike racing at 1 p.m. and volleyball in the afternoon.

The demolition derby starts at 7:30 p.m. and fireworks at 10 p.m.

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MV amateur baseball team wins Olivet tournament



On June 20 and 21, Maple Valley's 14 and under baseball team scored 59 runs in four games to win the annual baseball tournament held in Olivet in memory of Ric Hare. With great offense and pitching, Maple Valley went 4-0 on the weekend to capture the title. Pictured are (front row, from left) Garrett Miller, Devin Greenfield, bat-boy Chase Schriver, Sammy Benedict, Cody Sivyer, Cody Wilmath, (back) Brandon Erwin, Assistant Coach Scott Johnson, Beau Johnson, Tommy Mudge, Tyler Hickey, Austin Gonser, Assistant Coach Todd Gonser, Garrett Mater, Kyle Brumm, and Head Coach Adam Brumm. (Missing from photo is Joe Eddy.)

Blue County Line returns to Fountain series

Music lovers don't have to travel to the Appalachians to hear authentic and vintage bluegrass music; it's right here in Barry County in the form of a group called Blue County Line. This group of men from Barry County will return to Fridays at the Fountain July 10 with their own twist on some classic bluegrass.

The membership consists of "Humble" Ted Geldhof who contributes vocals and guitar; Tom Freridge on vocals and guitar as well as dobro; Duane Curtiss lends a hand on guitar; Orville Harrington adding the unique sounds of the man-

dolin; Jim Metzger on banjo; and adding the foundation on string bass is Slimy Perkins.

The Fridays at the Fountain series is presented each Friday June through August on the Barry County Courthouse lawn near the fountain in downtown Hastings. Concerts begin at

11:30 a.m. and conclude at 1 p.m.

In the event of rain, concerts will move indoors to the community room in the lower level of Hastings City Bank.

All concerts are sponsored by the City of Hastings and the Thomapple Arts Council.

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