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School board receives three bids for privatization

Committee to present recommendation next month

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Maple Valley School Board Member Tim Burd reported that three bids were received for the district's privatization proposal.

Only one bid, however, included maintenance along with custodial services, he said. The bids will be reviewed by the labor and finance committee during the next month, and a recommendation will be presented to the board at its next regular meeting Oct. 12.

Burd said he would like to

have two board members, along with union representatives, help review the bids. Tony Shaw, the newest board member, volunteered to be part of the committee along with Burd.

If the board does choose to privatize custodial services for the district it, would affect 11 jobs. Several audience members voiced concern over the consequences of privatization at Monday's meeting.

Janelle Pena, daughter of custodian Kim Hansen, addressed the board and pro-

vided examples from her experiences with privatization as a preschool teacher.

"We often found mold due to lack of cleaning. There would be mornings when we would come in, and the classrooms had not been cleaned because the cleaning person didn't show up. I came in one morning to find pornographic photos on the computer — the same computers used by 2- and 3-year-olds," said Pena. "Please keep pride in the Valley by not privatizing."

"I believe the people who live and work in a community are responsible for the

sense of community we feel," said Lori Pettingill. "These people care about the kids and demonstrate it on a daily basis, and you can't put a price tag on that."

At the meeting, each of the building principals also reported on the first days of school.

Fuller Street Principal Jason Miller thanked the staff for attending 27 hours of literacy training and the custodial staff for getting the building prepared while he was at the training.

Maplewood Principal Fred Davenport said the open house was a good way

to start the year and the school currently has four more students than last year's count. He also said that fundraising will soon begin for the fourth grade students' trip to the state capitol, the fifth grade trip to Greenfield Village and the sixth grade trip to camp.

"The public has helped us a lot in the past, and I hope we can get the same kind of support," said Davenport.

Alternative Education Principal Chris Parkinson said the school is teaming up with Michigan Works this year to provide job training. Currently, the school has

enrolled more students than the state provides funding for and Parkinson said a waiting list may have to be developed during the coming weeks.

Todd Gosner, high school principal, said the building was in great shape for the first day, and holding a seventh grade orientation helped prepare new students for the start of the year.

Class sizes were also discussed at the meeting by the board and audience members. Currently, grades three and five have the largest

SCHOOL BOARD continued on page 2

Local carver featured in ArtPrize competition

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Drivers who pass the residence at the corner of M-50 and Sunfield Road cannot miss Eric Boom's love of woodcarving. A hand-carved arch featuring rocks, twisting

vines and letters making up the word 'Boomtown' stands prominently over his driveway.

One of Eric's creations, a bench featuring an American Eagle swooping to grab a fish, has been selected to be

part of the ArtPrize competition in Grand Rapids and will be displayed on the first floor of The B.O.B. building beginning Sept. 23.

ArtPrize is a competition open to artists, no matter their experience. Any visitor

to the host sites can vote on pieces, and winners will be determined by those votes. The pieces will be on display Sept. 23 through Oct. 1.

"I think (ArtPrize) is awesome, and I like the fact that it is voted on by the public, by you and I, and not by art critics. Individuals being able to vote — I love the idea of that," said Eric.

His friend Daryl Bosworth first told him about the competition and convinced him to enter one of his pieces.

Carving for just two years, Eric said a few mistakes led him to pick up the chainsaw and attempt to make something other than firewood. He and his father attended a show at the Eaton County Fairgrounds in Charlotte, believing it to be a lumberjack show with cross-cutting competitions and other similar events.

Once in the gate, however, they discovered that it was a chainsaw carving contest where participants competed to create pieces of art out of logs in a certain amount of time. Seeing the carvers at work piqued Eric's interest in the art form. He soon picked up his own chainsaw and began carving.

Never one proficient at drawing with pen or pencil, Eric said it was his daughter, Lexi, who helped him realize that he could create three-dimensional pieces of art. Molding play-dough into fun shapes with Lexi, Eric's family noticed his knack for molding the clay.

"Playing with Lexi, with the play-dough, I discovered I could do 3-D stuff," said Eric. "After the carving show, I tried it (carving with a chainsaw), and everyone

BOOMTOWN, continued on page 2



Featuring seats carved with comfort in mind, Eric Boom of Sunfield carved this bench that has been accepted into the ArtPrize competition in Grand Rapids. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

Work progresses on dam removal



Bulldozers and other large machinery are put to work this past week to remove the Thornapple River Dam behind GoodTime Pizza in Nashville. The pictures above show the dam before the project began and how it appears now, during demolition. The project is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. See inside for an update on the project from the Barry Conservation District. (Photos by Amy Jo Kinyon)

Two machines taken from Maple Valley Implement

The Nashville Police Department is asking for help and any information in locating two mowers taken from the Maple Valley Implement at 735 Sherman St. in Nashville. The machines were taken sometime between late August and Sept. 10 when they were seemed to like it."

noticed missing.

They are red in color, Country Clipper zero-turn mowers. Both have a decal reading JAZee on the back of the mower. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Nashville Police Department at 517-852-9866.

Then, last spring a storm

In This Issue...

- Chicken dinner tradition still going strong
- Local tractor buffs to parade across Macinac Bridge
- Weather-related and in-service times change
- Scots, EGR, South, and Hamilton win at TK again

BOOMTOWN, continued from page 1

with straight-line winds made its way through Eric's neighborhood, downing trees as it traveled. After the storm passed, he had an almost endless supply of wood to use for his new-found hobby.

"The storm, combined with going to that show and picking up Lexi's play-dough, those are the three events that pretty much started everything," said the Sunfield resident.

ArtPrize is Eric's first art competition and first professional showing of his art. He has carved more than 15 benches and a host of other pieces during past two years. With a supportive family

behind him that includes 4-year-old Lexi, wife Peggy and many others, Eric said the positive response he has received has helped to keep him carving.

Content to build for family and friends, Eric is hoping to begin selling his pieces. He does not, however, intend to make a career out of it.

"Everyone I've talked to that does it full time, they don't enjoy it anymore," said Eric. "It becomes a job. I would rather carve what I like and put it out here in front of the house where people can buy it."

For his mother, Joyce Boom, the joy her son gets

out of working with the wood is enough of a reward.

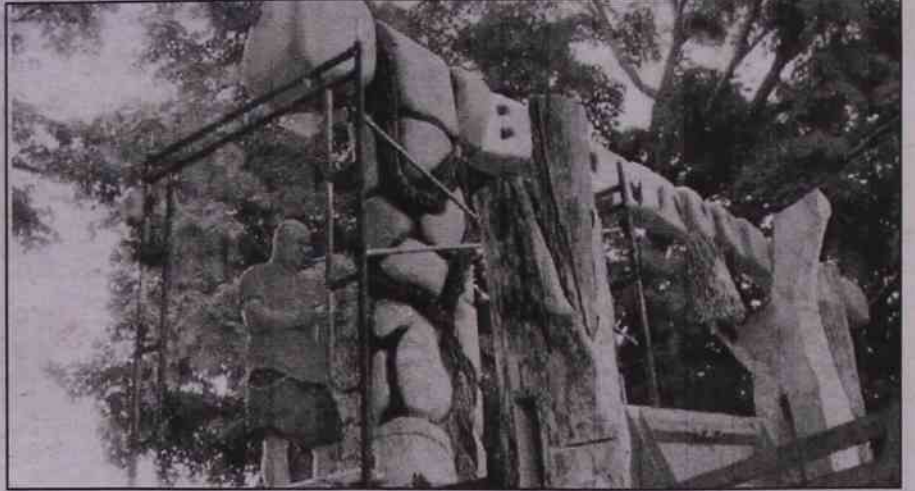
"In this day, when you hear so many people say how they hate their jobs, I'm just happy my son has found something that he loves to do," said Joyce.

Carving has not only given Eric something to do during the winter months when he is laid off from his job at Consumers Concrete in Lansing, it has changed his perspective. Now, when he sees a fallen tree or discarded stump, he doesn't think about how it will burn in the wood stove — he thinks about the art that is hiding behind the bark.

"Everywhere I go now, when I see a piece of wood, I

say, 'What can I carve out of that?'" said Eric.

ers from the area are also entered in the ArtPrize com-

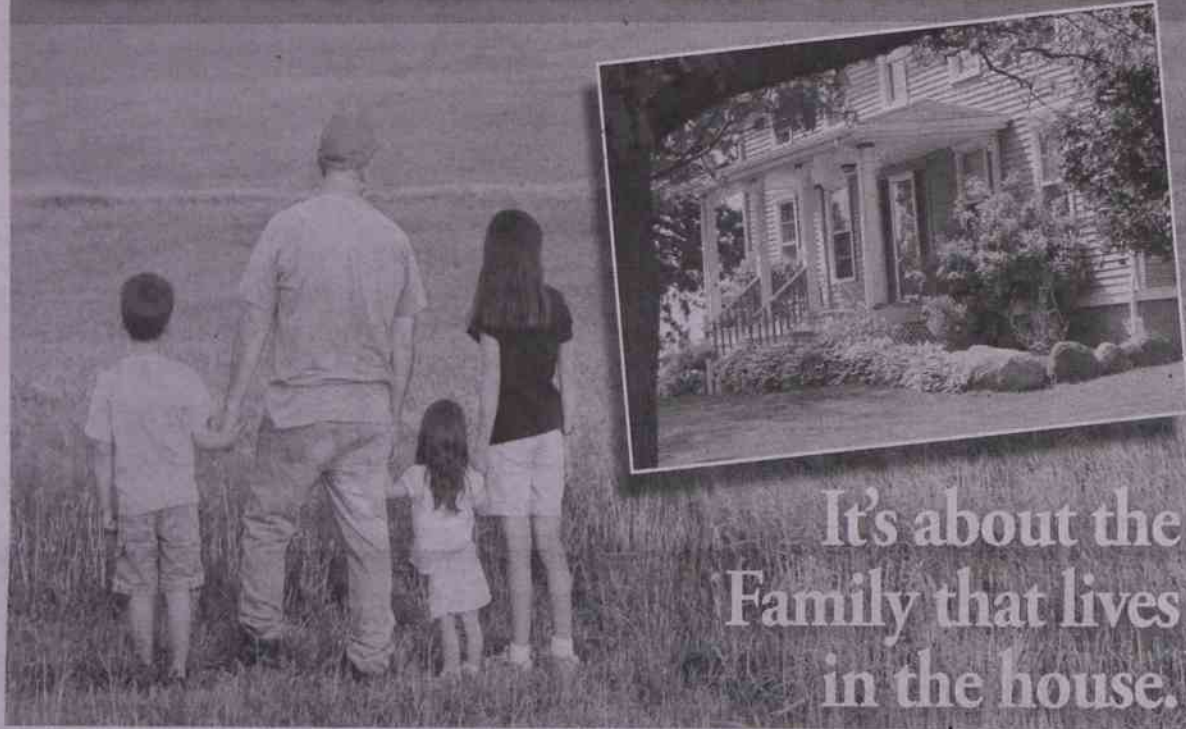


Adding some color to his creation, Eric Boom works on completing the archway that spans his driveway.

Tony Jackson of Lake Odessa, Daryl Bosworth of Sunfield, Nathan Collins of Lake Odessa and several oth-

petition. Visit www.art-prize.org to learn more about the event, the artists and how to vote.

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Eric Boom and daughter Lexi give a little height perspective to the hand-carved arch that spans the driveway. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

SCHOOL BOARD continued from page 1

number of students in each room with 30 to 31 in each class. Superintendent Kim Kramer reviewed the options of adding one or two sections at a cost of \$60,000 each or providing and aide in for two hours a day. The second option would cost \$13,672 per aide. The board unanimously decided to postpone any decision until after the state releases its budget for schools. The state has until Oct. 1 to pass a balanced budget for the coming fiscal year.

Also at the meeting:
• Gonsler reported that a video tape of vandals damaging the electronic sign has been turned over to police for investigation. The sign will be replaced by the district's insurance company.

• Transportation Director

Pat Powers reported that the district was able to purchase three used buses for \$18,000. The 1997 Blue Bird buses will replace two 1992 and one 1993 bus currently in the fleet.

• During his report, Superintendent Kramer thanked Grandville Schools for donating 12 school bus cameras to the district. Hansbarger Construction for labor and equipment at the pressbox at the Maplewood field and MC Auto for up-righting the spirit rock after it was tipped over. A small truck backed up to the rock sometime after the parking lot lights turned off at midnight, and subjects were caught on camera placing a strap around the rock and tipping it onto the ground.

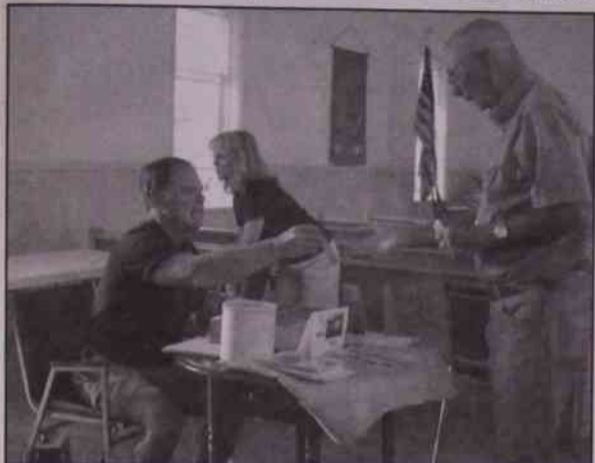
Chicken dinner tradition still going strong

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Each year, nearly 250 people walk down the stairs into the basement of the Kalama United Methodist Church and take part in a tradition. The annual chicken supper

has been served at the church for so many years that no one can quite remember how long it has taken place.

"They all joke that it has been going on since before the flood," laughed Sandy Bukoski as she hustled



Allan Harvath gets out of peeling spuds for the homemade mashed potatoes by working the ticket table at the dinner. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Ruth Avery, Diana Rockwell and Ilene Cox help serve up the dishes. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Close to 250 people enjoy the homemade 'fixin's' at the annual chicken dinner held at the Kalama United Methodist Church Thursday. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

around the kitchen, helping serve the meal. "There is one lady who couldn't be here today, Alice Martens, who can remember that they've held it for at least 60 years."

Along with roasted chicken, homemade cole slaw, mashed potatoes and squash, diners Thursday evening also were given their choice

of pies. Lemon, peach, cherry, apple and blueberry were just a few of the varieties from which to choose.

The United Methodist Women's Club hosts the dinner and uses the funds to support a special project, usually dealing with missions. This year, however, the mission is right there at

the church. The funds raised will help renovate the kitchen. New sinks and a dishwasher will be installed, which will help with the cleanup of next year's dinner.

Pastor Bryce Feighner said that when the church was first started, the dinner was used as a way to help the

church get through financially rough times.

"It's cool," said Feighner of the dinner. "It has been going on for as long as anyone can remember. In the early years, when times were tough, it helped pay the bills, but now it primarily supports missions."

Local tractor buffs to parade across Macinac Bridge

Friday, Sept. 18, the Barry County Steam, Gas and Antique Machinery Association will be attending and participating in the second annual Mackinac Bridge Antique Tractor Parade and Show.

In September of 2008, Barry County club members participated in the first-ever antique tractor parade over the "Might Mac" and were among nearly 650 tractors

that participated. This year, 46 Barry County Club members are planning for this event, which is expected to have nearly 750 tractors from all over Michigan and several other states as well.

Festivities will begin late Thursday afternoon, Sept. 17, just West of Mackinaw

City with a combined antique tractor/classic car show at the Mackinac Area Historical Society Property just off from Central Avenue from 4 to 8 p.m.

The tractor parade will begin on Friday, at 10 a.m. just west of Mackinaw City, and the Barry County club will be part of the group

parading through Mackinaw City, just prior to going over the bridge. Following the parade many of the participants will proceed through St. Ignace to display their machines at the Kewadin Shores Casino on the north end of town for the weekend.

Fresh Food Initiative site changed for next week

Due to the First United Methodist Church in Hastings holding events on Wednesday, Sept. 23, the Fresh Food Initiative will be held at the Church of the Nazarene at 1716 N. Broadway, Hastings.

The program will return to the First United Methodist Church Wednesday, Sept. 30.

For further information, call Kat at the Barry County United Way Volunteer Center, 269-945-4010.

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Children's ministries continue at First Congregational Church

The First Congregational Church of Vermontville announces upcoming educational programs planned for the youth of the church and community.

The church recently entered into the third year of Pioneer Club. This club meets each Wednesday night from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. Teachers work with students in preschool through sixth grade. The club has an open enrollment. Pastor Israel Young is teaching interactive Bible stories and making the Bible come alive during the meetings.

The church also holds Sunday School classes for children during the regular



Volunteers pose on the steps of the First Congregational Church with some of the participants of Pioneer Club that meets weekly at the church.

church service each week. On Sundays at 6:30 p.m., the church holds youth group with Pastor Young leading. The class is for children in seventh grade and up.

Overwhelming number participate in benefit

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

More than 160 people took to the green at Mulberry Fore in Nashville to support Charlotte resident Trent Craven and the Cancer Society Sunday, Sept. 13.

None of the competitors, however, were able to sink a hole in one to win a Harley Davidson motorcycle, a free ride in a fighter jet or eight laps in a NASCAR racing

car. The day raised \$2,000 for the society, and donations were also given to Craven to help with medical costs. Earlier this year, Craven was diagnosed with mixed anaplastic oligoastrocytoma and underwent surgery to remove a tumor on his brain. Doctors were unable, however, to remove all of the tumor.

Sandi Craven said she

appreciates the support shown for her son at the outing and was overwhelmed by the number of people who participated.

"There were about twice as many people who showed up than we thought there was going to be," said Sandi. "It was overwhelming, all the people that showed up."

Social News



Hamilton-Wilson

Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Julie Hamilton of Nashville would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Michelle, to Max William Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Becky Wilson, also of Nashville.

The bride-to-be is a 2005 graduate of Maple Valley High School and is currently attending Grand Valley State University. She will be graduating in December with an integrated sciences major and an elementary education minor.

The groom-to-be is a 2007 graduate of Maple Valley High School and is currently employed by the Fastenal Company in Hastings. He is also a volunteer fireman on the Nashville Fire Department.

The couple will be married on October 17, 2009 and will reside at their home in Nashville.



Eldreds to celebrate silver wedding anniversary

Duane and Kim Eldred will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on September 22, 2009. They were married in Vermontville on September 22, 1984 and now have three children. The couple will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary with family and friends at a dinner in their honor. Stop into Duey's Corner to wish them a happy 25th on Tuesday!

Local team takes field with Whitecaps



On Sept. 5, Roush's Sidewalk Cafe went to the West Michigan Whitecaps game with their Little League team. The girls were able to meet all the players, get autographs and run out on the field with a player during the national anthem.

"We had a great time cheering, eating hot dogs and the finale fireworks were wonderful," said Kristy Roush. "This was a great way to finish up the girls season. It was a blast."

Give a memorial that can go on forever

A gift to the Barry Community Foundation is used to help fund activities throughout the county in the name of the person you designate. Ask your funeral director for more information on the BCF or call (269) 945-0526.

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Weather-related and in-service times change

This year all weather-related delays at Maple Valley Schools will be a standard three hours.

Also, eight times throughout the year, the district will conduct state-mandated teacher in-service training in three-hour blocks by delay-

ing the start of school. The dates of these delayed-start training days will be:

- Wednesday, Oct. 14
- Wednesday, Nov. 11
- Wednesday, Dec. 9 (tentative, pending negotiations)
- Wednesday, Feb. 3 (tentative, pending negotiations)

tive, pending negotiations)

- Wednesday, Feb. 24 (tentative, pending negotiations)
- Wednesday, March 24 (tentative, pending negotiations)
- Wednesday, April 21 (tentative, pending negotiations)

• Wednesday, May 5 (tentative, pending negotiations)

In order for parents and students to prepare for these and not to confuse people, the district has decided that all delays from now on —

weather-related or in-service related, will all be the same three-hour delays.

On these delay days, classes will begin as follows: Jr./Sr. high school at 10:40 a.m.

Maplewood School at 10:55 a.m.

Fuller Elementary at 10:55 a.m.
Kellogg School at 10:50 a.m.


Note that some students will arrive just in time to start lunch and the schools will be ready to serve lunch.

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Gentleness
Gentleness is the eighth virtue which St. Paul lists as the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. The Greek word "prautes" is sometimes translated as gentleness and sometimes as meekness, but in any case, the Greek word has the sense, not of weakness, but of power under restraint. The gentle person may have the means and authority to do so, but exercises kindly self-restraint in not doing so. The soldier who shows mercy to his enemy upon capturing him would be exercising this virtue, as would a king who forgives a subject deserving of punishment. Aristotle spoke of this virtue in the context of anger, and said that it was a vice both to be too easily angered and to be incapable of anger; the virtue, with respect to anger, was to be angry at the right time and towards the right person, and to the appropriate degree. Consider how Jesus was generally gentle, even when being condemned unjustly, but that his anger flared appropriately when faced with the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, or when overturning the tables of the moneychangers, who had defiled the temple. Most of us are too quick to anger. We get angry over imagined slights and all sorts of minor misunderstandings and differences of opinion. We should rein in our anger and develop a gentleness which shows that we are children of God.
Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.
R.S.V. Galatians 6:1



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July 12 & 26, Aug. 9 & 23 at Gresham
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Worship Time: 10:00 a.m.

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Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 a.m.
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A.M. Service 11:15 a.m.
P.M. Service 7 p.m.
PASTOR GEORGE GAY

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304 Phillips St., Nashville
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
A.M. Service 11 a.m.
P.M. Service 7 p.m.
Wed. Service 7 p.m.
PASTOR LESTER DeGROOT
PASTOR DEANO LAMPHERE
PASTOR MATT ROHDE

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Sunday School 11:15 a.m.
PASTOR CATHY CHRISTMAN
At Home: 852-0685
Church Phone: 852-2043

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Mobile meth lab discovered in Woodland Cemetery

Three people — a Lake Odessa man, 34, a Comstock Park woman, 45, and a Grand Ledge man, 39 — are under investigation by the Southwest Enforcement Team (SWET) after a report of suspicious activity at Woodland Cemetery led to the discovery of a mobile methamphetamine lab in the car driven by the woman.

At approximately 2:14 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, Barry County Sheriff

deputies responded to a report of a suspicious subject at the cemetery on Velte Road near Barnum Road.

When questioned, the woman said the car she was driving belonged to her boyfriend and she had picked up the two men who requested a ride to the cemetery to visit a gravesite. When deputies asked if they would find something that didn't belong there if they searched the car, the woman said they

would not. However, when the car was searched deputies found a mobile meth lab and narcotics paraphernalia.

Deputies reported that the man from Comstock Park appeared to be under the influence of a controlled substance. When questioned, the man replied that he had taken heroin after being released from jail in Grand Rapids three or four days earlier. He claimed that he came to the

cemetery to look for a lost cell phone.

The Lake Odessa man, when questioned, told deputies he was at the cemetery to help the other man search for his lost cell phone. When asked if he was using methamphetamine, the man denied it. However, he later told deputies that he was attempting to manufacture methamphetamine.

The investigation was turned over to SWET detec-

tives who seized evidence on the scene. The Michigan State Police Mobile Meth Assessment Team was called to the scene to complete the investigation, and biohazard

clean-up responders were dispatched to remove the mobile meth lab.

Removal of Nashville Dam begins

Removal of the Nashville Dam began in earnest Thursday, Sept. 10, with the

removal of a six-foot wide portion of the dam's concrete cap. Doug Hall, statewide

equipment operator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, used a John Deere 350D excavator to make the first cut in the dam. The breach was created to further draw down the millpond impoundment to divert the flow from the mill race.

Representatives from the DNR Fisheries Division and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), agencies providing grant funds for the project, were on hand to witness the first step of the removal project. "This is one of the most exciting projects I've been involved in," said Rick Westerhof, USFWS Fish Biologist, "to see parts of the millpond already revegetating, and the river channel appearing gives an early indication of the finished project."

By Monday, Sept. 14, water levels allowed for the rest of the dam's cap to be removed, revealing that the entire structure was constructed of small, approximately one-foot rocks, piled together, without the expected timber crib, said Joanne Barnard, executive director of the Barry Conservation District.

Trees were removed from the heavy equipment access area. By Tuesday, the mill race had ceased flow, and contractors from J. Sebastian

Trucking and Excavating and CL Trucking and Excavating assisted in moving approximately 1,000 cubic yards of fill into the mill race area.

Hall continued to work on moving rock from the dam to create a foundation for weir structures that will be built of larger boulders, said Barnard. Filling and foundation construction will continue into next week, and large boulder placement will follow. The project is expected to take approximately one month to complete, she said.

The Nashville Dam Removal project was undertaken by the Village of Nashville, Barry Conservation District, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and several other natural resource agencies and organizations in order to improve fish and other aquatic habitat in the Nashville portion of the Thornapple River.

Removal of the dam will permit fish to migrate further upstream, increasing species diversity above the dam. Water quality, which had declined over the years in the millpond due to sediment and nutrient build-up and depleted oxygen, will significantly improve as the river is returned to a free-flowing system.



Doug Hall removes a portion of the Nashville Dam's cap while Chris Freiburger and David Kenyon of the Michigan DNR look on.

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The concrete cap has been completely removed from the Nashville Dam.

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In My Own Write

by Amy Jo Parish

'Raw Umber' quickly turns into Algebra II

Ahhhh, that's the sound that can be heard of so many parents now that school has begun. I can remember the excitement that used to come with starting school (during the elementary years, anyway). There was always so much to look forward to — new clothes, new supplies and meeting new friends. My favorite memory from the start of school might be a bit odd, but it was the smell of the brand new box of crayons I would open on that first day.

That new box always led to a difficult decisions. What would I create first? Which colors would I use? What will I ever use 'Burnt Sienna' for?

I usually had a box of 12 crayons to create with — all of the necessary colors. Once in a while, however, I was given, or saved my pennies for, a box of 96 crayons. It's amazing how something as simple as a box of crayons has changed over time. In 1903, the beginning of Crayola world, there were eight colors. They included all the basics — black, brown, orange, violet, blue, green, red and yellow. Now, there are 120 different colors and a host of new crazy names to match.

I think we can all imagine the color of "Cotton Candy," but others like "Outer Space," "Jazzberry Jam" and "Mango Tango" are harder to envision.

So, the next time your little students can't decide what they want to carry their lunch to school in and you find yourself thinking, "I never took this long to decide," remember that there weren't as many choices. I chose from a brown paper lunch bag or a brown paper lunch bag. Now, each cartoon character has his or her own line of lunch boxes. You could probably carry a different lunch box to school each day all year long and still have new ones left over.

More than just which crayon to use, students are faced with more decisions than ever at younger and younger ages. Cheerleading? Soccer? Honors choir? Jazz band? National Honors Society? Dance classes? Piano lessons? Swimming lessons? The list is practically endless. With new graduation requirements and a renewed focus on standardized test scores, the educational system is putting more responsibility on the students' shoulders than ever before. This is also a new system for Michigan. No parents or teachers have had to go through the same system students today are in the midst of.

It just makes me glad that I am out of high school. Right now, students have to pass Algebra II to graduate, though that may change in the near future. I struggled with that class and only made it through with the, well, assistance of my best friend.

Kind of makes me long for the days when my biggest decision was which crayon to use first. Maybe I'll dig out the old Crayolas and color a picture with my niece for nostalgia's sake. Although she prefers markers with retractable ink, crayons are so old-fashioned.

• NOTICE •

The Castleton-Maple Grove-Nashville Fire Board is seeking bids on a 1979 Ford Tanker. Sealed bids are to be sent to:

Castleton-Maple Grove-Nashville Fire Board
 c/o Lorna L. Wilson, Treasurer
 915 Reed St. PO Box 679
 Nashville, MI 49073

The bids must be received by October 5, 2009 at 5 p.m. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Any questions please call: 517-852-9479.

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Putnam District Library to host scavenger hunt

Teens invited to shoot their way to prizes

On Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Putnam District Library's

Teen Advisory Group will host its second photo scavenger hunt.



Several members of the library's teen advisory group recently started painting a sign for the new teen area, including (back row, from left) Kari Hummell, Catalina Mata, Noelle Rhode, Abigail Mater, Larissa Mater, Abby Smith and Emily Kopka.

Students in fifth grade and up are invited to meet at the library, join a team with a digital camera, receive secret clues, and compete. Groups will travel on foot around the village of Nashville and pose for photos that match their clues.

Extra points will awarded for especially creative photos. Participants and their parents are both required to sign a permis-

sion and release form before participating, and early registration is required.

Following the timed hunt, teams meet back at the library for pizza before watching a slide show of all the team's submissions. Prizes will be awarded to each member of the winning team.

For information or to pick up a permission form, visit the library or attend Monday's teen meeting from 3:30 to 5 p.m. to plan for upcoming events at the

library.

All teens interested in participating in this group are welcome to attend. Participants are asked to bring their own after-school snack and extras to share, if possible.

Good News From the Pulpit

by Pastor Daniel Smith
Vermontville Bible Church

One of my favorite passages of Scripture is Psalm 42:1, "As the deer pants for You, O God." There is a God in heaven, and the whole theme of Scripture is that He wants to be known. God has revealed Himself to us in so many ways. How?

One way is through

nature. Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens are telling of the glory of God, and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands." From creation itself, we have enough information that there is a God, and that He is powerful. Look into a microscope, and see the order and the design. Look in the most powerful telescope, and see complexity of the universe, the planets in their precise orbits, the beauty, the design. Creation screams for a creator.

He has also revealed Himself through the great men and women of God — prophets like Moses and Daniel and Deborah and apostles like Peter and Paul, who have proclaimed God's message to men.

God also has revealed Himself through the Bible. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says that the Scriptures are inspired, God breathed. These words are not just the words of men, they are also the very Words of God Himself.

God has also revealed Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 10:30, "I and the Father are one."

God wants to be known. The Bible paints God as continually reaching out, revealing Himself to us, so that we can have a relationship with Him. That is why He created us.

John 4:24 is a truly remarkable passage, "For such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers." God is seeking people to be His worshippers. We need to approach Him in the right way, through a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus. But the point is that God is seeking people to know Him, to walk with Him, to worship Him.

If you are asking the hard questions like, "Why am I here?" or "Am I of any value to God or anyone else?" let me suggest an incredible opportunity. Cultivate that same attitude toward God that David had when he wrote, "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God."

RUP credit opportunity is Sept. 29

MSU Extension will offer restricted use pesticide (RUP) license recertification credits Tuesday, Sept. 29.

The program will run from 1 to 5 p.m. at MSU Clarksville Experiment Station, 9202 Portland Road, Clarksville.

Pre-registration is request-

ed. Call the Barry County Conservation District at 269-945-8056.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Maple Valley Elementary Lunch Menu

Monday, Sept. 21

Macaroni and cheese. Green beans, pears, cherry crisp.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Chicken sand. Smile potatoes, peaches, brownie.

Wednesday, Sept. 23

Spaghetti. Celery w/peanut butter, apple slices, Teddy Grahams.

Thursday, Sept. 24

M.W. Goodtime Pizza. Pizza bagel. Tossed salad, pineapple-Man. orgs., birthday cake.

Friday, Sept. 25

Sack lunch day. Hot pocket. Carrot sticks, banana, Scooby Doo snacks.

NOTE: Fuller Alternative Entree Choices: Peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Maplewood Alternate Entree Choices: 6 oz. Yogurt w/string cheese, chef salad, peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Milk is included with all full meal purchases. Assorted bread choices daily.

Breakfast price: \$1.30; Lunch price: \$1.90; Adult price: \$2.75; milk only: \$.45.

Maple Valley Jr.-Sr. High School Lunch Menu

Monday, Sept. 21

Macaroni and cheese. Green beans, mandarin oranges, Salad bar.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Chicken enchiladas. Refried beans, cinn. apple slices, Subway bar.

Wednesday, Sept. 23

BBQ pork sandwich. Whole kernel corn, peaches. Baked potato bar.

Thursday, Sept. 24

Kellogg Goodtime Pizza. Lasagna and garlic bread. Cal. blend veg., grapes. Mexican bar.

Friday, Sept. 25

Quesadilla. Whole kernel corn, pears. Burger-Chicken bar. **NOTE:** Entree's available daily: cheeseburger, variety of chicken sandwiches, pizza, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, fish sandwich, 6 oz. yogurt w/string cheese.

Side choices available daily: garden salad, juice, fresh fruit. Milk is included with all full meal purchases. Seconds available on vegetables at no additional charge. Assorted bread choices daily.

Breakfast price: \$1.45; Lunch price: \$2.25-\$2.50; Adult prices: \$2.75-\$3.00. Milk only: \$.45.

* Menu subject to change.

FORECLOSURE NOTICE RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Mortgage Sale - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Faith Guyott, a single woman to New Century Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee, dated September 29, 2004, and recorded on October 14, 2004, as Document Number: 1135443, Barry County Records, said mortgage was assigned to U.S. Bank N.A., in its capacity as Trustee for the registered holders of Asset Backed Securities Corporation Home Equity Loan Trust 2004-HE8, "Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-HE8" by an Assignment of Mortgage dated April 02, 2007 and recorded October 24, 2007 by Document Number: 20071024-0003377, Barry County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Four Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Two and 80/100 (\$104,652.80) including interest at the rate of 9.62500% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the Circuit Court in said Barry County, where the premises to be sold or some part of them are situated, at 01:00 PM on October 1, 2009. Said premises are situated in the Township of Yankee Springs, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 7, Block 4, Sandy Beach Park, Yankee Springs Township, Barry County, Michigan, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Page 18. Commonly known as: 12925 Cleland Avenue. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. Dated: August 29, 2009 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for U.S. Bank N.A., in its capacity as Trustee for the registered holders of Asset Backed Securities Corporation Home Equity Loan Trust 2004-HE8, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-HE8 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 248-335-9200 Case No. 09CM00017-2 ASAP# 3241572 08/29/2009, 09/05/2009, 09/12/2009, 09/19/2009 06899882

FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES US TO ADVISE YOU THAT COMMUNICATION WITH OUR OFFICE COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND THAT ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE, AS YOU ARE ENTITLED TO SPECIAL PROTECTIONS. To: Spencer Holwerda and Tammy Holwerda 860 West Sheffield Road Battle Creek, MI 49017 County: Barry State law requires that you receive the following notice: You have the right to request a meeting with your mortgage holder or mortgage servicer. The person to contact and that has the authority to make agreements for a loan modification with you is: Orleans Associates, P.C. Loss Mitigation Department, P.O. Box 5041, Troy, MI 48007-5041, (248) 502-1331. You may contact a housing counselor by visiting the Michigan State Housing Development Authority ("MSHDA") website or by calling MSHDA. The website address and telephone number of MSHDA is: (www.mshda.info/counseling_search), telephone (517) 373-8370, TTY# 1-800-382-4568. If you request a meeting with the servicer's designate within 14 days after the Notice required under MCL 600.3205a(1) is mailed, then foreclosure proceedings will not start until 90 days after the date the Notice was mailed to you. If you and the servicer's Designate reach an agreement to modify the mortgage loan, the mortgage will not be foreclosed if you abide by the terms of the agreement. You have the right to contact an attorney. You may contact attorney of your choice. If you do not have an attorney, the telephone number for the Michigan State Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service is 1-800-968-0738, Dated: September 19, 2009 Orleans Associates P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 File Number: 306.3047 ASAP# 3266099 09/19/2009 06897714

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Lions lose the football, lose the game against Schoolcraft

Schoolcraft shut down the Lion offense on the field, and shut out the Lions on the scoreboard to score a Kalamazoo Valley Association victory Friday night.

Maple Valley's varsity football team managed just 62 yards of total offense in a 24-0 loss at the home of the Eagles.

The Lions didn't help themselves, losing five fumbles to the Eagles. Zack Ragen had a pair of recoveries to lead the Schoolcraft defense.

The Eagles scored one touchdown in each quarter, getting a pair of touchdown runs from Evan Stoddard in the first half. Stoddard rushed in from two-yards out mid-

way through the first quarter to put his team up 6-0, then added a 46-yard run for a score early in the second.

Jacob Lenning tossed a 27-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Wehner with 2:03 left on the clock in the third quarter. Trent Marnell put a cap on the scoring for the Eagles, rushing in from a yard out with 2:05 remaining in the game.

Stoddard led the Eagle offense, rushing 20 times for 192 yards. Marnell added ten carries for 24 yards. In all, the Eagles had 238 yards on the ground. Lenning was 2-of-3 throwing the ball for 41 yards.

The Lions had just 38 yards rushing, and 24 yards passing. Austin Pool was 4-

of-7 throwing the ball for 27 yards.

Trenton Courtney had six carries for 26 yards, and Kyle Burns eight for 20.

Burns also led the Lion defense with nine tackles. Brandon Cosgrove had seven.

Bryan Jones led the Eagle defense with 13 tackles, and Brandon McNeas added 12.

The Eagles are now 4-0 on the season.

The Lions are now 1-3, and will try to turn things around next Friday when they head to Kalamazoo Christian. The Comets improved to 3-1 Friday night with a 42-0 victory over Galesburg-Augusta. Kalamazoo Christian's lone loss this season was a 20-7 defeat at the hands of Schoolcraft in week one.

Keep your friends and relatives **INFORMED!** Send them **The BANNER** To subscribe, call us at... **269-945-9554**

Barry County Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Barry County Commission on Aging Menu and Activities Friendship Sites Congregate Menu

Monday, September 21
Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, sliced pears.

Tuesday, September 22*
Sandwich bar, potato salad, broccoli raisin salad, cantaloupe, wheat bread.

Wednesday, September 23
Chicken tortilla soup, tossed salad, cherry crisp, saltines.

Thursday, September 24*
Hot dog, macaroni and cheese, cauliflower, banana, bun.

Friday, September 25
Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, blueberry crisp, dinner roll.

Home Delivered Cold Menu

Monday, September 21
Cottage cheese, macaroni salad, tropical fruit, muffin.

Tuesday, September 22
Chicken salad, coleslaw,

diced peaches, wheat bread.

Wednesday, September 23
Ground bologna and American cheese, pickled beets, Mandarin oranges, bun.

Thursday, September 24
Sliced turkey and Swiss cheese, carrot raisin salad, pineapple, wheat bread.

Friday, September 25
Meatloaf, broccoli raisin salad, applesauce, wheat bread.

Home Delivered Hearty Menu

Monday, September 21
Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, apple crisp, dinner roll.

Tuesday, September 22
BBQ ribbette, corn, California blend, apple, bun.

Wednesday, September 23
Chicken tortilla soup, green beans, saltines, cherry crisp.

Thursday, September 24
Macaroni and cheese, mixed vegetables, cauliflower, banana.

Friday, September 25

Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, blueberry crisp, wheat bread.

Activities Calendar

Monday, September 21:
Hastings - Music with Sam; crafts 10:30 a.m.; watercolor class 1-3 p.m.; card making 12:30 p.m. H.W.N - Reminiscence.

Tuesday, September 22:
Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Wii in the lunchroom 10 a.m. GL - 10:30-12:30 Cards.

Wednesday, September 23:
Hastings - Music with Sam; Nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m. Delton - Reminiscence.

Thursday, September 24:
Hastings - Music with Don and Pearl; Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Red Hats Centennial B&B 12:15 p.m.; Beading. Delton - Puzzles/Trivia; Nashville - TV Time

Friday, September 25 -
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.

Local foods tour set for Sept. 28

Barry County MSU Extension will host the 2009 local foods tour, offering a look at some local producers and a boxed meal prepared by The County Seat using local foods.

The tour will depart from the south side of the court-

house in Hastings via Barry County Transit bus at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28. The featured stops are in the Nashville area and include Jennings Brothers Stone-Ground Grains, Hilltop Maples, The Four Acres (produce) and MOO-ville

Creamery. The cost is \$10 per person and includes the meal. Reservations are requested by Sept. 25 and can be made by calling the Barry County MSU Extension office at 269-945-1388.

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14.5 oz. - 15 oz. Canned Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Carrots, Beets, Mixed Vegetables, Kidney Beans & Wax Beans Vegetables	5/\$3	46 oz. Vegetable Juice	2/\$3
10.5 oz. - 14.5 oz. Chicken & Beef Broths, Tomato & Chicken Noodle Soups	5/\$3	64 oz. Apple Juice	\$1.99
		34.5 oz. Coffee FAC	\$5.99

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Backpack program serves more than 150

The backpack program at the Maple Valley Community Center of Hope has helped more than 150 students start the school year with the supplies they need.

Pastor Cathy Christman of the Nashville United Methodist Church helped

organize the program and said there has been an increase in not only the number of students requesting help but also the amount of donations given to the program.

"It has been a real blessing to see the community step up

to meet this need this year. When I took over this program in August of '07, we only received about 40 backpacks," said Christman. "The kids received supplies that year, but they were in grocery sacks. This year, only two years later, we gave

away over 150 backpacks filled with supplies."

Christman said the support of businesses and individuals in the community made the program such a success this year.

"I pray that this will go a long way in helping our kids



Jim Hannah and Katy Nash of Goodwill Industries in Charlotte show one of the more than 40 backpacks they donated to the program.

Lions take tourney title by winning twice in 3 games



The 2009 Maple Valley varsity volleyball team. Team members are (front from left) Sam Bissett, Terri Hurosky, (middle row) Keilyn Carpenter, Elizabeth Stewart, Mercedes Angus, Tina Westendorp, Tiffani Allwardt, Carlee Mater, Bekah Mater, (back) coach Amy Tinker, June Fasting, Hannah Young, Jen Kent, McKenna Mater, Lindsay Mudge, and head coach Sarah Carpenter.

The Lions had to go the distance twice in tournament play, and pulled out wins in both to win Saturday's Olivet Invitational.

The Maple Valley varsity volleyball team split games with Olivet and then St. Louis. In game three that were decided by the first team to 17 points, the Lions defeated Olivet in the semifinals 17-16 and then knocked off St. Louis in a third game 17-15.

"The entire team played as one, and it was inspirational to be a part of," said Maple Valley head coach Sarah Carpenter.

The Lions won three contests and split in three during pool play. They saw both the teams they would see in the tournament bracket in pool play, going 1-1 against Olivet and St. Louis. They also split with Potterville.

During pool play, the Lions were 2-0 against Montrose, Bellevue, and Colon.

Tina Westendorp had a team high 43 kills to go along with 13 aces. Jennifer Kent had 39 kills and 19 blocks. Tiffani Allwardt had 16 kills and a team-high 17 aces and 143 digs. Hannah Young chipped in 11 blocks. Sam Bissett had 117 digs.

The Lions couldn't carry the momentum into their Kalamazoo Valley Association match against Pennfield Wednesday though. They are now 1-2 in the league after a 3-0 loss by the scores of 25-13, 25-12, 25-18.

Kent had seven kills and Westendorp six. Stewart had six assists, Bissett had 29 digs.

"As a team, we were flat," said Carpenter. "We didn't come rearing to go and we were unable to defend against Pennfield's two star hitters."

Things don't get any easier in the league. Maple Valley will host the defending Class C state champions from Schoolcraft this Wednesday. The Lions have a trip to the Battle Creek Central Invitational before that, this Saturday.

"We have re-grouped and identified our weak areas," Carpenter said. "We are focusing on digging up the hard hits and footwork for our middles this week."

"We have watched the Schoolcraft tape and identified our game plan for next Wednesday."

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Barry County Extension Calendar of Events

- Sept. 19 Animal Committee Fundraiser, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Photographic Memory in Hastings (or appointment).
- Sept. 28 Barry County Local Foods Tour, 5:30 p.m. Depart from Old Courthouse (pre-registration required).
- Sept. 29 RUP Credit Class, 1-5 p.m., Clarksville Horticulture Station, pre-registration required.
- Sept. 29 Extension Office Closed for In-service.
- Oct. 3 Project Spotlight, 1-4 p.m., Charlton Park.
- Oct. 4-10 National 4-H Week and 4-H Council Window Display Contest.
- Oct. 5 Goat Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Oct. 7 Livestock Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Oct. 8 4-H Open House, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Main Street Bank Community Room (in Hastings).
- Oct. 12 Horse Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.

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Scots, EGR, South, and Hamilton win at TK again

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

All four teams were repeat champions Monday.

The East Grand Rapids girls, Caledonia boys, and Hamilton girls dominated their respective races in the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational at the Yankee

racers was Caledonia's 33-72 victory over second-place Byron Center in the Thornapple Division boys' race. The East Grand Rapids girls won the Thornapple Division girls' race by a score of 21-80 over second-place Byron Center. Hamilton's girls scored just

second with 77 points. South Christian's boys edged out Saranac's by a single point, 72-73 to win the Kellogg Division title.

All four championship teams on the warm sunny day were the same teams that took home titles a year ago on a cold wet afternoon. For the Fighting Scot boys this is their fifth straight championship at the event.

Delton Kellogg placed third with 91 points in the Kellogg Division boys' race. West Catholic was fourth with 100 points, followed by Hamilton 114, Comstock Park 127, Freedom Baptist 171, Lakewood 192, Maple Valley 242, and Fennville 299.

Saranac's James Vance had the top boys' time in the race, finishing in 16 minutes 58 seconds.

Maple Valley was led by Joe Benedict who placed 21st in 18:48. Brady Halliwill was 38th in 20:01, Solimadicke 66th in 21:43, Zach Melville 83rd in 23:03, and Darius France 93rd in 24:17.

Saranac's Melinda Palinkas won the Kellogg Division girls' race, finishing in 19:12. She was never pushed in the race, as Hamilton's Anna Sall finished second in 20:19.

Sall led a wave of Hawkeyes to the finish line. Seven Hamilton runners placed in the top ten. With Sarah Oren placing third in 20:40, Molly Oren fourth in 20:56, Emily Oren sixth in 21:02, and Coryell seventh in 21:08. Meg Thompson was eighth in 21:13, and Jacquelynn Overbeck ninth in 21:26.

Behind Hamilton and West Catholic in the team scoring, Freedom Baptist was third with 131 points, South Christian 133, Saranac 147, Delton Kellogg 163, Comstock Park 187, Maple Valley 221, Lakewood 275, and Fennville 307.

Maple Valley's Lauren Trumble led her team with a 43rd-place finish in 24:02. Jessica Rushford was 45th in 24:03, Kaitlyn Furlong 56th in 24:43, Megan Shoemaker 70th in 25:43, and Pantera Rider 74th in 26:05.

While they team standings were never in doubt, the Thornapple Division boys' race was the tightest individually at the top. Byron Center's Jeff Sattler edged

out Hastings' Troy Dailey by three seconds. Sattler came in in 16:33, and Dailey in 16:36.

"Byron Center looked good. Middleville looked good. Dailey from Hastings looked great," said Caledonia head coach Ben Thompson. "It was a nice race today. Good competition. We're still working on getting those five, six, seven guys up there."

Caledonia had four of the top ten runners, and Thornapple Kellogg two. Behind Sattler and Dailey, Caledonia's Kort Alexander was third in 16:54 and Mason Przybysz fourth in 17:12. Their teammate Evan Zych was sixth in 17:16, and Brian Farhadi ninth in 18:14. Rounding out the scoring for the Scots was Kieran Wyma who was 11th in 18:21.

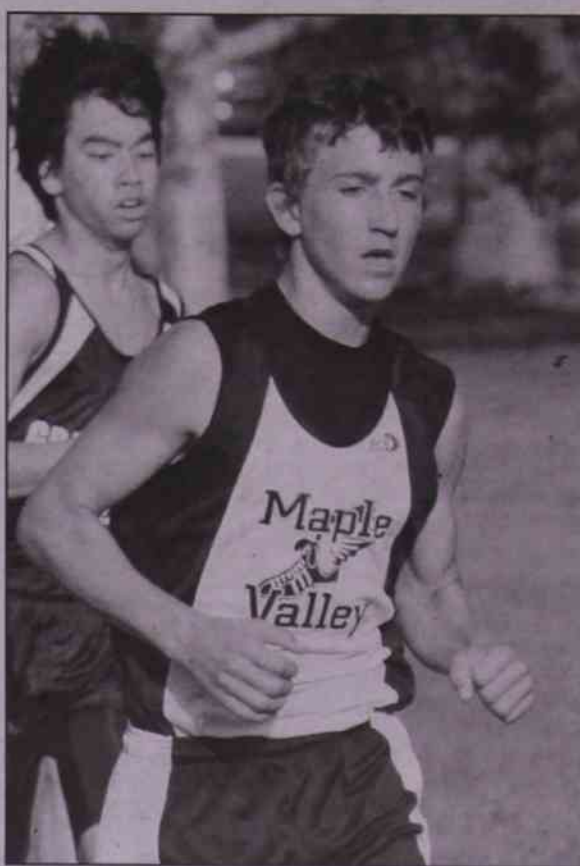
TK was led by Dustin Brummel who was fifth in 17:16, and Carl Olsen eighth in 18:00.

Dailey's Saxons were third as a team with 109 points, followed by East Grand Rapids 112, TK 119, Rogers 124, Lowell 158, and Wayland 176.

East Grand Rapids was nearly as dominant in the larger Thornapple Division as Hamilton's girls were in the Kellogg. The Pioneers had five girls finish in the top ten in the Thornapple Division girls' race.

Lauren Grunewald led the way, winning the race in 18:19. Thornapple Kellogg's Allyson Winchester was second in 19:16, in a battle of two state medallists.

Behind Grunewald for EGR, Jessie Baloga was third in 19:32, Katie Samuelson fourth in 19:36,



The Lions' Brady Halliwill runs along during the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational Monday afternoon. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



Maple Valley's Megan Shoemaker races along during the first mile of Monday afternoon's Thornapple Kellogg Invitational at Gun Lake. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

Springs Recreation Area at Gun Lake.

The closest of those three West Catholic finishing in

Free youth volleyball clinic offered

For the second year, Angela Rohde and Trudy Mater are organizing a free youth volleyball clinic. The clinic will be held in the gym at the Nashville Baptist Church and will be geared toward players in fourth through sixth grades.

Rohde said the girls will work on learning the mechanics of the game such as serving, setting and spiking.

"It's a fun, positive environment so girls can learn basic skills and the game of volleyball," said Rohde.

A dozen girls participated in last year's event, and

Rohde said she is hoping to keep growing the program each year. She said the clinic gives her a chance to have fun working with a different age bracket of athletes.

"It's fun working with the younger girls who are just starting to learn the skills," she said.

The clinic will be held from 1 to 2:30 Sept. 26, Oct. 10 and Oct. 24. No pre-registration is required.

Rohde is available to answer any questions at 517-726-0185 or questions can be directed to Mater at 517-852-2030.

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Area alpaca farms to hold open houses Sept. 26 and 27

Local alpaca farms will open their properties to the public next weekend as they observe National Alpaca Farm Days.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27. Owners will welcome guests to join them at their respective locations for many activities including

fiber spinning, alpaca agility demonstrations and more.

Participating farms include:

- Vermontville — Tealwater Ranch LLC Cora Foley and Bob Davis, 1312 N. Ionia Road, 517-726-0899, coraf@hughes.net, www.TealwaterRanch.com.
- Plainwell — Flying Cloud Alpacas, Gayleen Rollins and John Rizzo, 301

Fourth St., 269-685-3101, FlyingCloudAlpacas@msn.com

• Bellevue — 4 Musketeers Alpaca Farm LLC, David Ludwick and Nancee Ludwick, 13201 Brady Road, 269-763-3625, davnlanlud@sbcglobal.net

• Lowell — Waterwood

Alpacas, Susan and Kent Riddle, 5342 Waterwood Drive, SE, 616-340-6439, seyridle@gmail.com

The open houses are part of National Alpaca Farm days, being held across the United States and Canada to help the public learn more about the unique and inquisitive animals.

Alpacas, cousins to llama,

are native to the Andean Mountain range of South America, particularly Peru, Bolivia and Chile. The U.S. first commercially imported alpacas in 1984. There are now over 150,000 registered alpacas in North America.

Although almost physically identical, what distinguishes the two types of

alpacas is their fiber. The Huacaya (wa-Ki'-ah) is the more common of the two and has a fluffy, extremely fine coat. The Suri is the rarer of the two and has fiber that is silky and resembles pencil-locks, according to spokesperson, Shirley Knaack of Encore Alpacas.

Wiegand joins Chamber of Commerce staff

The Barry County Chamber of Commerce and Barry County Economic Development Alliance are increasing services through the hiring of Andre Wiegand as the new program and membership development manager, starting Sept. 21.

The change in staff is an effort to expand resources to better serve local businesses. In addition to building chamber membership, Wiegand will focus on developing and

implementing programs supporting Barry County businesses.

"I look forward to assisting the chamber and the alliance in accomplishing their goals and to developing and implementing new programs that will bolster business development and growth," said Wiegand.

Wiegand will work alongside President Valerie Byrnes to support several existing programs and serv-

ices including entrepreneurial initiatives such as The Biz business resource center, SCORE business counseling services and strengthening a "buy local" business philosophy. Wiegand will remain active with the county-wide tourism council and continue his participation as a member of the Hastings Rotary Club.

Wiegand joins the county's business and economic development agencies after serving as the executive

director of the Thornapple Arts Council (TAC). He said he looks to continue his county-wide scope that served well at the arts council.

"At the TAC, I was always looking for ways to reach the entire county. We (TAC) expanded the jazz festival (to Delton and Middleville), the arts hop series (to Gun Lake and Delton) and recruited board members countywide," he

said. "All of our communities have much to offer. I'm looking forward to working with them to promote their businesses. In the long run, this will bring success for the entire county."

To go along with his new job, according to a press release, Wiegand and his wife Joy welcomed a new love into their lives, newborn baby Lance Niven.

"Joy and I absolutely love being parents," he said.

"Having Lance inspires me to work for a better tomorrow for our county's next generation."

To learn about the business services offered at the Barry County Chamber of Commerce and the Barry County Economic Development Alliance, call 269-945-2454 or visit www.barrychamber.com.

Eaton CD holding annual fall photo contest

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The Eaton Conservation District is sponsoring a photo contest for amateur photographers.

The contest is open to all people who do not take pictures for profit. Participants may enter photos in four categories including trees and plants, wildlife, people enjoying nature, and landscapes.

One photo may be submitted in each category, however only one prize will be awarded

per person. All photos must be taken in Eaton County.

Photos should be submitted on 8-by-10 photo paper. Photos must be received at the office by Nov. 13. The district will award prizes in each category, and the overall winning photo will be featured on the cover of the annual report.

To enter your favorite "nature" photos in the photo contest, call or stop by the district office at 551 Courthouse


Dr., Suite 3, Charlotte, or 517-543-5848, ext. 5 to pick up an entry form.

Entry forms are also available online at www.eaton-county.org/Departments/ECD.


"Wildlife" is one of the four categories of the Eaton Conservation District's fall photo contest.



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Veterans picnic plans changed

American Legion Post 45 of Hastings will host its first annual picnic for Barry County veterans Saturday, Sept. 26. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine, on the post's grounds at 2160 S. M-37 Highway in Hastings.

"Due to health restrictions, food prepared off the site cannot be allowed," said Post Commander Charlie Alexander. Post 45 will provide all food. Families need only bring their own plates, cups and utensils. Activities will include games for adults and children.

The Michigan Wall, a four-foot by 28-foot replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and a Korean/Vietnam era Jeep with accessories will be displayed on the grounds.

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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)

Fall family soccer kicks off

Maple Valley fall (family) soccer has begun. This is a free, informal league that welcomes anyone 10 years of age and older.

The group meets at the Fuller Street Elementary School soccer field in Nashville every Saturday at noon. All skill levels from beginner to advanced are welcome.

This is a great opportunity to spend quality family time while getting good exercise. Shin guards and cleats are recommended but not required.

For further information, please call Cris Fisher at 517-726-1049.

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