

MAPLE VALLEY

news

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Superintendent Kramer resigns effective June 2010

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Though the Maple Valley School Board passed a motion to extend Superintendent Kim Kramer's contract for one year, the extension will not be used.

At Monday night's regular board meeting, Kramer submitted his resignation to the board. The resignation will become effective at the end of the current school year, in an effort to give the board time to search and select a new leader for the district, explained Kramer.

He encouraged the board to find ways to work together to weather the current economic storm.

"Seek innovative ways to make the district and community forward," Kramer told the board. "Be creative. Find some niche which will be a new drawing card for the district that gets the students excited, that the community can rally behind and can drive entrepreneurship."

Returning to open session after a closed session to discuss contract negotiations, the board voted 4-3 to extend Kramer's contract. Board members Anthony Shaw, April Heinze and Kevin Rost cast the dissenting votes on the motion. Rost said that while Kramer did bring improvements to the district, in order to move forward, a change was

needed. "Kim's strength is curriculum, and I think he has brought improvement there," said Rost. "I think the way he connected with the community wasn't received necessarily the way he intended it to be ... For me, I don't think the community can move forward unless we're all on the same page, and everybody gets along."

Heinze echoed Rost's sentiments, saying her vote was influenced by the community members.

"Ultimately, community support—that's what it boiled down to. He had a lot of good qualities, but I was elected by the community, and I have to do what they want me to do,"

explained Heinze after the meeting.

During his remarks, Kramer cited three goals he was given when he took on the position almost six years ago. Settling a contract dispute, improving community relations and improving curriculum were given top priority.

"I was asked to settle a contract dispute that had been going on for two years. Despite an interruption by a tornado, we were able to do this. This could not have happened without some level of trust on both sides," said Kramer.

He urged the unions and district to work together in the coming months to overcome

financial obstacles facing schools in Michigan.

"These have been five years of the worst economic times in the state ... with the two unions' continued operation, you can face those challenges and get through them," remarked Kramer.

With school aid on a continued slope downhill during the past few years, Kramer said the district has cut \$3 million from its budget, reduced the number of employees by 25 percent and witnessed the fund equity account dip to 11 percent from 34. During those cuts, the districts have worked to minimize the effects of budget reductions on the students. Currently, only one

employee is on layoff and only one program has been cut.

Through heavy emotion, Kramer encouraged the district to strive to succeed despite the financial situation and said his reasons for resigning stem from how the board and community view his role. After his evaluation, Kramer said some board members viewed him as an impediment to improvement, and he was stepping down so the district may move forward.

"With an eight-month notice, hopefully, the board can come together," said Kramer. "Good luck and may God continue to bless the Valley."

Preliminary exam date set for prescription fraud case

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

A preliminary examination will be held Nov. 20 in 56B District Court for Charles Chapman, 34, of Middleville. The charges of possessing a controlled sub-

stance by fraud, attempting to possess Vicodin and driving while on a suspended license stem from a July 21 incident at Maple Valley Pharmacy in Nashville. Chapman's lawyer stated in court Wednesday morning,

Oct. 14, that a plea bargain will be discussed with the prosecutor's office.

According to a report filed by Nashville Police Chief Jerry Schray, he received a call in July from Shane McNeill, owner and pharma-

cist at Maple Valley Pharmacy. McNeill detailed a call he had received on the phone line used by doctors to relay prescriptions to the pharmacy. After listening to the message, McNeill became suspicious that the person leaving the message was not a Dr. Horton as he claimed to be and that the request for 60 Vicodin tablets was fraudulent. McNeill then called Dr. James Horton's office and discovered that Horton had not called in the prescription. He, in fact, was in surgery at the time of the call.

Soon after McNeill had spoken with Horton, Chapman called the pharmacy to inquire if the prescription was ready for pick up.

Chief Schray and a Barry County Sheriff's Deputy waited at the pharmacy for the prescription to be picked up. In his statement, McNeill said that he and the two officers were the only ones on the premises when Chapman picked up the prescription.

Upon entering the store, Chapman identified himself and signed for the prescription, and his movements were caught on a surveillance camera located behind the counter. Once the prescription was in Chapman's hand, the officers approached and placed him under arrest, with no resistance.

Reports were filed with the Barry County Prosecutor's office after the incident to seek felony charges in the case. Initially, the charges were denied by his office, said Prosecutor Tom Evans, in order to seek further evidence.

According to Schray's

report, Chapman had filled two prescriptions for Vicodin at a Rite-Aid Pharmacy in Caledonia during the month of July. An empty bottle for hydrocodone was found in Chapman's vehicle.

During an interview with Chief Schray after the incident, Chapman said the prescription was for his brother, and that his brother had made the initial call to Maple Valley Pharmacy.

After phone records from other pharmacies were gathered, Evans authorized the charges of the felony warrant.

Evans summed up the case and the charges saying, "Basically, here's the deal. A guy shows up and picked up some prescription medication, and in the car is his amputee brother who apparently has set up his brother before."

In response to why the charges were initially dropped, Evans said it is not unusual for charges to be denied in order to seek further evidence in a case.

Evans said that although polygraphs are not admissible in court, Chapman has

asked for a polygraph test. In a felony case, if the defendant requests the test, accommodations are usually made to administer the polygraph, explained Evans.

In his interview with Schray, Chapman maintained that he was not the one who initially phoned in the prescription, though he admitted to picking up prescriptions for his brother in the past.

In a letter written as part of a Freedom of Information Act request, McNeill claimed that Evans "allegedly accused the officers of having performed a 'bad arrest,' and Mr. Evans apparently expressed concern for this defendant's civil rights as a result of said 'bad arrest' despite the involvement of a former undercover SWET officer and a chief of police ..."

Evans denied making any "bad arrest" statements or expressing concern over the victim's civil rights.

"I did not make that statement," said Evans in a phone interview. "You'll have to ask that butthead about it."

Church celebrates sesquicentennial



Opening its doors to the community, the Vermontville United Methodist Church celebrated its 150th birthday recently. (See inside for more photos and story.)

In This Issue...

- Sunny Crest hits mark at benefit dinner
- Carving contest and special visitor announced at Putnam
- Kiwanis Club invites public to charter celebration
- Lion volleyball team able to string together a couple wins

Sunny Crest hits mark at benefit dinner

More than 220 people attended a special benefit dinner for Sunny Crest Youth Ranch of Sunfield this past weekend. The benefit, held at the Ever After Banquet Hall in Hastings, raised \$46,000 for the ranch, surpassing the goal of \$40,000. A four-to-one match by the Kellogg Foundation helped reach that

total. The ranch currently houses five youths who are court-appointed to the facility. In the future, Board of Directors President Steve Barnum said the hope is to expand the ranch's tenants beyond just the court-appointed youths. Executive Director Ron

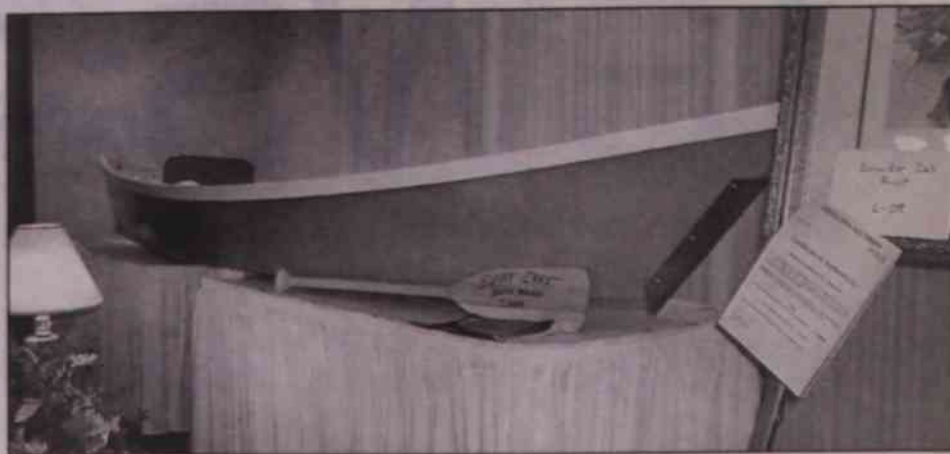
Coppess said one of the primary goals of the ranch is to never have to turn someone away because of finances, and the funds raised from the dinner will help the ranch obtain a license that will allow them to house youths from the private sector.

In operation since last spring, the ranch provides classes for residents, including woodworking, metal shop, gardening, working with livestock and academics. As one of their projects, the youths worked with Ralph Thelen and constructed a wooden canoe that was sold at the auction for a top bid of \$450.

The third annual benefit dinner was sponsored by Prudential Financial Planning, and Architectural Metals involved both a live and silent auction emceed by Glen Rairigh.

Coppess said the ranch is fulfilling its mission to create a safe place for kids and help boys who need a hand up, not a hand-out.

"The ranch experience is doing just what we want it to do," said Coppess. "We can see the change in the boys. It is different now, they feel good about themselves."



Ranchers constructed this wooden canoe with the help of Ralph Thelen. The canoe was sold to a top bid of \$450 at the benefit dinner. (Photo by Betsy Parish)



One of the many items up for auction, an autographed Tom Izzo basketball, hits the auction block. (Photo by Betsy Parish)

Barry County Extension Calendar of Events

- Oct. 22 Show of Champions Meeting, 7 p.m., Courts and Law Building.
- Oct. 26 Rabbit Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Oct. 30 Drill Team 1st Practice, 6:30 p.m., Wortley Residence (243 E. Eaton Hwy., Sebawa Township).
- Oct. 31 Better Kid Care Workshop, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Christian Reformed Church in Middleville (pre-register).
- Nov. 2 Goat Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Nov. 4 Livestock Developmental Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center.
- Nov. 7 Youth Day, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Thornapple Valley Church.
- Nov. 9 Better Kid Care Workshop, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Christian Reformed Church in Middleville (pre-register).
- Nov. 9 Horse Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Nov. 11 Biofuel Blast (Nat'l 4-H Science Experiment), 6:30 p.m., Main Street Bank Community Room.
- Nov. 14 4-H Basket Weaving Class, 9 a.m.-noon, Courts and Law Building.
- Nov. 16 Poultry Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Nov. 18 Better Kid Care Workshop, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Christian Reformed Church in Middleville (pre-register).
- Nov. 30 Parliamentary Procedure Workshop, 6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church in Hastings.

Putnam helps reach world reading record

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Putnam District Library helped break a world record recently by participating in the Jumpstart Read for the Record Campaign. The organization works to promote literacy through a variety of programs across the world.

Oct. 8, Assistant Library Direct Emily Mater visited Peas in a Pod Preschool and the Maple Valley Early 4s program to share Eric

Carle's story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

According to a press release from Putnam District Library, the Jumpstart world record program began in 2006 to "bring preschool children together with valued grownups in their lives to read the same book, on the same day, in communities all over the world."

In 2008, the group broke its own world record by impacting almost 700,000 readers with the same book.

Mater used magnets and stuffed animals of the main character to involve the children in the story as she read the tale aloud.

"The day's activities are designed to generate public awareness about the importance of early childhood education," according to the Jumpstart Web site. "Shared reading experiences can range from an adult and child reading in their home to large group events with hundreds of people gathering at

public facilities for community reading sessions. Last year, Jumpstart's Read for the Record raised almost \$2 million to directly support and expand the organization's early education work in low-income communities."

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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)

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Importance of non-motorized trails discussed

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Thursday, Oct. 8, more than 25 area residents attended the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission meeting held at Commission on Aging in Hastings to give input on the need for non-motorized transportation in the nine-county region served by the commission.

Those attending the meeting discussed scenarios of how to improve the current Michigan Department of Transportation non-motorized access map. The emphasis was on regional connections, not on foot trails in parks.

It was also pointed out that when the revised map is completed, there should be some way to connect it to other maps from the other regions in the state.

Suzann Flowers from the SWMPC told the group that some regions are just now beginning to work on their first maps. The current map of the nine-county region is now five years old and updating it is important, she said.

The group also looked at different ways to provide information on existing and planned non-motorized facilities. The consensus was that the map and information are



Citizens from throughout Barry County add their input to a discussion of non-motorized trails in the Southwest Michigan area, here under the guidance of Marcy Colclough from the SWMPC. (Photo by Patricia Johns)

important to tourism in the county.

Flowers left the meeting with many ideas on how to include access points for equestrian trails in the county, the need to put hiking trails such as the North Country Trail on the maps even if they are more recreational than transportation-based, and the future need to have the maps available online.

Flowers explained that the

efforts of the SWMPC are funded through MDOT which is why the maps and information need to have a transportation focus.

The SWMPC is holding county input meetings to discuss non-motorized transportation throughout the nine-county area. The first was held in Kalamazoo, shortly before the Barry County meeting. In October Flowers also will hold meetings in Van Buren and Cass

counties.

She said she anticipates holding a meeting in the spring showing the updates to the map for final input from the entire nine-county area.

Information about this project can be found online at www.swmpc.org/smart_plan.asp or by contacting Flowers at flowers@swmpc.org or by phone at 269-925-1137, ext. 17.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Maple Valley Elementary Lunch Menu

Monday, Oct. 19

Cheesie bread sticks, Spaghettios, fresh broc and caul, peaches.

Tuesday, Oct. 20

Popcorn chicken, Scalloped potatoes, mandarin orgs., mookie cookie.

Wednesday, Oct. 21

Chili, Green beans, pears, crackers.

Thursday, Oct. 22

MW Goodtime Pizza, Pizza, Tossed salad, pineapple-man, orgs., brownie.

Friday, Oct. 23

Sack Lunch Day, Grilled cheese, Carrot sticks, apple slices, Sun Chips.

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, Oct. 19

Chalupa (Bean Cheese), Mexican rice, pears, Salad bar.

Tuesday, Oct. 20

Popcorn chicken, Mashed potatoes, peaches, Mexican bar.

Wednesday, Oct. 21

Macaroni and cheese, Green beans, fruit cocktail, Potato bar.

Thursday, Oct. 22

Kellogg Goodtime Pizza, Rotini w/B. Stick, Cal. blend veg., apple crisp, Subway bar.

Friday, Oct. 23

Chicken parmesan pasta, Asparagus, pineapple, Mini 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.

Maplewood Elementary receives grant

Maplewood School has received a \$750 grant from the

Exxon Mobil Alliance program to support its science lab.

The Vermontville Express Mart worked with Principal Fred Davenport to secure the grant, which is one of 2,400 available to schools across the country in areas served by Exxon or Mobil stations. The grants were made possible by funding of the Exxon Mobil Corporation.

Exxon Mobil is proud of the Vermontville Express Mart's partnership with Maplewood School and the quality educational program provided for the students of Maplewood School.

The Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance is designed to provide Exxon and Mobil retailers with an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools.

The Vermontville Express met stringent eligibility criteria before applying for and being awarded this grant,

including having a commitment to provide a superior buying experience for customers.



Maplewood Principal Fred Davenport accepts a check for \$750 that will be used to support the school's science lab.

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TLC can help lower cholesterol levels

Cholesterol can be both good and bad. While some cholesterol is needed for good health, too much cholesterol in the blood can raise an individual's risk of having a heart attack or stroke.

There are two types of cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein (LDL) and high-density lipoprotein (HDL). LDL cholesterol, also known as "bad" cholesterol, should be 130 or less. HDL cholesterol, known as "good" cholesterol, should be 60 or higher. A person's total cholesterol level should be 200 or less to reduce the chances of a heart attack or stroke. A cholesterol level of 240 or more means an individual is

at risk for heart disease and need to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services National Institute of Health, the therapeutic lifestyle changes (TLC) is a set of things a person can do to help lower his or her high blood cholesterol level. The main parts of TLC are:

- **Diet.** This is a low-saturated-fat, low-cholesterol eating plan that calls for less than 7 percent of calories from saturated fat and less than 200 mg of dietary cholesterol per day. The TLC diet recommends only enough calories to maintain a

desirable weight and avoid weight gain. If LDL is not lowered enough by reducing saturated fat and cholesterol intakes, the amount of soluble fiber in the diet can be increased.

- **Weight management.** For individuals who are overweight, losing weight can help lower LDL and is especially important for those with a cluster of risk factors that includes high triglyceride or low HDL levels and being overweight with a large waist measurement (more than 40 inches for men and more than 35 inches for women).

- **Physical activity.** Regular physical activity (30

minutes on most, if not all, days) is recommended for everyone. It can raise HDL and lower LDL and is especially important for those with high triglyceride or low HDL levels who are overweight with a large waist measurement.

Medication is another option for treatment of high blood cholesterol. However, even if those begin drug treatment to lower their cholesterol will need to continue the treatment with lifestyle changes. This will keep the dose of medicine as low as possible, and lower the risk in other ways, as well.

Area

Wilbur C. Marsh

VERMONTVILLE — Surviving are: his wife, Wilbur C. Marsh, age 90, of Vermontville, passed away Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009, at home, surrounded by his family.

Wilbur was born Aug. 16, 1919 in Albion, the son of Wilbur and Fern (Dunn) Marsh, Sr.

Wilbur graduated from Litchfield High School and Wayne State Mortuary College in Detroit. He served in the U. S. Navy as a Corpsman during World War II and the Korean Conflict. At 14, he started working for his father at the Marsh Funeral Home in Litchfield. After becoming a licensed mortician, he worked for Leonard's Funeral Home in Hastings and then moved to Vermontville where he managed the Vogt Funeral Home for many years. After retiring as a mortician, he worked for Stanton's Real Estate and Auctioneering and then as a rural mail carrier.

He was a member of the Grace Lutheran Church in Hastings for 60 years. He was also a member of the Lions Club and the American Legion.

Surviving are: his wife, Kay, daughter, Becky (Dennis) Marsh Day; son, Tom Marsh; son-in-law, Alan Hamlin; grandson, Mark (Cindy) Hamlin; two great grandsons, Devin and Aaron Hamlin; sister, Marjorie Whitehead, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Linda Hamlin; two sisters, Dorothy (Harvey) Griffiths and Veri (Bob) Young and a brother, Fay (Madge) Marsh.

My husband, my father, my friend will be greatly missed for his kind heart, ready smile and quick wit.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 17, 2009 at the Grace Lutheran Church. Friends are invited to visit with the family before, as well as after, the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pennock Hospice, Hastings, Eaton Community Hospice, Charlotte or Grace Lutheran Church. Arrangements by Burkhead-Green Funeral Home, Charlotte. www.burkhead-greenfuneralhome.com.

Good News from the Pulpit

by Rev. Bryce Feighner

Kalamo United Methodist Church

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ" (Romans 8:1).

God's word contains many promises we don't claim, but I think forgiveness is one of the most unclaimed of these promises. This passage from Romans informs us that those in Christ are indeed forgiven. However, some folks refuse to accept that forgiveness, separating themselves from the God and other people. All sorts of personal and social dysfunctions result when forgiveness is not received.

Why do some people refuse to accept the forgiveness available to them through Jesus Christ? Some people think they are not worthy (and they are right), and some people just don't believe in the incredible miracle of forgiveness. Claim the promise of Scripture and live as a forgiven child of God as Christ intended. Why do some folks refuse to forgive others? Even those who have accepted Christ often don't extend that same forgiveness to others so that they may maximize their blessing. Just as we have been pardoned from sin, we must extend that same grace to others. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We say those words in the Lord's Prayer so often without thinking about them. Forgiveness of others is almost a condition of our own forgiveness.

Sadly, we've all heard people say, "I'll never forgive him/her for that." Worse yet is to simply ignore or avoid those who you think have wronged you. Forgiveness is never indifference or avoidance. Forgiveness is proactive. Forgiveness is intentionally loving the unlovable. The ability to forgive others is directly related to an understanding of our own condition. People who refuse to forgive have not come to terms with their own imperfections or their own mortality. These people also fail to see that they are only hurting themselves. Christ gave his all for our forgiveness. Let's give Christ our very best by forgiving others.

Eaton County plans horse workshop

The Eaton County 4-H Horse Development Council is sponsoring a series of educational workshops for horse owners. The council is partnering with Dr. Joe Parr of Michigan Large Animal Associates.

The first educational workshop will be Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 to 11 a.m. in Kardel Hall on the Eaton County

Fairgrounds in Charlotte. Topics to be covered will include winterizing a horse, older horses and their special needs, body condition scoring, and equine dentistry.

For more information about the 4-H program or would to join, contact the MSU Extension office at 517-543-2310.

Oct. 18 to 24 is Radon Action Week

Free test kits available

It can't be seen, smelled or tasted, but elevated levels of radon gas may be in local homes. However, homeowners shouldn't despair; testing is easy, and elevated radon levels can be effectively reduced.

Radon is an important environmental health concern because it is a known human carcinogen that presents no warning symptoms. Prolonged exposure to elevated radon levels can increase the risk of developing lung cancer.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas resulting from the radioactive decay of radi-

um, which is a natural decay product of uranium, both of which are found in at least trace amounts in almost any kind of soil and rock. As a gas, radon moves upward through the soil and enters buildings through cracks and openings in the foundation floor or walls, including floor and wall joints, sump openings and other penetrations caused by plumbing, wiring or ductwork. Outdoors, it is diluted by the atmosphere; but indoors, it tends to be more concentrated and can accumulate to unhealthy levels.

According to a Michigan survey, elevated levels of radon would be expected in

one out of eight homes in Michigan. In some counties, as many as 45 percent of the homes could have radon screening levels above the EPA recommended action guideline of 4 picocuries per liter. The only way to know whether a home has elevated radon levels is to test it.

Residents of Barry or Eaton counties may stop by the health department in Hastings or Charlotte and pick up a do-it-yourself test kit for free in exchange for a non-perishable food item during the week of Oct. 18 to 24. All collected food will be donated to a local food pantry. Only one test kit per residence is allowed.

To find out more about radon, call or visit the Environmental Health Division of the Barry-Eaton District Health Department in Hastings at 330 W. Woodlawn Ave., 269-945-9516, ext. 3 then ext. 5) between the hours of 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Or call the MDEQ Indoor Radon Program at 1-800-RADON GAS (1-800-723-6642).

On the Internet, visit www.epa.gov/iaq/radon/index.html for general information about radon.

Gospel concert to benefit woman with Lou Gehrig's disease

On Friday, Oct. 23, a Gospel concert will be held at Pleasantview Family Church to benefit Lori Roberts, who was recently

diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease.

Proceeds from the concert will be used to offset the cost of Lori's medical bills and aid in paying the costs necessary to make her home handicap accessible.

Lori's husband, Jim, is the pastor of the Fulton Christian Church in Fulton, and has performed with country and Christian bands for several years.

The concert will feature a variety of Gospel music performances by David Dickerson, also known as "The Louisiana Cowboy," Dennis and Jan Crum and Michelle Kowalski, who form the group Sentimental Journey, and the husband and wife duo Tim and Karen Smothers.

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. Pleasantview Family Church is located at 2601 Lacey Road in Dowling.

Additional information on the concert can be obtained by contacting the church at 269-758-3021.

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Charlton Park hosting Halloween event Oct. 24

Saturday, Oct. 24, the annual "All Hallow's Eve" celebration will take place at Historic Charlton Park from 3 to 6 p.m.

This family-oriented event begins with a trick or treat through the historic village.

Here visitors can sample old-fashioned candies and treats and enjoy a drink of fresh cider, take a hayride and paint a tiny pumpkin.

The annual costume parade will be followed by costume judging and awards.

This year's categories for the costume contest are: most frightening, most creative, most unique, most historically accurate, most adorable, best of the animal kingdom and best entourage.

Everyone is encouraged to

bring a carved or decorated pumpkin for the jack-o-lantern contest. Other vegetables also are welcome — be creative. All entries can be taken home at the end of the day.

Tickets for the event can

be purchased in advance at the park or at the gate Oct. 24. Admission is \$3 per person, with children 2 years and under admitted free. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information,

contact Historic Charlton Park at 269-945-3775 or visit the Website at www.charltonpark.org. The park is located at 2545 S. Charlton Park Road, just north of M-79 between Hastings and Nashville.

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Get Over It!
It goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway: "we have all made mistakes." As Alexander Pope so aptly put it: "To err is human, to forgive, divine." We should remember this the next time we make a mistake. Most certainly, we must learn from our mistakes, and hopefully not continue to repeat them, but we should also forgive-ourselves. While it can be hard enough to forgive others for their mistakes, it can sometimes feel almost impossible to forgive ourselves. We sometimes cannot bring ourselves to forgive something we've done, and we may punish and harangue ourselves for years, or even decades, over youthful indiscretions. In addition, some of us may not be able to forget the sins of our past. And although that may prevent us from repeating them, we must be charitable and forgive ourselves, just as we should forgive others. So, we should make a real effort in the coming days and weeks to forgive the offenses of others as well as our own. Sometimes, it helps to just forget about them; that is, to try to put them out of our mind and stop repeatedly mulling over them. One of the reasons we use the phrase "forgive and forget" is because sometimes that is the only way to forgive, i.e., by forgetting. But far better, and more divine, is to be able to forgive even while remembering the offense. So, we should let go of those unforgiving, vindictive, shameful feelings about the past, and get over it! Corrie ten Boom, who survived incarceration in a Nazi prison camp said, "Forgiveness is to set a prisoner free, and to realize that the prisoner was you."
Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven...
R.S.V. Luke 6:37

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Phone: 543-5488

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Worship Time: 10:00 a.m.

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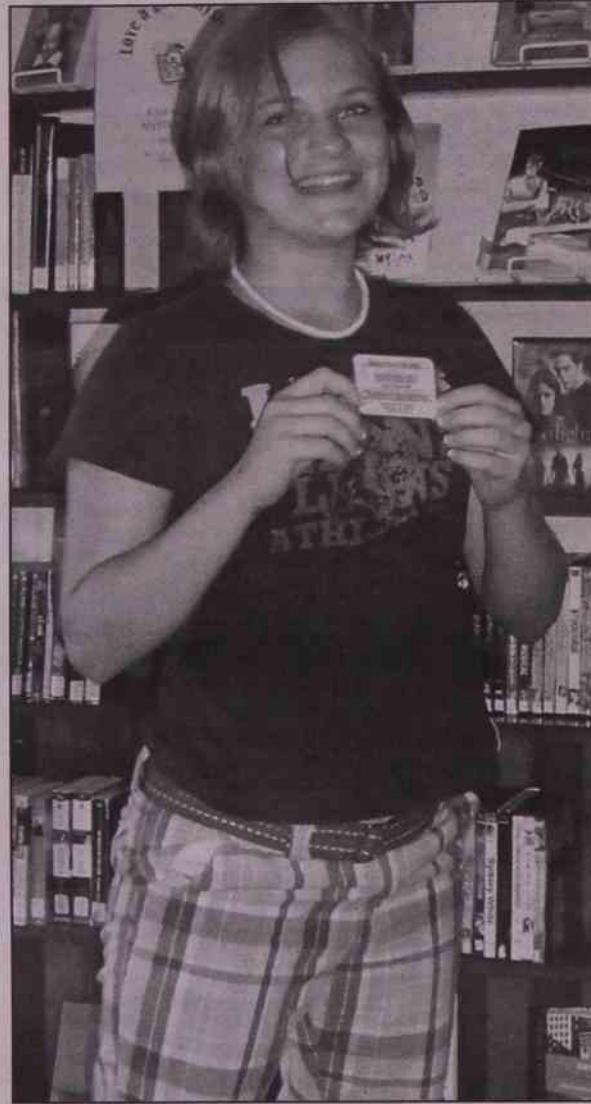
Carving contest and special visitor announced at Putnam

Monday, Oct. 19 and 26, at 3:30, Putnam District Library's Teen Advisory Group will meet to prepare for Halloween festivities. Students in fifth grade and

up are welcome and encouraged to bring a snack with extras to share if possible.

Library patrons of all ages are encouraged to enter Putnam's first annual pumpkin decorating contest. Pumpkins are to be submitted for judging the Wednesday and Friday before Halloween and will be used to decorate the library for the holiday. The entry fee of \$1 or a big bag of candy will be used to offset the cost of the annual Haunted Library. Official rules may be picked up at the library.

Friday, Oct. 30, at 11 a.m., the library will host a visit from The Wild Thing, the character from the classic children's book (and new movie), *Where The Wild Things Are*. A free book will be given to every family with a preschool age child at this event. This event is made possible in partnership with



Courtney Walker celebrated her birthday this year with a new library card. Teens are encouraged to celebrate Teen Read Week by visiting the library to get "The Smartest Card." All students enrolled in Maple Valley Schools are eligible regardless of residency.

Eaton County Early Childhood Connections.

The library invites all community members interested in joining the Putnam District Library Friends Group to attend a reorganizational meeting Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 6:30 p.m. The library is also requesting his-

torical information from those who belonged to the group in the past. Contact the library with any information about past members and events or to get involved with the group's revival.

Music in the barn returns Nov. 6

The next Music in the Barn medicine show (good for what ails you) will be Nov. 6. Acoustic jam and dance will run from 2 to 5 p.m. Open microphone and potluck will 5 to 6 p.m. Round, square and clog dancing from 6 to 9 p.m. No alcohol, no smoking, no cussing, no spitting. The barn is at 1417 Johnson St., Lake Odessa. Contact Lynda or Bob Warner at 616-374-8204 or tfcloggers@attn.net. Please park facing the building west.



NOTICE VILLAGE OF VERMONTVILLE HYDRANT FLUSHING

Beginning October 19th the Village DPW will be flushing hydrants, 9am to 3pm and will finish up on October 21st. This might cause some discoloration so be careful doing washing during this time. If you have any questions please call the garage 726-1444.

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MVCCOH hosting coat drive

Maple Valley Community Center of Hope has scheduled Nov. 3 and 7 for its yearly winter coat and clothing drive.

Members of the community may select coats and clothing between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. each of these dates.

Those wishing to donate coats or clothing may do so

during the hours of 9 a.m. and noon each Tuesday the food pantry is open. Otherwise, call MVCCOH at 517-852-0664 to arrange for an appointment for delivery or pick up if needed.

While all donations are greatly appreciated, the greatest need is for small and intermediate children's sizes.

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In My Own Writ e

by Amy Jo Parish



Sweat the small stuff

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

I have to admit that my ego received a bit of a boost this week. I checked my e-mail on Thursday to find more than a dozen notes from students in Monique Colizzi's class at the high school. It turns out that she used my column from a couple of weeks ago as an assignment. The students blogged about what they would do without technology for a day (I thought it was kind of ironic that they used computers to write about what it would be like without them) Some of their responses were funny like Kara Carlyle who wrote, "Me without technology would be like a fish without water, or a hamburger without the bun."

"Going without technology? That would mean I wouldn't wake up until after noon, wouldn't be able to fall asleep to the music on my computer, wouldn't have anything to watch after homework, and wouldn't be able to talk to my friends on the phone or computer. How would I deal with that?" wrote Carisa Cruz.

This is just a little column where I get the chance to share some of my thoughts. Some of them might be better off left unsaid. If there's one thing this week has taught me, it's the impact that even the smallest things can have on those around us.

Sometimes a smile is all someone needs to feel better or a kind word can turn someone's day around. The book says, Don't sweat the small stuff but it's the small stuff that can

make all the difference. The orange sun shining on the brightly colored leaves on my way to work this morning was a small thing but it made my drive so pleasant. The right song on the radio can completely turn my mood around. Last night I was painting a wall and not having that much fun until a Michael Buble song came on the radio. All of a sudden that wall was painted and I was on to the next task.

I will be hitting a bit of a milestone birthday soon and it has started me thinking of where I thought I would be at this point in my life. Somewhere around my junior high school years, I wrote a list of all things I wanted to accomplish in the next 20 years. Some are realistic while others, like dunking a basketball are completely out of reach for this not-quite five foot gal. I had all of these BIG plans for myself. I was going to help save the endangered Green Sea Turtles, start a non-profit organization and travel around the world.

Looking that list, and comparing it to where I'm actually at, it made me realize that the small things are the important things. I can't help the economy turn around overnight, I don't have the funds necessary to provide stable, loving homes to all the children in foster care. I can, however, make a difference each day. So I say, sweat the small stuff. Those are the things we can have an impact on. I may not be able to find the cure for the common cold but I can at least check dunking a basketball off the list - with help from a ladder of course.

ATTENTION MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES It's annual enrollment time!

Maple Valley Pharmacy is pleased to bring back Independent Financial Services Agent Kay Goodemoot for the 5th year in a row to offer no-pressure guidance in choosing a Medicare Part D healthcare plan that will work best for you and your budget.

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Maplewood announces students of the month

Maplewood Elementary School has announced its students of the month for September and October.

September students of the month are sixth grade, Sam Sears from Kelly Murton's class; fifth grade, Kayli Collier a student in Patty

Braun's class; fourth grade, Jacob Bross from Becky Jamros' class.

The October students of the month include sixth grade, Mike Sprague from Laurie Pettengill's class; fifth grade, Noelle Rohde, a student in Josh Meersma's

class; and fourth grade, Jacob Moore from Vicky Williams' class.

The student of the month program is supported by MOO-ville Creamery and Good Time Pizza.



Jacob Bross



Kayli Collier



Sam Sears



Mike Sprague



Noelle Rohde



Jacob Moore

Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Friendship Sites Congregate Menu
Monday, October 19
 Cranberry chicken, wild rice, peas, tossed salad, apple.

Tuesday, October 20
 Baked ham, mashed sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, pineapple, dinner roll.

Wednesday, October 21
 Soup, salad bar, peach crisp.

Thursday, October 22
 BBQ ribette, corn, coleslaw, banana, bun.

Friday, October 23
 Baked chicken qtr., mashed potatoes and gravy, spinach, apple strudel, cornbread.

Home Delivered Cold Menu
Monday, October 19
 Egg salad, pickled beets, tropical fruit, wheat bread.

Tuesday, October 20
 Chicken salad, coleslaw, pears, wheat bread.

Wednesday, October 21
 Ground bologna and American cheese, potato salad, mandarin oranges, wheat bread.

Thursday, October 22
 Slicked turkey with Swiss cheese, carrot and raisin salad, pineapple, wheat bread.

Friday, October 23
 Sliced ham and American cheese, potato salad, apple-sauce, wheat bread.

Home Delivered Hearty Menu
Monday, October 19
 Cranberry chicken, wild rice, peas, cauliflower, apple.

Tuesday, October 20
 Baked ham, mashed sweet potato, green bean casserole, pineapple, dinner roll.

Wednesday, October 21
 Chili, California blend, peach crisp, crackers.

Thursday, October 22
 BBQ ribette, corn, Brussels sprouts, banana,

bun.

Friday, October 23
 Boneless baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, spinach, apple crisp, wheat bread.

Activities Calendar
Monday, October 19:
 Hastings - Music with Sam; crafts 10:30 a.m.; watercolor class 1 p.m.; card making 12:30 p.m. Delton - Nashville 5+ 11 a.m. H,W,N - Reminiscence.

Tuesday, October 20:
 Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; watercolor class 1 p.m.; Wii in the lunchroom 10 a.m. GL -10:30-12:30 Cards.

Wednesday, October 21:
 Hastings - music with Sam; nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m. Delton - Reminiscence. Woodland - Nashville 5+ 11 a.m.

Thursday, October 22:
 Hastings - Music with Don and Pearl; Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Mystery Trip?????; beading. Delton - Puzzles/Trivia. Nashville - TV Time.

Friday, October 23 -
 Hastings - Exercise 9 a.m.; Mixed Media Painting 9:30 a.m.; Bingo 10 a.m.; Model Railroad 10 a.m. Woodland - Visiting, Nashville - Bingo.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SEBAWA

Hosts Home School Workshop with ... There will NOT be childcare available for this event.

Kathie Morrisey

Thur., Nov. 5th • 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Topics Covered ... "Frustrated or Encouraged" and "Getting Back on Track, How Do I Get It All Done?!"

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HGB Wellness Center offering free trials of yoga and Pilates

The HGB Wellness Center is hosting free trial sessions for its specialized classes, (yoga and Pilates, in October. Yoga will be Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. Pilates will be Tuesday, Oct. 20 from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. and Thursday, Oct. 22, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Anyone wishing to participate may call the wellness center at 517-543-9575 or

stop by. The center is located in the basement of the professional building at 123 Lansing Street.

Kathy Stover, RYT, will lead the session on beginning, or Iyengar, yoga.

Yoga is referred to as the "union of body, mind and spirit" and teaches people ways to open the body and mind in order to improve health and reduce stress. Iyengar Yoga emphasizes

the development of strength, stamina, flexibility and balance, as well as concentration and meditation.

Iyengar Yoga is considered a powerful tool to relieve the stresses of modern life which in turn can help promote total physical and spiritual well-being. It incorporates standing poses in order to build strong legs, increase general vitality and improve circulation, coordi-

nation and balance. Stover is registered at the 500-hour level with Yoga Alliance. She has 10 years of teaching experience.

Cheryl Jackson, a certified trainer who has been practicing Pilates for the past decade, will lead the Pilates session. Pilates is based on the original works of the late Joseph H. Pilates. It teaches the importance of core stabilization, muscle balance,

proper alignment, strength and flexibility while integrating the concept of mindfulness, fluidity and efficiency. All movement emanates from the core. The discipline does not use high repetitions, which could lead to strain; rather fewer repetitions with intense focus placed on breathing blended with form and precision. This focus on form, precision and concentration leads to efficiency

and efficiency leads to results, said Jackson.

Once classes start, there will be morning and evening sessions. Participants learn exercises and practice individually on their breathing and engaging of the core musculature in order to work the body in a precise manner.

Call the HGB Wellness Center with questions at 517-543-9575.

Church celebrates sesquicentennial

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

The Vermontville United Methodist Church reached a milestone recently, marking 150 years of worship and service. The sesquicentennial celebration featured a walk down memory lane, with former pastors and members taking part in the events.

The day also marked the second time in the church's history that a bishop has visited the site. Bishop Jonathan Keaton presided over a special service. State Rep. Rick Jones also was on hand to present a proclamation signed by Jones, Sen. Patty Birkholz and Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION OPPORTUNITY. Borrower(s): Robert Marti Jr. Nicole Marti Property Address: 704 North Hanover Street, Hastings, MI 49058 Pursuant to MCLA 600.3205a please be advised of the following: You have a right to request a meeting with the mortgage holder or mortgage servicer. The name of the firm designated as the representative of the mortgage servicer is: Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. and designee can be contacted at the address and phone number below. You may contact a housing counselor by visiting the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's website at <http://www.michigan.gov/mshda> or by calling 1-800-ASHELTER, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year-round. If a meeting is requested with the designee shown above, foreclosure proceedings will NOT be commenced until 90 days after the date the notice mailed to you on 10/13/2009. If an agreement is reached to modify your 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. The website for the Michigan State Bar Lawyer Referral Service is <http://www.michbar.org/programs/lawyerreferral.cfm> and the toll free number is 800-968-0738. You may bring an action in circuit court if you are required by law to be served notice and foreclosure proceedings are commenced, without such notice having been served upon you. If you have previously agreed to modify your mortgage loan within the past twelve (12) months under the terms of the above statute, you are not eligible to participate in this program unless you have complied with the terms of the mortgage loan, as modified. Notice given by: Randall S. Miller Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 313-583-3336 (Loan Modification Dept.) loanmods@millerlaw.biz Case No. 09OMI00425-1 Dated: October 17, 2009 PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THIS OFFICE MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ASAP# 3304171 10/17/2009 06098835

The church began in 1839 when Rev. Isaac Bennett delivered a sermon in Vermontville and classes were organized. The classes took place in a building two miles east of the village, and circuit Methodist preachers would visit the village to preside over services. The Michigan Conference voted in 1859 to officially establish a Vermontville branch of the Methodist denomination.

During the early years of the church, roads were difficult to travel, and parishioners often had to journey for miles on horseback to reach the church for services.

The dedication of both the early church members and current attendees has kept the church going strong, said current member Dorothy Carpenter.

Carpenter has attended the church all of her life and said that while the event was a wonderful way to celebrate the history of the church, the congregation also is looking to the future.

"It's not all about the history," said Carpenter. "We sent a group to New Orleans after the hurricane, donated backpacks for the program at the



Visiting Bishop Jonathan Keaton is presented with a special shirt, commemorating the celebration, by current Pastor Kathy Smith.

Maple Valley Center of Hope and have the New Beginnings pregnancy program."

Looking to the future impact the church can have, Pastor Kathy Smith wrote that about the numerous activities that keep the church moving forward in its mission.

"The Vermontville United Methodist Church remains active in ministry in the Vermontville area and these

activities include monthly breakfasts of pancakes served with maple syrup produced locally, monthly senior lunches, mission dinners to raise money for both local and global missions, the chicken dinner fundraiser during the annual maple syrup festival, vacation Bible school, numerous evangelism and outreach activities as well as church picnics and other fun events," wrote Smith.

Carpenter summed up the history of the church and the future impact it could have.

"Time rushes by. We lose dear friends, welcome new ones; cherish the past, embrace the future and try to live our faith through worship, service and through loving our fellowmen. These 150 years are a blink in time, so let us pray our blink has been, and will be a worthy one," said Carpenter.

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Sen. Birkholz to hold office hours

State Sen. Patty Birkholz or key staff members will hold office hours open to everyone who resides in the 24th District which includes Allegan, Barry and Eaton counties. Birkholz or her staff will be at the Delta Charter Township Hall from 4 to 5 p.m. That office is at 710 W. Saginaw Highway, Delta Township.



Dorothy Carpenter shows some of the historic artifacts that were on display during the celebration. The children's outfits are from the years 1847, 1872 and 1973, respectively. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

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The Village of Nashville will start picking up leaves October 26th and will continue to pickup as long as weather permits. Please place all leaves to be picked up next to the side of the road on or after this date. **THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE BRUSH.**

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Kiwanis Club invites public to charter celebration

Celebrating the group's formation and commitment to positively impact the youths of the community, the Kiwanis Club of Maple Valley will hold its charter event Saturday, Oct. 24.

The day will feature a nine-hole golf scramble at Mulberry Fore Golf Course in Nashville, followed by dinner and silent auction at Good Time Pizza.

Formed this summer, the

club has already been busy working to implement and support programs in the community to help area youths. For its first endeavor, the group provided more than 90 backpacks with supplies to the Maple Valley Center of Hope's back-to-school program. Partnering with Eaton Federal Savings Bank, the group is currently working to supply dictionaries to every third grade stu-

dent in the Maple Valley district.

Organized in 1915 in Detroit, Kiwanis focuses on the needs of ordinary people and children to create extraordinary life-changing moments.

Club President Ashley Ulberg said she joined the group to have an impact in the community and get others involved in creating positive change for the students of Maple Valley.

"I'm excited to be part of something new where we can all band together and make a difference. Just to make a difference in the community, that's the most important thing," said Ulberg.

The public is encouraged to attend and participate in any of the events at the charter celebration. Teams of four may sign up for the golf scramble the day of the event. Teams who pre-register by sending team names to amyjokinyon@hotmail.com will be registered for an early bird prize. Each of the nine



Members of the Maple Valley Kiwanis Club pause for a photo while stuffing backpacks for the Maple Valley Center of Hope.



Maple Valley Kiwanis Vice President Becky Ewing paints a bit of school spirit at the homecoming game.

holes will feature Halloween-themed fun and prizes. The Maple Valley High School Leadership Class, along with members of Kiwanis, will be decorating the holes. Cost for the scramble is \$25 per player.

Dinner at Good Time Pizza includes an all-you-can-eat pizza buffet for \$10. Individuals attending both the dinner and golf scramble receive a \$5 discount, making the package just \$30. The golf outing begins at 3

p.m. with the dinner and auction to follow at 7 p.m. For more information about the event or to donate toward the silent auction, contact Amy Jo Kinyon at 517-231-1554 or amyjokinyon@hotmail.com.

Thornapple Wind Band children's concert set for Oct. 25

The Thornapple Wind Band will present its annual children's concert, featuring the Hastings Kids Choir Sunday, Oct. 25, at 3 p.m. in the Hastings High School Lecture Hall.

Children are encouraged to dress up the kids in their Halloween costumes and join the Thornapple Wind Band for its annual concert for children (and anyone else who enjoys music).

The adult volunteer band

and the kids choir will perform musical favorites, including excerpts from "The Lord of the Rings," "National Emblem" march, "When the Saints" and "America the Beautiful." Children will be invited to participate in a costume parade during the concert, and there may even be a special visit from some favorite Star Wars characters.

The afternoon of music will be followed by a reception.

The band is directed by Wisconsin native Dan

Braker. He has a degree in music education from Wheaton College in Illinois and taught band in Chicago for four years. He conducted the Marquette City Band before moving to the Hastings area four years ago and joining the Thornapple Wind Band as co-director and French horn player.

The Hastings Kids Choir is made up of local third through sixth grade students and is directed by Cindy Olson. Co-director and coor-

dinator for the group is Steve Youngs, and Nancy Brown is the accompanist. The choir rehearses at the Community Music School at First United Methodist Church in Hastings, and has performed with the Battle Creek Girls Chorus and Sojourner Truth Choir.

The Thornapple Wind Band was formed in 1996 to enrich the lives of its members and the surrounding community by offering free concerts several times a year.

All adult musicians are encouraged to join. The group, which includes people from throughout the county and beyond, practices each Thursday at 7 p.m. in the band room of Hastings High School.

Practices for the second session begin Oct. 29, in preparation for a holiday concert Dec. 6. Interested adults can just show up for practice with their instruments or, for more information, contact Bill Johnson at 269-795-3729 or johnsonbill1971@sbcglobal.net.

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Nurse practitioner joins Hayes Green Beach

Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital in Charlotte has announced the addition of nurse practitioner Holly Maria Peterson. She joined the Charlotte Women's Health Group in August.

Peterson comes to the HGB family from the Sparrow Health System where she has been a licensed clinical nurse since 1996. From 2002 to 2005, she worked at Sparrow Hospital as an emergency department clinical nursing educator, where she was

involved in the development of nursing guidelines, policies and procedures dedicated to ensuring quality patient care. In addition, she has been a nursing instructor and clinical nursing preceptor at Lansing Community College and Michigan State University.

Peterson received her associate's degree in nursing from LCC, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing from MSU. She also holds a master of science in nursing from Michigan State University. She is board certi-

fied in emergency nursing and is a certified family nurse practitioner through the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

A member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the American Nurses Association, the Michigan Nurses Association, and the Emergency Nurses Association, Peterson also has had advanced education and training as an adult and pediatric sexual assault nurse examiner since 1997. She also is a renowned presenter in the tri-county area on this important topic.

Peterson has been married 26 years and has one daughter. She is an avid reader, loves music, professional football and basketball and knitting.

Charlotte Women's Health is a partnership with Meridian Women's Health, a practice owned by Ingham Regional Medical Center. For more information about CWH and HGB's other health care practitioners, visit www.hgbhealth.com.



Holly Maria Peterson has recently joined the Hayes Green Beach team as a nurse practitioner.

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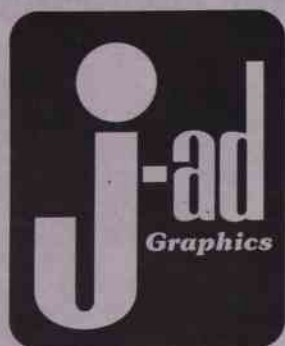
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Lion volleyball team able to string together a couple wins

The Lions are on a roll. Maple Valley's varsity volleyball team has won back-to-back Kalamazoo Valley Association contests, and last Saturday won the Saranac Invitational.

The Lions knocked off Parchment 25-19, 25-18, 20-25, 25-21 Wednesday night to improve to 3-4 in the KVA. Maple Valley is now 22-12-6 overall on the year.

"Our lead hitter, Tina Westendorp, is out with a hamstring injury," said Maple Valley head coach Sarah Carpenter. "Coming in to assist were Lindsay

Mudge and June Fasting. Both girls came ready to play and did a fantastic job."

Fasting had five digs, and Mudge four kills and three assists.

After dropping game three, the Lions had to battle back from behind in game four. Westendorp isn't so injured that she couldn't help out.

"In the fourth set I put Tina in to change the pace of the game, the team rallied and came back from being down 0-6 to win."

Westendorp finished with five kills. Jennifer Kent led

the Lions with 13, and Tiffany Allwardt and Terri Hurosky had eight each. Hannah Young added seven, and Elizabeth Stewart six.

Stewart had 17 assists on the night, and Karlee Mater 12. Allwardt led the Lions in digs with 17 and Sam Bissett had 13.

"This team continues to prove their strength physically, but so much more importantly - mentally," said Carpenter.

The Lions have this weekend off. They'll head to Constantine Tuesday evening for a KVA dual.

Long fumble return accounts for Lions' points in loss to Falcons

Falcons may fly everywhere else, but in Constantine Friday night they stuck to the ground.

Constantine's varsity football team became one of four Kalamazoo Valley Association teams to have a spot in the MHSAA post-season tournaments by scoring a 42-7 win over Maple Valley. The Falcons improve to 6-2 with the win, while the Lions fall to 1-7.

The Falcons rushed the ball for 336 yards on the night, and only missed having three 100-yard rushers by a single yard. Zack Mallo led the way with 17 carries for 103 yards. Payton White rushed ten times for 100 yards, and Shawn Tucker added 15 carries for 99 yards.

Constantine jumped out to a 13-0 lead in the opening quarter, thanks to a 15-yard TD run by Tucker, and a one-

yard scoring run by Mallo that came within three minutes of each other in the first half of the period.

The Lions' answered back before the break, scoring on an 89-yard rumble return by Zack Eddy, but the ensuing extra-point kick by Steve Creller accounted for the Lions' final point.

Quarterback Jake Bower pushed Constantine's lead back up to two touchdowns before the half, with a one-yard scoring run. He then tossed the two-point pass to teammate Tucker.

Chris Rentfrow scored on a 35-yard run for the Falcons with just under eight minutes to play in the third quarter, then Tucker added ten- and nine-yard TD runs late in the third and early in the fourth quarter to seal the win.

Bower completed 4-of-7 pass attempts for 37 yards.

While Constantine nearly had three players rush for 100 yards, the Lions managed just over 100 yards of total offense. They rushed for 33 yards and Brad Laverty was 6-of-19 throwing the ball for 77 yards. He was intercepted twice, once by Constantine's Rob Balentine and once by Tucker.

Josh Burd had an interception for the Lions. Kyle Burns led the Maple Valley defense in tackles with 18, and Riley Fisher added 11.

Fisher also caught three passes for 44 yards. Cody Linehart had six rushes for 39 yards for Valley, and added two receptions for 30 yards.

Maple Valley closes out its season at home against rival Olivet this coming Friday. The Eagles improved to 6-2 on the season with a 53-31 win over Galesburg-Augusta last night. In other KVA action last night, Delton Kellogg downed Kalamazoo Christian 23-21, Hackett Catholic Central defeated Parchment 28-21, and Schoolcraft scored a 14-7 win over Pennfield.

The Schoolcraft win over Pennfield leaves those two teams tied for the KVA lead at 7-1. Pennfield travels to Delton Kellogg next Friday, while the Eagles take on Constantine.

Districts start Tuesday for Lion varsity soccer

Maple Valley's varsity boys' soccer team will be a part of the Division 3 District Tournament hosted by Williamston this week.

The Lions travel to Perry for their opening round game, Tuesday. Game time is slated for 4 p.m.

The winner of that contest will play Thursday afternoon at Williamston against the

winner of Tuesday's other opening round match between Portland and Durand.

On the other side of the district bracket Tuesday, Lansing Catholic takes on Stockbridge and Williamston faces Leslie.

The district championship game is planned for Saturday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m. at Williamston High School.



Maple Valley JV team puts pair on all-tournament team

Maple Valley's Timara Burd (left) and Kaitlyn Petersen were named to the all-tournament team for Lion junior varsity volleyball team at last Saturday's Springport Invitational.

Time to sign up for youth basketball season extended

It's time again for fourth, fifth and sixth grade boys and girls to sign up for the Maple Valley Youth Basketball Program traveling teams.

There will be a participation fee of \$20. Sign-up forms are available at the Maplewood School, and can be returned back to the office along with a check payable to Maple Valley Youth Basketball by Oct. 23.

Families are responsible for providing transportation to and from each game. Games will begin Nov. 21 and continue through the middle of February on Saturdays, skipping the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's.

Practices will be a maximum of three times a week, depending on gym availability, starting in November.

Maple Valley, Olivet, Leslie, Bellevue, and Springport participated in the league last year.

The Maple Valley Youth Basketball Program is in need of parents willing to help support the program. There are positions open for coaches and/or assistants. Those interested in volunteering should call director

Keith Jones at (517) 852-1901 or come to the sign-up meeting.

Also this year there will be an intramural/instructional league for first, second, third, and fourth grade boys and girls. The program will run on the Saturday mornings of November 14 and 21 and December 5 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. There is no fee to participate.

Contact Jones with any questions or concerns about either program.

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School ratifies contracts, privatization no longer an option



Senior Brittany Snook accepts an award for achieving the highest scores in the county on a set of tests. Superintendent presented the award at Monday's board meeting. (photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

After a closed session, the Maple Valley School Board entered back into the regular session and ratified two contracts for the district. The teachers and support personnel are now operating under two-year contracts.

Before the unanimous vote, Superintendent Kim Kramer said tentative agreements were reached at 4:30 a.m. on Friday, October 9 with both unions.

Under the life of this new support personnel contract, no privatization of the custodial services can take place. Board member Tim Burd, along with committee members had been exploring the privatization option and received three bids for the proposal.

In the contract, staff

agreed to change health insurance plans, saving the district almost \$100,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year, according to the superintendent's office.

A salary schedule freeze, cutting one custodial position to part-time, and the other changes under the contracts will save the district close to \$300,000.

The third and fifth grade teachers in the district will receive some much needed assistance after the board authorized the district to move forward with hiring two aides at Maplewood Elementary. The aides will divide six hours a day between three classrooms, helping the teachers work with full student counts. Each of the third and fifth grade classes in the district have between 29 and 31 students in each, making space and individualized teaching scarce. At last month's meeting the board voted to delay the decision until after the state aid budget was finalized.

In its budget, the state cut the per pupil funding by \$165, lower than the proposed \$218 cut but still a blow to districts.

The two aides will cost the district \$27,000 per year as opposed to hiring two new teachers at a cost of \$120,000 per year.

At the meeting, Kramer recognized Senior Brittany Snook for achieving the highest scores in Eaton County on a series of tests. The Work Key tests are administered as part of the Michigan Merit Exam each year and are designed to

determine if a student is ready to enter the workforce. Employees who take four of the tests and score high enough earn national certification. After scoring high enough on the three initial tests, Snook took advantage of an opportunity to take a fourth test. She not only passed all of the tests, she achieved the highest scores in the county.

Also at the meeting:

- Fuller Street Principal Jason Miller reported to the board that the summer reading program was a success and students have achieved higher reading scores than other districts that participated in the program.

- Approved a trip to the national convention by the Maple Valley FFA program.

- Recognized Meijer's for their contribution to the writing workshop at Maplewood Elementary and the Vermontville United Methodist Church that donated 16 flash drives to students who couldn't afford the storage devices. The drives will be distributed to students taking virtual courses online so they have a place to store their homework.

- High School Principal Todd Gonser reported that former football coach Guenther Mittlestadt will be recognized for his accomplishments at the annual banquet on Oct. 28 in Kalamazoo.

The next regular meeting of the school board will be held on November 9 at 7 p.m. in the administration office.

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