

MAPLE VALLEY news

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Nashville council takes first step toward downtown revitalization

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

The streets of Nashville may be getting a facelift through a new grant opportunity presented to the village council.

Harry Wierenga from the Fleis and VandenBrink Engineering of Muskegon presented information about a grant to the council at its meeting Thursday night.

The grant money is part of stimulus funds from the federal government and is administered by the Community Development Block Grant Program of the Michigan Economic Development Department.

"This is a very unique program," said Wierenga. "The

money is extraordinary right now, and the timing couldn't be better."

The council showed its agreement with Wierenga, voting unanimously to pursue the grant. Council Member Jack Holden was absent from the meeting.

"I've been doing this a long time, and this is one of the most exciting things I have been part of since I've been sitting up here," said Council Member Mike Kenyon.

The grant requires an "almost unheard of" 10 percent match by the village, with the stimulus funds providing the additional 90 percent.

"I liked the firm's presen-

tation, and I think there's some good possibilities for the village," said President Frank Dunham.

The location of the village along M-66 requires more state regulations to be followed, something with which the firm has experience, said Wierenga.

With a majority of the village's parking spaces located behind businesses, Kenyon questioned the project's ability to make improvements off the main road. Wierenga explained is included in the grant.

Showing photos from Portland, Newaygo and other communities where his firm has completed projects, Wierenga said the Nashville

project would probably not include total reconstruction of the streets but could revitalize features currently in place.

"We understand the importance of working with the whole business district, including the backs of buildings where parking is, and working with the businesses as well," Wierenga told the council.

Construction on the project could begin in the spring, and the positive changes would be evident once it is complete, said Wierenga.

"The changes help create an identity for the community, make it more walkable and community friendly, not just user-friendly," he said



The engineering firm of Fleis and VandenBrink presented a grant opportunity to the Nashville Village Council Thursday night. This photo of the Portland Riverwalk shows results of one of the company's recent projects. (Photo courtesy of www.fveng.com)

after the meeting. "It also makes a difference with how many people stop in the community and how many just pass through."

Treats, trunks, movies and hauntings slated for Halloween

The First Congregational Church of Vermontville will be hosting a pancake flipping hoedown off a hay wagon Saturday, Oct. 31, from 3 to 5:30 p.m., in front of the village office. A plate donation is being asked. There will be a president, politician, a fire chief, some evil queens and other local celebrities to serve the flapjacks.

All proceeds will go toward children's ministries.

This event is in connection with trunk-or-treating in the village park. In case of rain or snow, the dinner will be moved to the basement of the Congregational church.

The Lions Club will host a trunk or treat event Oct. 31 from 5:30 until 7 p.m., following the pancake hoedown. It will also be held in the alley next to Vermontville Hardware. The Vermontville United

Methodist Church and other local organizations, along with community residents will decorate their vehicles for the event. The Vermontville library will be showing the movie, "The Birds" at the opera house following trunk or treat.

Just in time for Halloween, on Oct. 27, "The

Legend of Sleepy Hollow" will come alive at the Vermontville Public Library with a presentation of the Disney animated short film in which Ichabod Crane, a new schoolteacher, arrives in Sleepy Hollow and captures every lady's heart except for that of Katrina Van Tassel, daughter of a wealthy

farmer.

Ichabod has his eye on the Van Tassel wealth, but his attempts to woo Katrina disturb her bold suitor, Brom Bones, who tries to scare Ichabod away with the tale of the headless horseman. As Ichabod rides home that Halloween evening, he encounters the terrifying phantom and is mysteriously missing the next morning. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. in the library and will last for approximately one hour. No registration is required. Call the library for further information at 517-

726-1362.

On Halloween, the teen advisory group from Putnam District Library in Nashville plans to host a story time for preschool and elementary school age kids. Story time will take place at 5 p.m. on the library lawn with hay bales for seats and musical fun. Maple Valley leadership class students have partnered with the library again this year to scare residents who dare to enter the Haunted Library. The haunted house will open at 5:30 p.m. and is recommended for ages 10 and up.

'Wild Thing' to visit Putnam Library



When Putnam District Library Assistant Director Emily Mater visited Fuller Street Elementary and Peas in a Pod earlier this month for Read for the Record, she invited students to the library for the upcoming character visit.

Maple Valley will not have school Friday, Oct. 30, and Putnam District Library in Nashville invites students to the library to meet a very famous guest at 11 a.m.

The Wild Thing from the classic children's book *Where the Wild Things Are* (and now starring on the big screen) will be at the library. Bring a camera to get a pic-

ture with this world-famous star. Attendees will participate in some early reading skills and group activities.

Each family in attendance will receive a book to take home, and some lucky kids will win prizes from Wild Thing. This special visit is made possible through Eaton County Early Childhood Connections.



River has grand re-opening

This is a view of the weir from downstream. The fish ladders, no more than one foot in height, allow fish to travel upstream, a feat not possible with the dam in place. Look inside for a full story of the event. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

Thieves targeting unlocked vehicles

The Nashville Police Department is reminding residents to lock their vehicles and remove valuables after investigating a string of recent breaking and entering incidents.

Chief Jerry Schray said there has been a rash of car break-ins, most involving unlocked vehicles. The

department has been successful in recovering some of the stolen property.

"Do not leave valuables in your vehicles," urged Chief Schray. "We have retrieved some property in the latest B and Es that had occurred on the morning of Oct. 19."

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- Lion ladies move up at KVA Meet

Apple butter time for Coppess family

by Helen Mudry
Staff Writer

The tempting autumn aroma of apples and cinnamon was in the air last Saturday at Ron and Ellyn Coppess' home on Jordan Lake as four generations of the extended family gathered for the 80-year-old tradition of making apple butter.

Each October, when the apples are ripe, plans are made for the autumnal ritual. Over the years, the family has used three different kettles and knows them by name — the Coppess kettle holds 45 gallons, the Penfold 42 gallons, and Steward 25 gallons.

This year, three bushels each of red delicious, golden delicious and Jonathan apples were purchased, along with 14 gallons of cider.

A lean-to shelter was constructed on the back of the

Coppess lot for the wood-burning fire used to boil the apples. A wind break was added to the fire pit to keep a more consistent fire burning.

The cider was boiled down last Friday to about half its volume.

The garage was set up as the command center. Mary Hokanson made vegetable beef soup and long johns to feed the workers. A television was set in one corner to keep the crew up-to-date on football scores.

An old-fashioned apple peeler made short work of the peeling process, plus it sliced the apples, too. One work crew inspected the apples for any remaining stems or skin and cut the spiral sliced apples into small pieces.

The operation used many bowls to sort and transport the ready-to-be-cleaned and already-cleaned apples to the cooking kettle.

Once cooking in the kettle, the apples required constant stirring lest they scorch. The wooden paddle had corn shucks attached on the bottom of the blade so as not to scratch the kettle. Besides the nine bushels of apples, the apple butter recipe called for four cups of sugar and one and a half cups of cinnamon.

A few family members (stirrers in waiting) sat around a small campfire

swapping stories and waiting to be called to the front lines to relieve the paddlers.

The paddle itself, has a short life span and has been replaced many times. The current paddle has some oak reinforcement to try to lengthen its life.

Ron Coppess said the apple butter is done when it sheets off the paddle.

"About 3 in the afternoon, it gets serious," he said.

Sunday, the apple butter

was poured into sterilized jars and lids were screwed on. The event usually makes 16 to 19 gallons of apple butter, with each family getting 12 to 14 pints to ration until next October.

There was a break for a few years in the apple butter tradition, but in 1972, the family revived it and now that the younger generation is participating, it has every promise of going strong for another 80 years.

There are seven Coppess siblings — Ron, Robert, Richard, Margaret, Jennifer, Mary Hokanson and Lynda Smith and dozens of cousins. Not all were there for this year's apple butter making, but plenty were present to share the workload. The younger ones are learning from the old timers — making apple butter to last the year and creating memories to last a lifetime.

Local graduate organizes benefit

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Kristen Vanderhoef knows first-hand how it feels to have a family member struggle with muscular dystrophy. Her sister, Sarah, is afflicted with the disease, and the community support the family has received since her diagnosis has made a positive impact in an otherwise disheartening situation.

In an effort to give a bit back to those who have helped so much, Vanderhoef is organizing a benefit event. Proceeds from the event will be used to support muscular dystrophy research.

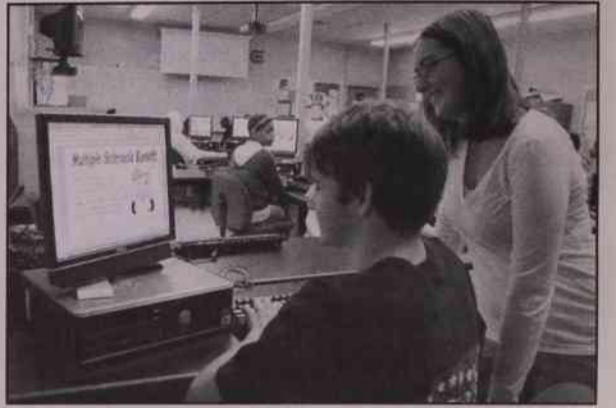
"I wanted to do something within the community," said

Vanderhoef. "The community has been very supportive of my family."

The event will take place on Nov. 1 at the Theatre House (home of The Revue) located on Main Street in Nashville. A euchre tournament, live music, desserts and a silent auction will all be part of the evening.

To help organize the benefit, Vanderhoef has enlisted the help of Norma Jean Acker's leadership class and Monique Colizzi's Personal computing class at Maple Valley High School.

Dale White designed the winning poster for the event and said he was happy to help a worthwhile organiza-



Dale White shows his winning flyer design to Kristen Vanderhoef who is organizing a muscular dystrophy benefit. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

tion and earn a good grade at the same time.

"It sounds like a fun event — there's euchre and food," said White.

The high school show choir will be providing some entertainment for the evening and is eager to share its talents to help someone else.

"We have somebody who is a former member of this group affected by MS," said Choir Director Ryan Rosin. "This is an opportunity to use our talents to bring awareness and raise funding for research."

A current nursing student, Vanderhoef said that along

with fun and entertainment, she hopes to help those in attendance be more aware of the disease and how it affects the body.

"From the nursing perspective, my goal is to educate people about the disease and what it's like to live with the disease," said Vanderhoef. "I don't have a monetary amount set that I want to raise, I just want to have a fun community event."

A \$10 donation required to attend the evening. For more information, contact Vanderhoef at 616-644-4016.

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Members of the Maple Valley High School show choir and leadership class display their best rock moves. The choir will be performing at a fundraiser and the leadership class is helping to organize the details of the benefit. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

LOCAL CHURCH SCHEDULE

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| <p>ABUNDANT GRACE WORLD OUTREACH CENTER Come as you are but don't leave the same. Meet at Kalamo Twp. Hall 8960 Spore Ave. Vermontville, MI 49096 Morning Service 10:30 a.m. Evening Service: (Every 1st & 3rd Sunday) 6 p.m. REV. DAWN GOODMAN Contact numbers: (517) 852-0896 or (517) 852-9606, leave message</p> | <p>BASELINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 9617 E. Baseline Rd. Corner of Baseline & Church Roads (2 miles east of M-66 on Baseline) Church Service 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Youth Groups, Bible Study and many other activities. Phone (616) 963-7710 MINISTER: VIRGINIA HELLER</p> | <p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERMONTVILLE 110 S. Main St., Vermontville, MI 49096 (517) 726-0258 PASTOR: ISRAEL (IZZY) YOUNG Wed. 5:30 p.m. Family Supper 6:00-7:15 Pioneer Club Sun: 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Church Service 11:00 Fellowship</p> | <p>KALAMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Worship Services 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 a.m. PASTOR BRYCE FEIGNER 517-541-1144</p> | <p>PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARRYVILLE 6043 E. M-79 Highway, 4 miles west of Nashville (cor. M-79 & Barryville Rd.) Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. Other: Prayer Walk, U.M. Women, Bible Study, Mission Projects & more. PASTOR SUSAN OLSEN Phone 517-852-1993 IGNITING MINDS-Open Hearts-Open Doors</p> | <p>SOUTH KALAMO CHURCH Corner of Kalamo Highway & Ionia Rd. Sunday A.M. Worship 10:30 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening at 6 p.m.: PASTOR JEFF SWIFT (517) 852-9154</p> | |
| <p>ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES A Spirit-filled Church Meeting at the Maple Leaf Grange Hwy. M-66 south of Assyria Rd. Nashville, MI 49073 Sun. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m. Jesus Club for boys & girls ages 4-12. Pastors David & Rose MacDonald, An oasis of God's love. "Where Everyone is Someone Special." For information call 1-269-731-5194 or 1-517-852-1806.</p> | <p>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 301 Fuller St., Nashville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday: A.M. Worship 11 a.m. P.M. Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Worship 7 p.m. REV. ALAN METTLER</p> | <p>GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH 8950 East M-79 Highway, Nashville Morning Celebration 9 & 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service, Relevant Practical Teaching, Nursery, Children's Classes, Youth Group, Adult Small Groups, Leadership Training PASTOR: DON ROSCOE Phone: (517) 852-1783 e-mail: grace@gc3.org</p> | <p>MAPLE GROVE BIBLE CHURCH 8593 Cloverdale Road (1/2 mile East of M-66, 5 mi. south of Nashville) Sunday School 10 a.m. A.M. Service 11:15 a.m. P.M. Service 6 p.m. PASTOR GEORGE GAY</p> | <p>QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH M-79 West Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. PASTOR KENNETH VAUGHT (616) 945-9392</p> | <p>ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 203 N. State, Nashville Sunday Mass 9:45 a.m. FATHER AL RUSSELL A mission of St. Rose Catholic Church, Hastings</p> | |
| <p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH 803 Reed St., Nashville Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday: A.M. Worship 11 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Prayer Meeting 7 p.m. PASTOR GLENN BRANHAM</p> | <p>CHESTER GOSPEL CHURCH 3744 W. Vermontville Hwy. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Family Night Service 6:45 p.m. PASTOR MARC S. LIVINGSTON Phone: 543-5488</p> | <p>GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 5505 North Mulliken Road, Charlotte one mile north of Vermontville Hwy. PASTOR KATHY SMITH 517-726-0526 Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School: 10:50 a.m. United Methodist Women: 3rd Thursday</p> | <p>NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH 304 Phillips St., Nashville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. A.M. Service 11 a.m. P.M. Service 6 p.m. Wed. Service 7 p.m. PASTOR LESTER DeGROOT PASTOR DEANO LAMPHERE PASTOR MATT ROHDE</p> | <p>ST. ANDREW & MATTHIAS INDEPENDENT ANGLICAN CHURCH 2415 McCann Road Sunday Services: 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion For more information call: 795-2370 or Rt. Rev. David Hustwick 948-9327 Traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer used for all services. RT. REV. DAVID HUSTWICK</p> | <p>VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH 250 N. Main St., Vermontville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m. Wed. Evening Service 6:30 p.m. AWANA 6:30-8 p.m. Wed. PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH</p> | <p>VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 108 North Main, Vermontville PASTOR KATHY SMITH 517-726-0526 Adult and Youth Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m. United Methodist Women: 2nd Tuesday</p> |

Fish provide learning experience for students

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Maple Valley Science Teacher Aaron Saari has nearly 300 companions to keep him company in his office at the high school. He recently purchased 300

on lessons for students and an opportunity to put to use the information they learn in class. It also does something that can be difficult: it makes students eager to go to class. "It makes people excited about coming to class," said

particular fish species before and said working with the fish has been very different then working with chickens as she has in the past.

"I had never heard of tilapia before or seen one before," said Stadel as she helped weigh fish. "It's a different experience than having chickens. I've just enjoyed learning about their species."

Though a few fish haven't survived, Saari said this first year has a learning curve to it, and he is learning right along with the students.

"This is more of a learning year so far," said Saari. "I've been doing research and talking with a friend who used to have a tilapia farm to learn more about taking care of the fish."

Along with habitat and

eating habits, students will learn about breeding when eggs are hatched in the spring.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Labor contract, school calendar and school delays

by Kim Kramer

We are happy to announce that a labor agreement has been reached with the teachers and support staff unions. The school calendar is finalized and available on the district's Web site www.mvs.k12.mi.us.

Even though the best way for our staff to meet the state requirement of 30 hours of professional development is to use short three-hour blocks of time, this new calendar eliminates these for the balance of the year after the publicized Nov. 11th three-hour delay day. We heard from some parents that these three-hour delays were difficult to deal with, so we have adjusted and will go back to full day teacher training days after Nov. 11.

With this elimination of the remaining three-hour delays for the balance of the year, we will go back to two-hour delays for any weather-related delays immediately.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we worked through negotiations.

The Maple Valley Schools teachers union and the support personnel association both ratified a two-year contract agreement that had been negotiated in a 12-hour marathon bargaining session that began Thursday, Oct. 8, at 4 p.m. The board of education also voted Monday to unanimously ratify the same agreements. The agreements will cover the current 2009-10 school year and next year. The teachers and the support staff have agreed to

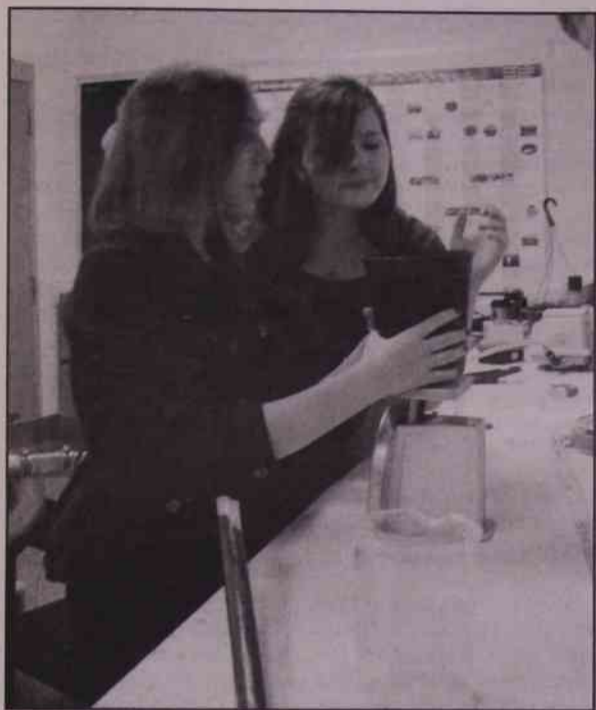
switch health insurance to a different MESSA plan with higher deductibles and higher prescription coverage. Employees will continue to pay 7 percent of the monthly premium. This switch saves the district nearly \$100,000 and close to \$200,000 in the second year.

The unions both agreed to freeze the salary schedule and take only half step increases, which are experience increases provided for in the salary schedules. This will result in over a \$70,000 savings to the district in both years.

A custodial position change to part-time will save the district nearly \$16,000 in the first year and a reduction in the extra-curricular schedule B pay rates by 5 percent in the second. A few other agreements resulted in a total savings of \$200,000 in the first year and nearly \$250,000 in the second. The agreement also included the clause that no privatization of custodial services would occur for the life of the contract.

The new contract also calls for a plan whereby if the district receives any new revenue, then 81 percent of it will be shared with the employees of the district during the life of the contract.

This agreement gives the district some budget relief over the next two years. Both sides still worry that these concessions will not be enough, given the current condition of the state's economy.



Ashley Eywell and Kayla Stadel weigh some of the fish, a weekly assignment in the advanced plant and animal biology class. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

tilapia that now live in a 500-gallon fish tank located right next to his desk.

The tank was purchased with a grant through Olivet College. Maple Valley graduate and current Olivet College student, Emily Eldred applied for the grant last year.

The tilapia provide hands-

Saari. "Before the bell rings in the morning, students come down here and check on the fish."

Principal Todd Gonser has joked that there will be a fish fry this spring, though Saari is more interested in the classroom applications than the meal opportunities they might provide.

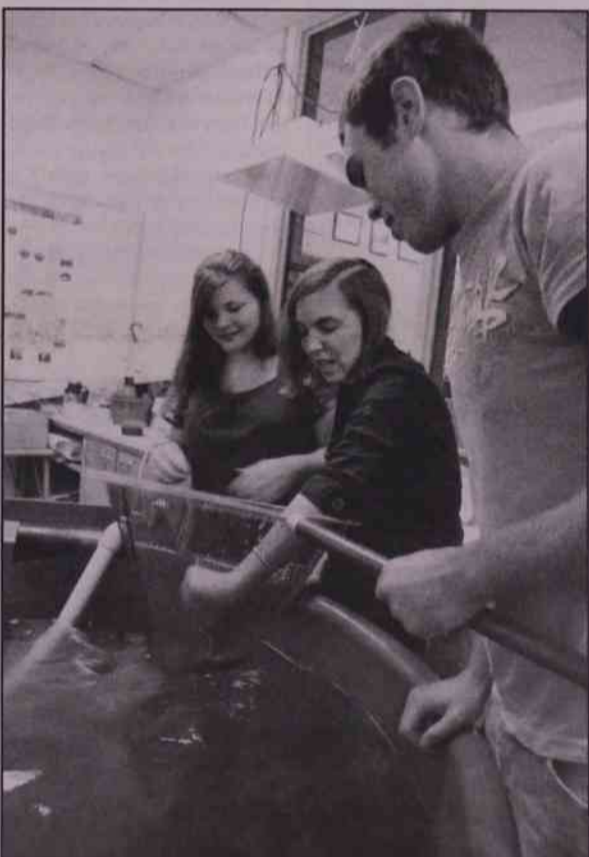
The advanced plant and biology class is the only class that works with the fish, and students have to feed them, clean the filter, maintain the pH balance of the water and weigh the fish weekly.

"It gives some students the opportunity to experience something they never have before," said Saari. "If it gets someone interested in fisheries as a career, that would be great."

Senior Kayla Stadel said she had never heard of that



Junior Travis Wright and Teacher Aaron Saari inspect an albino tilapia from the tank. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Kayla Stadel, Ashley Eywell and Travis Wright work on catching some of the fish out of the 500-gallon tank. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

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SAW VI (R)
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MON-TUE 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG)
SAT-SUN 12:30, 2:40, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10
MON-TUE 4:45, 7:00, 9:10

THE STEPFATHER (PG-13)
SAT-SUN 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 7:10, 9:25
MON-TUE 4:30, 7:10, 9:25

COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13)
SAT-SUN 12:00, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50
MON-TUE 4:55, 7:20, 9:50

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Putnam pumpkin prizes and contest announced

Putnam District Library's Teen Advisory Group is hosting its first pumpkin decorating contest to help decorate and offset the cost of the annual haunted house.

Entries are divided into two age groups: children

under 12 and teen/adult (12 and up). Pumpkins may be decorated in any way; however, the pumpkin and its attachments must be no bigger than 18 inches in any direction.

Members of the library

board will judge on creativity in concept and in use of materials, cuteness and/or scariness. Bonus points will be awarded to pumpkins with a literary connection. The winning pumpkin decorators will win \$20 gift

cards,

Along with a completed entry form, available at the library, an entry fee of \$1 or a large bag of candy (to be handed out at the haunted house) is required.

Painted pumpkins may be dropped off Wednesday, Oct. 28, but carved (or punctured) pumpkins may only be submitted on Friday, Oct. 30.

All parts of submitted pumpkins become property of the

library. Contact the library with questions.

Area Obituaries

Janet Gardener

NASHVILLE - Mrs. Janet Gardner, age 70, of Nashville passed away Saturday, October 10, 2009 at Penneck Hospital, in Hastings.

Janet was born in Lansing, on March 23, 1939, the daughter of the late Loyn and Nora (Face) Welker. She was raised in the Nashville area and attended W.K. Kellogg School.

She was the wife of Mr. Duane Gardner. The couple was married January, 28 1956 during the worst ice storm of the year. Janet and Duane spent their lives together in the Nashville area where they raised their family.

Janet's family was always her first priority; she took great pride in caring for her husband and children. Janet loved the family camping trips to Big Knob and Strawberry Lake in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She also traveled for over 30 years, participating in many State and National tournaments. She enjoyed traveling throughout the continental U.S. for the national tournaments. Throughout the years she lent her working talents outside her home by working part-time at Good Time Pizza

in Nashville, and spent several years cleaning the local bank.

Janet is survived by her husband of 53 years Duane; her son, Russell (Pam) Gardner; daughters, Rebecca "Becky" (Blain) Becktold, Karen (Dick-Richard) Mallison, Andrea (Ricky) Stull, and brother Erick Welker.

She is also survived by her Aunt Phyllis Bassett, Aunt Faith Greer, Aunt Marge Welker, Uncle Calvin Face, nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren

She was preceded in death by her brother, Gerald Welker.

Funeral services were held at the Daniels Funeral Home, Nashville, on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, with Pastor Cathy Christman officiating. Interment took place immediately following the funeral service at Lakeview Cemetery in Nashville.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Nashville Ambulance.

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

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

Free counseling sessions offered in Charlotte

Peace Counseling Center, under the supervision of Lori Poyer, LMJW ACSW, is offering no-fee individual counseling sessions with Donna Turner, a master's level intern in counseling.

Turner also will be offering a healthy Women's support group on four to six Tuesday mornings beginning in November. Topics for the group will include raising self-esteem, problem-solv-

ing, expressing feelings and feeling more confident.

This group will meet at the Peace Counseling Center in Charlotte. For further information, contact Donna Turner at 517-388-2798.

Counselor Corner

Patricia Blair joins the counseling staff

We are pleased to announce that Patricia Blair has joined our counseling staff. She will be job sharing the seventh to ninth grade counseling position with Lorraine Benedict. Be sure and stop by and meet Mrs. Blair. She brings a variety of counseling experience with her and is eager to get to know everyone. Mrs. Benedict will again be in Monday, Wednesday every other Friday and Mrs. Blair will be in the office every Tuesday and Thursday and alternating Fridays. As usual, we will share case notes updating each other on daily events to provide continuity of service to our students. Dawn Yager is available full time Monday through Friday.

Conferences

Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for the upcoming week. Conferences will take place at the high school and junior high Oct. 28 and 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. Several staff members who also serve as coaches, will not be available Wednesday night for conferences. They have a previously scheduled coaches meeting in Kalamazoo Wednesday. They will be available for appointments as needed or at the usual time Thursday. Staff members not in attendance Wednesday will have sign-up sheets on their doors for parents to leave name and number to set up an appointment. Dawn Yager will be available early on Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. and Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. Lorraine Benedict will be in her office from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, and Patricia Blair will be available 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Senior meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 28, will be a senior meeting to discuss college and career planning, senior trip, a senior calendar, and other information. The meetings will take place in English 4 classes and AP English.

What does a school counselor do all day?

About once a year, we like to take a little time to audit our activities and see where we are spending the bulk of our time. This week, we had a chance to look over our documentation. Of course the bulk of our time is working directly with students. At the start of the year, a large part of our time is spent helping students with scheduling and

adjusting to junior high or high school. However after a couple of weeks, we settle in to many more roles.

This fall, we have had an opportunity to work with students in the classroom setting. We worked with eighth grade career teachers, helping students to use our online career curriculum, Career Cruising. We have assisted in the junior high academic center, helping students to improve study skills. We have been meeting with students in freshmen focus and individually with freshmen students to help them set goals and develop an educational development plan (EDP) to chart their curriculum for the next four years.

Another role we play is consulting with a variety of people. We have many parent meetings and phone calls. We also work with administrators, our police office liaison, teachers, intermediate school district staff, community leaders and other mental health professionals. We serve on committees such as the district PA 226 committee and school improvement and are sometimes part of IEP meetings for special education students and students with 504 plans. Assisting gifted and talented kids in finding enrichment opportunities, testing and scholarships and consulting with home-school parents are other areas we are involved.

Finally, as previously stated, we work directly with students. Their needs are diverse. We assist students who are struggling academically. Usually this involves helping students remove barriers that interfere with learning. Barriers may include learning difficulties, peer conflicts, family crises, mental illness, poverty, personality clashes, etc. We assist students with social and psychological challenges, offering referrals for difficulties that are beyond our scope of expertise or that require more time than we can offer in the school setting. Our high school counselor helps students plan vo-educational classes at the career center, college testing, visits and scholarships and assists our principal with the master schedule.

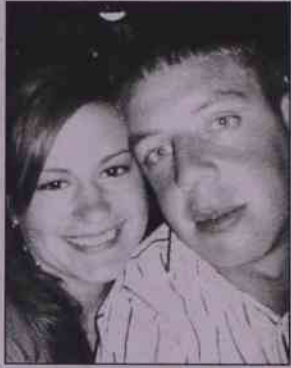
We always tell students that we are never bored and never run out of things to do. We are committed to doing the best we can to serve our school and community. Please be sure and let us know if you have concerns about your children. We want to help in any way we can.

Repair work on M-66 is underway

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has begun repairing one mile of concrete and updating pavement markings on M-66 (Saddlebag Lake Road) from M-50 (Brown Road) to the Barry/Ionia county line. The work, which began Thursday, is expected to continue through Saturday, Nov. 7.

While MDOT works on the highway, traffic will be regulated by a flagging crew, and vehicles wider than 8.5 feet will be prohibited in the construction zone.

This capital maintenance project is expected to extend the life of the pavement by five years, according to MDOT.



Cowell-Wawiernia

Ken and Sue Cowell of Vermontville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sammy to Trevor Wawiernia, son of Tony and Charlie Wawiernia of Vermontville.

Sammy graduated from Maple Valley High School in 2005 and is currently working as a register nurse at Battle Creek Health Systems.

Trevor graduated from Maple Valley High School in 1998 and he is self-employed.

A November 7, 2009 wedding is being planned.

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In My Own Write

by Amy Jo Parish



Underwater photography

I have personally contributed to the Thornapple River restoration project. I supplied a bit of technology to the waters. No, not by means of a GPS unit to plot the winding river's course or a weather station to help predict the rise in water levels, I gave something a bit more personal and meaningful, a digital camera.

Now, when I say gave, it wasn't in the traditional, "here is a gift," way. It was more of a, "hey, where did the camera go that was in my pocket?" sort of way.

I attended the Barry Conservation District event last Saturday at the Thornapple River and took a trip up and down its winding waters in a kayak. It was the perfect fall day for a trip on the river. The sun was beaming, and the fall colors were gorgeous. Swans and their young watched from the bank, the water was calm, and everyone seemed to enjoy the trip. It was neat to see the homes and village from a different perspective.

Some of the river covers ground that wasn't part of its original course, and stumps left over when it was logged off poke out of the water. Thankfully, we only got stuck once and were helped by a fellow kayaker wearing hip waders.

Despite the loss of the camera, it turned out to be a nice afternoon, and losing the camera into chilly waters may not be such a bad thing after all. Now, I know what to get my mother for her birthday this week since I had borrowed hers to take on the kayak trip.

Openness, professionalism doesn't matter

On a side note, I have to devote a few lines to the resignation of Maple Valley Superintendent Kim Kramer. I know there are people in the community who have less than glowing reviews of him. From my position at the paper, however, I have always found him to be open and honest each time I have spoken with him. He has always returned my calls and in a prompt manner. That doesn't always happen with officials, especially when there's less than pleasant news to report.

Hastings Public Schools just approved a \$700,000 cut from its budget without disclosing what those cuts were to the public or even the teachers. When the Valley has had to make cuts, a list of options has been provided to staff and public, showing how much various cuts would save the district. Kramer always presented the facts in a straightforward manner, and if he wasn't able to provide me with information, he would give me the reasons why.

I just hope the next superintendent takes the same no-nonsense approach. Sometimes, it's not about how much you get along with someone on a personal level but how they perform the job they were hired to do. These remarks may not make me the most popular person, but I'm just glad that I live in a country where opinions can be shared and everyone doesn't have to have the same one.

Students present "Arsenic and Old Lace"

A story involving a dead body, a psychotic brother and alcoholic surgeon assistant, young love and a police investigation are all set to take place on the stage at Maple Valley High School.

Students, under the direction of Norma Jean Acker, will present "Arsenic and Old Lace" in the auditorium Nov. 12, 13 and 14 at 7 p.m.

The story centers around the elderly Brewster sisters who live what seems to be quiet and quaint lives. When their nephew Jonathon returns home to hide from the police after his latest murder, hilarity and mystery ensue.

Courting the pastor's daughter, their other nephew, Mortimer, tries to keep his sanity when he finds out there might be more than one killer living at the Brewster residence. Add another nephew into the mix who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt, and the story becomes thicker than cement.

Made into a movie in 1944 starring Cary Grant, Acker said it is one of the most performed plays in the United States, though this is her first time directing the piece at

the school. "This is a really fun show — sort of a dark comedy — and the cast is having a good time rehearsing. We hope the community will come out and support us," said Acker.

Tickets will be available at the door; adults are \$7 and students and senior citizens are \$5.

At right, the cast of "Arsenic and Old Lace," posing for a photo, includes (back row, from left), Chelsea Khouri, Cam Eldridge, Lindsay Fisher, Sydney Khouri, Harlee Houghton, Chloe Babcock, Bethany Richter, Caleb Walker, Vicki Casteel, Brandy McKelvey (front row) Stephanie Schaeffer, Adam Zank, Lizzie Smith, Brittany Snook, Chris Eldridge and Casey Eldridge. (Missing from the photo are Kara Carlyle, R. J. Brown and Seth Earl.)



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Vermontville man sentenced for larceny

Jeffrey Jasper Waffle, 39, of Vermontville was found guilty of larceny of more than \$1,000 but less than \$2,000 by Judge James Fisher in Barry County Circuit Court Sept. 24.

Waffle was sentenced to 12 months in jail and 60 months of probation and was ordered to pay \$628 in costs and restitution.

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Local students in CMU production of 'The Secret Garden'

Two Central Michigan University students from Nashville will participate in the University Theatre production of "The Secret Garden," a Tony Award-winning musical, in

November. CMU senior Briana Ferrier, daughter of Larry and Rane Popa and graduate of Maple Valley High School, will play the role of Mary Lenox in the production.

CMU sophomore Chris Caldwell, son of Bob and Shawn Caldwell, will play Ben Weatherstaff.

Performances of "The Secret Garden" will take place at 7:30 p.m. nightly Nov. 11 to 14, and at 2 p.m. Nov. 15 in Moore Hall's Bush Theatre.

Directed by CMU communication and dramatic arts

faculty member Annette Thornton, "The Secret Garden" tells the tale of a young girl, her discovery of a secret garden and the search for its key.

Based on a 1911 novel by

Francis Hodgson Burnett, "The Secret Garden" first appeared as a serial in American Magazine in 1910. Marsha Norman, a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, wrote the book and lyrics,

and Lucy Simon wrote the music.

Tickets also can be purchased online at <http://centralboxoffice.cmich.edu>.

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THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Eldon C. Cerny, a single man and Margaret A. Myers, unmarried, joint tenants with full rights of survivorship, to Fifth Third Mortgage - MI, LLC, Mortgagee, dated September 15, 2005 and recorded September 27, 2005 in Instrument Number 1153406, Barry County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Three and 16/100 Dollars (\$144,503.16) including interest at 6.125% 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 Barry County Courthouse in Hastings in Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 p.m. on DECEMBER 3, 2009. Said premises are located in the Township of Irving, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: That part of the Northeast corner of said Section; thence North 00 degrees 00 feet 00 inches West 792.0 feet along the West line of said Northwest 1/4; thence North 89 degrees 47 feet 50 inches 220.0 feet; thence South 00 degrees 00 feet 00 inches East 792.0 feet; thence South 89 degrees 47 feet 50 inches West 220.0 feet along the South line of said Northwest 1/4 to the place of beginning. The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale, in that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. If you are a tenant in the property, please contact our office as you may have certain rights. Dated: October 23, 2009 Orlians Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400 File No. 200.5286 ASAP# 3315391 10/24/2009, 10/31/2009, 11/07/2009, 11/14/2009 06090349

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Lions ground Eagles in last second win

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

It is one of the biggest games of the year, not because it means a higher standing in the league for the winner or a chance in the playoffs. It is all about who is taking to the field.

In their biggest rivalry of the season, the Maple Valley Lions took on the Olivet Eagles in their last game of the season. Fortunately for the Lions, they went out the same way they came in - with a win. It was a nail-biting, edge of your seat 8-7 win that had the crowd and players on their feet.

"It was Olivet," said Coach Brian Lincoln. "I don't care what the records are, when Olivet comes to town it's going to be a ball game."

With just 31 seconds left, Maple Valley senior Zach Eddy snatched the pigskin from the air on a desperate Eagle pass from Jay Cousineau that proved to be the end for Olivet.

Trailing 7-0 for more than two quarters, the Lions had just scored the go-ahead points on a seven-yard touchdown run by sophomore Mike Caldwell and the ensuing two-point conversion try. The Lions went for the win with just 42 seconds remaining in the game, and quarterback Brad Laverty connected with Cody Linehart on the two-point pass.

The Lions were able to keep momentum through



Mike Caldwell pushes through two Eagles to get to the end zone for Maple Valley's only touchdown of the night Friday. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

each of the quarters, something they had struggled with earlier in the season, despite Olivet taking a 7-0 lead on a one-yard TD run by Cousineau late in the first half.

"These kids have never quit," said Lincoln. "They were one and seven coming into the night and they never quit. This is an awesome group of kids."

Former Coach Guenther Mittelstaedt was honored during half-time for his 23 years of coaching and predicted the outcome to the crowd.

"I hope, I know Maple Valley can come back and beat Olivet," said Mittelstaedt. "I always told my team on Friday night that there was no other sideline I would rather stand on."

If the first quarter had a title, it would be the Brad

Laverty Hustle. The junior quarterback rushed through the line of Eagles play after play to gain yardage for the Lions. On each play, it took a minimum of three Eagles to take him down.

Laverty ended the night with 16 rushes for 81 yards, and connected on 5-of-9 passes for another 22 yards. Kyle Burns added 12 rushes for 40 yards for the Lions.

In addition to scoring the Lions' lone touchdown, Caldwell led the defense with 14 tackles. Burns had five, and Garrett Reid also had an interception.

Cousineau was 7-of-16 throwing the ball, for 79 yards and the two interceptions. Tyler Stutzman led the Eagles on the ground, with 11 rushes for 45 yards. Maple Valley limited the Eagles to just 115 total yards of offense all night.

For five seniors, it was their last time taking to the field with the Lions and Lincoln is looking to next season to build on what the team has developed during his first year at the helm.

Lincoln gave the team a little last minute encouragement to help them earn the win.

"I told them they were on the brink and if you don't do it tonight, you'll have to wait until next year," said Lincoln.

The wait is over and the Lions end the season with a 2-7 record. Olivet ends the regular season at 6-3, and will wait 'til Sunday evening to find out where and when it plays its first post-season game.

Pennfield earned the Kalamazoo Valley Association championship Friday night. While the Panthers were scoring a 27-18 victory over Delton Kellogg, which improved Pennfield's season record to 8-1, Constantine was downing Schoolcraft 20-13 to leave those two teams tied for second place in the league at 7-2.



Sophomore Garrett Reid pushes up the field for the Lions during Friday night's contest with Olivet. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

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Lion ladies move up at KVA Meet

Maple Valley's varsity girls' cross country team moved from sixth to fifth in the Kalamazoo Valley Association final standings thanks to a fifth-place finish at Tuesday's league championship meet hosted by Parchment.

Maple Valley was led by a freshman, Jessica Rushford paced the Lions with a time of 22:19 in 15th place.

The Lions' Panterra Rider 23rd in 23:39, Kaytlin Furlong 25th in 23:50, Lauren Trumble 29th in 23:59, and Megan Shoemaker 33rd in 24:24.

Delton Kellogg freshman Brianna Russell beat Olivet's Katy Barkley to the finish line, to be the league's runner-up behind Schoolcraft's Krista Broekema who came in at 20:08. Russell finished in

20:43, and Barkley in 20:45. The only other girl in under 21 minutes was Pennfield's Jessi Lewis who finished in 20:57.

Schoolcraft had all seven of its girls finish in the top 24, and its top five were all in the top 11. Behind Broekema, Katilee Bensley was fifth in 21:10, Sarah Hartlieb sixth in 21:13, Madeline Hartlieb tenth in 21:29, and Monica Lawrence 11th in 21:40.

Schoolcraft's girls had just 27 points on the day, compared to 92 for second-place Hackett Catholic Central. Delton finished with 99, followed by Pennfield 101, Maple Valley 106, Kalamazoo Christian 116, Constantine 171, and Galesburg-Augusta 193.

Schoolcraft's Charlton Craig finished the boys' race

in 17:12 to earn individual medallist honors. He was just ahead of Parchment's Stuart Crowell with came in with a time of 17:26.

Hackett Catholic Central had four All-KVA runners, and earned the league championship by finishing with just 51 points. Delton Kellogg was second with 87, followed by Parchment 96, Schoolcraft 99, Pennfield 133, Constantine 151, Olivet 152, Kalamazoo Christian 157, and Maple Valley 196.

Hackett was led by Peter Herzog, who was fourth overall in 17:44. Brendan Molony was fifth in 17:45, Michael Myers eighth in 18:25, Philip Herzog 12th in 18:55, and Jonah Mathieu 22nd in 19:24.

Joe Benedict earned All-KVA honors for the Lions, placing ninth in 18:36.

Maple Valley's Brady Halliwill was 19th in 19:16, Christian Schmadicke 54th in 22:27, Darius France 56th in 23:36, and Robbie Hanford 58th in 26:23.

Ionia's boys dominated Saturday's Greater Lansing Championships hosted by Grand Ledge High School.

The Bulldog boys team had all seven of its runners finish in the top 27, and its five scorers at the top were all in the top 20 including three in the top ten. The team finished with just 49 points, besting second place Williamston by 121 points. The Hornets finished with 170 points.

Maple Valley's boys didn't earn a team score, with only four runners. Benedict was 86th in 17:51, Halliwill 177th in 19:26, France 227th in 22:13, and Hanford 237th in 25:26.

Haslett's Ian Hancke was the individual champion, hitting the finish line in 15:47. St. Johns' Morsi Rayyan was second in 15:52. They were the only two runners to break the 16-minute mark on the day.

Ionia's Austin Alcalá was third in 16:02. His teammate Nick Wharry was fifth in 16:09, and Don Blight ninth in 16:24. Ionia also got a 14th place finish from Connor Montgomery who came in in 16:37, and an 18th place finish from Cody Kasper who finished in 16:40.

Haslett was third in the boys' team standings, with 191 points. Okemos was fourth with 197, followed by East Lansing 210, Alma 254, Holt 266, Potterville 274, Mason 279, St. Johns 306, Howell 339, Grand Ledge 345, Stockbridge 360, Saranac 370, Lansing Catholic 409, DeWitt 412, Perry 426, Charlotte 448,

Lansing Waverly 562, Eaton Rapids 581, Fowlerville 649, Leslie 653, Ovid-Elsie 678, Bath 679, Laingsburg 700, Fowler 712, Lansing Eastern 724, Carson City-Crystal 739, Olivet 754, Lakewood 760, Portland 787, Pewamo-Westphalia 796, St. Louis 874, Lansing Everett 1038, and E. Lansing Summit Christian 1145.

The girls' meet was much closer on the day, with Grand Ledge edging Leslie 96-99. Williamston was third with 104 points. Leslie was actually the first team with five runners to finish.

Williamston had two of the top four runners, with Emma Drenth second in 18:29 and Lauren Helm fourth in 18:48.

Laingsburg's Amaya Ayers was the individual champion in 18:29, and Ionia's Amanda Brewer third in 18:44. Saranac's Melinda Palinkas came in fifth in 18:51.

Maple Valley was led by Rushford, who finished 10th in 21:52. Furlong was 123rd in 22:06, Trumble 146th in 22:38, Shoemaker 160th in 23:02, and Rider 174th in 23:43.

St. Johns was fourth in the team standings in 199 points, followed by East Lansing 206, Okemos 242, Lansing Catholic 250, DeWitt 255, St. Louis 288, Portland 298, Stockbridge 302, Howell 318, Ionia 320, Holt 368, Haslett 422, Mason 473, Eaton Rapids 479, Perry 485, Saranac 523, Alma 542, Laingsburg 572, Fowler 585, Pewamo-Westphalia 619, Bath 626, Ovid-Elsie 696, Maple Valley 699, Fowlerville 723, Charlotte 761, Lansing Eastern 775, Lansing Waverly 783, Lakewood 839, Potterville 877, Carson City-Crystal 910, Lansing Sexton 985,

and Lansing Everett 1141.

LEGAL NOTICE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Karl L. Golnek and Suzanne Golnek, husband and wife, to Ameriquest Mortgage Company, Mortgagee, dated February 18, 2005 and recorded March 10, 2005 in Instrument Number 1142532, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee in trust for the benefit of the Certificateholders for Ameriquest Mortgage Securities Trust 2005-R3, Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-R3 by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Five and 10/100 Dollars (\$257,325.10) including interest at 7.875% 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 vendue at the Barry County Courthouse in Hastings in Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 p.m. on DECEMBER 3, 2009. Said premises are located in the Township of Rutland, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: The West 34 acres of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 8, Town 3 North, Range 9 West, except commencing 46 rods West of the Northeast corner of the West 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of said Section 8, thence South 10 rods; thence West 4 rods; thence North 10 rods; thence East 4 rods to beginning. Also except, commencing 145 feet East of the North 1/4 post of said Section 8 for a point of beginning; thence East 66 feet; thence South 800 feet; thence West 200 feet; thence North 500 feet; thence East 134 feet; thence North 300 feet to beginning. Also except, commencing 50 rods West of the Northeast corner of the West 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of said Section 8, thence South 165 feet, thence East 66 feet, thence South 595 feet, thence West 220 feet, thence North 455 feet, thence East 154 feet, thence North 74 feet, thence West 66 feet, thence North 231 feet, thence East 66 feet to point of beginning. Also, the East 28 acres of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section 8, except commencing at the Northeast corner of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section 8; thence West 470 feet, thence South 663.4 feet; thence East 470 feet; thence North 663.4 feet to beginning. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. If you are a tenant in the property, please contact our office as you may have certain rights. Dated: October 23, 2009
Orlans Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400
File No. 356.3007 ASAP# 3315436 10/24/2009, 10/31/2009, 11/07/2009, 11/14/2009
06699356

Party for coach Mittelstaedt planned for Saturday, Oct. 24

There are plans for an open house type party for former Maple Valley varsity football coach Guenther Mittelstaedt to be held Saturday, Oct. 24, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Maple Valley High School gymnasium.

Plans are also in the works to honor the coach during the Friday night football game the evening before.

The open house is open to the public and we were hoping you could get the information in the paper this week.

"We are really hoping for a large turnout to honor Guenther for his years of commitment and for molding young men's lives," said Marty Martin who coached with Mittelstaedt for 15 years.

"We are really hoping former players who are still in the area, and local folks spread the word. As a former player of Guenther's and a former coach on his staff, he has influenced every player in some way, shape or form. He has taught them the meaning of hard work, commitment, team and winning with grace. I have seen him go out of his way many times to help players and former players in need."

Martin suggested that community members use Facebook on-line to spread the word.

TRICK OR TREAT!
Halloween trick-or-treat hours for the Village of Nashville will be on October 31 from 5:30 pm to 8 pm.

Youth wrestling registration begins

The Maple Valley youth wrestling program will hold several registration events during the coming weeks. The program is open to youths age 4 through eighth grade. The registration fee includes My-Way Registration, club fees and an MV wrestling T-shirt. Participants also can take part in optional tournaments, though each tournament requires additional fees.

Practice will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m., beginning Nov. 17.

Registration will take place at Fuller Street Elementary and Maplewood Elementary on Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 4 to 8 p.m. and Thursday, Oct. 29, from 1 to 7 p.m. Athletes also may register at Maple Valley High School Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.

For more information about the program, contact Jason Murton at 517 204-6402 or visit www.maplevalleywrestlingclub.com.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act and the Michigan Civil Rights Act which collectively make it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, age or marital status, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To report discrimination call the Fair Housing Center at 616-451-2980. The HUD toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Community gathers to explore new weir on Thornapple River

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer
More than 50 people gathered Saturday, Oct. 17, to catch a glimpse of the new weir on the Thornapple River.

A crew of workers with heavy machinery had removed the dam located in the Thornapple River behind GoodTime Pizza on M-66 over the past few weeks, and the event was held to show off the changes.

Chris Freiburger from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources said the project went well and was completed in a short period of time compared to other projects.

"The project went quickly compared to most other restoration projects. It was

completed in just over a week and a half," said Freiburger.

The removal of the dam creates 60 miles of unimpeded waterway for canoe and fish enthusiasts to enjoy.

Mike and Karen Snyder reside along the Thornapple River and said they were opposed to the project at first. After attending some of the meetings and researching the topic on their own, the couple has changed their thoughts on the project.

"We were a little bit against it at first," said Mike Snyder. "As the process went on, we educated ourselves on the Internet. (The dam) was an icon to me and hard to see it go, but working with Joanne (Barnard of the Barry Conservation District), they are doing what they said

would do."

Photos of the dam through the years were on display at the event, and stories were shared about life on the river.

With the removal, the span of the river was reduced to around nine feet, close to what it was before the dam was built. A weir with three steps was put in its place to keep large amounts of sediment from traveling downstream and are each one foot in height. Freiburger said that Midwestern species of fish are not able to jump more than one foot at a time, and the weir will allow them to travel upstream.

Though the bulk of the work is finished, grading of the banks and landscaping still must be completed.

"We're here to first of all, celebrate the dam as part of Nashville and secondly, to learn about what we have now — a new river section," said Barnard.

Dave Brown from the Eaton Conservation District attended the event and announced a new project set to get underway in the near future. A plot of 35 acres located behind Maple Valley High School has been purchased by the Department of Natural Resources and will be converted into public land.

Brown said conservation, pollinator gardens and other learning projects are slated to be part of the land in the future.

"We're going to try to make this a showpiece for the kids from the high school so they can come out and see what used to be there," said Brown. "It'll have trails in there eventually."

The Eaton Conservation District will be in charge of the land, though it was purchased by the DNR.

"The property spans on both sides of the river, and this all came about because of the work here in Nashville. The DNR purchased the property but didn't have the funds to maintain it," said Brown.

Freiburger said that now that the project is complete, the community should see improvement in conditions along the river and also in the fish species in the water.

"This will help maintain river conditions for a healthy system," said Freiburger. "The walleye downstream can now move upstream and next spring, we are planning on a walleye stocking program."



More than 50 people attend the event held by the Barry Conservation District to show off the work recently completed at the site of the dam behind Good Time Pizza in Nashville. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Joanne Barnard, director of the Barry Conservation District, puts on boots as she prepares to help get kayaks into the Thornapple River. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

LEAF PICK UP

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.**

Nashville DPW

GOOD TIME PIZZA

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