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## Reading Academy sharpens skills of area students

by Amy Jo Parish  
Staff Writer

Though school may be out for the summer for most students, a group of more than 50 Maple Valley youngsters is getting a head start on reading

at Fuller Street Elementary. For the past several weeks, dozens of readers have spent time in the classroom to sharp-

en their skills as part of the Reading Academy through the Eaton Intermediate School District.

The nine-week program runs for three hours, two days a week and incorporates games and activities to help the stu-

dents build their reading comprehension and skill.

Valerie Hall teaches early childhood special education at Fuller Street and said the program is helping prepare the students for the coming academic year.

"I really like (the program). The kids seem to enjoy it and are picking up a lot of skills through it," said Hall.

Last year, the district offered the program for pre-kindergarten.

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Sharpening her skills, Jade Scott reads one of the many books available during the reading academy.



Special Education Instructor Mary Jo Fralick reads aloud to some of the kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students taking part in the reading academy.



Working to match syllables and words together, students play word bingo as Teacher Kelly Gardner lends a hand.

## America's a nice place — at 3 miles an hour

by Carl Olson  
J-Ad Graphics News

Bob Skelding is finding out that, "America's a nice place at 3 miles an hour, 10 to 20 miles per day."

The 50-year-old, who was born and raised in the Grand Rapids area, now hails from Deerfield, N.H., but calls America his home as he travels via a wagon pulled by two horses on highways and byways of America.

His horse-drawn wagon, complete with bathroom kitchenette, shower, toilet, computer and sleeping quarters, was in Battle Creek Tuesday on a second trip through the countryside of America.

"Americans are great, and I'm taking it all in," said Skelding. "I value non-tangible things, and I like people for who they are and not for what they have."

He was spotted pulling up near North Avenue and Baseline Road Tuesday evening. His route will take

him through Barry County toward Ionia for the weekend.

Skelding has two "wonderful kids," Daniel and Lisa, both in college. Daniel, 23, is a senior at Plymouth State University studying criminal justice. Lisa, 22, is a junior at San Diego State University, studying engineering. They, and others, can keep up with his progress and stories of the road online at [www.wagonteamster.com](http://www.wagonteamster.com).

Until recently, Skelding was employed as an electrical maintenance instructor at a nuclear power plant. He also had a small hobby farm in New Hampshire where he raised horses, sheep, chickens and the occasional cow or pig. He planted about two acres of vegetables a year, most of which were sold on a small self-service vegetable stand. He raised his own hay and sold what he didn't use.

"I didn't know where I was going, or where I'd end

up," said Skelding, "but I thought I'm really going to enjoy the people I meet and places along the way."

He left Deerfield, N.H., Aug. 17, 2008, on Trip No. 1. His first trailer, guided by a team of four Percheron horses tapped 1,747 miles through New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and North Carolina.

On Feb. 10 of this year, after 1,500 miles without any major incidents, tragedy struck. Skelding's trailer was rear-ended by a fully loaded tanker truck at highway speed. The wagon was completely destroyed and two horses, Dolly and Deedee, were killed. This required construction of a new wagon and a new team, two Belgian horses, Bob and Bill.

Being a philosophical guy, Skelding occasionally feels the need to share his wisdom: If a guy has a horse, he

can get out of town. With a fast horse, he can leave quickly. But with two fast horses, he can get out of town, not only right away, but in comfort.

Preparation for Trip No. 2 started April 27 in Bentonville, Ind.

"Getting the new wagon broken in and the new team of two ready was the priority for heading north through Indiana," explained Skelding. "We left Mays, Indiana, June 19 — on the road again."

Barry County residents may have caught a glimpse of Skelding as he headed north along M-66, through Assyria, Nashville, the outskirts of Woodland, and Woodbury this week.

His next goal: to visit relatives in Grand Rapids.

"The sole purpose of these trips (is) to travel by horse and wagon and meet people," he said. "I want them to share their experiences with me, and I'd share mine with them. I'm not supporting any

cause, trying to achieve a goal, nor am I sponsored by anyone.

"The reason I'm traveling in this fashion is because it

combines all the things I like best, and eliminates those I like least," he added. "Also, I can't think of a cooler thing to do."



"With no Grand Ole Opry, this must be Nashville, Michigan," wrote Bob Skelding under this photo on his blog, [www.wagonteamster.com](http://www.wagonteamster.com), where he records the events of each day as he travels across the country. He passed through Nashville Wednesday. (Photo from [www.wagonteamster.com](http://www.wagonteamster.com))

## Nashville Navy Officer helps thousands on recent mission

by Amy Jo Parish  
Staff Writer

War and conflict. These two items are usually the association with the armed forces. There is another side to the military, however, and that side was demonstrated on a recent humanitarian

mission involving a Nashville native.

Naval Chief Petty Officer Teresa Frith took part in Operation Continuing Promise. The mission integrated both military and civilian personnel to bring medical services to seven

Latin American countries. During the four-month mission, more than 193,960 prescriptions were filled, 1,657 surgeries performed and 4,444 teeth were extracted. Frith said the program provided many necessary services to the 100,049 patients

seen during the four months and also was a way to prepare for natural disasters.

"The program is a way to show these nations that the United States is committed to being in partnership with

**MISSION, continued on page 4**

### In This Issue...

- F-3 Energy gardeners harvesting their crops
- Cross-country traveler wanders up 'Route 66'
- Bikers raise money for breast cancer
- Vermontville United Methodist Church celebrating 150 years

# Calley announces bid for state senate

by **Bannon Backhus**  
Staff Writer

Republican State Rep. Brian Calley this week officially announced his plans to run for the state Senate seat that Sen. Alan Cropsey will be forced to vacate in 2010 due to term limits.

Calley currently represents the 87th House District, which includes all of Barry County and much of Ionia County. The 33rd Senate District currently represented by Cropsey includes Clinton, Ionia, Isabella and Montcalm counties.

Re-elected in 2008 to serve a second term in the House, Calley said he has several reasons for choosing to run for the Senate instead of pursuing a third term in the House, a pursuit in which Calley said he would have a good chance of emerging victorious.

According to Calley, former state Rep. Judy Emmons' decision not to seek Cropsey's seat was the biggest factor in moving forward with his bid. Term limits prevented Emmons from running again for the House after her third term with the legislative body ended in 2008.

"Judy has been such a

close friend for a long time. I wouldn't have run against her, and I would have supported her had she decided to run," he said.

Explaining the role of timing in his decision to run for the Senate, Calley noted that, because terms in the legislative body are not staggered, if he did not run for the Senate in 2010, he would not have another opportunity to run in such a race until 2018.

The opportunity to serve more efficiently through a seat in the Senate, as opposed to one in the House, also influenced his recent bid, he said.

"I've always looked at my time in government as a temporary assignment. And, if I'm going to take a portion out of my private-sector career in order to serve in this way, I insist that it be as productive as possible," said Calley, who also serves as vice president of the Irwin Union Bank in Lansing.

"The situation in the House today is such that, while I have been able to establish a very good working relationship with my colleagues there, conservatives serve in an extreme minority in the House, and so the role there is (one of) constantly reacting to a policy and a

grand policy direction that is set by someone else. And I think there's a real opportunity in the Senate to be in a position to set the policy direction in the first place."

Describing his platform for the election, Calley explained that jobs, government spending reform and property tax reform provide the foundation for his campaign.

"Jobs would be my No. 1 and 2 and 3 priority," he said.

According to Calley, small businesses provide an extraordinarily valuable part of the state's economy.

"Big business has shed about 1 million jobs in the last decade in the state of Michigan; small businesses added a net 100,000 jobs, in spite of all the economic trouble and turmoil that we've faced," he explained.

In citing some of the steps he has taken to preserve the presence of small businesses in the state, Calley said his predominant efforts in passing legislation to modify the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) resulted in approximately 100,000 small businesses being exempt from the tax. He added that another 50,000 small businesses have become eligible for tax credits after additional legislation he championed was passed.

Calley explained that in addition to reductions and exemptions from the MBT, small businesses also are afforded less labor difficulties and regulations than are larger businesses. If larger businesses could access the same benefits, the bigger

businesses could be more successful, he said.

"Take those characteristics, and, if you were able to apply them more broadly across the entire economy, I think that you could make some pretty good headway, some pretty good progress," he explained.

One of his primary concerns with government spending is the tendency of state departments to use funds in unnecessary areas simply because such funds are allowed only to be spent in those areas.

Regarding property tax reform, Calley said one of his primary concerns is that property taxes be fair for property owners and reflective of the actual value of properties.

When asked about legislation he plans to pursue if elected to the Senate, Calley said that while he always has been vocal in his support of reducing the amount of time the state legislature is in session, he will only further support such a reduction if he wins his election bid.

"I ... plan to make a lot more noise on (a) part-time legislature," he explained. "Every day, the legislative leadership, and I use the term very loosely, proves the case for the idea that we don't really need as much time to do ... things. And, if you give more time, more time is taken, and that's not a positive thing.

"If we were to look at ... the other 40 states that have true part-time legislatures, they do operate cheaper, and that's good, but that's not my main motivation," he said. "My main motivation is you

get fewer laws. You get less laws passed, and I think that would be a big win for the people of this state. And, I think the laws that pass would be better laws."

In describing his goals as a senate member, Calley said he will continue to pursue reform to make information relating to legislative finances more readily and easily accessible to the public. Such reform will increase accountability and promote a sense of responsibility in legislators, he explained.

Calley said that, as he prepares for the upcoming election, he will use his previous successes and lessons learned from them as a guide.

"An election is always a hurdle," he commented. "I think, when people take elections for granted, they lose. So, I plan to approach this election the same way I have all elections.

"I think, probably, the part I'm most uneasy about is that every time you take a step up in politics, the methods of running an election get uglier," he said. "I'm not willing to go there. I'm not willing to change my method of politics. My philosophy is that I run for an office, not against another person. In my lifetime, I've gone through eight elections, not including the (election for) class president that I lost, but all other ... elections I won, and I've never once used an oppo-

nent's name or image in any kind of political material, and that's a distinction I'm very proud of."

Another difficulty Calley said he faces in his campaign is the prospect of no longer officially representing Barry County.

"I kind of think of myself as an adopted son of Barry County," he explained. "It was a place where I had to get to know people in the beginning from scratch, and I didn't know very many people around here at all. And just (by working hard), knocking on doors, (I) just got to know and love this community so much. I hope that people around here will look at it like they'll have two senators in Lansing, as opposed to one, because the values of the counties that I'll be representing match very closely to the character and the type of economies and so forth of (this area)"

Even though Calley said he will campaign heavily for the upcoming election, he stressed that those he currently represents will continue to be served by him throughout his bid.

"People shouldn't expect any difference (in) the service they see from my office," he assured. "I'd like people not to forget that."

Calley has been married to his wife, Julie, for more than 10 years. The couple have two children, a boy and a girl, and they are expecting a third child.

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## LOCAL CHURCH SCHEDULE

<p><b>ABUNDANT GRACE WORLD OUTREACH CENTER</b> <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 &amp; 3rd Sunday) ..... 6 p.m. REV. DAWN GOODMAN Contact numbers: (517) 852-0896 or (517) 852-9606, leave message</p>	<p><b>BASELINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 9617 E. Baseline Rd. Corner of Baseline &amp; Church Roads (2 miles east of M-66 on Baseline) Church Service ..... 9 a.m. Sunday School ..... 10:30 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Youth Groups, Bible Study and many other activities. Phone (616) 963-7710 MINISTER: VIRGINIA HELLER</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERMONTVILLE</b> 110 S. Main St. Vermontville, MI 49096 (517) 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><b>KALAMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Worship Services ..... 9:00 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages ..... 10:30 a.m. PASTOR BRYCE FEIGNER 517-541-1144</p>
<p><b>ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES</b> A Spirit-filled Church Meeting at the Maple Leaf Grange Hwy. M-66 south of Assyria Rd. Nashville, MI 49073 Sun, Praise &amp; Worship 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m. Jesus Club for boys &amp; girls ages 4-12. Pastors David &amp; Rose MacDonald. An oasis of God's love. "Where Everyone is Someone Special." For information call 1-616-731-5194 or 1-517-852-1806.</p>	<p><b>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 301 Fuller St., Nashville Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m. Sunday: A.M. Worship ..... 11 a.m. P.M. Worship ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Worship ..... 7 p.m. REV. ALAN METTLER</p>	<p><b>GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 8950 East M-79 Highway, Nashville Morning Celebration ..... 9 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service, Relevant Practical Teaching, Nursery, Children's Classes, Youth Group, Adult Small Groups, Leadership Training PASTOR: DON ROSCOE Phone: (517) 852-1783 e-mail: grace@gc3.org</p>	<p><b>MAPLE GROVE BIBLE CHURCH</b> 8593 Cloverdale Road (1/2 mile East of M-66, 5 mi. south of Nashville) Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. A.M. Service ..... 11:15 a.m. P.M. Service ..... 6 p.m. PASTOR GEORGE GAY</p>
<p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH</b> 803 Reed St., Nashville Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. Sunday: A.M. Worship ..... 11 a.m. Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Prayer Meeting ..... 7 p.m. PASTOR GLENN BRANHAM</p>	<p><b>CHESTER GOSPEL CHURCH</b> 3744 W. Vermontville Hwy. Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m. Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday Family Night Service ..... 6:45 p.m. PASTOR MARC S. LIVINGSTON Phone: 543-5488</p>	<p><b>GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 5505 North Mulliken Road, Charlotte one mile north of Vermontville Hwy. PASTOR KATHY SMITH 517-726-0526 Combined Sunday Morning Worship with Vermontville UMC as follows: July 19, Aug. 2, 16 &amp; 30 at Vermontville July 12 &amp; 26, Aug. 9 &amp; 23 at Gresham Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship Time: 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Located on the corner of State and Washington streets Worship Service ..... 9:30 a.m. Sunday School ..... 11:15 a.m. PASTOR CATHY CHRISTMAN At Home: 852-0685 Church Phone: 852-2043</p>
<p><b>PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARRYVILLE</b> 6043 E. M-79 Highway, 4 miles west of Nashville (cor. M-79 &amp; Barryville Rd.) Sunday Worship ..... 8:30 a.m. Other: Prayer Walk, U.M. Women, Bible Study, Mission Projects &amp; more. PASTOR SUSAN OLSEN Phone 517-852-1993 IGNITING MINISTRY Open Hearts-Open Minds-Open Doors</p>		<p><b>QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> M-79 West Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. Worship ..... 11 a.m. PASTOR KENNETH VAUGHT (616) 945-9392</p>	
<p><b>SOUTH KALAMO CHURCH</b> Corner of Kalamo Highway &amp; Ionia Rd. Sunday A.M. Worship ..... 10:30 a.m. Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening at 6 p.m.: PASTOR JEFF SWIFT (517) 852-9154</p>		<p><b>ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 203 N. State, Nashville Sunday Mass ..... 9:45 a.m. FATHER AL RUSSELL A mission of St. Rose Catholic Church, Hastings</p>	
<p><b>VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH</b> 250 N. Main St., Vermontville Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m. Worship Service ..... 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service ..... 6 p.m. Wed. Evening Service ..... 6:30 p.m. AWANA ..... 6:30-8 p.m. Wed. PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH</p>		<p><b>ST. ANDREW &amp; MATTHIAS INDEPENDENT ANGLICAN CHURCH</b> 2415 McCann Road Sunday Services: ..... 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer ..... 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion For more information call: 795-2370 or Rt. Rev. David Hustwick 948-9327 Traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer used for all services. RT. REV. DAVID HUSTWICK</p>	
<p><b>VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 108 North Main, Vermontville PASTOR KATHY SMITH 517-726-0526 Combined Sunday Morning Worship with Vermontville UMC as follows: July 19, Aug. 2, 16 &amp; 30 at Vermontville July 12 &amp; 26, Aug. 9 &amp; 23 at Gresham Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship Time: 10:00 a.m. 06652103</p>			



## MISSION, continued from page 1

them, and the other part is training personnel in case of a natural disaster," said Frith.

Each morning, a long line

of patients would be waiting outside the ship, hoping to be seen by the medical or dental personnel on board. According to the mission's

Web site, close to 650 medical professionals from the Navy, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, non-governmental organizations and other international partners took part in the mission.

The list of services provided on the mission covers everything from physical therapy, prescription fills, ophthalmologic surgery, optometry screenings and a host of other procedures. Frith joked that the crew performed just about every procedure imaginable, short of open-heart surgery.

Gaining a new appreciation for the services and easily available health care in the United States, Frith said the months on the ship opened her eyes to the plight of other countries and how valuable volunteering can be.

"I think the trip gave me a better appreciation of what I have. I saw a lot of people who don't have much of anything and are thankful for what they can get," said

Frith. "What kind of amazed me a lot was just the poorness of some of these nations. People in the United States are complaining about what they have and some of our homeless people have it better than some in these countries."

The story of one mother and her son demonstrated how desperately the medical procedures are needed and the common bonds that tie all humans together, she said. After being told that doctors could fix her 8-month-old son's crossed eyes but there were no more open appointments, the mother drove through the night to be one of the first in line when the ship docked at the next port. Doctors were able to perform the surgery aboard the ship and correct the child's eyesight, she said.

"There might be different philosophies and languages, but deep down, we're still the same," said Frith of the people she met. "No matter where you go, parents are parents and want what's best



TUMACO, Colombia - Navy Commander Shawn Safford and Navy Lieutenant Krista Puttler perform a left thyroid lobectomy on a Colombian patient onboard hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) here June 12. Comfort is on a four month humanitarian and civic assistance mission to seven countries in Latin America and the Caribbean called Continuing Promise 2009 (CP09). The ship is scheduled to be in Colombia until June 17. (DoD photo by A1C Clara Karwacinski)



Judette Dacius waits in line with her daughter Neritza Dor to be seen by physicians of the hospital ship USNS Comfort in Killick, Haiti, April 12. Neritza was the first patient aboard Comfort during the Continuing Promise 2009 mission to Latin America and the Caribbean region. She was operated onboard April 11 for an imperforated anus.



PACIFIC OCEAN - Hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) receives supplies from supply ship USNS Peary (T-AK 5) as Comfort heads for its liberty port in Panama July 16 here. Teams onboard Comfort have been on a four month humanitarian and civic assistance mission called Continuing Promise 2009. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Benjamin Stratton)



Chief Petty Officer Teresa Frith (front, right) poses with some of the other personnel on board the ship. A Nashville resident, Frith has served nearly 30 years in the United States Military.

for their children."

Serving as mass communication chief, Frith was in charge of 12 public affairs officers during the mission and said the time spent on board provided valuable experiences and memories she will carry with her through the rest of her Navy career.

"There were some who called (the mission) a miracle because they wouldn't have been treated other-

wise," reported Frith. "For some, it meant their life because of what was treated."

Frith began her military career by serving four years in the Army followed by 12 in Navy Reserve before enlisting in active duty with the Navy. Stationed in Norfolk, Va., Frith plans to retire in just over a year with 30 years of service under her belt.

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## Pre-homeownership class to be offered for Eaton County

Housing Services for Eaton County will hold a pre-homeownership class Saturday, Aug. 29, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Goodwill Community Room located within the Goodwill

Building, 350 Lansing Road, Charlotte.

A certificate will be awarded to participants who successfully complete the workshop. Additionally, participants will be notified if they qualify for additional program components such as credit repair, a MSHDA mortgage, down payment assistance or home inspection expenses.

This workshop is free to the general public, but pre-registration is required. Participants may bring a sack

lunch or dine out. No child care will be provided. Call 517-541-1180 to register by Aug. 26.

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# Cross-country traveler wanders up 'Route 66'

"... I'm driving a wagon on a journey throughout the United States. My only goals are to see new places, meet plenty of nice people like yourself, and to enjoy this great country of ours like it's meant to be enjoyed."

So writes Bob Skelding, a 50-year-old native of Grand Rapids who now lives in Deerfield, N.H., when he is not on the road. On the road, for him now involves being

pulled by his team of two Belgian draft horses.

This week, Skelding traveled along M-66 through Barry County, almost certainly turning a few heads when he stopped at the MOO-ville Creamery in Nashville Wednesday. That night, after creeping north on M-66, and going through his nightly ritual that included tending to his horses and sitting down at his computer,

Skelding wrote on his Website, [www.wagonteamsters.com](http://www.wagonteamsters.com):

Aug. 5, Woodbury — "This was one of those really great days of driving. With regret, we left my gracious hosts and drove a couple of miles over a gravel road back to Route 66.

Once on the main road, there was a good shoulder until the town of Nashville. However, I could do without the rumble strips. I'm sure they

save lives, but they can make driving a wagon difficult. A couple of miles south of Nashville, I stopped at the Moo-Ville dairy bar for lunch.

While I watered and grained the team, I chatted with a nice guy that drives his quarter horses both single and double. I've now met several people that drive riding horses and get a lot of pleasure out of it.

After putting away a couple of chili dogs, I met Judi, who had been following the blog and drove out, hoping to meet us. She brought a really nice 100-pound sack of grain, which the horses enjoy a lot. I talked Judi into riding along for the afternoon after convincing her that there's always someone at the end of the day that would drive her back to her truck (and of course, there was). It was nice to have someone to chat with. The horses are patient listeners, but I fear they're getting tired of the same old stories.

Tonight we're camped at a farm about three miles south of the burg of Woodbury, off the main road. My hosts are terrific and made sure we have everything we need.

Tomorrow, I should have no problem making my cousin Tim's place, about three miles north of I-96. Friday, Tim and I plan on driving together the 15 or 20 miles to my granddad's farm (north of Muir).

What a great day!



**Woudstra-Gilbert wed**

Jolene Woudstra and Drew Gilbert exchanged wedding vows on Saturday, June 20, 2009, at their home in Nashville. The celebration was continued with a trip to the Smoky Mountains. Jolene is from Nashville and Drew is from Ypsilanti. "We are truly blessed by our newly combined family and friends."

## 'Blue means true' at Putnam

Putnam District Library in Nashville encourages its young patrons to observe a big change in the children's room. Nonfiction items are being reorganized. Blue labels using the Dewey decimal system are being placed on the bottom spine of each book.

Young readers are encouraged to notice that books with white labels are fiction, or made-up stories, and the new blue labels are nonfiction, or true stories and factual information. Thus, suggest library staff, "Remember, when in the Putnam kids' room, 'Blue Means True.'

More changes are on the way in the kids' room this month. The library will be closed Aug. 24 to 29 for renovations in the children's room. The drop box will be available for returns during this time, but readers are encouraged to stock up before.

Perhaps one of the new items below will be the perfect read:

### For adult readers

The Noticer by Andy Andrews; Cruel Death by M. William Phelps; Signed in Blood by Jeanne King; Charley's Web by Joy Fielding; Silent Run by Barbara Freethy; Deadlock by Iris Johansen; Knock Out

by Catherine Coulter; Swimsuit by James Patterson; Skin Trade by Laurell K. Hamilton; Relentless by Dean Koontz; Lying Dead in Dallas by Charlaire Harris; Red Blooded Murder by Laura Caldwell; Red Hot Lies by Laura Caldwell; Finger Lickin' Fifteen by Janet Evanovich; All That Remains by Patricia Cornwell; Devil Bones by Kathy Reichs; Danger In A Red Dress by Christina Dodd; Death Angel by Linda Howard; Matters of the Heart by Danielle Steel; Dark of the Night by Suzanne Brockman; Hidden Currents by Christina Feehan; In the Midnight Hour by Kimberly Raye; Midnight Sons, Volumes 1 and 2 by Debbie Macomber.

### For Western and Christian fiction readers

Death Mask by Cotton Smith; The Man From Nowhere by Ralph Compton; Wheel of Fortune by Max Brand; A Promise to Believe by Tracie Peterson; A Love to Last For by Tracie Peterson; A Dream to Call My Own by Tracie Peterson.

### Teen and young adult readers

The Plain Janes by Cecil Castellucci; The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod: Eight

Grade Bites by Heather Brewer; The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod: Ninth Grade Slays by Heather Brewer; The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod: Tenth Grade Bleeds by Heather Brewer; Along for the Ride by Sarah Dessen; Writing Magic: Creating Stories That Fly by Gail Carson Levine; Max Quigley: Technically Not A Bully by James Roy; The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart; 113 Things To Do By 13 by Brittany Macleod; The North Pole Was Here by Andrew C. Revkin.

### For young readers

Soy Beans: An A-Z Book by Susan Anderson and JoAnne Buggey; Soy Beans In the Story of Agriculture by Susan Anderson and JoAnne Buggey; The Story of Salt by Mark KurLansky; Look-Alikes Around the World by Joan Steiner; Frankenstein Makes A Sandwich by Adam Rex; Stop and Go, Yes and No: What Is An Antonym? by Brian P. Cleary; The 39 Clues: One False Note by Gordon Korman; The 39 Clues: The Maze of Bones by Rick Riordan; Harold and The Purple Crayon: Under the Sea by Liza Baker; Abigail Spells by Anna Alter; John, Paul, George and Ben by Lane Smith; The Three Little Pigs, or Los Tres Cerditos adaptation by Mercé Escardó I Bas.

### New movies

Gran Torino, Fired Up!, The International, Pink Panther 2, Confessions of a Shopaholic, Inkheart, 12 Rounds, Jonas Brothers: The Concert Experience, True Blood: Complete First Season, Secret Life of An American Teenager: Season 2, Knowing, Push, The Haunting in Connecticut, Defiance, Watchmen, Coraline, Fast and Furious 2.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Aug. 13 Dog Developmental Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Extension Office.
- Aug. 14 Extension Office Closed for Staff Inservice.
- Aug. 19 4-H Advisory Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Courts and Law Building.
- Aug. 20 Pond Management Clinic, 6:30-8:30 p.m., MSU Clarksville Experimental Station.

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The Vermontville United Methodist Church will recognize its sesquicentennial with a special event on Sept. 20.

## Vermontville United Methodist Church celebrating 150 years

The Vermontville United Methodist Church will celebrate its sesquicentennial Sept. 20 with a special anniversary celebration. In September of 1859, the Vermontville United Methodist Church received its formal conference charge as the Vermontville Methodist Episcopal Church. The church is an official Michigan Historic Site.

Included in the day's activities will be an old-fashioned picnic lunch and program on the lawn following the 11 a.m. worship service. Historical items will be on display in the fellowship hall, and the worship service will include the singing of hymns written by John and Charles Wesley. Former pastors will be on hand to participate.

The public is invited to attend both the worship service and the picnic, or just the picnic and program, and share this momentous occasion.

## Farmers Picnic continues tradition with parades, games and more

Sunfield's Farmers Picnic, begun in 1892, will be celebrated this week, beginning 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12, with SPY's ball games at the main field.

The Picnic continues Thursday, Aug. 13, with a 2 to 8 p.m. book sale at the library, a Farmers Picnic pig roast at 5, ball games at 6 and reception for the grand marshal (the recently departed Sunfield High School) from 7 to 8 p.m.

Friday's events begin with the book sale from 2 to 8 p.m. at the library, chicken barbecue at 4:30, booths opening at 5 p.m., SPY's ball games at 6, a parent's group cake walk under the small tent at 6,

crowning of the prince and princess near the stage at 7 p.m., and the Conquerors on stage at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's lineup starts with a pancake breakfast served from 8 a.m. to noon in the community room. Ball games begin at 8 a.m., the barnyard classic three-on-three basketball tournament at 9, the book sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., open class craft judging at 10 a.m., open class crafts exhibit from noon to 6 p.m., booths opening at 10 and the GAR Hall open for viewing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The parade will be at noon. The Eaton County Sheriff Mounted Division

will host a "meet and greet" at the park after the parade.

An open horse shoe contest begins at 1, firemen's bingo 1 to 7 p.m., Ming the Magician at 1, Marbles the Clown 1 to 7, frog-jumping contest at 3 p.m., family games at 4 p.m., Lions ox roast at 5, variety show at 7 and fireworks at 10 p.m.

On Sunday, a community church service will begin at 11 a.m. The Sunfield all-school reunion will be at the Sunfield United Brethren Church at 1, Poorman Pullers mini-modified tractor pull will begin at 2 p.m., the same time that the food vendors open for business.

## Eaton County offering hunter safety classes

The Eaton County Sheriff's Office has announced the following schedule for free hunter safety classes. The response last year was tremendous and the classes were very well received, said Sheriff Mike Raines.

The classes will be held in the training room at the sheriff's office, 1025 Independence Blvd., Charlotte.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Aug. 17, 19 and 21 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 31, Sept. 2, and 3 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Sept. 14, 16 and 18 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Oct. 5, 7 and 9 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Oct. 19, 21, and 23 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Class size is limited to 50 students each session, and registrants must be at least 10 years of age by the start of hunting season. To sign up or for more information, call Jerri Nesbitt at 517-543-5257.

The hunter safety course, or similar approved course by another state, province or

organization, is a requirement to obtaining a Michigan hunting license for anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1960. Even though the course is not required for persons born before that date, it is recommended, especially for beginning hunters.

Classes are taught by certified instructors and cover firearm safety and laws, basic hunting terminology, conservation, safe hunting practices, outdoor ethics, wildlife identification and management, survival, limited first aid and Michigan wildlife regulations. The course is free and prepares sportsmen for a safer, more rewarding experience while in the outdoors.

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Monday August 17, 2009 @ 6:00 P.M.

MITTELSTAEDT REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

Located at 333 W. Casgrove Rd., Nashville, MI - follow Main St. (Hwy.-66) South to Casgrove Rd. then go West (Right) to sale.




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#### Open House

Wed, Aug. 12  
5-6:00 P.M.

15 Acres Vacant Land

Real Estate TERMS  
\$5,000 non-refundable deposit day of auction, balance due within 30 days. Transfer with title insurance and new deed. Sold in "AS-IS" condition. Offered together or in 3 Parcels. Spins are subject to Nashville Village Approval. Offers subject to approval.

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### Good News from the Pulpit

by Pastor Kathy Smith  
Vermontville United Methodist Church

Here is it August already. In a matter of weeks, the kids will be back in school, vacations will be over and our schedules will be filled with different kinds of activities. Busy-ness seems to be the watchword of our days, doesn't it? The day runs out before all of our tasks are completed. Someone or something is always demanding our time or attention. Have you ever finished the day frazzled and exhausted? Of course you have.

Then hear the good news from Jesus when he says: "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me — watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Matthew 11:28 (from The Message translation.)

You can always come to Jesus in your mind and heart and tell him all about the things that are making you crazy — the demands made on you and how you are struggling to handle everything; and the promise in the above words is that Jesus will give you rest. The rest may not be physical rest because we still have obligations to fulfill, but maybe Jesus will ask you to change your priorities or he may just tell you everything will be fine.

He can bring calm in the midst of the storm, or sometimes he calms the storm. The rest that Jesus promises is one that embodies his love, his healing and a peace and inner confidence that we don't even understand. A relationship with Jesus changes pointless, tiresome, activities into spiritual productivity and purpose when we do them in service to Jesus and others. The important thing is to talk to Jesus and put your trust in him.

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## Bikers raise money for breast cancer



The first annual "Bikers for Boobs" took place Aug. 1 with 75 bikes and more 100 riders who cruised to support the fight against breast cancer. The route went from Charlotte to Turkeyville, said Pat Warner of Nashville, who took part along with her husband, Dennis. More than \$2,300 in proceeds was raised for Breast Cancer 3-Day. The Backdraft Bike Shop of Charlotte organized the event. Warner said it was a "great success."

## Founders Fest welcomes parade and rib contest entries, arts and crafts

Many events and activities are in the works for the 36th annual Delton Founders Festival Friday and Saturday, Aug. 7-8, and there are many opportunities for area citizens to participate.

Entries for the 1 p.m. parade on Saturday, Aug. 8 are being welcomed. The parade theme is "Christmas in August." Decorated floats are especially appreciated. No advance registration is required. Registration takes

place in the morning before the parade. For more information, call 269/623-2020.

The first annual Delton Rib Fest is part of the events too. More people are invited to join in the fun and the judging will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8. Advanced registration is necessary for this event because four slabs of ribs will be provided to each contestant and the cost is included in the \$25 entry fee. Contestants also have to

bring their own cooking equipment because the ribs must be cooked on site. Prizes will be awarded. Details are available by calling Wes Kahler, 269/623-6742.

The Arts and Crafts Show takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8 and there is still room for more exhibitors. Call 269/623-2020 for more information.



### Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

#### Hearty Menu

**Monday, August 10**  
Spaghetti and meat sauce, cauliflower, sliced peaches, garlic bread.

**Tuesday, August 11**  
Breakfast sandwich, hash browns, spiced apples, orange juice.

**Wednesday, August 12**  
Oven fried chicken, winter squash, California blend, apple, wheat bread.

**Thursday, August 13**  
Hamburger, baked beans, glazed diced carrots, orange bun.

**Friday, August 14**  
Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, spiced applesauce, wheat bread.

#### Cold Menu

**Monday, August 10**  
Chicken thigh, macaroni

salad, tropical fruit, graham crackers.

**Tuesday, August 11**  
Sliced ham w/Swiss cheese, potato salad, apple-sauce, wheat bread.

**Wednesday, August 12**  
Cottage cheese, black bean salad, pineapple, muffin.

**Thursday, August 13**  
Seafood pasta salad, cucumber salad, Mandarin oranges, club crackers.

**Friday, August 14**  
Tuna salad, summer corn salad, jello with fruit, wheat bread.

#### Activities Calendar

**Monday, August 10:**  
Hastings - AARP Driver's Safety Class 1-5 p.m.; Music/Crafts 10:30 a.m.; Card Making 12:30 p.m. Delton - BP Clinic. H,W,N - Reminiscence.

**Tuesday, August 11:**

Hastings - AARP Driver's Safety Class 1-5 p.m.; Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Wii in the lunchroom 10 a.m. GL - 10:30-12:30 Cards.

**Wednesday, August 12:**  
Hastings - Low Vision Support 1:30 p.m.; Music with Sam; Nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m.; "Stroke Awareness" 11 a.m. Nashville - Mini Massage 11 a.m.

**Thursday, August 13:**  
Hastings - Music with Don and Pearl; Line Dancing 9:30 a.m. Delton - Puzzles/Trivia; Nashville - TV Time.

**Friday, August 14 -**  
Hastings - Exercise 9 a.m.; Bingo 10 a.m.; Mixed Media Painting 9:30 a.m.; Model Railroad 10 a.m. Woodland - Visiting. Nashville - Bingo.

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**Garage Sale**

**MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE:** birth-size 7 boys clothes, 7-8 to 14-16 girls clothes, few baby items, children toys and books, furniture, house wares and other miscellaneous items. Dates: August 13th, 14th and 15th, 8am-4pm. 10272 Nashville Highway, Vermontville.

**PRE-MOVING SALE:** THURSDAY, Friday August 13th & 14th 9am-4pm, also Saturday August 15th 9am-12. 4508 E. M-79 1/4mi. West of Thornapple Lake Rd. Some furniture, electric tools, knick-knacks, clothing, some new items & lots of wood trim.

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**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.



06695644

**HGB offers emergency medical technician training course**

Charlotte Area Emergency Medical Services and Eaton Rapids Area Emergency Medical Services, departments of Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital, are offering an emergency medical technician training course beginning in September.

Prospective candidates must attend an orientation session Thursday, Aug. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Trumley Education Center at Hayes Green Beach. Advanced reservations are not required. Selections for this class will be made from those attending the orientation.

This Michigan Department of Community Health-approved course will provide fundamental working knowledge of the emergency medical field. Topics covered include medical-legal, anatomy and physiology, patient assessment, basic life support, pre-hospital care of medical and traumatic injuries, hazardous materials, rescue and extrication and more. Successful graduates may be eligible for employment with fire departments, ambulance services and other emergency-related career fields.

Class sessions will be held each Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Trumley Education Center. Several Saturday sessions also will be held throughout the course. The

\$800 tuition will cover all books, uniforms and supplies needed. A payment plan may

be arranged. A deposit of \$100 will be required if selected for this program.

For more information, contact Paramedic Dan Sowles at 517-541-5912.

**In My Own  
Writ**  
by Amy Jo Parish



**'Club' offers a room with a gown**

The following column was written this week by Helen Mudry, reporter for the Lakewood News. It is a great example of how an attitude can make all the difference. I just had to pass it along, with her permission of course. Enjoy!

by Helen Mudry

Staff Writer (and guest columnist)

I've just found the perfect place for a "staycation" right here in beautiful Barry County — Club Pennock. It didn't cost me an arm and a leg — just my appendix. In case you haven't heard it through the Lakewood grapevine, I had an appendectomy Tuesday. So if this week's Lakewood News seems to be a bit sparse, I have a pretty good doctor's excuse.

I woke Monday morning with a bit of a pain in my tummy, but I thought I was just hungry. My regular bowl of oatmeal didn't totally quell the squeamish feeling but it was not at a "stop-the-presses" stage.

So off I went to Sunfield to take pictures of Frisbee-catching dogs then back to the Hastings office. By the time I got there, I felt like death warmed over and must have looked worse.

A friend at work called my son Jon to come and fetch me. He and granddaughter Brook loaded me in his big Expedition and dropped me off at Pennock's Urgent Care. They took one look and sent me to the emergency room.

A fever, high white blood cell count, CAT scan and tummy pain clinched the diagnosis of appendicitis. And each time a well-intentioned lab tech poked my arm looking for more blood, Brook whimpered, "Don't hurt my grandma."

Surgery was set for Tuesday, and word spread via phone and e-mail to family and friends about my date with destiny. Monday night, the nurse had several questions about my health history, and if I had chosen someone with power of attorney in the unlikely event that ... So Jon and I filled out the forms telling where my worldly goods were and what would become of them, a comforting thought as I drifted off to sleep with the constant "beep, beep" of distant alarms. I didn't know what to anticipate in pain, so to be proactive, I had a morphine drip. (Dude, don't buzz my trip ...)

Tuesday morning (early, like 6:30 a.m.), the surgeon, Dr. Rappaport, stopped by to explain the events that would ensue later that day. And so I waited and waited and waited. Two flower arrangements arrived from my three sisters and three sons to lighten my spirits. Pastor Vic Collins from Kilpatrick Church came with a prayer for me. Jon and my friend Paul, who is also my ex, came to wait with me. Paul is an RN, so he knew what questions to ask.

Finally at 1 p.m., I was moved to the operating room and was waking up back in my room by 2 p.m. I was thankful the surgery was uneventful. The procedure was done with space-age technology that left three small incisions in my stomach. I was never in much pain, just some discomfort, and I had lots of time to think.

So I wouldn't have to use up my sick days, I thought about my column. That counts as work, doesn't it?

I compared this hospitalization staycation with a vacation at a trendy resort. Here's what I came up with:

- I was waited on hand and foot and had round-the-clock attention. With a mere press of a button, someone was there to cater to my every need, which was usually helping me to the restroom. Moving around with all the IV paraphernalia was a real challenge. And I didn't need an advanced medical degree to know that liter after liter of saline solution dripping into my blood stream created some serious bladder issues.

- Food service, or room service, was included with the room. My Tuesday night post-operative meal was Jell-O, broth and coffee. Jon and Paul took pity on me and brought in something more substantial from a local restaurant. Thanks, guys.

- Laundry service was a perk of the staycation package. It even included clothing — not the trendiest but enough to get by. There were no signs reading "No shirt, no shoes, no service." There were times when it was even a clothing-optional resort. How hip is that?

- I got some color. No, it wasn't a tan from the sun. More like black and blue from the bloodwork and IV needles. They are the only battle scars I'll show.

- There were no fancy rides, but the bed elevated my head and feet to the most unusual angles. It helped pass the time.

- My room had cable TV. No pay-per-view, but I did get to see the Tigers lose to Baltimore. That loss may have set back my recovery a bit.

- A wristband entitled me to all sorts of privileges. I got to ride on a rolling bed, a gurney, an elevator, a wheelchair and even got to see the operating room (before I slipped under the happy gas).

- I had no need for an alarm clock. I was well aware of shift changes 'cause that meant a new checking of temp, blood pressure, pulse, etc.

I haven't seen the tab for this staycation, but I'm sure it equals a week in a high-class European spa. I might check with a cardiologist before I open the bill.

Seriously, I am so thankful for skilled medical care, the help from friends and family and the support from the staff at J-Ad. You guys are the greatest.

[Editor's note: Helen just couldn't get enough of the Lakewood News and her readers; she was back at the office Wednesday morning (which sort of changed the plans of those who were going to visit her at the hospital over the lunch break. The ink on the "get-well cards" wasn't even dry.) After tying up a few loose ends, she was successfully escorted out of the office. Thursday evening, she reported in an e-mail that her son had her "under house arrest." Hopefully, she's coming up with more fodder for her column; you'll be the first to know. We're just glad she's doing so well.]

**Maple Valley fall sports practices begin next week**

Practices for Maple Valley High School's fall sports practices get going soon.

The season starts with the first football practices of the year. All levels will hold their first practice from 8 a.m. until noon at the high school practice field Monday, Aug. 10.

All other sports get started on Wednesday, Aug. 12.

The volleyball program will hold its first practice from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the high school.

The soccer team will practice twice to start the year, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and then again from 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Cross country practice will be for seventh and eighth grade student-athletes and high school athletes from 9 a.m. to noon at the high school track.

Athletes must have a physical on file with the office to participate

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**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Nashville Village council will hold a public hearing on August 27, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the council chambers.

**PURPOSE:** To obtain public input and hear discussion on the application for the Community Block Grant that will be used to reconstruct Kellogg Street from Main Street to the village limits. If you wish to comment in writing on this grand application you must do so by August 27, 2009 and turn into the Village of Nashville, 203 N. Main St. PO Box 587, Nashville, MI. 06695892

## READING, continued from page 1

garten and kindergarten students. This year, the district partnered with the EISD and expanded it to include students going into first through fourth grades.

Using buddy reading, choral reading, nursery rhymes, games and a host of other tools, stu-

dents not only become better readers but usually discover that they enjoy reading, said Hall. Through the program, Trey Leonard has discovered the antics and stories of Curious George and is eager to discover what funny situation the energetic monkey will find himself

in next.

"I like the *Curious George* books. He's curious about everything," said Leonard. "In some books, he gets yelled at and chased. They're so cool."

Often, students forget about reading during the summer

months, and the program is a way to bridge the gap between June and September, said Fuller Reading Teacher Mrs. Steward.

"A lot of these kids don't read in the summer and lose the skills they learned," said

Steward. "This helps them maintain over the summer what they might have lost over the months."

EISD has partnered with school districts in Eaton Rapids, Potterville and Charlotte for the past few years and may be looking to develop it into a state-wide program.

Not only a chance to develop reading skills, Hall said she believes the program gives

new students a chance to get to know their school building and environment so they are more comfortable attending full time in the fall.

"I think it gives the kids who haven't been to school and introduction to school activities and a head start," she said. "I think that reading is so important in every-day life that the more exposure you can give them, the better."



Trey Leonard, Nathan Gorman and Aaron Gorman play a round of word rummy.



Fuller Street Teacher Mary Keeley reads with Ben Adams during one of the classroom sessions.

## HGB expands leadership team

Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital has announced the newest addition to its staff, Patrick Sustrich of Dewitt, as the director of health and wellness services.

In this position, Sustrich will oversee a variety of programs for HGB. He will manage the wellness center, rehabilitation department, worksite wellness programs, women's health services and weight management. He also will eventually be responsi-

ble for the new HGB health park at the former Felpausch store. Sustrich is working closely with HGB leadership and architects on the new building's design and programming.

Sustrich was formerly the athletics and facility director at the University Club of Michigan State University. His management experience extends throughout hospitals and wellness centers in Michigan as chief executive officer, wellness center

director and exercise physiologist.

Sustrich attended Northern Michigan University where he received his masters of science and exercise science degree as well as a bachelor of science and exercise science degree.

"Patrick's notable past experiences, along with his vast amount of knowledge and friendly demeanor, make him a significant addition to Hayes Green Beach Memorial. We are very

pleased to have Mr. Sustrich on board with us," said Matt Rush, president and CEO of HGB.

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**BOARD MEETING ON MONDAY, AUG. 10<sup>TH</sup> AT 7PM**  
AT THE HIGH SCHOOL  
TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR MV EMPLOYEES AND THEIR JOBS.

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By attending this meeting you will have the opportunity to voice your opinion and/or ask any questions you may have. If you cannot attend the meeting we encourage you to contact our Board Members. You can find their contact information on our school web page at ...

**WWW.MVS.K12.MI.US**

Or Call our Administration office at: **517-852-9699**

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# MHSAA provides hot-weather practice information for fall season

With the beginning of another high school sports season approaching, there are always concerns about physical activity in hot and humid conditions. The Michigan High School Athletic Association continues its role in providing its member schools educational information to assist them in minimizing the possibility of heat-related catastrophic injuries to student-athletes.

The topic of heat-related injuries receives a lot of attention at this time of year,

especially when deaths at the professional, collegiate and interscholastic levels of sport occur, and especially since they are all preventable with the proper precautions. In football, data from the National Federation of State High School Associations shows that 29 high school players have died from heat stroke since 1995 - four occurring last year.

Each Spring, the MHSAA has provided information to its member schools to help them prepare for hot weather

practice and game conditions in the late Summer and early Fall. Football practice can begin at MHSAA member schools on Monday (August 10), followed by all other Fall sports on Wednesday (August 12).

"Heat Stress & Athletic Participation" is information from the National Federation of State High School Associations which the MHSAA makes available on its website for use by all Fall sports teams. The information points out that student-

athletes are subject to a variety of maladies from heat cramps to heat strokes at this time of year. Preventative steps are outlined, including hydration guidelines about what to drink and what not to drink. There are links to the Fall Sports Coaches Preseason Alerts, as well as additional information about hydration and heat illness on the Health & Safety page of the MHSAA Website. A copy of the information is available on the MHSAA Web site

<http://www.mhsaa.com/Schools/HealthSafetyResources.aspx>.

"Our coaches are so much more aware of hydration and heat issues now, but you can never let your guard down. We cannot emphasize enough that water be available in unlimited quantities at all times during practices," said John R. Johnson, communications director for the MHSAA. "Additionally, coaching staffs need to be tuned into their student-athletes and be sure they are

partaking of water. There is no excuse for any number of heat stroke deaths since they are all preventable. If schools and their student-athletes follow these guidelines, then we minimize the risk for heat-related problems."

Johnson added that as student-athletes work out on their own individually or with a group of teammates in informal settings during the Summer, they also need to be aware of their hydration.

# Stabenow comments on 'Cash for Clunkers' program success

## Proven short-term, economic stimulus calls for additional funding to keep CARS program rolling

WASHINGTON- U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) today made the fol-

lowing statement regarding the overwhelming success of 'Cash for Clunkers,' known

as the CARS program, which mirrored her Drive America Forward Act introduced this year.

"It is amazing that 'Cash for Clunkers' would be this successful this quickly. Many people talk of the need for a

short-term stimulus for the economy. Well, we have found it in the CARS program. With over 200,000 cars sold, hundreds of employees on the job serving customers, millions of dollars in advertisement spend-

ing, and sales tax income flowing into struggling states, CARS has injected money into communities across America. From Maine to California, from Michigan to Texas the impact is dynamic. It took a lot of hard work to get the votes to pass this program into law, so I am grateful that consumers love it. I am delighted to hear dealers say that all of their salespeople are busy and they are selling more cars in a day than they had been selling in a month. That is terrific news and I hope the sales continue even

though the initial funding for the CARS program has been suspended.

"This program has helped bring people back to showrooms to see what incredible cars and trucks we make in this country. I urge Congress and the Administration to provide additional funding so that 'Cash for Clunkers' may continue under its original authorization until November.

- U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow

# Panel seeks public policy ideas from Barry County farmers

The legislative Strategic Task Force on Agriculture will stop in Ionia Monday, Aug. 10, to gather grassroots ideas on how best to strengthen Michigan's agriculture industry.

State Rep. Brian Calley, a

task force member, will sponsor the public hearing at Ionia Intermediate School District, 2191 Harwood Road, starting at 10:30 a.m. The panel is seeking input from farmers and other agriculture experts on how to

improve Michigan's second largest industry and create jobs.

"Agriculture is becoming the driving force that is strengthening our economy, and the state must do more to help area farmers thrive," said Calley, R-Portland. "We want to hear from farmers about how the state can improve their bottom lines and better partner with the agriculture industry. I

encourage anyone involved with agriculture to stop by and get their voices heard."

The task force, consisting of state House lawmakers, is traveling throughout the state seeking input from Michigan farmers.

For more information about the task force hearing, contact Calley at 517-373-0842, or e-mail [briancalley@house.mi.gov](mailto:briancalley@house.mi.gov).

## MAPLE VALLEY

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

Practice is starting

## Monday, August 10th

6-8pm at the practice field.

**You must be registered and have a physical to play.**

Call me with questions: Lynn Denton

## 517-852-0964

## Grand Valley State University releases dean's list

Grand Valley State University has announced the names of students who were placed on the dean's list for the winter 2009 semester. To make the dean's list, students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average while carrying a minimum of 12

credits.  
 Bellevue: Benjamin Cook, Stephanie Morse, Shaun Prickett.  
 Hastings: Jeffrey Halverson, Annalyn Hawkes, Chelsey Snyder, Patrick Terry, Tasia Thompson, Paige Werner.  
 Nashville: Lisa Hamilton, Anna Lawrence, Sarah Reaser, Rebekah Welch.  
 Sunfield: Wesley Jackson  
 Vermontville: Kyndra Root.

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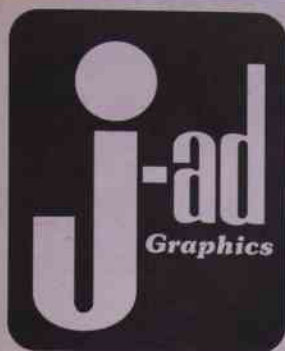
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## Stage ag commission opens public comment period for bovine TB

The Michigan Department of Agriculture's Animal Industry Division this week presented information to the Michigan Commission on Agriculture on the proposal to shrink the bovine Tuberculosis modified accredited zone to high-risk

northeastern Lower Peninsula counties beginning the public comment period on this proposal.

"Public comment is an important part of the zoning process," said State Veterinarian Steven Halstead. "The dairy and beef industries

need to be aware of the changes and take every opportunity to comment on the proposal before it becomes law."

The affected counties are Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda and Presque Isle, and portions of Ogemaw and Iosco counties

within the zone where the disease is endemic in wild free-ranging deer.

Cattle and bison producers will be impacted by a change in interzonal movement restrictions, the need for wildlife risk mitigation in certain areas, and risk-based

surveillance which is set up to trace cattle that may have been exposed to infected wildlife. These changes are designed to improve market access for producers and will help eradicate bovine TB from Michigan.

MDA will accept com-

ments on the proposal to change the zonal boundary until Aug. 21. The proposed zoning order and comment form may be found on the Internet at [www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases) and on the MDA Web site at [www.michigan.gov/mda](http://www.michigan.gov/mda).

## \$15 million available to help Michigan's small manufacturers diversify

### Recovery Act funding will create jobs, expand markets

LANSING — Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced July 20 that her administration will make \$15 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funds available to small manufacturing companies in Michigan looking to diversify and create jobs in renewable energy through the Michigan Clean Energy Advanced Manufacturing Initiative.

"We are making a \$15 million investment in Michigan's future by enabling small manufacturers to create jobs in high-growth renewable energy fields such as wind, solar, biomass, or geothermal industries," Granholm said. "This is one more step in our efforts to put

Michigan's advanced manufacturing and research talent to work leading the nation in the emerging green economy."

The Recovery Act funds will provide financial assistance to eligible Michigan businesses looking to diversify into advanced manufacturing of renewable energy systems and components. The goal of this funding opportunity is to create new markets for Michigan's manufacturers, provide support to renewable energy original equipment manufacturers and Tier I suppliers, and create anchor companies to attract businesses to Michigan.

The funds will be awarded through a Request for Proposal grant process. Applications will be accepted until August

14, 2009. Any for-profit manufacturing business physically located in Michigan with 500 or fewer full-time or equivalent employees is eligible to apply. A business that relocates to Michigan by the time of the award also will be considered eligible.

"We're looking for businesses that can produce renewable energy systems or the components such as turbines, blades, or solar technology. The projects must be able to be implemented immediately and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions," said Stanley "Skip" Pruss, director of the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth, which will oversee the application process.

The \$15 million initiative is just the latest step in the Granholm administration's efforts to create jobs by growing the state's alternative ener-

gy economy.

In the last five years, Michigan has committed more than \$1 billion to help alternative energy and advanced battery companies locate and grow here, including \$700 million in advanced energy battery credits, \$43 million in the innovative Centers of Energy Excellence program, and \$370 million in tax incentives to

attract and grow renewable energy companies.

Michigan's No Worker Left Behind initiative has enrolled more than 81,000 workers in job-training, and Michigan colleges and training providers have added or updated more than 9,000 educational programs to help ensure that Michigan workers have the skills they need to transition to

good-paying jobs in fast-growing sectors like renewable energy manufacturing.

Visit [www.michigan.gov/energyoffice](http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice) or call the Bureau of Energy Systems at (517) 241-6228 for a copy of the grant application or additional information on this grant opportunity.

## Maple Valley FFA Alumni holds moped raffle



At this year's Eaton County Fair, the Maple Valley FFA Alumni raffled off a moped provided by Vermontville Hardware. Pictured is Kim Eldred, vice president of the Maple Valley FFA Alumni, handing the keys to this year's winner, Jeremy Tuller of Charlotte. The alumni raised approximately \$950 from the raffle which will be used to sponsor activities and programs for Maple Valley FFA members.

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