

MAPLE VALLEY news

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Streets of Vermontville have new sound

by Amy Jo Parish
Staff Writer

A new sound can be heard resonating through the streets of Vermontville. The chimes of the Congregational Church bells can now be enjoyed due to a new sound system at the church.

Bill Mason helped install the new system and said the community response has been wonder-

ful. "I've had people mention how glad they are that they are back," said Mason. "They didn't realize how much they missed them until they were back."

The new system features nearly 1,000 songs that are played on a rotational basis, ensuring that no song is played twice in a day, or a month, for that matter. Unlike the previ-

ous tape system, the new unit does not have any tapes or CDs but uses internal memory to store the song information.

Also different than the previous system, it features an internal clock and battery backup. In the past, after a power outage, the clock and timers would have to be reset by hand. Now that is all done electronically.

The unit is also automat-



The new chime system features an internal memory and nearly 1,000 songs. The unit is on loan from the company and Bill Mason is hopeful that it will be purchased with the help of community donations.

SUV ignites, driver still missing after two-car accident

A woman from Nashville and another from Charlotte were airlifted after being injured in an apparent hit-and-run accident at the intersection of Charlton Park and State roads in Hastings Township Monday, Aug. 10, at 3:20 p.m.

A vehicle traveling north on Charlton Park Road failed to yield at a stop sign and

was struck by a second vehicle, driven by Sara Cook of Nashville, who heading west on State Road. Bystanders pulled Cook from the vehicle after they noticed that her SUV was on fire.

A passenger of the first vehicle, Katherine Gardner of Charlotte, was airlifted; her condition remains unknown. The driver of the

northbound vehicle could not be located, but a trooper from the Michigan State Police Hastings post said Friday that they knew the identity of the driver, who had outstanding warrants.

Any information regarding the location of the missing driver should be directed to the Michigan State Police Hastings Post.

ically set to play Christmas music from Dec. 6 until Jan. 6 and will feature special Advent music in December and patriotic tunes around Independence Day. The chimes toll daily on the hour between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. and play two songs at 9 a.m. and 12, 6 and 8 p.m. It also plays a funeral toll, wedding peal and a special chime on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. to announce the start of services.

According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, church bells first became common in Europe in the early Middle Ages. They were most common in northern Europe, reflecting Celtic influence, especially that of Irish missionaries. Before the use of church bells, Greek monasteries would ring a flat metal plate to announce services.

Though many new systems cost more than

\$10,000, Mason said this new system can be bought for \$5,300. He is hoping that the community will help offset that cost in the coming weeks.

The new unit is on loan from the company for the next three weeks and will have to be sent back if the funds cannot be raised. The church is working to contribute toward the pur-

chase but is also looking for village residents to help keep the music alive. Mason said he will be placing canisters in local businesses to collect donations for the project.

"I just think it's an added feature to Vermontville," said Mason. "It's kind of a blessing in music."



Occupants of two vehicles involved in an accident Monday, Aug. 10, were airlifted to area hospitals. The driver who failed to yield at a stop sign has not been located. (Photo by Casey Cheney).

Federally funded patrols target drunk drivers

Now through Labor Day, Barry County Sheriff's and Hastings Police departments will step up enforcement and be on the lookout for impaired drivers in Barry County during the end-of-summer drunk driving crackdown.

Officers in 53 counties will join the Barry County law enforcement to crack down on impaired driving through Labor Day.

"Last year, more people

died in impaired driving crashes in August than in any other month. The timing of the crackdown also coincides with Michigan's heavy summer travel season when more people are on the road," said Sheriff Leaf.

Alcohol-involved crashes tend to be more serious than non-drinking crashes and injuries more serious for drivers and passengers who have been drinking.

The extra patrols are part

of the national drunk driving Over the Limit. Under Arrest. crackdown and funded with federal traffic safety dollars administered by the Office of Highway Safety Planning.

In Michigan, a motorist can be arrested for drunk driving with .08 blood alcohol content or higher. A first-time drunk driving conviction carries penalties, including up to 93 days in jail, up to a \$500 fine, up to 360

hours of community service, six points on a driver's license and up to 180 days suspension on a license.

Anyone who refuses a breath test the first time is given an automatic one-year driver's license suspension.

Last Labor Day weekend, 12 people died in crashes on Michigan's roadways. Four of those fatalities involved alcohol.

Upcoming meetings

- The Vermontville Township Board will hold a special meeting Monday, Aug. 24, at 7 p.m. in the opera house to discuss future use of the facility.
- A public hearing has been set by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the permit application to remove the Nashville Dam and restore the river channel. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 25,

beginning at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Nashville Village Hall.

- The Nashville Village Council will hold its regular meeting Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. in the village hall on Main Street.

- The Vermontville Township Board will hold its regular meeting Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. in the opera house on South Main Street.

In This Issue...

- New Kiwanis Club completes first project
- Vermontville to host Eaton County historical program
- Library and power company team up for energy efficiency
- Fall sports previews inside this weeks edition

New Kiwanis Club completes first project

Backpack program still accepting donations

The newly formed Kiwanis Club of Maple Valley completed its first project Thursday morning, stuffing 95 backpacks for the Maple Valley Community Center of Hope. Each year, the center collects donations of school supplies and backpacks to distribute to students in the area who might not have the opportunity to start the school year off with new supplies.

Last year, the program gave out supplies to nearly 100 students but fell short on backpacks. Rev. Catherine Christman of the Nashville United Methodist Church said that nearly 100 kids are already signed up this year. Many local businesses and organizations have already contributed to the program.

"Thank you to all those who have helped so far, and will continue to do so. I pray that this will go a long way in helping our kids get a great start in school this year," said Christman.

The supply drive is sponsored by the Maple Valley Community Center of Hope, and students can register for

the program on Tuesdays at the center of by calling Christman at 517-852-2043.

Supplies of all kinds for students of all ages are being collected until Tuesday, Aug. 23, at the Nashville United Methodist Church, Eaton Federal Bank in Nashville, Maple Valley

Pharmacy in Nashville and the Independent Bank in Vermontville.

Backpacks will be stuffed at the Nashville United Methodist Church beginning at 10 a.m. Wednesday Aug. 26, for distribution at the center of hope on Tuesday, Sept. 1, beginning at 9 a.m.



Standing behind a mountain of 95 backpacks stuffed with supplies, members of the Maple Valley Kiwanis Club pause for a photo. The bags are being donated to the backpack drive at the Maple Valley Community Center of Hope.



Maple Valley Kiwanis Club members work to stuff backpacks at their weekly meeting. This is the first project completed by the newly formed organization.

Libri grant loads kids' room with new books

Young patrons at Putnam District Library may be excited to search the shelves for new books from the Libri Foundation. The library received a shipment of 48

new children's titles in July. The books were provided by a grant from the Libri Foundation which was matched by funds from Putnam's annual book sale at

the Nashville Car Show in June. The collection includes a wide variety of books geared for kids from birth to age 12, both fiction and non-fiction.

Here is a sampling of some of Putnam's new titles from the booklist provided by the Libri Foundation:

My Colors/Mis Colores by Rebecca Emberly — a board book in English and Spanish, which features one or two words per language per page, accompanied by a simple, brightly colored, cut-paper collage.

17 Things I'm Not Allowed

to Do Anymore by Jenny Offill — a picture book that features a tale of an incorrigible little girl lamenting all the things she's not allowed to do. No more stapler after stapling her brother's hair to the pillow. No more glue after gluing his slippers to the floor. What's a girl to do for fun?

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke (author of the Inkheart series) — in this fantasy/adventure story, orphaned brothers, Prosper and Boniface, make their way to Venice, a city their mother had always called

magical. The children find a new home and a magical carousel that spins old people young and young people into adults; a wonderful story about friendship and what constitutes a family.

National Geographic Prehistoric Mammals by Alan Turner — A nonfiction account of more than 100 vanished creatures, from early whales to tiny shrews. Based on the latest fossil evidence, each mammal portrait is accompanied by a fact box, a distribution map, a timeline, and a size indicator. Check out these and other

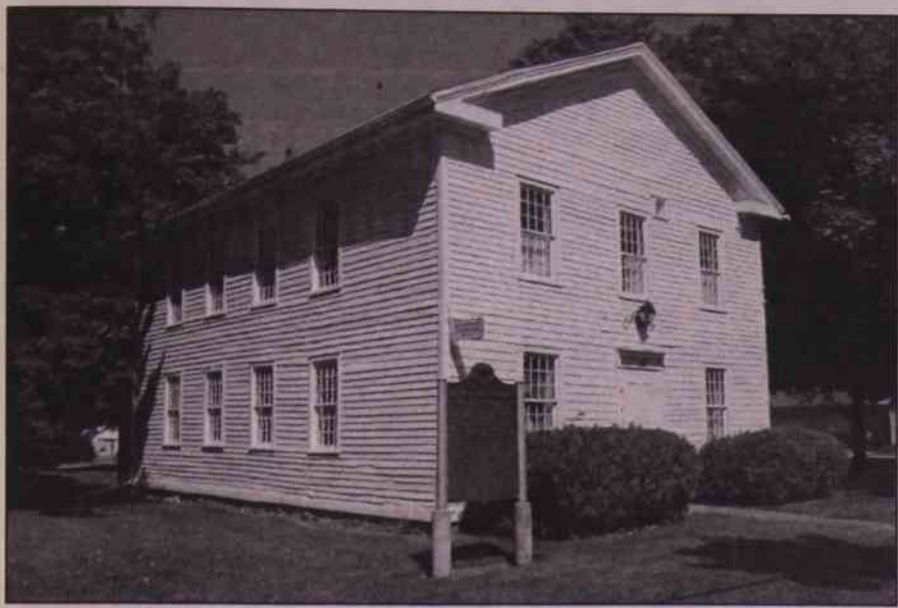
new titles at Putnam District Library. All books awarded by this grant have a special bookplate inscribed from the Libri Foundation and the Putnam book sale supporters.

The Libri Foundation is a nationwide nonprofit organization donating new, quality children's books to small, rural public libraries in the United States through its Books for Children program. Due to this grant, Putnam District Library was able to replace many nonfiction titles in the newly organized junior nonfiction area.

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LOCAL CHURCH SCHEDULE			
<p>ABUNDANT GRACE WORLD OUTREACH CENTER Come as you are but don't leave the same. Meet at Kalamo Twp. Hall 8960 Spore Ave. Vermontville, MI 49096 Morning Service 10:30 a.m. Evening Service 6 p.m. (Every 1st & 3rd Sunday) 6 p.m. REV. DAWN GOODMAN Contact numbers: (517) 852-0896 or (517) 852-9606, leave message</p>	<p>BASELINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 9617 E. Baseline Rd. Corner of Baseline & Church Roads (2 miles east of M-66 on Baseline) Church Service 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Youth Groups, Bible Study and many other activities. Phone (616) 963-7710 MINISTER: VIRGINIA HELLER</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERMONTVILLE 110 S. Main St., Vermontville, MI 49096 (517) 726-0258 PASTOR: ISRAEL (IZZY) YOUNG Wed. 5:30 p.m. Family Supper 6:00-7:15 Pioneer Club Sun: 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Church Service 11:00 Fellowship</p>	<p>KALAMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Worship Services 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 a.m. PASTOR BRYCE FEIGNER 517-541-1144</p>
<p>ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES A Spirit-filled Church Meeting at the Maple Leaf Grange Hwy. M-66 south of Assyria Rd. Nashville, MI 49073 Sun. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m. Jesus Club for boys & girls ages 4-12. Pastors David & Rose MacDonald. An oasis of God's love. "Where Everyone is Someone Special." For information call 1-616-731-5194 or 1-517-852-1806.</p>	<p>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 301 Fuller St., Nashville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday: A.M. Worship 11 a.m. P.M. Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Worship 7 p.m. REV. ALAN METTLER</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH 8950 East M-79 Highway, Nashville Morning Celebration 9 & 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service, Relevant Practical Teaching, Nursery, Children's Classes, Youth Group, Adult Small Groups, Leadership Training PASTOR: DON ROSCOE Phone: (517) 852-1783 e-mail: grace@gc3.org</p>	<p>MAPLE GROVE BIBLE CHURCH 8593 Cloverdale Road (1/2 mile East of M-66, 5 mi. south of Nashville) Sunday School 10 a.m. A.M. Service 11:15 a.m. P.M. Service 6 p.m. PASTOR GEORGE GAY</p>
<p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH 803 Reed St., Nashville Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday: A.M. Worship 11 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Prayer Meeting 7 p.m. PASTOR GLENN BRANHAM</p>	<p>CHESTER GOSPEL CHURCH 3744 W. Vermontville Hwy. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Family Night Service 6:45 p.m. PASTOR MARC S. LIVINGSTON Phone: 543-5488</p>	<p>GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 5505 North Mulliken Road, Charlotte one mile north of Vermontville Hwy. PASTOR KATHY SMITH 517-726-0526 Combined Sunday Morning Worship with Vermontville UMC as follows: July 19, Aug. 2, 16 & 30 at Vermontville July 12 & 26, Aug. 9 & 23 at Gresham Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship Time: 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH 304 Phillips St., Nashville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. A.M. Service 11 a.m. P.M. Service 6 p.m. Wed. Service 7 p.m. PASTOR LESTER DeGROOT PASTOR DEANO LAMPHERE PASTOR MATT ROHDE</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>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>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 Combined Sunday Morning Worship with Vermontville UMC as follows: July 19, Aug. 2, 16 & 30 at Vermontville July 12 & 26, Aug. 9 & 23 at Gresham Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship Time: 10:00 a.m.</p>

Vermontville to host Eaton County historical program



The Vermontville Academy, now home of the Vermontville Museum, will be one of the stops during the Eaton County Heritage Conference in September.

The Vermontville Historical Society will host the Eaton County Heritage Conference Sept. 26. The conference will feature a variety of speakers and special presentations. Participants will learn details of Vermontville's history through local residents and historical artifacts. Sarah Benedict Williams, daughter of William Benedict will share the history of the village. Sarah graduated from Olivet College and traveled to Europe to study art. Her paintings are on display at the museum.

Robert MaKay, historical architect from the State Historical Preservation office, will speak on state tax credits program for historical homes and buildings and how the program works.

Local photographer Jim Miller will speak about a photo restoration project he has been working on. He will show photos that have been recently acquired of Vermontville from the days of the *Vermontville Echo* newspaper.

Randy Tooker, chairman of the Eaton County Historical Commission, will present the winners of the 2009 Eaton County Heritage Awards.

Nan Taylor, field representative for Michigan Preservation Network, also will be on hand. Her responsibilities include providing

guidance on historic preservation techniques and approaches, fundraising, organizational development and community relations to all statewide communities outside the Southeast Michigan region.

Taylor's presentation will focus on the value of historic preservation and how it supports the Michigan economy and benefits the owners and users of historic properties. It will address the benefits of historic designations including historic districts, National register of Historic Places, the State Marker program, and how to identify eligible local historic resources for these designations.

Lunch and a walking tour of the village also will be part of the day.

Registration for the event is free and will take place at the Historical Vermontville Opera House. Registration forms and more information

can be found online at the Village of Vermontville's Web site, www.vermontville-mi.gov. The event is being chaired by Vermontville Township Treasurer JoAnn Nehmer and a special chairlift system will be available to help those who may need assistance up the stairs at the opera house.

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FRI-SUN 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:15
MON-TH 4:20, 6:40, 9:15

THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE (PG-13)
FRI-SUN 12:00, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30
MON-TH 4:40, 7:10, 9:30

GI JOE: RISE OF THE COBRA (PG-13)
FRI-SUN 11:25, 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
MON-TH 4:30, 7:00, 9:40

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Library and power company team up for energy efficiency

Tri-County Electric has teamed up with the Vermontville Township Library to make the 'Kill-A-Watt' electric consumption meter available to library patrons to check out. Tri-County Electric has donated four Kill-A-Watt meters to the library, which have been

incorporated into a kit to help make it easier for patrons to become more energy efficient.

The Kill-A-Watt meter is capable of measuring the electric consumption of specific 120-volt plug-in appliances in kilowatt hours over a certain period of time. After metering an appliance, people using the

Kill-A-Watt meter can then take the amount of electricity used and calculate how much money it is costing them to run that appliance by using some simple instructions included in the meter's carrying case.

The purpose of this program is to help individuals understand how much any single or group of appliances are contributing to their overall electrical load and to use that information to make informed choices on how much to use that appliance, eliminating it altogether, or upgrading to a more energy-efficient model.

Some appliances that could potentially use a considerable amount of energy and would be worth testing with the Kill-A-Watt meter are refrigerators that are older than 10 years, older dehumidifiers, and space heaters. These appliances have the potential to use

month in electricity, depending on their age and how much they are used. The meter is not just for high-use appliances though and can be used on anything that plugs into an outlet.

The Kill-A-Watt meter is packaged with the "Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings" by Jennifer Thorne Amann. This resource can guide consumers through the confusing process of improving home energy use.

If interested in learning more about how much electricity home appliances are using, the Kill-A-Watt meter kit is available for checkout at the Vermontville Township Library for anyone who holds a library card, and can be

checked out for a loan period of 30 days.

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At Maple Valley Schools, your child receives the best of both worlds. The safety and personal care of a smaller rural school is combined with the program offerings of the larger urban districts. Teachers at "The Valley" will know and care for your child as an individual. Your child will be accepted for their strengths and skillfully challenged to improve on their weaknesses. Maple Valley Schools offers programs that prepare your children for their future.

Applications will be accepted until September 11, 2009.
For enrollment information, call 517/852-9699.

Area Obituaries

Diane S. Ward

NASHVILLE, MI - Diane S. Ward, age 46, of Nashville, passed away suddenly at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids on Friday morning, August 14, 2009.

Diane was born in Hastings, on March 14, 1963 to Jim and Luella (Edwins) Smith. She graduated from Lakewood High School in 1981.

Diane was united in marriage to Keith Ward on November 25, 1986.



Diane loved her menagerie of animals, and began an involvement with 4-H as a young girl. Over 20 years were spent as a 4-H leader, including 16 years while her family lived in Arkansas operating a cattle ranch. Through her life, Diane had been very involved in raising, training and showing horses.

She had returned to Michigan 12 years ago when she and Keith bought their farm near Nashville.

Diane had an open heart and loved to help other people. She always made sure they received the love they deserved.

Diane is survived by her loving husband, Keith; children, Lacey and Jeremy Rasey, and Cliff Ward and friend, Nicole; grandchildren, Ashton and Hayley Rasey; parents, Jim and Luella Smith; sisters and brother, Lana and Neil Perry, Edwin and Debra Smith, and Debra and Joel McDowell; father-in-law, Harold Ward; and many close friends and loving relatives.

She was preceded in death by her infant daughter, Wendy.

The funeral service was held on Wednesday at the Lakewood United Methodist Church. Burial was in Woodland Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be given to the family for a cause that will be determined at a later time.

Memories and messages may be left at www.koopsfc.com.

Wilma J. Saunders

NASHVILLE, MI - Wilma J. Saunders, age 85, of Nashville, passed away Monday, Aug. 17, 2009 peacefully at Thornapple Manor, Hastings.

Wilma was born in Nashville on Sept. 9, 1923, the daughter of the late Vernon A. and Agnes (Peterson-Curtis) Blanck. She was raised in the Nashville area and graduated from Nashville High School in 1942.

Wilma married Robert G. Saunders July 12, 1944 in Aiken, South Carolina, while he was stationed at Camp Gordon in Augusta, Georgia. Wilma worked in Augusta a short time before coming back to Nashville when Robert was deployed overseas.

They lived at their home on Mason Road in Vermontville for 68 years, raising their two daughters, Sheila and Marcia, provided a loving home for several foster children throughout the years. In 2007 they relocated to the Village of Nashville to be closer to their daughters.

Robert and Wilma celebrated 65 years of marriage in July of 2009.

Over the years Wilma was employed at Hastings Piston Ring. She worked for the Pennock family, owners of the Pennock Meat Processing and Locker Plant caring for their children, Kellogg Company in Battle Creek, and the William Dean Gladiola Bulb Farm. Wilma was also a member of the Ladies Eaton County Extension Group.

Along with her husband, Robert, the couple collected, restored and sold antiques. The couple worked together in this endeavor, with Robert making the necessary repairs and Wilma handling the refinishing.

Wilma loved her home, where her talents and fondness of antiques were reflected. She was an excellent seamstress making her children's clothing and formal gowns. She loved quilts and hand stitched many quilt blocks of varying patterns.



Wilma made porcelain dolls from raw porcelain, having them fired and then assembled and hand painted them. She designed and sewed their beautiful Victorian costumes. Her "Doll Room" was precious to her and her family and admired by many friends and visitors.

She shared many peaceful walks with her husband collecting many unusual rocks that she placed in her rock garden.

Wilma is survived by her beloved husband, Robert; two daughters, Sheila (Roger) Tobias of Nashville and Marcia (Michael) Loose of Middleville; a brother, Aaron "Pete" Blanck of Coquille, Oregon; a sister-in-law, Kathryn Bristol of Hastings; a brother-in-law, Roger (Gay) Jones of Jackson; grandchildren, Kerri Tobias, Heather Tobias, Angela (Jerry) Rademacher, Travis (Meghan) Blake, and 11 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Richard Blanck of Bronson.

Funeral services will be held at the Vermontville Bible Church, Vermontville, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009, with Pastor Daniel Smith officiating. Interment will take place immediately following the funeral service at Lakeview Cemetery in Nashville.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Vermontville Bible Church.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Daniels Funeral Home in Nashville. Please visit our web site at www.danielsfuneralhome.net for further information.

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From Our Readers

Local Citizens Speak Out On Issues

Health care is on path to failure

To the editor:
Emotions blaze as the debate over health care reform continues in our nation's capitol, our state capitol and in our local communities.

On the left are those who believe that our health care delivery system is shattered, that, because of the high cost of insurance (which has doubled in the past nine years), adequate health care is out of reach to average families. Some form of public health care, a "public option" or "single-pay" plan, they reason, will reduce health care costs and protect families from the financial trauma of catastrophic illness. Reform, they concede, will provide access to affordable health coverage for all Americans.

On the right, are those who believe that change is avoidable. The best way to provide quality health care, they say, is through a competitive private system and that a public wellness plan would force Americans onto a government-prescribed plan while the private health insurance industry collapses. Right-wingers, shouting

down legislators in community forums, claim that public health care could enable our government to interfere with the relationship between doctors and patients and limit an individual's choice.

Both sides, laden with special-interest money, dig in, adding to the trench warfare-like partisanship that has gripped our state and federal governments and stalled progress toward a solution to the problem.

Caught in the middle are families with real problems. Like Amanda with two small children ages 2 and 4 whose husband has lost his job. Forced off health insurance, both her babies are now unprotected and without health care coverage. Or John who has lost health insurance for his family of seven because of an on-the-job injury that forced him onto disability. The family will undoubtedly lose their home, and college educations will be sacrificed.

When did we Americans become so extreme? So divided? Where is the spirit of unity that built this

nation? Do we continue to squabble with each other while our fellow countrymen and women and their children suffer?

It's not a matter of right wing or left wing because the eagle needs both wings to fly. It has been said that: "No tree would be so foolish as to have its branches fight amongst each other."

Whether it's health care reform, our economic crisis, or balancing deficit budgets, it's only through cooperation, compromise and solidarity that we will successfully address our problems. When our state and federal leaders finally push aside political agendas and personal bias, and reassert that old American belief: "United we stand, divided we fall," maybe then we can move forward in putting people to work, keeping our children healthy, and remaking the American dream.

Bob Robinson,
Vermontville

Politicians, law enforcement must work together

To the editor:

During the past two weeks, on at least seven separate occasions, messages have been left with U.S. Congressman Mark Schauer's office requesting return calls for information on any town hall meetings from the Congressman, to which he has been unresponsive.

I was concerned when I was recently informed that the Congressman's staff provided false information when contacted regarding this information. His staff claimed he was not in our county, when in fact, he was. I was even more disappointed when I discovered a media report, that same day, claiming he had met with "Eaton County elected officials." I know several elected officials and citizens who were not notified of or invited to attend this or any other

meetings that the Congressman has held in Eaton County.

While I welcome and encourage all of our elected officials to meet with the citizens of Eaton County, my primary concern is that they always use common sense and sound judgment when doing so.

We are all aware of the media reports involving attacks on citizens at town halls. In one incident, a man was attacked by an organized group of "thugs," requiring a trip to the hospital. Because of near riots or public disruptions of the peace, local law enforcement presence has been needed in other areas.

The Congressman has indicated a concern for his personal safety. If this is truly his concern, I must ask, why, then, would his staff mislead the sheriff to keep law enforcement away? I cannot support or condone such irre-

sponsible actions from anyone.

I do not expect politicians to be law enforcement "professionals," but, I do expect them to be mindful that the No. 1 priority is the safety of our citizens. I do not expect them to cower or hide or refuse to listen to those they are obligated to represent. Instead, I encourage peaceful public discussions and dialogue where citizens are welcomed and encouraged to share their thoughts with them, as I have done.

I respectfully welcome and encourage our U.S. Congressional members to visit our local area, but I also expect that any future meetings held by them in my jurisdiction will be preceded by notification to me. This would respectfully afford my deputies and me the necessary opportunity to take any needed precautions should a disturbance arise. A proactive approach is always better for everyone involved, rather than walking into a volatile situation.

My top priority is to uphold our Constitution while ensuring the safety of our citizens, and I would strongly encourage these individuals to please work with their local sheriffs to do the same. I can be contacted at 517-543-3512 or 517-372-8217.

Mike Raines,
Eaton County Sheriff



Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Hearty Menu
Monday, August 24
Lemon baked pollock, wild rice, sweet peas, winter blend vegetables, grapes.
Tuesday, August 25
Scrambled eggs and sausage, hash browns, spiced apples, orange juice, muffin.
Wednesday, August 26
Sloppy Jo, tator tots, winter blend, orange, bun.
Thursday, August 27
BBQ chicken, corn, potato salad, cherry crisp, wheat blend.
Friday, August 28
Baked ham, sweet potatoes/apples, green bean casserole, pineapple, wheat bread.

Cold Menu
Monday, August 24
Tuna salad, potato salad, peaches, wheat bread.
Tuesday, August 25
Turkey pasta salad, black bean salad, pineapple, club crackers.
Wednesday, August 26
Sliced roast beef w/American cheese, coleslaw, apricots, wheat bread.
Thursday, August 27
Chef salad, pea salad, cantaloupe, muffin.
Friday, August 28
Egg salad, broccoli raisin salad, jello with fruit, wheat bread.

Activities Calendar
Monday, August 24:
Hastings - Music with Sam; Crafts 10:30 a.m.; Card Making 12:30 p.m.; Lifeline Screening 8-4 p.m.; Kingship

Care 6:30 p.m. Delton - Legal Aid 10:30-noon. H.W.N - Reminiscence.
Tuesday, August 25:
Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Wii in the lunchroom 10 a.m. GL -10:30-12:30 Cards.
Wednesday, August 26:
Hastings - Music with Sam; Nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Home safety 11 a.m. Tendercare PT staff. Delton - Birthday Party; Reminiscence.
Thursday, August 27:
Hastings - Music with Don and Pearl; Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; No Beading. Delton - Puzzles/Trivia; Nashville -

TV Time
Friday, August 28 -
Hastings - Exercise 9 a.m.; Bingo 10 a.m.; Mixed Media Painting 9:30 a.m. Woodland - Visiting. Nashville - Bingo.

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- Pre-school & all day care for 3-4 year olds
- Tutoring for school children of all ages

For more information about any of these programs, please plan to attend a meeting at the **Center of Hope on Tuesday, August 25 at 7:00pm**

For further information, call Terry Woodman
269-838-4854

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Homes are needed in Barry County to care for the increasing number of children of all ages coming into care. If you enjoy children and have 40 square feet of extra bedroom space, you are invited to consider foster care. Reservations are being taken now for the 24-hour introductory course, half of which will be held in Nashville on two Saturdays, Sept. 19 & 26, from 9am-4pm, with an orientation Thursday, Sept. 17, 6-9pm. For no-cost information packet, questions or to pre-register for classes please contact: E: Mueller-HayesJ@michigan.gov or (269) 948-3216.

Homer woman injured in Eaton County accident

Eaton County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-car accident at 8:15 a.m. Thursday, August 20. The driver, a 25-year-old female from Homer, was traveling

northbound on I-69 on the on-ramp to I-96 when she lost control of the vehicle, rolled over in the median and landed on the eastbound I-96 highway.

The driver was taken to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Alcohol and weather do not appear to be a factor, according to the sheriff's department. The

driver was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident and was cited for basic speed violation.

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Pets
BE AWARE: animals offered for free may end-up being sold to research or used in dog fighting. (A message from Barry County Humane Society)

Lawn & Garden
AQUATIC PLANTS: WATER Lilies & Lotus, Goldfish & Koi, Liners, Pumps, Filters. Apol's Landscaping Co., 9340 Kalamazoo, Calcedonia. (616)698-1030. Open Monday-Friday 9am-5:30pm; Saturday, 9am-2pm.

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Business Services
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The Maple Valley Athletic Boosters are having their
~1st Annual~
HOG ROAST & MEET THE COACHES EVENT
before the first varsity home football game!

WHEN: **Friday, August 28**
5pm to 5:30pm: Meet new varsity head football coach Brian Lincoln and his coaching staff
6pm to 6:30pm: Meet new varsity head volleyball coach Sarah Carpenter and her coaching staff

WHERE: Outside the entrance of the football field behind the Maple Valley High School

HOG ROAST: You can get a delicious pork BBQ sandwich and all the fixings for only \$5 per person! Pork is being cooked and provided by Sandy Schondelmayer BBQ.

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All money raised goes directly to the student athletes at Maple Valley

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From the Pulpit

by Pastor Marc S. Livingston
Chester Gospel Church

Mark 6:31 "And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and rest a while."

My family just spent a week camping. Yes, pastors do take vacations. I thoroughly enjoyed my time of relaxation. I did not cease my Christian behavior, nor did I stay away from church while I was on vacation. As a matter of fact I went back to our "first church" and had a great time of fellowship with other believers I hadn't seen in years. But I needed to have some rest.

Contrary to what is said about pastors, most pastors I know do work more than an hour a week. In fact you would be hard pressed to find a pastor who doesn't work 50 to 60 hours a week. I enjoyed a day at the beach lying on my back and taking a huge nap. I loved sitting around the campfire until 11 p.m. and not getting up till 7 a.m. I took some walks through the park with my grandchildren. I smelled the flowers and the coffee.

Would I have liked more? Yes. But just like Jesus and the disciples needed a time of rest, this time was also clarified by a time element: "a while." He didn't say to them to take the summer off, nor did he say that it wasn't important to be in church on Sunday, or not to still financially support the church, or to put your Christian life away on vacation and leave what happens in Vegas, in Vegas. What He did say was to come apart and rest for a while. Come apart before you come apart. Go someplace where you can be away from the hecticness of life. Rest: to cause or permit one to cease from any movement or labor in order to recover and collect his strength; to give rest, refresh, to give one's self rest, take rest; to keep quiet, of calm and patient expectation.

For a while: little, small, few; of number, multitude, quantity, or size; short time; of degree or intensity, light, slight. God's word says to cease from laboring, recover your strength (mentally and physically) be refreshed. But He also says that this time is to have a set time of lightness.

As a pastor, let me encourage you to get away for awhile, but don't become one of those who takes the summer off, whether it be from church or from your Christ-like life. Remember that the church bills still come in, and that the church ministries are ongoing.

Have a great summer. But remember to keep God in it, and take Him with you. Think about it ...

Geiger announces run for county commissioner

Barry County Republican Party Chairman Ben Geiger (R-Woodland) announced Wednesday his candidacy for 5th District county commissioner. The seat is being vacated by Michael Callton (R-Nashville) who is running for 87th District State Representative. District 5 includes Woodland, Castleton and Maple Grove townships, the village of Woodland and the village of Nashville.

Geiger is currently a legislative assistant to State Rep. Brian Calley and was elected chairman of the Barry County Republican Party last year.

"My campaign is about continuing positive momentum with new and fresh leadership," Geiger said in a press release Wednesday. "Honest, open and transparent government can help to

make Barry County a place that says 'no' to this economic recession."

On Geiger's candidacy, Rep. Calley said "I know

first hand how hard Ben works for the people of my district. He is exactly what Barry County needs in a commissioner."



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Grace Church plans family carnival

Grace Community Church in Nashville is hosting an end-of-summer, back-to-school bash Sunday Aug. 30.

The fun will start at 1 p.m. with comedic magician Tim Hannig. After the magic, there will be food, carnival games, prizes and inflatables from 2 to 4 p.m.

The carnival and magic show are free, and all are invited to this family event. The carnival will be set up outside but will be moved inside in case of rain.

Grace Community Church is on M-79 one mile west of M-66.

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Attention All Maple Valley School Community Members

Please join us for a Special Presentation presented by:

Arch Lewis

Financial Analyst

Date: **Thursday, August 27, 2009**

Time: **7:00PM**

Location:

Maple Valley High School Auditorium

This presentation is an overview of the last 5 years of audits showing the standings of the school district's finances. He will be giving some objective direction as to how the school should be running its finances in the next few years. This presentation will last approximately 45 minutes. We encourage and invite all Maple Valley residents and taxpayers to attend.

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We would also like to thank our community for supporting this successful evening. Your kind donations will be used for equipment and supplies for the ambulance. We hope to see you next year!

Summer reading prizes awarded at Putnam

Sixty participants in the Putnam District Library summer reading program were awarded prizes this past week. According to Library Director Shauna Swantek, more than 100 patrons of all ages registered for the program in June.

Eight weeks later, after 14 activities, there were still 60 dedicated readers who turned in their reading logs for prizes. Prizes awarded included giant crayon banks, gift certificates, books, stickers and art supplies. Roush's Sidewalk Café and MOOville Creamery partnered with the library to help provide some of the prizes.

Just because the summer is almost over does not mean anyone has to stop reading, said Swantek. Kids can still earn prizes at the library this fall in three steps. First, they choose a book at their reading level. Second, they pick up a bookmark from the circulation desk. Finally, they



Putnam's prize winners include (front row, from left) Ethan Boldrey, Kyla VanAlstine, Zebadiah Hammond, (second row) Logan Boldrey, Kyle Knoll, Taylor Carpenter, Abby Smith, Davita Mater, (third row) Liam Boldrey, Syddona Hammond, (fourth row) Aaron Knoll, Hannah Hammond, McKenna Hammond, Brielle Hammond, Will Hammond and Larissa Mater.

fully complete the bookmark and return it to the library for a prize from the prize pile.

Patrons are reminded that the library will be closed the week of August 24 to 29 for new carpet in the children's

room and back offices. Visit the library starting Monday, Aug. 31 to see the new improvements, check out the fall reading program and pick up a new title from the Libri Foundation grant.

Nashville couple charged with disorderly conduct

Hastings Police were dispatched to a residence in the 300 block of East Charles Street on a reported fight in progress.

Responding officers made contact with the subjects involved in the fight and arrested the apparent aggressor, identified as Anthony Molson, 43, from Nashville,

on charges of being a disorderly person.

Prior to transporting Molson to the Barry County Jail, the suspect's wife, Elizabeth Molson, 31, also from Nashville, was arrested for being a disorderly person after failing to heed officers' warnings to refrain from yelling and screaming.

Both Molsons were transported and lodged at the

Barry County Jail. Alcohol consumption appears to have been a contributing factor in the incident.

Officers were assisted by deputies from the Barry County Sheriff Department.

Social News



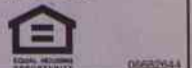
70th birthday open house for Arnold Eaton

Please come join Arnold in celebrating his 70th birthday at an open house on Sunday, Aug. 30, 2009 from 1-4 pm at Goodtime Pizza in Nashville.

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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FALL SPORTS PREVIEWS

Lions have lots of experience back on the volleyball court

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The coach is new, but there is a strong group of returning players for Sarah Carpenter and the Maple Valley varsity volleyball team this fall.

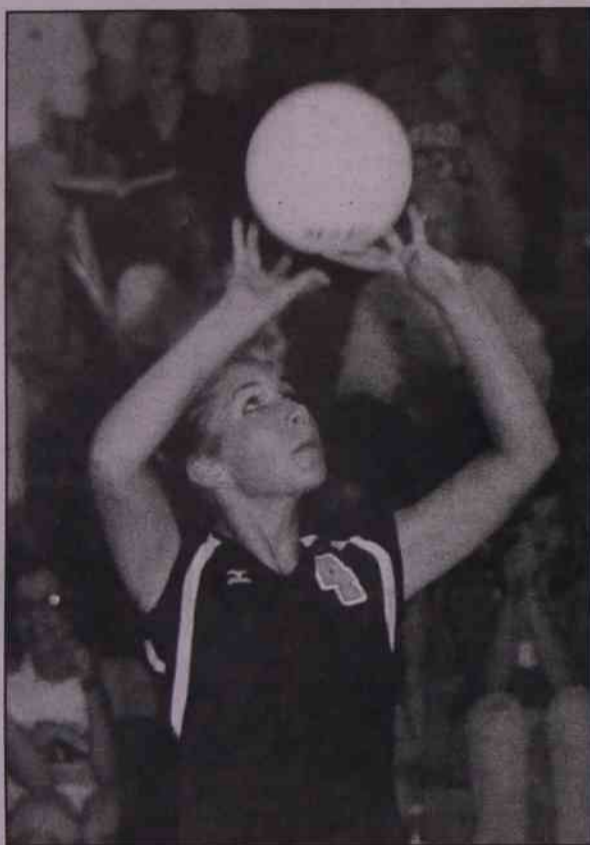
Backer are seniors Tina Westendorp, Sam Bissett, Terri Hurosky, and juniors Karlee Mater and Tiffany Allwardt.

Westendorp was an all-conference honorable mention performer in the Kalamazoo Valley Association last fall, and had 232 kills for the Lion team.

Also back are Jen Kent and Elizabeth Stewart who have spent time with the Lion varsity in the past.

Carpenter also expects varsity contributions from sophomore McKenna Mater this year.

The Lion coach said she



Karlee Mater

sees strong fundamentals already in her experienced group of girls. The focus is to enjoy volleyball, while improving throughout the season.

The Lions would like to move up into the top half of the Kalamazoo Valley Association this season. Getting all the way to the top would be tough though as Delton Kellogg and Schoolcraft both return outstanding teams from a year ago.

The Panthers were the

league champions, but were bounced from the Class B state tournament by Lakewood in the districts. Schoolcraft went on to win the Class C state championship.

The Lions will get to see those defending KVA champions when they open their season Wednesday at the Delton Kellogg Invitational. The Panthers then jump right into the league season with a dual against Galesburg-Augusta Sept. 2 at home.



Sideline cheer team set to lead shouts for Lion gridders

The 2009 Maple Valley varsity sideline cheer team. Team members are (front from left) Lindsey Hoffman, Jenna Williams, Kyrsten Kramer, April Carpenter, (back) Kayla Alexander, Bryanna Clow, Shayna Frailey, Lindsey Fisher, and Danielle Rosenberger. (Photo by Casey Chaney)

Lion boys' team has one All-KVA athlete who is back

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Maple Valley's varsity boys' cross country team is still trying to find a few more runners.

It will be tough to compete in the Kalamazoo Valley Association without a full line-up.

Lion head coach Robb Rosin has a couple of runners back from last year's squad, ready to contribute again. Junior Joe Benedict leads the way. He earned all-conference honors in the KVA last fall, placing seventh at the league championship meet at the Gilmore Car Museum.

Also back is senior Zach Mellville.

Sophomore Brady Halliwell is also expected to contribute in his first season on the varsity team.

"It's a very small team with little to no experience," said Rosin. "We're looking for continuous improvement throughout the season."

There isn't much time to find reinforcements, as the Lions start their season off on Wednesday at the Lakewood Invitational. From there the Lions head to the Laingsburg Invitational the next day.

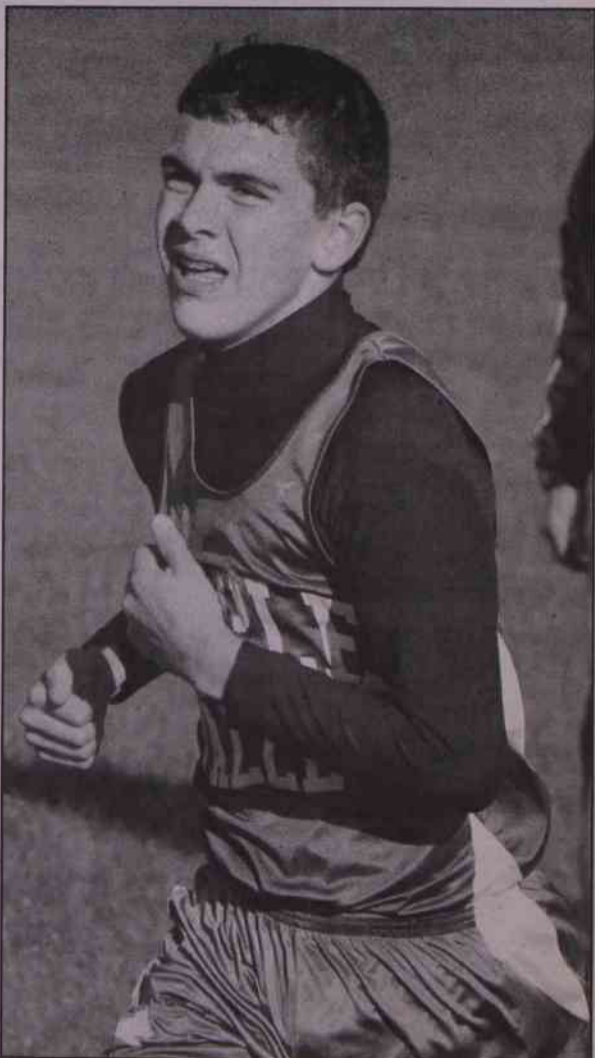
The KVA season gets started Sept. 16, as Galesburg-Augusta hosts the first of three league jamborees. Hackett Catholic Central and Schoolcraft both return solid groups from the teams that went to the Division 3 State Finals last November at Michigan International Speedway in

Brooklyn.

Senior Brendan Molony and junior Peter Herzog return for Hackett Catholic Central, and another of the league's top runners, Stuart Crowell from Parchment is

back again to lead the pack.

The Lions have just one home meet on the schedule this season, their own Maple Valley Invitational which is slated for Oct. 8.



Joe Benedict

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FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

Lions return plenty of linebackers and running backs

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Along with a new coach come new schemes and a new language.

The Maple Valley varsity football team is doing everything it can to get accustomed to new head coach Brian Lincoln's system.

"They are ahead of schedule on this task," said Lincoln.

The team has some solid leaders returning to help in the transition including seniors Kyle Burns, Steve Creller, Josh Hall, Zac Eddy, Brandon Cosgrove, and juniors Trent Courtney, and Riley Fisher.

The Lions are especially strong in the offensive backfield, and on the defensive side of the ball which returns three of the four starting linebackers from last year in Burns, Courtney and Creller. Burns and Courtney will also see plenty of time at running back as well.

Junior Cody Leinhart, jun-

ior Brad Laverty, and sophomore Mike Caldwell will likely take some hand-offs as well from one of the team's young quarterbacks. Junior Austin Pool and sophomore Garrett Reid are working on becoming the lead signal caller in the backfield for the Lions.

Sophomore Andy Pierson is another youngster who will be looking to add some much needed depth along the lines. Lincoln said the lines are his biggest area of concern heading into the season. Fisher, Cosgrove, and Hall will all see time in the trenches once again.

"There is a lot of excitement in the air here in the Valley," said Lincoln. "The kids are busting their tails and we see improvement every day."

The Kalamazoo Valley Association will be tough once again, with Kalamazoo Christian, Schoolcraft, Pennfield, and Constantine all battling at the top of the



The 2009 Maple Valley varsity football team. Team members are (front from left) coach Chris Ricketts, Zac Eddy, Steve Creller, James Samann, Josh Hall, Brandon Cosgrove, Kyle Burns, coach Steve Hopkins, (second row) coach Matt Rohde, Trenton Courtney, Alan Mater, Josh Burd, Riley Fisher, Andy Pierson, Cody Lienhart, Mike Caldwell, coach Kevin Stewart, (third row) Austin Pool, Robert Browne, Matt Woodman, Mark Wehr, Brad Laverty, Collin Reid, Clayton Beers, Garrett Reid, (back) coach Bryan Carpenter, coach Landon Wilkes, Cody James, Eric Hale, Travis Wright, coach Gary Reid, and head coach Brian Lincoln. (Photo by Casey Chaney)

league standings again. All nine games are conference games once again for

all ten of the KVA's teams. The Lions open play on Friday night at home against

Galesburg-Augusta. "Our biggest goal is to get better every day, then every week," said Lincoln. "We also want to develop into great young men."

Lions have leaders back on offensive and defensive ends

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Maple Valley varsity boys' soccer team gets its season started on Monday evening, traveling to Lakewood to take on the Vikings in a non-conference contest.

The Lions head into the season with a solid group of players returning from last year's team which won four games. That group includes senior midfielder Ross Smith and senior defender Adam Zank, who both earned honorable mention all-conference in the Kalamazoo Valley Association last fall.

Back on the front line for the Lions are senior forwards Jimmy Brown and Hutch Joppie. Other key returnees

include sophomore defender Dale White and junior midfielder Cody Brumm.

Lion head coach Josh Meersma, who's entering his seventh season leading the program, said he likes the work ethic and the attitude he's seen from his team so far in the preseason.

A lack of team speed is an issue for the Lions, and there is also minimal depth and experience on the roster.

A couple newcomers looking to step up for the Lions are junior midfielder Coty Franklin and senior defender Tyler Franks.

After the road contest with Lakewood, the Lions will be home for three straight ball games to close out the month of August. The Lions host

Saranac on Tuesday, Dansville Thursday, and then Leslie a week from Monday. The preconference slate to start the season ends with a trip to Bellevue Sept. 2.

When the Lions return from the Labor Day holiday, they leap right into the Kalamazoo Valley Association season with a trip to Hackett Catholic Central.

It's a tough start to the league season, after hosting Olivet Sept. 14, the Lions then host Kalamazoo Christian Sept. 16. That means the Lions play the top two teams in the conference, the Irish and Comets, in the first three league games.



The 2009 Maple Valley varsity boys' soccer team. Team members are (front from left) Ross Smith, Robbie Welch, Tyler Franks, Cody Brumm, Nick Iszler, (middle row) Brandon Sams, Hutch Joppie, Nate VanStee, Aquib Md. Sadman Bari, Garrick Hershberger, (back) Dale White, Coty Franklin, Ethan Clark, Adam Zank, and coach Josh Meersma. (Photo by Casey Chaney)

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FALL SPORTS PREVIEWS

Lion girls' team returns much of its line-up from last year

by Brett Bremer Sports Editor
The Maple Valley varsity girls' cross country team has lots of girls with lots of running in their past, problem is there isn't enough of it in the recent past. Injuries slowed the summer conditioning of a few Lions, and that's one of the biggest concerns for head coach Robb Rosin as he

enters his sixth season leading the program. Senior leadership will have to carry the Lions through the early part of the season as they get into shape. The senior group is a solid one, led by returning all-conference performer Lauren Trumble. Seniors Kayla Shaw and Kaylin Furlong return as well, along with juniors Pantera Rider and

Megan Shoemaker. Rosin said he is also expecting strong times from a freshman this fall, Jessica Rushford. The Lions placed fourth in the Kalamazoo Valley Association a year ago, and will look to move up from there this fall.

Last year the KVA sent two girls teams to the state finals at Michigan International Speedway in November. Delton Kellogg and Schoolcraft. The league champs from Schoolcraft had a line-up that included three freshmen, a sophomore, and one junior last year. Delton Kellogg though was a senior heavy team at the top.

The Lions will likely be chasing both teams again. The conference season doesn't start until Sept. 16, at Galesburg Augusta. There are three league jamborees on the slate, before the KVA League Meet hosted by Parchment in late October.

The Lions open their season at the Lakewood Invitational Wednesday, then the next day head to the Laingsburg Invitational. After that, the Lions don't have a competition on the slate until coming back from the Labor Day break.

The first and only home meet for the Lions this season is the Maple Valley Invitational they're hosting Oct. 8.



Lauren Trumble

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