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New truck dedicated to former fire board chairman

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Outstanding coaches are honored with fields or stadiums named after them.

Superb civic leaders may get a park in their honor. Exceptional firefighters get, well, a truck.

The Nashville-Castleton-

Maple Grove Fire Department gathered Monday, Nov. 3, to honor one of its own at a special ceremony.

Justin Cooley of Nashville has been an almost permanent fixture on the fire department for nearly all of his life. In recognition of not only his years of service but his dedication to the department, he was honored with a plaque that will hang on a newly purchased tanker truck.

For 35 years, Cooley was the chairman of the fire board, and previous to those decades, served as a fireman himself. He still has a certificate awarded to him in March of 1964, naming him as an honorary member of the department for his years as a firefighter.

Bill Wilson said Cooley's commitment to the department made the decision to dedicate the truck an easy one.



Justin Cooley (center) poses with family members in front of the tanker that was recently dedicated in his honor. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Justin Cooley waves as he gets a ride in the rig that was dedicated in his honor Monday night. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

"We appreciate all his years of service to the department," said Wilson before the plaque was pre-

sented. "He put in a lot of years down here and always saw to it that the equipment was kept up and they had

what they needed to work with. He is a good man to have around."

FIRETRUCK, continued on page 4

'Arsenic and Old Lace' coming to MVHS stage

If murder, Teddy Roosevelt, a minister's daughter, an alcoholic surgeon, and a theater critic are put together, what is the result? A play full of mayhem, humor and more than enough murder to go around.

The play "Arsenic and Old Lace" will be brought to life next weekend by students at Maple Valley High School. The cast and crew, under the direction of Norma Jean Acker, have battled the flu season to rehearse and bring the popular work to life.

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

ensue. Courting the pastor's daughter, another 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 starting 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.

Show dates are Nov. 12, 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. in the MVHS auditorium. Tickets are available at the door. Adults are \$7; students and senior citizens are \$5.

The cast includes Chelsea Khouri and Brittany Snook sharing the role of Abby Brewster, Cam Eldridge as the Rev. Dr. Harper and Chris Eldridge as Teddy Brewster. Officer Brophy will be played by Chloe Babcock, Officer Klein by Harlee Houghton, Officer Kelly by Beth Richter, Martha Brewster by Lizzie Smith, Elaine Harper by Stephanie Schaffer, Mortimer Brewster by Adam Zank, Mr. Gibbs by R.J. Brown, Johnathan Brewster

PLAY, continued on page 7



Chelsea Khouri and Lizzie Smith serve the Rev. Dr. Harper (Cam Eldridge) a cup of their special tea while Teddy Harper (Chris Eldridge) charges up San Juan Hill. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

Historical society to hold potluck dinner and meeting

The Vermontville Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, Nov. 12, at the Congregational church on Main Street. The meeting will feature a potluck dinner and begins at 6:30 p.m.

Secretary JoeAnn Nehmer explained the mission and goal of the society.

"The historical society of Vermontville wishes to preserve and maintain the history of the area," she said. "Our society is no different than any others in the county - a small group of people always wishing to obtain new young members to carry on the efforts."

Recently, the village

obtained a large collection of photo negatives from the Vermontville *Echo* paper. Doug Kelsey, society president and Vermontville mayor, sought and received donations to have those printed for viewing.

Jim Miller of Miller's Photographic Studio has uploaded them to his Web

site. To view the photos, visit millerphotographicstudio.com and follow the link to the restored historical images slideshow.

Nehmer said the society encourages anyone with an interest in the history of the area to attend the meeting and to bring a dish to pass, along with table service.

In This Issue...

- New kind of 'blackboard' introduced at Maplewood
- Local residents pull out all the stops to celebrate Halloween
- Local students don character costumes to encourage reading
- Lions enjoy road to district championship game

FFA members attend national conventions

Maple Valley FFA sent five members and advisor Aaron Saari to 82nd annual National Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Oct. 20.

Members attending were Jaime Curth, Eric Scott, Savanna Seavolt, Jennifer Porter and Nicole Porter.

The group met the bus in Coldwater to ride with Charlotte, Olivet, Centerville and Branch Area Career Center students.

The first destination was an educational trip to Chicago. Highlights of the stop included visiting the

Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. On the way to Indianapolis, the bus made a stop at Fair Oaks Dairy farm in Indiana.

On the second day, the group visited Heritage recycling and waste management



Maple Valley High School FFA Leader Aaron Saari, along with students Nicole Porter, Jaime Curth, Savanna Seavolt, Jennifer Porter and Eric Scott attend the 82nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. (Photo provided)



Josh Norton, Amber Cantrell, Hillary Ruffner and Jennifer Curtis were awarded American Degrees at the annual convention. (Photo provided)

After the tour, the group went to downtown Indianapolis to attend the convention. The first session included many informational and motivational speakers including Mike Rowe from the Discovery Channel's hit show "Dirty Jobs."

Many awards were given out at the convention and attendees learned a lot of new activities and visited with colleges and agriculture industries.

The remainder of the week was spent sitting in on various sessions and attending the FFA career show and shopping mall.

On Friday, the students met Assistant Principal Duska Brumm at the convention center who was attending the Farm Bureau administrator's trip. They showed her the sites of the convention while she was there.

On Saturday, Amber Cantrell, Josh Norton,

Hillary Ruffner and Jennifer Curtis received their American FFA Degrees. The American Degree is the highest honor that can be achieved as an FFA member, and it is given to high school graduates.

"Overall, all members attending the convention had a wonderful time and learned a lot of new and exciting things," said Saari.

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facilities, which processes hazardous waste. This facility also takes computer circuit boards and processes the copper from them into a micronutrient which is fed to hogs and poultry.

Haskin recovering from ground collapse

Brian Haskin of Sunfield is home recovering from an accident that happened Thursday, Oct. 15.

Had he not been recovering from eye surgery, he would have been on a combine harvesting the farm's 4,000 acres of corn and soybeans. But because he had doctor's orders to avoid the dust of harvest, he went to work remodeling his daughter Sarah's house on Saubee Road.

He was in a trench digging a footing when a wall gave way and buried him up to his neck. No one was near enough to hear his cries for help, so he remained buried for 20 minutes before another worker came to see why machinery was running but no one was around.

EMTs were called and spent another 25 minutes digging him out. Haskin was airlifted to Borgess Hospital in

Kalamazoo with multiple fractures in his chest — his sternum, clavicle and three small bones in his neck.

His wife, Becky, said his legs are fine; walking is no problem. He has trouble getting up and down and moving his arms. For the first few days, he could not feed himself. Taking a deep breath was very painful, she said.

His recovery could be six to eight weeks.

Becky said the experience has given them a lot for which to be grateful. She said they are blessed with friends and family who have offered all kinds of help.

"It seems like eight million people who want to know what they can do," she said.

Her biggest task now is to remind Brian to keep low and allow his body to heal.

LOCAL CHURCH SCHEDULE

ABUNDANT GRACE WORLD OUTREACH CENTER

Come as you are but don't leave the same. Meet at Kalamo Twp. Hall 8960 Spore Ave. Vermontville, MI 49096
Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
Evening Service 6 p.m.
(Every 1st & 3rd Sunday) 6 p.m.
REV. DAWN GOODMAN
Contact numbers: (517) 852-0896 or (517) 852-9606, leave message

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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e-mail: grace@gc3.org

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.
Children's Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Adult Sunday School: 10:50 a.m.
United Methodist Women: 3rd Thursday

KALAMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Services 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
Other: Prayer Walk, U.M. Women, Bible Study, Mission Projects & more.
PASTOR SUSAN OLSEN
Phone 517-852-1993

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

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.
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PASTOR DEANO LAMPHERE
PASTOR MATT ROHDE

NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARRYVILLE

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Phone 517-852-1993

QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship 11 a.m.
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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

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

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

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

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

New kind of 'blackboard' introduced at Maplewood

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

The nearly 30 students in Josh Meersma's fifth grade class at Maplewood Elementary School in Vermontville can hold a conversation without making a sound. The students discuss the novel, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, without even opening their mouths.

This is possible through an online platform called Blackboard that Meersma recently introduced into his teaching lessons. The site lets users comment on a topic,

check out new assignment and explore study aides on subjects being taught in the classroom.

Noelle Rohde said Blackboard gives her a new and interesting tool to complete her work, though she had never heard of it before Meersma started using it in the classroom.

"I've never done it before, and once Mr. Meersma introduced it to me, I love it, and I get on it almost every night," said Rohde. "It kind of helps you learn about what

other people think about the assignments."

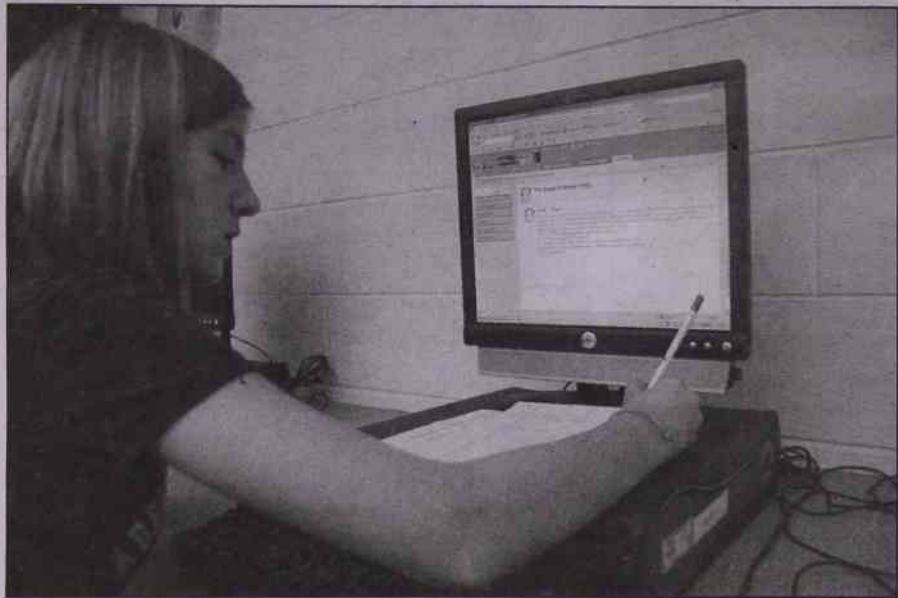
For most of the students, the appeal of Blackboard comes from using technology in a new way while keeping in touch with classmates.

"I like it," said student Alex Musser. "You can communicate with friends about school work, and you're on the computer at the same time."

Since the start of the year, the class has read four novels and has used Blackboard for each once. Not limited to literature, Meersma also has



Maplewood Teacher Josh Meersma helps Alex Musser navigate through the online learning platform used in the class. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Writing down an essay assignment based on the novel, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Noelle Rohde said the online program has helped her learn more effectively. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

used the program for science lessons and other subjects.

Meersma was first introduced to Blackboard during a recent online class he completed and has worked to implement it into his lessons ever since.

"I took an online course as part of my master's degree and learned that as a school district, employees have access to it," said Meersma. "Slowly, I've been teaching myself and expanding my understanding of the program."

Already seeing good results from the program, Meersma said it is a way to

help not only students who are already hitting high marks but also gives struggling students a different way to learn.

"The students are practicing their typing but are also being engaged in a different way," said Meersma. "It gives a little bit extra motivation for kids that are performing well in class, and it's another way to plug a kid into what's going on."

Mary Slag, in charge of elementary curriculum in the district, said Blackboard is a tool educators can use at no expense to enhance the classroom experience for students.

"It gives kids a chance to see that a computer is more than something to play

around with; it's a tool," she said.

"It's a way to communicate with kids, virtually. It started at the colleges and is moving down into the lower grades at schools."

In the coming years, Meersma said he can only see technology becoming more ingrained in the classroom and programs such as Blackboard becoming more widely used.

"We have students enrolled in Michigan Virtual High School. Technology is not going to go away; it's only going to become part of the classroom even more," said Meersma.

Kalamo church starting food distribution

Kalamo United Methodist Church, in an effort to help its neighbors in need, is starting a monthly food distribution program.

Residents in the Kalamo Township area in need of food assistance are asked to register by phoning 517-588-9430, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. by Nov. 11 and speaking with a church representative.

For those who pre-regis-

ter, food will be available Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the church, 1475 S. Ionia Road in Kalamo Township from 9 to 11 a.m. The church is four miles east from M-66, then 1.5 miles south of M-79 on Ionia Road. Those receiving food will be asked to provide a current driver's license and two recent bills that show the

address listed on the driver's license as proof of residency.

People currently receiving food from other food pantries are asked to only be involved with one food pantry. Folks who live in the Kalamo Township area who would like to switch to this one are welcome. Those not involved in any food distri-

bution and run out of food before the month is over are especially welcome to receive help from Kalamo United Methodist Church's food distribution.

Barry County Extension Calendar of Events

- Nov. 7 Youth Day, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Thornapple Valley Church.
- Nov. 7 Block Printing Class, 3 p.m., Courts & Law Building, Hosts: Art 4 Fun 4-H Club.
- 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.

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MON-TH 4:40, 6:50, 9:00

LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R)
SAT-SUN 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40
MON-TH 4:20, 7:10, 9:40

ASTRO BOY (PG)
SAT-SUN 12:10, 2:15, 4:30
MON-TH 4:30

MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT (PG)
SAT-SUN 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:25, 9:50
MON-TH 4:50, 7:25, 9:50

COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) 7:00, 9:30

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'Needy Feets' boot drive underway

by **Bannon Backhus**
Staff Writer

The fifth annual "Needy Feets" boot drive is underway across the county. Organized primarily by Angie Boniface, office coordinator for Dr. David Mansky's podiatry office in Hastings, the goal behind the drive is to collect new or gently used boots and money to provide children of needy families with warm footwear this winter.

Boniface said that the drive, which was created by Mansky and his staff, originally was comprised of a single drop box for boots located at the office in the Family Tree Medical Associates suite, before it incorporated additional drop boxes at other area businesses.

"I said to Dr. Mansky, 'You know, it's time to reach out a little further,'" she explained. "And that's when I contacted a few extra places."

Drop boxes for the drive can be found at Hometown Lumber of Nashville, Nashville Family Practice, Shell Station of Nashville and Thornapple Trading Post, among others.

Boniface said that this year's boot drive will be different in that canisters to collect money for the charity also will be located at businesses around the area.

"A lot of times, it's so much easier to drop 50 cents into a canister than go out and buy a couple of pairs of boots," she explained.

Canisters can be found

locally at Hometown Lumber, Maple Valley Pharmacy and Thornapple Trading Post.

Money collected will be used to purchase new boots.

Boniface said that boots collected and bought for the drive will be distributed to students of the Delton Kellogg, Hastings and Nashville school districts.

"We would like the boots to arrive to the schools right around the first of December," she explained.

The drive began Nov. 2 and will continue through Nov. 28. Additional information on the drive can be obtained by contacting the schools or Boniface at Mansky's office at 269-945-2222.

FIRETRUCK, continued from page 1



With more than four decades of service under his belt, Justin Cooley's name will now ride to each fire in the form of this plaque that will be installed on the side of the department's new tanker truck. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

Through the years, Cooley said he worked to do all he could with the resources the department had to ensure that the most up-to-date equipment and gear were available to the men and women who put their lives in danger.

"It's been a long time since I started on here," Cooley told the crowd that had gathered to honor him. "I've seen a lot of changes since then, most of them have been good. It has been nice working with all the guys I've worked with. I've had some wonderful experiences these past 35 years or more."

The 3,000-gallon tanker carries twice the amount of water as the previous vehicle. The last time the department purchased a new vehicle was more than 10 years ago.

Area Obituaries

Loretta Long

HASTINGS - Mrs. Loretta Long, age 85, of Hastings passed away Monday, November 2, 2009 at Pennock Hospital.

Loretta was born in Magoffin, KY on September 17, 1924, the daughter of the late Smith and Cora (Miller) Bailey. Loretta spent her childhood in the Salyersville, KY area and attended local schools there.

She was the widow of Homer Long. The couple was married on August 30, 1941 in Magoffin County, Kentucky. They spent their early married lives together in Kentucky before moving to the Sunfield area in late 1940s. The couple settled in the Hastings area in the early 1950s on Wall Lake Rd. where they raised their family together. After Homer retired in the early 1970s the couple relocated to Jordan Lake in Lake Odessa and also wintered in Tarpen Springs, Florida.

Loretta and Homer loved to spend time together fishing; while in Florida they would frequent the Tarpen Springs Power Dam, where they would fish from the banks with their cane poles. Homer and Loretta were married 47 years when Homer passed away in 1988.

Loretta spent several years cooking specialty items part-

time at Bobs Restaurants in Lake Odessa, and occasionally at the Hastings location. She was also employed at Orchard Industries in Hastings for a few years before joining Pennock Hospital in the Housekeeping Department where she was employed for over 15 years. Loretta finally retired in 1998 at the age of 74.

Loretta is survived by her children, Rotha Murphy, her three sons Carmon Long, Ricky (Jean) Long, and Smith (Myranda) Long. She is also survived by her many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was predeceased in death by her beloved husband of 47 years Homer, and her eight siblings.

Funeral services were held at The Daniels Funeral Home, Nashville, on Friday, November 6, 2009, with Pastor Roger Claypool officiating. Interment took place immediately following the funeral service at Woodland Memorial Park, Woodland.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Barry County Commission On Aging.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Daniels Funeral Home in Nashville. For further details please visit our website at www.daniels-funeralhome.net

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06699786

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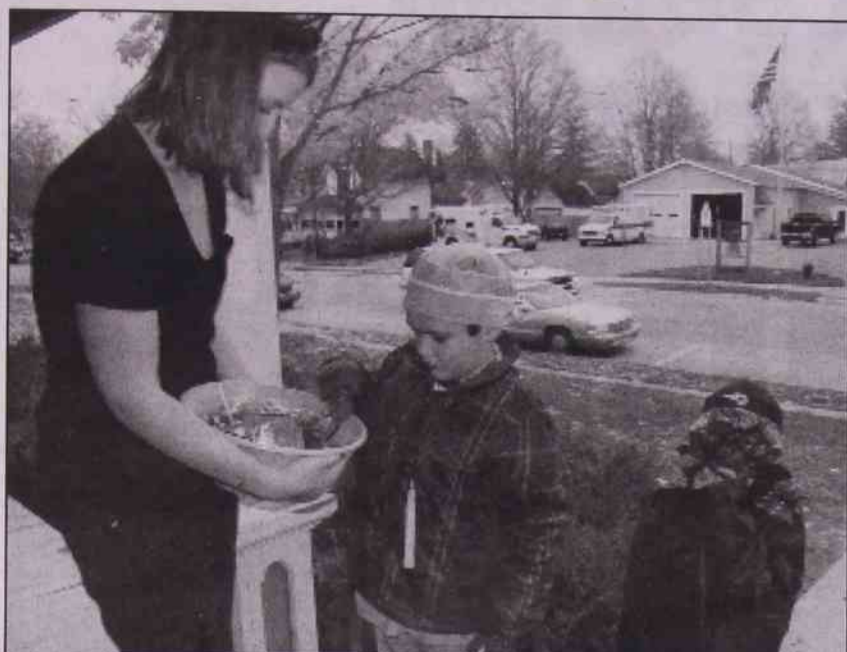
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Local residents gather to celebrate halloween



"Dr." Connor Wood gets a treat from Kari Hummell on the steps of Putnam District Library. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



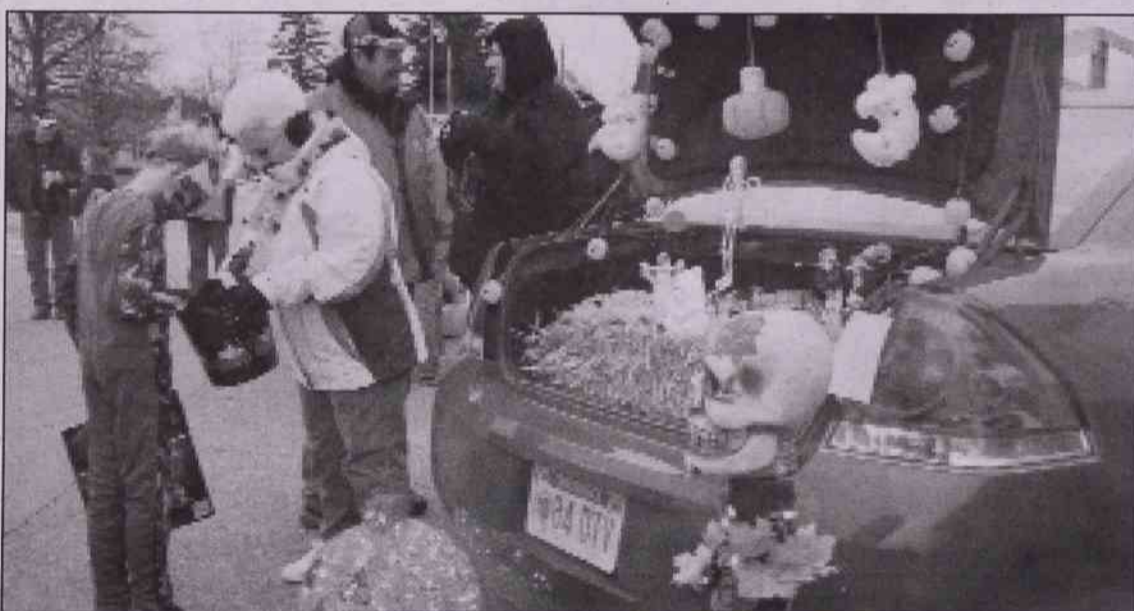
Recreating a malt shop from the 1950s are (from left) Carmen Binkowski, Michelle O'Mara, Joshua O'Mara, Mark O'Mara, Scott Binkowski, Tyler Binkowski, Justin O'Mara and Ethan Binkowski. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



The Vermontville Public Library won first place for its entry in the trunk-or-treat. The library showed the movie, "The Birds," after the event and used it as inspiration for its display. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Ace Auto in Vermontville is once again transformed into a haunted garage and features a host of ghoulish delights. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Dressed at the Transformer, Bumblebee, Jake Simmons gets some sweet treats. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

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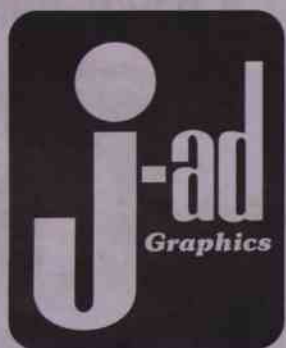
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Local students don character costumes to encourage reading

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Students in Norma Jean Acker's leadership class at Maple Valley High School are willing to help others in the community — even when it means wearing a fuzzy, oversized costume in front of hundreds of people.

Several students from the class helped promote literacy at an event held inside the Lansing Mall. Dressed as a caterpillar from Eric Carle's book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and Martha from the PBS television show,

"Martha Speaks," leadership students passed out literacy information and helped with a variety of activities at the event.

The annual promotion is organized by the Early Childhood Literacy Coalition.

"The message of the event is that everyday moments are learning moments," said Karen Woodman, family literacy manager at CACS Head Start.

After completing a scavenger hunt throughout the mall, families were present-

ed with a book to take home to promote literacy education.

Woodman said the event went smoothly, though fewer families in attendance which she said was due to the Michigan versus Michigan State game taking place. At this year's event, more than 250 families attended, compared to the nearly 500 who have taken part in previous years.

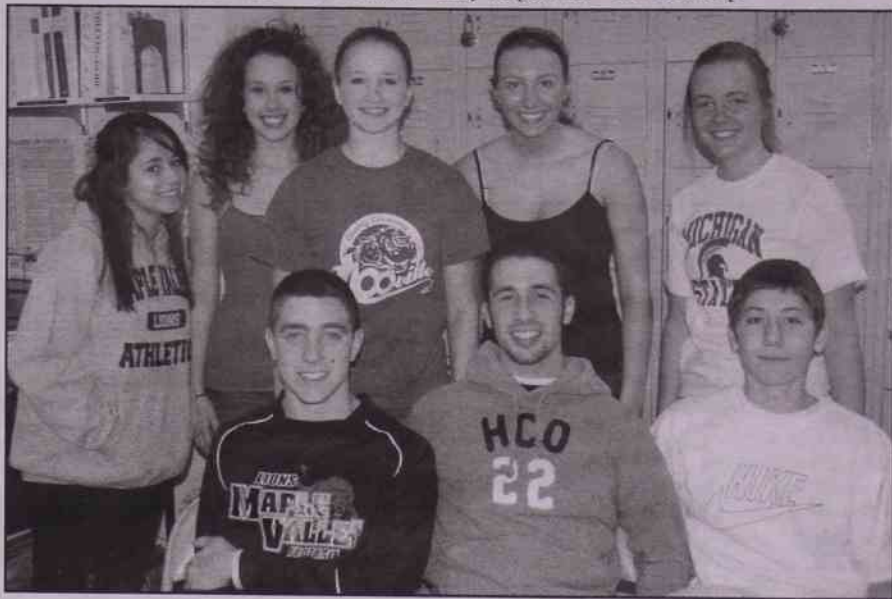
She said she appreciated participation from the leadership class and is looking forward to holding another suc-

cessful event next year.

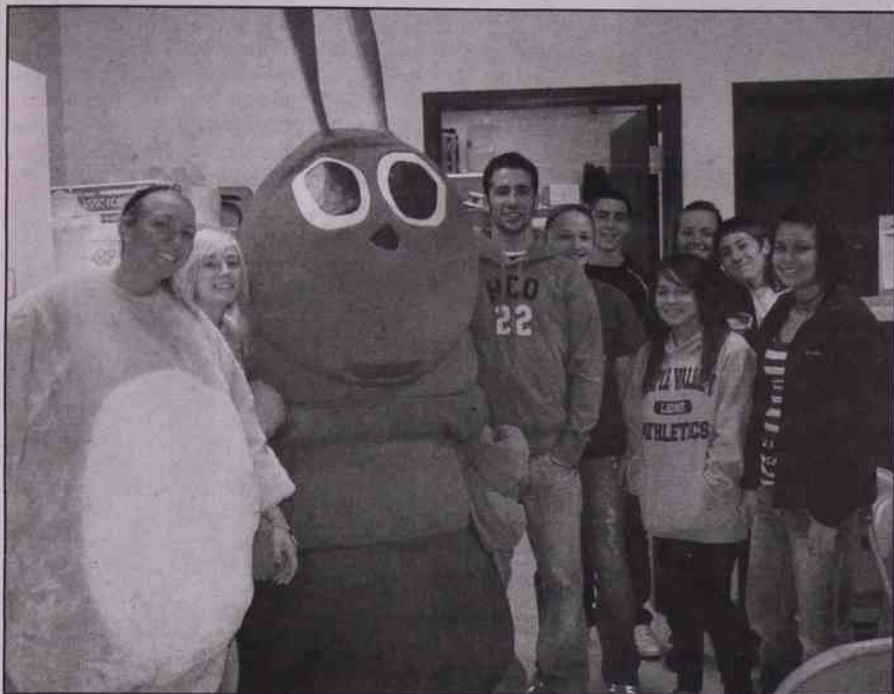
"The students were won-

derful to work with," said Woodman. "They helped out

a lot, and we really appreciate their help."



Students in the Maple Valley High School Leadership Class recently helped promote literacy during an event at the Lansing Mall. The students included (back row l-r) Rita Hassouna, Maci Morehouse, Michaela Bromley, Catara Briggs, Lauren Ewing; (front row) Matt Woodman, Jordan Sprague and Cody Brumm. (Photo provided by MVHS Leadership Class)



Catara Briggs (left) donned a costume, along with Bri Miller (The Very Hungry Caterpillar, center) to encourage children to develop reading skills. Jordan Sprague, Michaela Bromley, Matt Woodman, Rita Hassouna, Lauren Ewing, Cody Brumm and Shay Rost also helped with the event. (Photo provided by MVHS Leadership Class)

Vermontville Christmas Basket program now accepting donations

The Vermontville Christmas Basket program, which is coordinated by the Vermontville Women's Club and supported by local churches, businesses and service organizations, is seeking donations to make the holidays brighter for local families.

Donation sites for toys and nonperishable food items

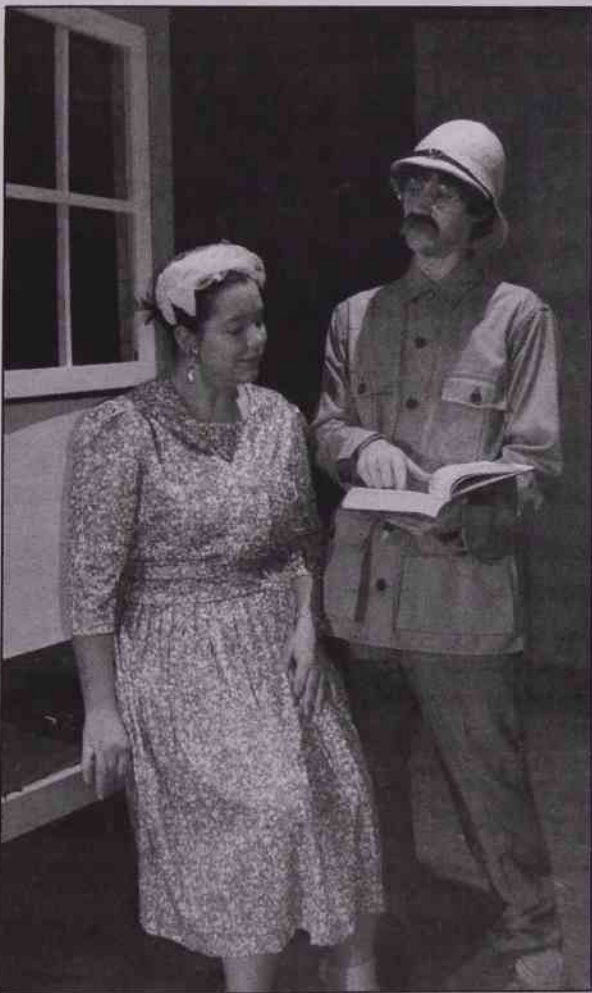
have been set up at Maplewood Elementary in Vermontville, the Vermontville Post Office and Independent Bank on Main Street. The deadline for toy donations is Friday, Nov. 27, and the deadline for food donations is Friday, Dec. 18.

Those who wish to receive a Christmas basket need to register with the Family

Independence Agency (FIA) in Charlotte, 517-543-0860. The baskets will be available for pickup at the Vermontville Bible Church on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 9 to 11 a.m.

For more information about the Christmas basket program, call Mary Fisher at 517-726-0670.

PLAY, continued from page 1



Chris Eldridge plays the role of Teddy Harper, a man who believes himself to be former president Teddy Roosevelt. Here, he shows his Aunt Abby (Brittany Snook) an excerpt about his presidency from a history book. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

by Casey Eldridge, Dr. Einstein by Victoria Casteel, Officer O'Hara by Sydney Khouri, Lt. Rooney by Lindsey Fisher, Mrs. Witherspoon by Kara Carlyle, Mr. Hoskins by Seth Earl and Mr. Spenalzo by Caleb Walker. Chelsea Khouri is the student director for the production.

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Maple Valley band earns top rating in showmanship

This year, the Maple Valley High School Marching Band attended the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) festival and received an overall score of 2 on a scoring system of one through five.

In a breakdown of their scores, Maple Valley received a 1 in showmanship, a 2 in musicianship and a 2 for marching skills. They also participated at the Hastings invitational this year.

Now begins the transition

to the concert season, with the band's first concert being a holiday presentation Sunday, Dec. 6, at 3 p.m. in the gym of Maple Valley High School. Included will be performances by the sixth grade band, junior high band, high school band, choir and

the Maple Valley-Ionia Community Band.

Also, the band boosters are kicking off their 2009 holiday wreath sale. Funds from the wreaths will support of the entire band program. The wreaths are made from fresh evergreen boughs, and are sold at \$18 each, and with a large, red velvet bow at an additional \$2. All orders must be

received by Nov. 16 and will be delivered after Nov. 28. To pre-order a holiday wreath, mail the order to Maple Valley Band Boosters PO Box 363 Vermontville, MI 49096 or, contact a student in the band program.

In other news, the boosters will hold a general membership meeting Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to anyone interested in

an open forum to discuss the band's missions and goals, the school budget and its effect the band program, and development of the booster scholarship program.

The boosters also are inviting volunteers to help co-chair the sub sandwich fundraiser. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact Julie Khouri at 517-726-0970.



Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Friendship Sites Congregate Menu
Monday, November 9
 Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, apple, dinner roll.

Tuesday, November 10
 Chicken noodle soup, tossed salad, apple crisp.

Wednesday, November 11
 COA closed in observance of Veterans Day.

Thursday, November 12
 Hamburgers, tator tots, glazed baby carrots, applesauce, hamburger bun.

Friday, November 13
 Baked chicken leg, qtr. mashed potatoes and gravy, spinach, banana, biscuit.

Home Delivered Cold Menu

Monday, November 9
 Ham pasta salad, potato salad, peaches, club crackers.

Tuesday, November 10
 Egg salad, three bean salad, tropical fruit, wheat bread.

Wednesday, November 11

COA closed in observance of Veterans Day.

Thursday, November 12
 Seafood pasta salad, cucumber salad, mandarin oranges, crackers.

Friday, November 6
 Tuna salad, coleslaw, applesauce, wheat bread.

Home Delivered Hearty Menu

Monday, November 9
 Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, apple, dinner roll.

Tuesday, November 10
 Chicken noodle soup, California blend, apple crisp, crackers.

Wednesday, November 11
 COA closed in observance of Veterans Day.

Thursday, November 12
 Hamburger, tator tots, glazed baby carrots, applesauce, hamburger bun.

Friday, November 13
 Boneless baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, spinach, banana, wheat

bread.

Activities Calendar

Monday, November 9:
 Hastings - Nashville 5+ 10:30 a.m.; card making 12:30 p.m. H,W,N - Reminiscence.

Tuesday, November 10:
 Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; play Wii 10:30 a.m. GL - Potluck 12:45 p.m./speaker.

Wednesday, November 11:
 COA closed in observance of Veteran's Day. Hastings - No Low Vision Support.

Thursday, November 12:
 Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m. BP & BS Tender Care 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Music with the Lewis'. Delton - Puzzles/Trivia. Nashville - TV Time.

Friday, November 13 -
 Hastings - Exercise 9 a.m.; bingo 10 a.m.; mixed media painting 9:30 a.m.; model railroad 10 a.m. Nashville - Bingo. Woodland - Visiting.

Maplewood announces November students of the month



Giacinto Lucci



Megan Bignall



Audrey Reid

Maplewood Elementary School has announced the students of the month for November. The Student of the Month program is supported by MOO-ville Creamery, Roush's Sidewalk Cafe and Good Time Pizza.

Giacinto Lucci from Dave Hustwick's fourth grade

class was bestowed with the title student of the month. Audrey Reid was chosen as the fifth grade student of the month. She is a member of Cindy Krolik's class. From the sixth grade class, Megan Bignall was selected. She is a student in Judy Fox's class.

In My Own Write

by Amy Jo Kinyon



Tearing out the old and trying out the new

There are times that the true meaning of family shines through. Sickness, a birth, wedding or a death can often bring families together. Oh yes, and then there's the old remodeling of a house. For the past few weeks, my husband and I have been diligently working on renovating our newly purchased home. During that time, friends and family have stepped up to the plate to offer their services and labor. Now that the fun part of demolishing walls and ripping up carpet is over, the detail work has begun. From my mother helping to paint, friends helping to clean, cousins working in the yard, and a father-in-law patching the roof and laying new floor, the work has gone by so much faster with their help.

My mother-in-law has been busy scrubbing, adding a coat of primer and painting all of the kitchen cupboards, doors, drawers and knobs. I can't help but express my gratitude every time I see her working. I've told her "thank you" so many times that the other day she forbade me to say those two words to her anymore. So, I won't say "thank you" to her anymore — but that doesn't mean I can't write it.

On another note, I was happy to see Josh Meersma using the Blackboard program in his fifth grade classroom at Maplewood.

What is even better is that the kids are enjoying the program and are actually getting excited about learning. I used the system in college, with both online and on-campus activities and found it be a very effective method. You could have discussions with other students in your class or your professor without leaving your room.

I was also excited to see that they have read both *Macbeth* and *The Count of Monte Cristo* in the classroom, two of my favorites. I am sure that they are age-appropriate versions, but I don't think I was exposed to novels of that nature until high school.

The students of today are exposed to so much more than those in generations past. From the Internet to cable television to more career choices than leaves on a tree, there is no shortage of new things for them to experience.

I can remember going on vacation and watching cable television for the first time. We didn't get to watch music videos or cartoons, but Dad made us watch something educational — a hip replacement surgery. Not very exciting for the first time watching cable, but certainly something I had never seen before.

With so many choices out there for students to give their time to, it's nice to see teachers like Meersma grabbing the reins and using the new advances in a positive way.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

November 7, 2009

Village of Vermontville
 121 Eastside Drive
 Vermontville, MI 49096

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:

On or about November 16, 2009, the above named Village will request the State of Michigan to release funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) for the following Project:

2010 Water Main Upgrade Project
 Water System updates
 Village of Vermontville, Eaton County, Michigan
 \$593,719

An Environmental Review Record respecting the aforementioned project has been made by the above named Village which documents the environmental review of the project. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying, upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Please contact Mr. Monte O'Dell at (517) 726-1444 for further information.

The Village will undertake the project described above with Community Development Block Grant Funds, under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Village is certifying to the State of Michigan that the Village and Mr. Monte O'Dell, in his official capacity as Vermontville Department of Public Works Supervisor, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the Village may use the CDBG funds, and the State of Michigan will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

The State of Michigan will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer of the applicant approved by the State of Michigan; or (b) that applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to the State of Michigan, MEDC, 300 North Washington Square, Lansing, Michigan 48913

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the State of Michigan. No objection received after December 1, 2009 will be considered by the State of Michigan.

Monte O'Dell
 Vermontville Department of Public Works Supervisor
 121 Eastside Drive
 Vermontville, MI 49096

06699743

From Our Readers

Local Citizens Speak Out On Issues

Legislators are assuring state's destruction

To the editor:

With the adoption of Michigan's budget, legislators in Lansing have all but assured the annihilation of our state.

On the right are "read-our-lips, no-new-taxes" wonks who will stop at nothing to smash down their public policy opponents. "We will not raise taxes," is their war cry, as educational budgets are hacked to shreds, breaking a decade of promises to education. "Cut the fat out of government," they assert, choosing to raise taxes instead of the working poor by reducing the earned-income credit.

On the left are equally paid, defeated and resentful officials who have caved in to their heavy-handed colleagues and betrayed their constituents' hopes for a better future. In the balance are the 1.6 million public school

children of our state, many who will go with no transportation to school, no opportunities for electives such as band and music, and no athletics. Not to mention the 96,000 college students left with a \$500 to \$4,000 bad check from the State of Michigan, ironically called a promise grant.

Have we lost our senses? There will be no recovery for Michigan without the full support of education for our children. At any cost, the future of our children depends on it.

It is evident that our legislators have become so gripped by trench warfare-like politics, so consumed by their differences, that they have forgotten the needs of the people. And this, while their own salaries hover high above the average Michigan household. Legislative

salaries are \$79,650 per year (with a \$12,000 allowance), while the median household income in Michigan has fallen to \$58,000. Perhaps in the spirit of merit pay, we should take from legislative salaries to make up for the shortfall in the educational budget. Or withdraw their \$12,000 allowance for transportation. Maybe then they could demonstrate to us that they are truly willing to participate in their "shared-pain" philosophy. A 10 percent pay cut starting in 2010 just doesn't cut it.

Bob Robinson,
Vermontville

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 Jay D. Dekleine, a married person and Jacob C. Dekleine, a married person, to CitiMortgage, Inc. fka ABN AMRO Mortgage Group, Inc., Mortgagee, dated December 20, 2006 and recorded January 2, 2007 in Instrument Number 1174494, Barry County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-One and 99/100 Dollars (\$75,221.99) including interest at 7.25% 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 10, 2009. Said premises are located in the City of Middleville, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Unit 11, of East Town Homes, according to the Master Deed recorded in Instrument Number 1074113, Barry County Records and designated as Barry County Condominium Subdivision Plan Number 23, and any amendments thereto, together with an undivided interest in the general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in the above described Master Deed in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended. 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: November 7, 2009 Orlans Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400 File No. 241.7100 ASAP# 3332494 11/07/2009, 11/14/2009, 11/21/2009, 11/28/2009 06699823

Cemeteries decorations are not self-serve

To the editor:

Last year someone took a solar light and the shepherds hook from my husband's grave. This year, the solar light, a metal sun that my daughter put on the grave, was taken.

This was done at the

Hosmer Cemetery at State Road.

Whoever is doing this should put the light back and buy their own. They aren't cheap. Just leave them on the grave.

Betty Meade,
Nashville

Beth Nielsen Chapman concert Nov. 14 supports the food bank

Beth Nielsen Chapman will appear in a special benefit concert for the Food Bank of South Central Michigan, which helps meet food needs for Barry County residents, Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Lakeview Middle School auditorium in Battle Creek, beginning at 8 p.m.

Tickets of \$30 and \$12 are available at the Food Bank, 5451 Wayne Road in Battle Creek, or by calling 269-964-3663.

Concert-goers are asked to bring non-perishable food

items to the concert. More information about the Food Bank of South Central Michigan is available at www.foodbankofscm.org.

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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SPECIAL MEETING

The Nashville Planning Commission will hold a Special Meeting on November 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers.

PURPOSE: To discuss the Barry County Zoning Ordinance as it related to the proposed zoning overlay for the Village of Nashville.

06699713

Good News From The Pulpit

by Pastor Daniel E. Smith
Vermontville Bible Church

Recently, I enjoyed visiting with a good friend, Bob Saunders, who lives in Nashville. I often thank him for his service to our country. He fought under Gen. George Patton throughout Europe during the second World War, including the Battle of the Bulge. Although he doesn't believe me, periodically I remind Bob that he is my hero. It is because of his courage and sacrifice, and the sacrifice of so many others who have served in our military — in times of peace and in time of war — that we enjoy the freedom and liberty we have today.

As our nation observes Veterans Day Nov. 11, I am reminded again of those who are serving around the world in harm's way so that you and I can sleep safe tonight. Having served as a chaplain in the Michigan Army National Guard for 20 years, with a year tour in Iraq, I have come to know and deeply appreciate the sacrifices of our military members and their families. All give some. Some of them give all.

Jesus said in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." This Veterans Day, don't forget to thank a vet.

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

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Lions enjoy road to district championship game

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Lions have already learned that its more fun when you win, but this year they also know that its easier to win when you're having fun.

Maple Valley's varsity girls' volleyball team will go for its second Class C District Championship in three years when its takes on Pottersville this morning (Nov. 7) at Maple Valley

High School beginning at 10 a.m.

There was a tight stretch late in game two, but for the most part the Lions handled Pewamo-Westphalia in the district semifinals Thursday night winning 25-17, 28-26, 25-19.

"I have had fun every flipping second of this season," said Maple Valley head coach Sarah Carpenter. "This has been the most amazing season, just the

most wonderful experience second to being a mother. Every challenge I've given to them, they've risen to it and they've asked for more. They're amazing. Their talent is their own, I didn't teach them that."

Senior Tina Westendorp, who was a sophomore who was called up to the varsity in 2007 when the Lions won the program's only district championship, got the chance to showcase all her talents against the Pirates. She led the Lions with 18 kills, five aces, and eight digs.

"It was a big change," Westendorp said of being a sophomore on the varsity who saw just a little time in the postseason, to turning into the team's go-to girl, "but it was amazing. I don't know how else to describe this year. Just phenomenal."

Senior Jennifer Kent, who was also a part of the 2007 district championship team, had five kills and two blocks for the Lions. Among her five kills were two back-to-back to turn a 23-24 edge for P-W into a 25-24 lead late in game two.

"I think our back row played phenomenal," said Kent. "When ever the back row is having a good game, it translates. It makes it easier for us to have good hits."

Tiffani Allwardt matched Kent's five kills, and also added six digs. Sam Bissett had seven digs, and Elizabeth Stewart had six. Stewart also led the Lions with 15 assists, while Terri Hurosky had nine and Karlee Mater four.

"When we play our best, that's what we look like," said Carpenter. "I am so proud of these girls."

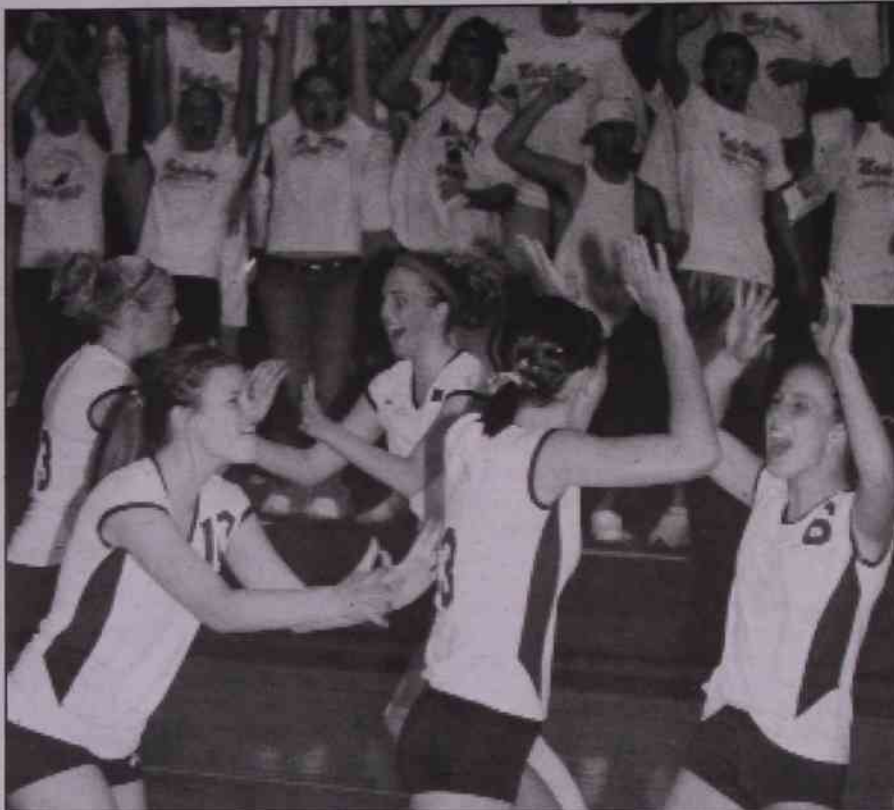
Pewamo-Westphalia was led by freshman Madison Smith, who had seven kills, three blocks, and two assists.

The winner of Saturday's district championship game advances to the Class C Regional Semifinals at Leslie High School Tuesday at 6 p.m.

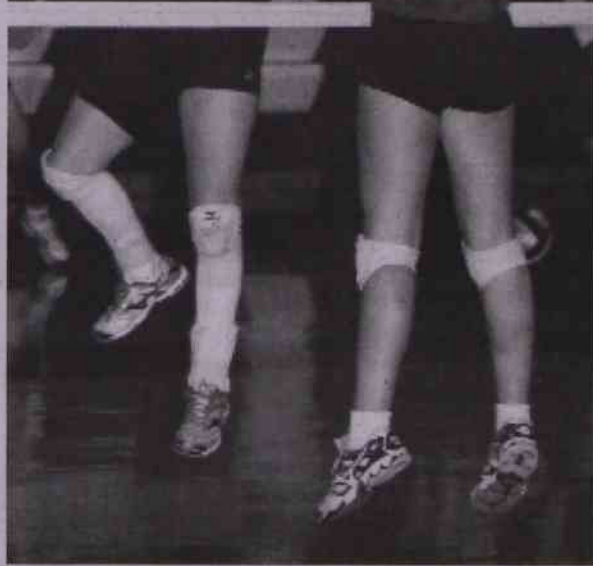
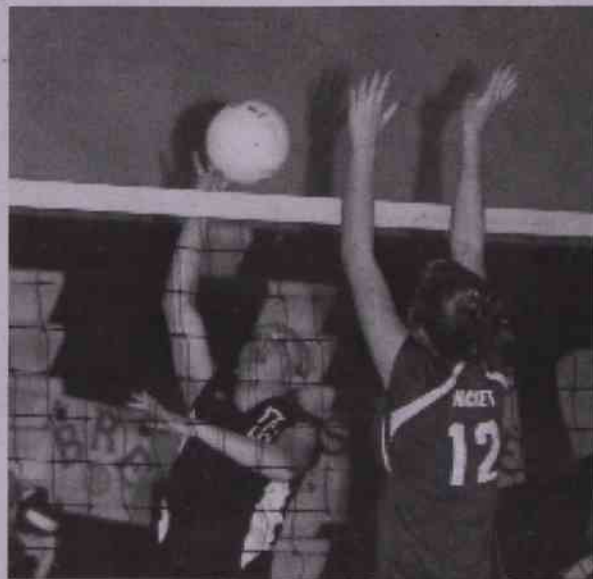
Pottersville earned a spot in the district final by coming from behind to down Dansville in the first semifinal match Thursday, 24-26, 25-23, 21-25, 25-22, 15-7.

The Lions opened the district tournament with a 3-1 win over Laingsburg Tuesday night.

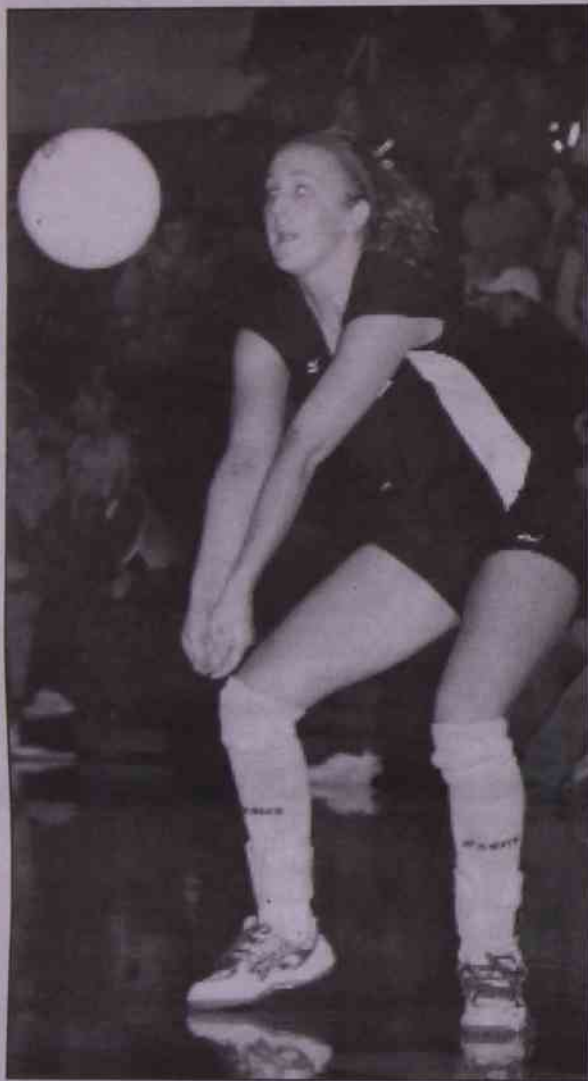
Westendorp had 16 kills, Kent ten, and Allwardt nine to lead the Lion attack. Hurosky added six, and Hannah Young five. Allwardt led the team in digs with 19, Westendorp had 13,



The Lions' Hannah Young (front from left), Jennifer Kent, and Elizabeth Stewart celebrate a kill by Kent late in game two of Maple Valley's 3-0 win over Pewamo-Westphalia in the Class C District semifinals Thursday at MVHS. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



Maple Valley senior Tina Westendorp knocks a kill over a Hackett blocker Saturday afternoon during the Kalamazoo Valley Association Tournament at Pennfield High School. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



The Lions' Tiffani Allwardt passes the ball from the back row during her team's win over Galesburg-Augusta in the match for fifth place at the KVA Tournament last Saturday. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

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Lion senior Trumble one spot shy of state finals

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Maple Valley's Pantera Rider asked coach Robb Rosin, "what place did we all get?" as she and some of her teammates prepared to watch the boys' race at Saturday's Division 3 Regional Meet.

"Lauren got 16th," said Rider.

"Why do you have to keep rubbing it in," said Rosin with a smile.

Rider's teammate Lauren Trumble was right there with the group. Trumble did finish 16th in the race held at Portage West Middle School, leading the Lion pack with a time of 21 minutes 38.2 seconds.

The top 15 runners, and top three teams, in each regional race around the state last weekend earned spots in today's (Nov. 7) state finals

at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

Trumble was just over four seconds behind the 15th-place finisher, Buchanan's Stephanie Reith (21:34.1).

"She's okay with it," Rosin said. "She's glad she ran a good strong race. That was her best race from start to finish all year."

The Lion ladies' team had a good race, despite top runner Jessica Rushford competing with an injury and not figuring into the scoring.

It was a big day for the Kalamazoo Valley Association, which also had its girls' championship-team Schoolcraft take a regional title. The Eagles won with 52 points, led by individual champion Krista Broekema who finished in 19:47.0. Delton Kellogg's Brianna Russell was second in 20:05.1.

Behind Schoolcraft which finished with 52 points, Berrien Springs was second with 80 followed by Bangor 112, Buchanan 123, Maple Valley 143, Delton Kellogg 172, Coloma 180, Hackett Catholic Central 185, Gobles 201, Hartford 242, Constantine 274, Parchment 296, Watervliet 372, Galesburg-Augusta 381, and

Dowagiac Union 402.

"We finished pretty well," said Rosin. "Our number one was hurt, she didn't score for us. We knew she was hurt, so it wasn't a surprise. We were hoping for a top seven finish, so to do that without here was pretty good."

Maple Valley had Rider place 29th in 22:35.0, Kaytlin Furlong 30th in 22:38.2, Megan Shoemaker 32nd in 22:43.3, and Maggie Otholt 40th in 23:12.7.

The top six runners for Schoolcraft's girls were all in the top 20, with Katilee Bensley placing fourth in 20:32.2, Monica Lawrence 12th in 21:19.0, Madeline Hartlieb 17th in 21:59.4, and Sarah Hartlieb 18th in 22:02.3 to lead the way.

Delton Kellogg's Jolene Drum also earned a spot in the finals, placing ninth with a time of 21:03.5.

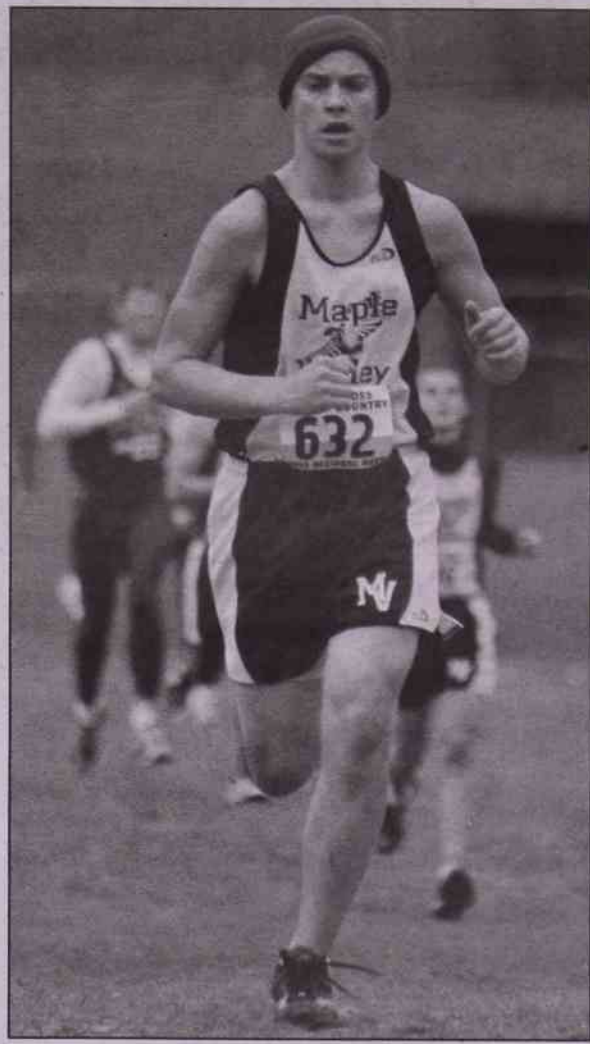
Behind the top two for Delton's girls, Taylor Hennessey was 44th in 23:23, Kelsey Sofia 48th in 23:34, and Renee McConahay 74th in 24:46.

Delton Kellogg's boys' team, as well as Hackett Catholic Central's, are headed to the state finals.

Delton's boys finished with 91 points, behind regional champion Hackett



Maple Valley's Joe Benedict stays a step ahead of Bangor's Oscar Tenorio-Leyva as they round a corner in the woods Saturday. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



The Lions' Darius France closes in on the two-mile mark at the Division 3 Regional Meet Saturday morning in Portage. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



Maple Valley's Maggie Otholt races up hill during the first mile of Saturday's Division 3 Regional race. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



The Lions' Pantera Rider and Kaytlin Furlong close in on the finish line during Saturday's Division 3 Regional Meet at Portage West Middle School. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

Saturday youth basketball clinics to be held at MVHS

Maple Valley High School's Basketball Coaching staff and players will be hosting an intramural/instructional basketball league for first through fourth grade boys and girls. This will be a free program, starting Saturday, Nov. 14, which continues on Nov. 21, Dec. 5, and Dec. 12.

at the Maple Valley High School, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The coaches and players will be teaching basic basketball skills and rules of the game.

Feel free to call Keith Jones, Maple Valley's Youth Basketball Director, at (517) 852-1901 with any questions or concerns.

The program will be held

Catholic Central and Bangor. Both of those team's top five runners combined for 79 points, with the Irish coming out on top thanks to the sixth-runner tie-breaker.

Bloomington was fourth with 100 points, and will also head to the state finals thanks to the rule that provides a trip for any fourth-place regional team that has four runners finish in the top 20.

Schoolcraft was fifth with 135 points, followed by Parchment 144, Buchanan 192, Hartford 216, Gobles 229, Constantine 234, Dowagiac Union 268, Maple Valley 335, Watervliet 357, and Berrien Springs 371.

Parchment's Stuart Crowell was the individual boys' champion, coming in at 16:31.2. Bangor's David Watson was second in 16:44.2, and Schoolcraft's Craig Charlton third in 16:49.1.

Maple Valley had Joe Benedict place 22nd in 18:09.8, Darius France 73rd in 21:05.3, Christian Schmadicke 79th in 21:27.2, Zach Mellville 81st in 21:36.0, and Robbie Hanford

96th in 24:43.4.

The regional champions from Hackett were led by Brendan Molony, who was fifth in 17:19. Michael Myers was 13th in 17:43, Peter Herzog 15th in 17:51, Philip Herzog 21st in 18:07, and Connor Bresnahan 25th in 18:26.

Ryan Watson led the Delton Kellogg Panthers,

placing sixth in 17:24.2.

Brandon Humphreys was eighth in 17:30.8. Nick Rendon and Tyler Bourdo came in one right after another, in 19th and 20th places, with times of 18:05.5 and 18:06.0 respectively. Kannon Hoffman rounded out the scorers for the Panther boys, placing 39th in 19:06.

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HGB offering free diabetes forum

November is American Diabetes Month. To celebrate, Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital in Charlotte will host a diabetes forum Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Trumley Education Center. This is for patients with diabetes who are interested in learning how to better control it, or the friend, family member or caregiver of someone with diabetes.

Keynote speaker will be Erica Magers, MD, medical director of HGB's diabetes education program.

The event also will feature a registered dietitian, registered nurse, physical therapist and information on diabetes medications and diabetes-related products. All

members of the public are welcome.

According to the American Diabetes Association, one in three Americans born in the year 2000 will develop diabetes in their lifetime if current trends continue. The disease is also increasing significantly among adults because of poor eating habits and lack of exercise.

"The disease itself is troubling enough, but the statistics for diabetes complications are also alarming," according to Melanie Shehan, MS, RD, clinical dietitian and diabetes program coordinator for HGB. "The risk for stroke and death from heart disease is two to four times higher for

people living with diabetes. In fact, heart disease and stroke account for about 65 percent of deaths among those with the disease."

Diabetes also is the leading cause of kidney failure and a major cause of non-traumatic lower-limb amputations and blindness, said Shehan.

If people cannot attend the open house, Shehan points out that HGB offers a regular diabetes education class and a diabetes support group, both of which meet monthly.

For more information about the diabetes forum or classes at HGB, call 517-543-1050, ext. 1249 or visit www.hgbhealth.com.

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Community Notices

THE VERMONTVILLE UNITED Methodist Church will host it's annual craft and bake sale on November 20 and 21st from 8am-5pm at 2108 N. Main St., Vermontville. Do your Christmas shopping early with a wide variety of unique handmade items from various crafters. Home baked goodies will also be available. Proceeds for mission.

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SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Maple Valley Elementary Lunch Menu	Monday, November 9 Quesadilla. Green beans, push-up. Salad bar.
Monday, November 9 Grilled chic sandwich. Tater tots, peaches, brownie.	Tuesday, November 10 Wrap sandwich. Carrot sticks, apple crisp. Asian bar.
Tuesday, November 10 Mini corn dogs. Baked beans, mandarin oranges, Oreo cookies.	Wednesday, November 11 Chicken tenders. Cheesie potatoes, fruit cocktail. Deli bar.
Wednesday, November 11 Sack Lunch Day. PBJ. Carrot sticks, apple slices, Rice Krispie Treat.	Thursday, November 12 Kellogg Goodtime Pizza. Tomato soup, grapes. Mexican bar.
Thursday, November 12 Fuller Goodtime Pizza. French Bread Pizza. Tossed salad, fruit snacks, apple crisp.	Friday, November 13 Double dogs w/chili. french fries, banana. Country chicken bar.
Friday, November 13 Macaroni and cheese. Green beans, pears, cookie.	NOTE: Entree's available daily: cheeseburger, variety of chicken sandwiches, pizza, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, fish sandwich, 6 oz. yogurt w/string cheese.
NOTE: Fuller Alternative Entree Choices: Peanut butter and jelly sandwich.	Side choices available daily: garden salad, juice, fresh fruit.
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.
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	Breakfast price: \$1.45; Lunch price: \$2.25-\$2.50; Adult prices: \$2.75-\$3.00. Milk only: \$.45.
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