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Groups remind motorists: Don't crowd the plow

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) have announced a joint education effort aimed at urging motorists to remember good driving habits in winter weather conditions that will make the roadways safer.

The groups will use the familiar safety slogan again this year, "Don't crowd the plow."

"Road crews put their lives on the line every day to keep Michigan roads safe for everyone," said State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. "Motorists must remember to drive with caution, no matter how much salt we use or how often the roads area plowed."

A steady decrease in road

funding and an increase in costs have caused state and local agencies to alter their winter maintenance plans. Drivers have been put on notice that plowing priorities and the use of less salt will make their job even more important than in years past. Road crews must have ample room in order to safely clear the many miles of roadway of snow and ice.

"Motorists must do their best to minimize distractions and focus on driving and changes in road conditions," said John Niemela, CRAM director. "Every year, despite the flashing lights, poor driver behavior near snowplows leads to collisions that can be deadly."

MDOT and CRAM offer the following reminders for

motorists:

- Snowplows have limited visibility and drivers cannot see directly behind their trucks.

- Snowplows often throw up "snow clouds," reducing visibility on all sides of the vehicle.

- Motorists should never attempt to pass a moving snowplow on the right. With new, wing-plow technology, the blade can clear the shoulder and the lane of travel simultaneously. Motorists attempting an illegal pass through a snow cloud on the right or shoulder of the road most likely won't see the plow blade and run the risk of a serious crash.

- Always wear a safety belt and allow extra time to

DRIVING, continued on page 5



A Michigan Department of Transportation truck works to plow M-79 near Nashville Friday morning. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

Wet conditions downsize grain harvest

by Helen Mudry
and Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writers

Based on this year's amount of wheat harvested and many farmers unable to plant winter wheat, those who are able to harvest the crop should see good returns on their investment next year.

"There was 40 percent less wheat planted because of the wet conditions. Next year, there's going to be a lot less wheat than this year," said Bill Parsens at Citizens Elevator in Vermontville.

Many farmers delayed harvesting the corn or beans from the fields, hoping the weather would dry the standing grain. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, and the crops still had to be manually dried at the elevators. This has caused a bit of a backup at the elevators and has extended the harvest season.

"The harvest is late and is still going on," said Parsens. "We are full of corn, everyone is locally, because there's no place to take the corn ... The beans didn't mature this year. They're usually harvested in September and it was into October. Then you're into November and it's a bit iffy for a lot of farmers if they want to plant."

At the Vermontville elevator, prices for the crops are down a bit from last year, said Parsens. Corn has been selling at \$3.17 a bushel, soybeans \$9.73, wheat \$3.97, and food-grade beans at \$10.28 per bushel.

This year's fall harvest has been one of the worst,

according to Tim Marlin, grain manager at Caledonia Co-op Elevator in Lake Odessa.

"The wheat harvest in the summer was good, although there were 15 percent fewer acres planted," he reported, adding that there were no vomit toxin issues.

Yields were 60-plus bushels an acre and prices were \$4 a bushel (60 pounds).

But the cold, wet fall of 2009 will affect the 2010 wheat harvest. Many farmers could not plant their winter wheat because the ground was too wet or the fields still had beans and corn waiting to be harvested.

The bean yield was good at 50 bushels an acre. Normal is 40 bushels an acre, so farmers were getting 10 bushels better than normal per acre. Prices were about \$9.50 a bushel.

The quality was okay, he said. Because of the wet spring, farmers were late getting the beans planted.

Marlin said this year the beans had moisture at 16 percent and 13 percent is normal. This is the first time in several years the beans had to be dried, he added.

The corn harvest had a good yield at 180-plus bushels per acre but quality was poor. The corn had 22 to 25 percent moisture, normal is 17 to 18 percent. Test weights were low, at 50 to 51 pounds a bushel; normal is 56 pounds. There were some vomit toxin issues with the corn. The local crop did not meet one customer's standards, and another purchaser

had to be found.

"The corn just didn't mature," Marlin said. "We didn't really have a summer; it wasn't hot enough for the kernels to mature. Anything not at full kernel is considered foreign matter."

The dryers ran non-stop from Nov. 1 to Thanksgiving, he said.

"Because the dryers were full, we had some storage issues. On many days, we had to stop taking corn at

noon and then dry all night," added Marlin. "Some farmers just left their wagons, and we took care of them."

Marlin said the Lakewood

HARVEST, continued on page 7

Right, hoping the crop would dry, many area farmers left their corn in the field until the last possible moment this season. (File photo)



Santa visits Vermontville Township Library



Santa and Mrs. Claus sit among decorated trees inside the Vermontville Opera House to hear the wishes of nearly 100 local children. (Photo provided)

Santa made an early appearance Friday, Dec. 4, in Vermontville.

Arriving on a firetruck decorated with Christmas lights to a waiting crowd of children and their families, Santa met up with Mrs. Claus inside the Vermontville Opera House. Once nestled in a shiny forest of trees, he began visiting with children.

As they waited for their turn to speak with Santa, youngsters were able to make a pine

cone reindeer craft, decorate a graham cracker gingerbread house to take home or color holiday pictures.

Popcorn and hot chocolate were served, compliments of Duey's Corner.

When the visiting and crafts were over, Santa and Mrs. Claus had heard the wishes of about 100 children, who received candy canes, bookmarks and pencils from Santa.

In This Issue...

- Districts face more homeless students than ever before
- Eaton Co. farmer Steve Tennes nabs two state awards
- YAC members give to Maple Valley families
- DK uses depth to pull away from Lions in 2nd half

Commissioners 'stamp out' proposed smoke-free ordinance

by **Bannon Backhus**
Staff Writer

At the Dec. 8 meeting of the Barry County Board of Commissioners, support for a proposed smoke-free ordinance smoldered with a 4-3 vote against holding a public hearing on the ordinance, a step that would have been necessary for its adoption.

Chairman Michael Callton and commissioners Robert Houtman, Joe Lyons and Don Nevins formed the majority, while commissioners Mike Bremer, Howard "Hoot" Gibson and Jeff VanNortwick cast the dissenting votes. Commissioner Craig Stolsonburg was absent.

The proposed ordinance would have prohibited smoking at all private work sites and recreation areas. It would have allowed smoking only at private residences, restaurants, bars, casinos, tobacco specialty stores and other such locations.

Callton explained that the proposed ordinance came before the board as a result

of the Eaton County Board of Commissioners adopting a similar ordinance. Because both counties are serviced by the Barry-Eaton District Health Department, the ordinance would have had to be approved in Barry County in order for it to have gone into effect in Eaton County, he said.

"Because we share a joint health department with Eaton County, we're somewhat like Siamese twins connected at the hip," he elaborated.

Much of the discussion on the proposed ordinance involved differing views on personal freedoms and government control.

"I just personally think it's a decision that an employer, a business owner should maintain over their business," said Callton.

Lyons echoed Callton, saying that such an ordinance would pave the way for other ordinances that would negatively affect people's ability to make personal choices.

"Where do we draw the line on government intervention?" Lyons asked. "My point is just that I don't know how much government intervention we should have. We can't keep taking things away from private businesses."

VanNortwick argued that, with smoking as a contributing factor to environmental contamination, a ban on such activity could not be viewed simply as an issue involving individual liberties.

"To sit there and to say that it's all about personal rights is certainly your opinion, but I'm not buying into that, as this is a message that we care about everybody in our society, and the air belongs to everybody," he said. "It's not somebody's individual right to sit there and contaminate that which we all have a share in."

Bremer also argued for the potential environmental benefits that the ordinance might have brought.

"I think that any time that there's an issue that can positively or negatively affect the health, whether it be personal health, economic health or environmental health of our county, that we

can take a step in the direction of supporting that health and that we should do that," he said.

In other business, the board adopted a resolution to approve and authorize execution of a contract between Barry County and Carlton and Hastings Charter townships allowing the county to issue bonds to evidence a state revolving fund loan for construction of a sewer system around Leach and Middle lakes.

The majority of Leach and Middle lakes lie within the boundaries of Carlton Township, however, a small portion of Leach Lake lies within the boundaries of Hastings Charter Township.

"It provides the legal framework for financing of the project by the county and construction of the project by the townships," explained Jim White, an attorney with Mika Meyers Beckett and Jones who has provided legal counsel on the project. "The contract also provides the financial support and contractual obligations in the two townships to pay the county bonds as they come due every six months. Carlton Township is respon-

sible for about 85 percent of the bond debt; Hastings (is responsible for) about 15 percent of the bond debt."

According to the contract, the estimated cost of construction of the planned sewer system is just over \$4.95 million.

White explained that, while 40 percent of the cost of the project is to be reimbursed with stimulus funds, for the planned sewer system to move forward, it was necessary for the county to evidence the approximate entire cost of the project up front.

A second resolution involving the planned sewer system also was adopted by the board and allows the county to issue \$4.64 million in bonds for the project.

Several actions involving the county and the area Michigan State University Extension also were taken by the board, which adopted a resolution to convert nearly 40 acres of county-owned property located on Norris Road in Orangeville Township into a living classroom to be managed by Extension through its 4-H program.

In addition, the board passed two motions, allow-

ing MSUE to apply for funds from Barry County United Way in the amounts of \$17,800 and \$48,800 for its Building Strong Families and 4-H programs, respectively.

With a focus on parenting, the Building Strong Families program teaches parents skills necessary to raise children in healthy, supportive environments. The 4-H program offers youths the opportunity to connect with mentors and learn about a variety of subjects, including diversity and leadership.

The board also approved an application made by Castleton Township residents David and Celia DeMond for just over 150 acres of the couple's farmland to be preserved through the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program.

Several methods of preservation are offered under the program. According to the motion, the application is for an available option that would allow the couple to receive tax benefits for not utilizing the land for any purposes other than those relating to agriculture.

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H1N1 influenza vaccine available to all residents

The novel H1N1 flu vaccine is available to all Barry and Eaton County residents who would like to be vaccinated.

"Demand for the vaccine among the initial target groups appears to have been satisfied, so vaccine is now available for all residents," said Robert Schirmer, MD, medical director for the health department. "Even if you think that you had the flu, you should still receive the vaccine. Although flu activity has lessened since October, the community is still seeing more flu than usual for this time of year. Most flu infections occur in the winter, so another increase in influenza activity

is expected." Residents who would like to be vaccinated against novel H1N1 influenza should contact their health care providers to see if they are offering the vaccine.

The Barry-Eaton District Health Department is offering vaccination by appointment for those people whose care providers are not offering vaccine.

In Barry County, appointment-only clinics will be held at the health department in Hastings at 330 W. Woodlawn Ave. Call 269-

945-9516, ext. 660, to schedule an appointment.

In Eaton County, the appointment-only clinics will be held at the health department in Charlotte at 1033 Health Care Drive. Call 517-541-2660 to schedule an appointment.

For additional information, see www.barryeaton-health.org, since clinics may be added depending on demand for vaccine.

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United Methodist Women: 2nd Tuesday

Districts face more homeless students than ever before

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

A true recession has no selection process. People in all walks of life are affected. That has certainly been true recently. The number of students classified as homeless has more than doubled for some area school districts.

How the districts are dealing with these increasing numbers is a source of concern for many administrators.

Under the McKinney-Vento Act through the Michigan Department of Education, districts are required to report the number of homeless students and remove any obstacles that would interfere with their education.

During the past few years, only three or four students have been put into the "homeless" category in the Maple Valley School District. This year, those numbers have not just doubled, it has multiplied nine

times.

Currently, 36 students are classified as homeless, though that number changes almost daily said Superintendent Kim Kramer. Most of those students are in families that have doubled up with friends or relatives. Teenagers who no longer live at home make up the majority of those who are not doubled-up.

Kramer said helping those students both in and out of the classroom is a focus for the district.

"It's pretty hard to sit and learn when you don't know where you are going to sleep or where you'll get your next meal," said Kramer.

The McKinney-Vento Act also requires that districts make equal education available to those students and have a designated employee in charge of managing homeless students and their education.

For Maple Valley, Linda Gaber became the homeless-

student liaison this year. She retired from the district in the spring after a career as kindergarten teacher.

Kramer said part of Gaber's role, along with reporting to the state, is to help the students in the most inconspicuous way possible.

"There are a variety of things we can do to help them, such as transportation or clothing assistance," said Kramer. "We can help them without making a big deal of it."

The reporting paperwork for the act is turned in to the Michigan Department of Education and includes more than a dozen categories for homeless status. Living with family, separated from family, foster care pending, run-away, abandoned and throw-away are some of the categories. Throwaway students include those who are kicked out of their home for any number of reasons, including pregnancy, family conflicts or drug and alcohol abuse.

Steve Scoville is the homeless coordinator in the Delton School District and is working to help 53 students who are currently categorized as homeless. He said the main purpose of a homeless liaison is to ensure that students have access to the same quality education, regardless of their status. That often means working out transportation for the students, a pricey obligation.

"The frustrating part of the McKinney-Vento with the requirements is that they're really unfunded mandates. The act requirements far exceed the funding," said Scoville.

Up from 25 homeless students last year, Scoville said the increases many districts are seeing are due in part to the economy and in part to training staff on the McKinney-Vento Act.

"Awareness and training have added to that number, but certainly the economy has added to it as well," said Scoville.

In Hastings, Assistant Superintendent Mary Vlieg serves as the liaison and said there are between four and

six students in the district who are technically considered homeless. This number has doubled from last year. Looking at families who are doubled up, however, brings that number up to around 41 students, said Vlieg.

Along with free or reduced meals and helping the students keep track of immunizations, Vlieg said the district is fortunate to have another resource to turn to when they are in need.

"We're lucky enough in the Calhoun Intermediate School District that we're in a grant consortium, so if we need additional help such as backpack supplies or even bedding, we can apply for it through the grant," said Vlieg.

Community organizations have eased the burden on the district, said Vlieg, by bringing their resources into the schools. Two nights a week, sack lunches are packed for families, providing meals for students who may otherwise go without.

Working with their intermediate school districts and local organizations on the students' behalf, the liaisons

in the districts are charged with providing a consistent education to each student.

"Our goal is to ensure that these students have access to the same education and any barriers because of their homeless situation are removed or lessened," said Scoville.

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SAT-SUN 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50
MON-TH 4:15, 7:05, 9:50

OLD DOGS (PG)
SAT-SUN 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:15, 9:20
MON-TH 4:50, 7:15, 9:20

TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13)
SAT-SUN 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
MON-TH 4:00, 6:50, 9:40

MOVIE GIFT CARDS

Bellevue farmer wins Farmer Idea Exchange Award

Bellevue farmer Lynn Griffin no longer has to worry about rocks hitting and breaking the cab window of his combine and possibly injuring the implement operator during corn harvest, and he's assured that more ears of corn are making it into the combine and not bouncing back to the ground.

These benefits are owed to a device Griffin developed called the "Rock Guard/Ear Saver Bonnet," and now Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) has honored Griffin for his ingenuity by presenting the Barry County Farm Bureau member with the organization's 2009 Farmer Idea Exchange Award.

The Farmer Idea Exchange Award is presented annually to encourage and recognize new concepts in agriculture that can be easily

adapted on other farms by honoring the innovators themselves. Griffin received the award Dec. 1 at MFB's 90th annual meeting in Grand Rapids.

The Rock Guard/Ear Saver Bonnet is primarily fashioned from square steel tubing, wire fence material and a rubber truck mud flap. As Griffin said, "It's a rather simple device that is easy to make in a farm shop."

Once the bonnet is assembled, it is fastened to the corn head at the front of the combine. The wire fence material on top serves as a shield to block rocks from the soil from being thrown up and smashing into the cab window. Beyond keeping the combine operator safe from flying rocks and broken glass, Griffin said the rock guard cuts down on the time

and expense to replace a shattered cab window.

Meanwhile, the rubber mud flap positioned at the front of the bonnet helps prevent ears of corn from being deflected out of the combine's intake mechanism. With more ears of corn actually harvested, the ear saver feature helps increase net farm profit.

MFB selected Griffin as the state winner from award entries received, and submitted his application to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration in the national Farmer Idea Exchange contest.

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Lynn Griffin (right) accepts Michigan Farm Bureau's 2009 Farmer Idea Exchange Award from MFB President Wayne H. Wood. Griffin received the award Dec. 1 at the Michigan Farm Bureau 90th annual meeting in Grand Rapids.

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Michigan bankers honor Calley with impact award

State Rep. Brian Calley has received the 2009 Economic Impact Award from the Michigan Bankers Association.

The award recognizes public officials for their leadership on matters of public policy that support and encourage a vibrant Michigan economy.

"I'm honored to receive this award from Michigan bankers and will continue to work hard to turn our economy around," said Calley, R-Portland. "Creating a positive business environment in the state of Michigan will help strengthen our economy and grow jobs."

Calley was recognized for his decade as a community banker, assisting hundreds of small businesses and his understanding of the challenges facing small businesses in Michigan.

The MBA is comprised of Michigan financial institutions with more than 3,400 branches located throughout the state.

Good News From The Pulpit

by Pastor Marc S. Livingston,
Chester Gospel Church

Galatians 4:4-5 (Weymouth) reads "But, when the time was fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born subject to Law, in order to purchase the freedom of all who were subject to Law, so that we might receive recognition as sons."

This year will be different for my bride and I. We will be spending our first Christmas together in 38 years without our children. I already don't like the idea of being without them. My memories of the many Christmases past include the day when we celebrated our first as a married couple, then the excitement of the first Christmas with our new son, then the next son, and finally our daughter.

We were not so different than most of you. Especially me in those first years. I did not celebrate Christmas as the day of Christ's birth, but as a holiday. Sure I loved the day, but I never enjoyed the real meaning of the day. Then it happened ... I invited the Christ of Christmas into my life. He had room in the Inn for this homeless traveler. He gave me a gift more valuable than gold, frankincense and myrrh. He gave me the gift of eternal life. All I had to do was receive it by faith. I did.

Now our family would start every Christmas morning with a reading of the account of His birth either in Luke 1 or in Matthew 2. Christmas is Christ. Is it too late for you to have a merry Christmas? Not if you are reading this. Put the busy-ness of the holiday on pause for a minute. The Baby they named Jesus was sent by God to purchase you and I out of this dead-end world and give us freedom from sin's bondage and destruction. This gift is nothing you and I really deserve but are given because of God's great love for us.

What do you have to do? Receive the gift. When you do, Dec. 25 will turn from a holiday into Christmas, because you will now have real peace on Earth.

Now that's good news. Go tell it on the mountain: Jesus Christ is born. Merry CHRISTmas.

Santa to visit Putnam library

no photo

Santa will visit Putnam District Library in Nashville Tuesday, Dec. 15, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The first 12 families to visit will receive a free gift from Santa's elves.

Children will be invited to make reindeer food to leave out for Santa's reindeer on Christmas Eve. A make-and-take ornament station also will be available where each child can make a Christmas tree ornament in honor of the library's festival of trees.

Returning again this year is the library's wish tree. Located near the front entrance of the library, this tree is decorated with miniature book cover ornaments. The ornaments represent titles that the library would like to own or needs to replace. Visitors may select titles they would like to sponsor and donate that amount. The library will order the items and put a nameplate inside, noting the donor's gift. Visit the library for more information.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Maple Valley Elementary Lunch Menu

Monday, December 14
Hot dog, french fries, pears, cookie.
Tuesday, December 15
MW - Goodtime. Pizza, tossed salad, pineapple, Rice Krispie Treat.
Wednesday, December 16
Holiday Menu. Turkey/stuffing and gravy, mashed potatoes, grapes, birthday cake.
Thursday, December 17
Cook's Choice.
Friday, December 18
Cook's Choice.

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

Milk is included with all full meal purchases. Assorted bread choices daily.
Breakfast price: \$1.30;
Lunch price: \$1.90; Adult price: \$2.75; milk only: \$.45.

Maple Valley Jr.-Sr. High School Lunch Menu

Monday, December 14
Philly steak sandwich, spudsters, cinn. applesauce, Salad bar.
Tuesday, December 15
Kellogg - Goodtime. Burrito, refried beans, jello w/fruit, Asian bar.
Wednesday, December 16
Holiday Menu. Turkey/stuffing and gravy, mashed potatoes, strawberry applesauce, Mexican bar.
Thursday, December 17
Cook's choice.
Friday, December 18
Cook's choice.

NOTE: Entree's available daily: cheeseburger, variety of chicken sandwiches, pizza, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, fish sandwich, 6 oz. yogurt w/string cheese. Side choices available daily: garden salad, juice, fresh fruit.

Milk is included with all full meal purchases. Seconds available on vegetables at no additional charge. Assorted bread choices daily.
Breakfast price: \$1.45;
Lunch price: \$2.25-\$2.50;
Adult prices: \$2.75-\$3.00.
Milk only: \$.45.
* Menu subject to change.

Musical planned to celebrate Christmas

Nashville Assembly of God will hold a special program, filled with music and drama, to celebrate the Christmas season.

The show, "Love, Light and Life: The Gift of

Christmas" will be presented Sunday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. and again Dec. 20 at 11 a.m.

The church is located at 735 Reed St., Nashville. Call 517-852-9819 for more information.

Story Board

Stories from our readers

Share your story

As a publishing company, we feel it is important to record the tales of life in Barry County and want to preserve the stories of how major and minor events impacted residents, such as life during the Great Depression or World War II (both here and abroad), learning in a one-room schoolhouse, recreation, farming, clubs, entertainment, special programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, preparing for changing seasons, traveling, etc. We want to hear about it.

To share your story, e-mail those transcribed stories to news@j-adgraphics.com or mail or deliver a copy to our office, J-Ad Graphics, 1351 N. M-43, Hastings, MI 49058.

Along with the stories, please provide names of the storyteller and recorder, along with contact information, and provide any additional notes or explanations.

From one new school to another

I read in the *Maple Valley News* about sharing stories. I went to a country school, although it was not near Nashville, it was in Barry County. It was the Prairie School located two miles west and 1/2 mile south of Middleville. It was a fairly new building because a few years prior, the old one had burned.

We carried a pail of water from the farm house across the road for the drinking fountain and to wash our hands. In the corner sat a big stove or a furnace on which we could put food to warm up for our lunch. In the cold weather the stove could dry out clothes that got wet unexpectedly.

My sister started school in the first grade, while I was in the fifth grade.

We had a library built in the wall with doors on it. *Little Black Sambo* was one of the books.

The teachers I remember were: first grade, Forest Rino; second grade, Alice Harper; third grade, Minnie Andler; fourth grade, Minnie (Andler) McFall; and fifth grade, Vere Carter.

I went to the country school until the sixth grade. At that time, W.K. Kellogg helped the schools consolidate - much to my parents' disgust, but I loved it. There was more than one person in my class. The new building was not ready for our use, and we went the whole year in the basement of what used to be the Congregational Church in Middleville. Our teacher was Crystal Bragdon. The basement held the fifth grade, too.

I was born Nov. 4, 1920, at home on a farm near Middleville.

Yours truly,
Catherine Coman Rowden,
Charlotte

(Editors Note: The Prairie School, at Scales Prairie, was at the corner of Jackson and Cherry Valley Road in Thornapple Township. Minnie (Andler) McFall is the former teacher for whom McFall Elementary School in Middleville is named.)

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Eaton County residents must renew dog licenses

Eaton County residents who own dogs are reminded that it is time to renew dog licenses. State law requires that all dogs four months old or older be licensed. The cost to obtain a 2010 Eaton County dog license is \$15 for an intact male or female dog, \$10 for a spayed female or

neutered male dog. As of Dec. 1, the 2010 dog licenses may be obtained from local township or city treasurers, the Eaton County Treasurer's office or the Eaton County Animal Control facility in Charlotte. A valid rabies certificate signed by a licensed veteri-

narian must be presented at the time of purchase to receive the \$10 fee. The deadline to purchase a 2010 Eaton County dog license through a local township or city treasurer without penalty is Feb. 28, 2010. The Eaton County Board of Commissioners voted

recently to extend the deadline to purchase a dog license without being charged a \$30 late fee to May 31. After Feb. 28, dog licenses may be obtained through the following agencies only: Eaton County Animal Control, Eaton County Treasurer's office or the

Delta Township Treasurer's office (Delta Township residents only). Licenses may be obtained by mail by following these steps: Mail the rabies vaccination certificate, the spay/neuter certificate and a check for the exact amount to the Eaton County Animal

Control, 756 Courthouse Drive, Charlotte, MI 48813. The license and certificates will be mailed to the residence requesting the license. For more information, contact Eaton County Animal Control during normal business hours at 517-543-5755.

Eaton Co. farmer Steve Tennes nabs two state awards

Tapping insight and experience gained from running his own consumer-oriented farm, Charlotte fruit and vegetable grower Steve Tennes has helped bridge the gap that separates the non-farming public from the farmers who feed them. In recognition of his exceptional outreach and communications efforts, as well as a potent combination of multi-faceted leadership and energy, the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) announced Steve Tennes as the winner of the organization's Volunteer of the Year Award during a Dec. 1 awards ceremony at the MFB 90th annual meeting in Grand Rapids. As a prize, Tennes received a three-night stay at McGuire's Resort in Cadillac, compliments of MFB, and \$250 of products from Grainger.

Tennes, 32, also received MFB's Outstanding Young Agricultural Leader Award. The Outstanding Young Agricultural Leader Award recognizes a successful young farmer for outstanding leadership roles in Farm Bureau, agriculture, and his or her local community. Contestants are judged on their ability to actively serve in leadership roles while managing a successful farm operation. As the award recipient, Tennes won a trip for two to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, sponsored by Great Lakes Hybrids; \$500 from GreenStone Farm Credit Services; a prize from the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee; and a trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation 91st Convention and Annual Meeting in Seattle, Wash., in 2010.

The Volunteer of the Year Award honors a Farm Bureau member who has been recognized as an MFB Volunteer of the Month within the past year and who has demonstrated significant commitment and focused efforts toward a Farm Bureau program or event. Tennes was first recognized as MFB's Volunteer of the Month in July. He was selected for the Volunteer of the Year Award by a panel of Farm Bureau staff. Alongside his wife, Bridget, and their three children, Tennes owns and operates Country Mill Farm Market in Eaton County, a 120-acre fruit and vegetable farm and agri-tourism destination that attracts more than 50,000 customers annually. "Steve's proactive approach to media relations and communicating with the general public through the local newspa-

per is exactly the kind of thing we encourage our members to do," said Jeremy Nagel, manager of MFB's County Communications Department. "Especially at the local level, where simple name recognition is worth its weight in trust, there are no better spokespeople for agriculture than actual farmers, and Steve's great at it — ready, willing and able to explain how farming really works." Tennes pursued and attained verification in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP), a voluntary program that helps farmers identify and minimize pollution risks. "MAEAP-verified farms keep their land, water and air as healthy as the food they produce," said MFB agricultural ecology specialist Carrie Vollmer-Sanders. "They represent the highest

standards of environmental stewardship and the pinnacle of responsible agriculture. MAEAP is an effective way for producers to position their farms for safeguarding both the environment and their economic viability." In addition to his role as a communicator and environmental steward, Tennes is an ambassador for local agriculture. He serves as vice president of the Eaton County Farm Bureau. He's also involved in Farm Bureau's young farmer leadership development program, serves on the county Farm Bureau's "Farmers CARE" action team, and is a member of the MFB Direct Marketing Advisory Committee. As a county Farm Bureau board member, Tennes has played a major role in helping update and implement the county Farm Bureau's goals and objectives by not only leading those discussions, but posing and con-



fronting challenging questions to push the process forward. "All of our volunteers of the month have directly contributed to Michigan Farm Bureau's success over the past year, and we owe them a great deal of thanks for making this a strong, dynamic organization," said Lori Chamberlain, the MFB manager who oversees the Volunteer of the Month program. MFB is the state's largest general farm organization, representing more than 47,000 farm families.

Counselor Corner

by Lorraine Benedict, MA school counseling

During the past few months, it has been easy to get discouraged as the state has chosen to make additional cuts to education. However, many great things are happening at our schools that I wanted to make sure community members and parents get a chance to hear about. Today's column will focus on some of the things I have been able to observe and experience (I am a parent, too) at Maple Valley Schools.

- The fall sports banquet. Duska Brumm, our athletic director/assistant principal, did an awesome job of pulling together a banquet to celebrate our fall sports programs. More than 130 students — 30 percent of our high school population — participated in fall sports. There was a great turnout by families to celebrate the accomplishments of the teams. Coaches shared highlights from their seasons. I was most impressed, however, with the virtues that many of the coaches talked about. Regardless of the win/loss records, they said they hope that sports have taught students the value of hard work, determination, team work, sportsmanship, and camaraderie. These are lessons students will take with them throughout life.
- Maple Valley High School Honor's Choir, aka *Da Capo*. Ryan Rosin meets three mornings a week at 6:45 a.m. with a select group of musicians to produce an honor's choir that is one of the premier singing groups in the area. This group has received top honors at competitions. They also have performed for various local organizations and have assisted with fund-raising banquets for nonprofit groups. In December, the choir will perform for a Barry County Women's community group and for the annual Eaton County Juvenile Court luncheon as well as the annual Christmas concert Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. They also will go caroling at nursing homes and area businesses. Hard work in the early morning hours has made this group an outstanding extension of our school.
- Maple Valley Jazz Band. Dennis Vanderhoef continues the strong band tradition at Maple Valley Schools with our jazz band. While many schools offer jazz band as a class, our students meet outside of class one night a week and one day before school to practice as a group. The band entertains at home basketball games. Visitors to our school often remark about how enjoyable our music is at halftime and how they wish their schools had similar programs. The jazz band, like *Da Capo*, perform concerts around the community, as well.
- Musicals and dramas. Maple Valley Schools is known around the area for presenting high-quality dramas and musi-

cals. Many of our former students have gone on to participate at the college and professional level. Presently, several of our former students are engaged in careers in the arts.

- Spirit Club. Spirit Club is a new organization where students rally together to support athletics by attending games, meets, etc. Mrs. Brumm is committed to building school spirit within our student body and community. She is helping students to learn leadership and commitment to their school. This also brings a lot of fun and student energy to athletic events.
- After-school Credit Recovery Program. Next week, we will begin an after-school program for seniors who are behind in credits needed for graduation. We are one of the few area schools to offer this program with supervision by a highly qualified state certified teacher. The program will not require outside or local funds but will be self-supported by the participants. We hope this will encourage our students to "stay the course" and receive their high school diplomas.
- Mock interviews. Business teacher Monique Colizzi recently took her students to experience mock job interviews. Students were taught how to prepare for interviews by creating resumes and discussing interview etiquette. Staff and community members even assisted by making sure students were provided with necessary wardrobes and haircuts. The skills the students acquired will be key to helping them transition to the working world as adults.
- FFA. Aaron Saari continues to facilitate an outstanding agricultural program for our school. FFA members have received numerous state and national awards. They have year-round projects focusing on various areas in agricultural that not only provide agricultural knowledge but promote a positive work ethic in our students.
- Caring staff. As a school counselor, I have an opportunity to witness first-hand the care and compassion of many of our staff members. I have witnessed teachers meeting before and after school to help students with academics. I have watched as teachers have despaired anguished for kids who chose not to attend school regularly and lose credits, despite the teachers' best efforts. I have seen teachers personally provide necessary things for students. Some have even helped feed, clothe, transport and house some of our most needy kids. I have had teachers, with tears in their eyes, share information about students. Sometimes, because the student is hurting so badly, but just as often, because a student is successful. I feel blessed to work with a great bunch of people.

DRIVING, continued from page 1

reach destinations. Steudle added, "For the safety of everyone, motorists should use extreme caution when traveling in winter weather conditions. We can't emphasize this enough: Don't crowd the plow."

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Nashville zoning takes step closer to county control

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Ron Bracy, zoning administrator for the Village of Nashville, briefed the council Thursday evening, on some of the ordinance changes that could take place if zoning is turned over to Barry County to administer.

The biggest zoning change would be in the downtown area, said Bracy. What once was zoned as business will become mixed-use. The area facing re-classification includes the downtown business area, and extends to Hometown Lumber on the south end of town, the river on the west side and back to State Street on the east side. Previously, the zone did not include all of the area to the river on the west side and only extended back to the alley between Main Street and State Street.

Also, the rezoning would fit lot sizes that are currently in the village, many of which do not meet the current ordinance but were grandfathered in.

"It goes along with what is

existing, what is there," said Bracy. "The lot requirements now are 15,000 square feet, most of the lots are around 7,000 square feet. We would have half the number of lots."

If the zoning is turned over to the county, residents would see a change in the fees they are charged for permits.

Currently, the initial permit to build costs \$10. The county charges \$25 for an initial permit. To have an issues addressed by the zoning board of appeals in Nashville costs \$100; at the county level, the cost jumps to \$250.

Turn-around time on the permits also may be longer due to the larger workload the county handles. The initial permit, however, may be easier to obtain due to "more room" in the ordinance, said Bracy.

The proposed ordinance will go before the Barry County Commissioners Dec. 22 for its approval or rejection. If approved, the ordinance would return to the

Nashville Village Council for its decision.

Bracy said the proposed change stems from a lack of residents willing to serve on the boards that administer zoning for the village.

"It's difficult to keep the planning commission full and the zoning board full, and it's hard to tell neighbors 'no,'" he explained.

The Nashville council also discussed the village's options concerning cable television. Cable Max out of Kalkaska had been providing cable for the village until last week. Residents turned on their cable to find a message from the provider stating they were no longer in service. Adds for a satellite company also were shown but no cable channels were available. The loss of service came with little notice to customers, just a message on the screen stating Cable Max would no longer be the cable provider as of Dec. 30.

"As some of you may or may not know, our cable is kaput," said Trustee Mike Kenyon. "We have citizens out there who want cable. What do we do?"

In previous years, municipalities held contracts with cable companies to provide the service. After the state deregulated the cable industry last year, the village has not had a contract, said Clerk Cathy Lentz.

The council agreed to have its cable committee contact the state and look into options for residents.

In other business, the village council:

- Unanimously approved drafting a letter in support of Vermontville Township resident Blair Miller and his

work to obtain grants to develop a rail-to-trail system on the Thornapple River. Miller said that a program through the State of Michigan could provide funds to develop a trail along the railroad bed to Maple Valley High School. The funds, through the Safe Routes to Schools program, could be used as matching funds for other grants, making local contributions virtually zero.

"We have a rail corridor that we own. We're missing one piece by the school but that could be rerouted," said Miller. "The SR25 could pay to fence and event light that trail and can be used as matching funds."

- Agreed to maintain the employee contribution for health insurance at 10 percent, despite a 10 percent increase in costs. Currently, the village has three employees on the plan. Police Chief Jerry Schray said he would

not have a problem paying an increase to help the village pay for the coverage.

"Even at an increase to 15 percent, I wouldn't have a problem with that," said Schray. "You're not going to find insurance at that rate. That 15 percent increase isn't very much to ask for what you get."

- Ratified the contract for Department of Public Works employee Scott Decker. Village President Frank Dunham said he had previously signed the contract and needed the council's approval for his action.

"The contract was up at the first of the month. I did initially sign that because we had not discussed any other action to take," said Dunham.

The council unanimously agreed to extend the contract. Trustee Jack Holden was absent.

- Heard a report from Chief Schray on police activ-

ity during the past month. Schray reported that the department had four arrests and currently has several cases pending in court. The department had 574 complaints for the month of November, down 19 complaints from the previous month.

The village council will meet again Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. in the village office, moved up from the regular day and time due to the holiday.

A public hearing will be held this Thursday, Dec. 17, regarding the motorcycle club The Avengers' request to lease one of the vacant businesses in town. Bracy said he has denied the request, based on non-compliance with an ordinance. Under the ordinance, the building must have 50 feet between the primary building and the lot line, and the current building does not meet that requirement.

Misdemeanor becomes felony for Nashville man

Thomas Elwyn Hoyt, 33, of Nashville found his misdemeanor charge bumped up to a felony, due to its third-offense status.

Hoyt was charged Oct. 7 with operating under the influence of alcohol after a breath test registered his blood alcohol level at .08.

He was sentenced last week in 5th Circuit Court by

Judge James Fisher to 12 months in jail and 36 months of probation. He is required to attend cognitive behavior and substance abuse counseling while in jail.

He also was assessed \$500 in court costs, \$60 crime victims rights, \$500 library fund fines and \$68 in state minimum costs.

CVS #8052

YAC members give to Maple Valley families



More than 30 members of the Youth Advisory Council of the Barry Community Foundation purchased gifts for seven of the families served by the Maple Valley Alternative Education day care center. Gifts included clothing such as socks and shirts as well toys. Sunday, YAC members got together to wrap the gifts and celebrate with pizza and their December meeting. The gifts were delivered to the day care center Dec. 10. Pictured are (front row, from left) Alexis Arens, Erik Smendik, Ally Finkbeiner, Sara Olsen, Avery Blackburn, Jordan Dimock, Sydney Smith (second row) Katy Kesler, Erika Thornton, Karlee Mater, Josh Lloyd, Katy Garber, Mike Bassett, Michael Shockley, Simion Guenther (third row) McKenna Mater, Matt Johnson, Brianna Dawe, Nicloe Rybiski, Paige Downs (back) Mitchell Brisboe, Nick Paterson, Patricia Garber, Joey Longstreet, Kayla Vogel, Dallas Swinehart, Connor Loew, Laura McKeown and Jared Smendik. (Photo by Patricia Johns)

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HARVEST, continued from page 1

area harvest was similar to harvests across the country. Every farm in the state had the same issues.

"The weather has played havoc on the grain harvest."

Adding to the difficult harvest, was the accidental collapse of equipment at the elevator this fall, injuring two workers.

Jason Radke, who fell 130 feet, is now at Mary Freebed Hospital in Grand Rapids. He is walking and getting his memory back. His friends report he is becoming "the old Jason they knew."

The other worker fell 30 feet. He spent five days in



Soybeans yielded an average of 10 more bushels per acre than normal. (File photo)

the hospital, and Marlin said he home recovering.

From Our Readers Local Citizens Speak Out On Issues

Every little bit helps shelter

To the editor:

A few Sundays ago, I attended a holiday tea in Charlotte where a girl, age 17, spoke to those who were gathered to say how grateful she was that she, her nephew and her two sisters, all under the age of 15, and her disabled mother had a roof over their heads and were not living on the street. SIREN/Eaton Shelter, she said, was responsible for helping her family. This year, SIREN has had

to turn away 500 individuals because there was not enough money to provide needed housing to Eaton County residents.

What happened to those people? In most cases, SIREN staff does not know because other shelters are not obligated to report such information to referring agencies.

As SIREN/Eaton Shelter begins its annual campaign now to raise \$90,000 in donations to assist homeless

families in 2010, I hope residents will consider sending this agency whatever they can. The housing and supportive services provided are temporary. In most cases, however, it is just the pivotal difference to get families back on their feet and functioning. Donations can be mailed to SIREN/Eaton Shelter at PO Box 369, Charlotte, MI 48813.

Dr. Linda G. Kimball
Lansing



Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Friendship Sites Congregate Menu

Monday, December 14
Roast pork and gravy, roasted sweet potatoes, broccoli, pears, dinner roll.

Tuesday, December 15
Chili, tossed salad, apple crisp, crackers.

Wednesday, December 16
Hamburger, baked beans, glazed baby carrots, orange, hamburger bun.

Thursday, December 17
Cranberry chicken w/wild rice, broccoli, peas and carrots, applesauce, dinner roll.

Friday, December 18
Swiss steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, spinach, jello with fruit, dinner roll.

Home Delivered Cold Menu

Monday, December 14
Ham pasta salad, potato salad, peaches, crackers.

Tuesday, December 15
Cottage cheese, kidney bean salad, pineapple, muffin.

Wednesday, December 16
Sliced bologna w/cheese, carrot raisin salad, pineapple,

wheat bread.
Thursday, December 17
Seafood pasta salad, cucumber salad, mandarin oranges, crackers.

Friday, December 18
Chicken Caesar salad, three bean salad, applesauce, muffin.

Home Delivered Hearty Menu

Monday, December 14
Roast pork and gravy, roasted sweet potatoes, broccoli, diced pears, wheat bread.

Tuesday, December 15
Chili, California blend, apple crisp, crackers.

Wednesday, December 16
Hamburger, baked beans, glazed baby carrots, orange, hamburger bun.

Thursday, December 17
Cranberry chicken, wild rice, broccoli, peas and carrots, applesauce, wheat bread.

Friday, December 18
Swiss steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, spinach, cherry crisp, dinner roll.

Activities Calendar

Monday, December 14:
Hastings - December craft 10:30; Music with Sam 10:30; Card Making 12:30 p.m.; Painting with Bob 1 p.m. Delton - BP Clinic 11 a.m. Delton - Mini Massage 11 a.m. H,W,N, Reminiscence.

Tuesday, December 15:
Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; play Wii 10:30 a.m.; Mini Massage 9-noon. GL - Cards 10:30-12:30.

Wednesday, December 16:
Hastings - No lunch. Hastings Site Only: Tai Chi 5:15 p.m. Delton - Reminiscence, Nashville - Mini Massage 11 a.m.

Thursday, December 17:
Hastings - No Line Dancing; Music with the Lewis'; BP & BS Tendercare 10:30 a.m.; Caregiver's Sup. 3:30 p.m.; Cancer Support 1 p.m. Delton - Puzzles/Trivia, Nashville - TV Time.

Friday, December 18:
Hastings - Exercise 9 a.m.; Model Railroad 10 a.m.; Bingo 10 a.m. Nashville - Bingo, Woodland - Mini Massage 11 a.m.

Nashville man sentenced in attempted larceny

Joshua Douglas Cook, 24, of Nashville pleaded guilty last week to one misdemeanor count of attempted larceny from a building in 5th Circuit Court under

Judge James Fisher. Cook was sentenced to 30 days in jail and 18 months of probation stemming from a Sept. 21 incident in which he stole a plasma TV and alco-

hol. Healso was ordered to pay \$688 in restitution, \$60 to the crime victims rights fund, \$500 in court costs and \$68 in state minimum costs.



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Hot tips for cold-weather driving

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land encourages motorists to prepare their vehicles for winter driving, if they haven't already done so, to avoid inconvenient or even dangerous situations.

"Winter takes its toll on vehicles and demands extra caution by drivers," Land said. "We want everyone to enjoy safe travels on our roadways as the seasons change. Winterizing your vehicle goes

a long way in making sure you arrive at your destination without incident."

Freezing temperatures and slick roads pose a host of challenges to vehicles, such as added stress on engines,

drained batteries and reduced tire traction.

Generally accepted tips for winterizing vehicles include:

- Check the battery, which can lose half of its power in cold temperatures. Have it tested by a certified mechanic if it is more than three years old. It's also a good idea to clean the posts and connections of any corrosion.

- Pay attention to the tires. Maintaining proper tire pressure is essential year-round, especially in the winter when snowy conditions reduce traction. Keep in mind that air pressure in cold tires will drop because air is a gas and gas contracts when it cools.

- Make sure there is a clear field of view. Replace wiper blades if necessary. They can deteriorate after only a year or two. Effective wipers are a must in order to remove snow, rain and road slush from the windshield. Also, fill the window-washer reservoir with cleaning fluid. Don't use plain water because it will freeze.

- Use the right oil. It should have the proper viscosity for winter driving. Oil thickens in cold weather. Oil that gets too thick won't lubricate the engine sufficiently.

- Inspect the belts and hoses. Cold weather can

cause extra wear and tear.

- Avoid moisture in the fuel tank. When the temperature dips, it's a good idea to keep the gas tank filled. That helps to prevent moisture from forming in the tank. Moisture can cause an engine to run rough or even prevent it from starting. Consider putting a bottle of fuel de-icer in the tank as well to help keep moisture from the fuel line.

- Flush and refill the cooling system as recommended by the manufacturer. Check the coolant's level and concentration periodically.

- If the vehicle is equipped with four-wheel drive, make sure it's in working order before the snow flies. Since most people don't use the system in the summer, it doesn't hurt to make sure the system engages properly and that all gear oil levels are correct.

- Carry an emergency kit. It should include items such as a flashlight, first-aid supplies, jumper cables, a blanket and warm clothes, paper towels, snow shovel, a well-stocked tool box and extra food and water.

"Reading your owners manual is the best place to start," Land said. "Following the manufacturer's recommended service schedule and doing preventative maintenance go a long way in ensuring safe, hassle-free driving."

In My Own Write

by Amy Jo Kinyon



Seeing beauty in the snow - and the season

I love the first snowfall of the year. Do I love the icy conditions that often accompany it? No, not so much. The first snow, however, is something I look forward to. It covers everything in a soft layer of white. The leafless branches of trees are transformed as they become covered with flakes. The brown grass is now a gleaming hill of white that sparkles when the sun hits it.

Though it may be a bother in some ways, the first snow has a way of making everything look new and clean.

I suppose my love of the first snow runs in the family. My youngest niece scurried outside at the break of dawn to play in the snow — and eat quite a bit of it, too. Don't worry; along with a love for snow, I have passed down the rules of eating snow: 1. The only color that's edible is white; don't touch the yellow stuff. 2. Only scrape off the top layer because you never know what the snow is covering up.

I remember one snowstorm when I was 4 or 5 that knocked out our power for what seemed like months (it was only two weeks, actually). Luckily, we had a generator. That turned out to be lucky for our relatives, too. We had a house full of family for the length of the blackout. We cooked meals on the wood stove in the living room and had puppet shows with flashlights. For a kid, that power outage wasn't an inconvenience at all. It was great to have cousins to play with all the time. I didn't worry about the weather or the lack of power; I just had fun with what we

had. Snow still doesn't hold many bad feelings for me. Sure, it takes a few more minutes to 'layer up' before heading outside, and I don't enjoy driving on ice. But I still love to have a good snowball fight or make a snowman.

As a kid, the reason for liking the snow had quite a bit to do with the upcoming holiday. Snow meant Christmas was getting closer, and with Christmas came presents and spending time with family.

So many people this season may not be looking forward to the holiday as much as I am. Foreclosures are still hitting the local housing market, and if you read the article in this issue about homeless students, you'll see just how many of our young people have been affected in a huge way by the economy.

In the midst of this gloom, there are a lot of organizations stepping up to help those in need. The Maple Valley Community Center of Hope, Vermontville Bible Church, Hastings City Bank, Eaton Federal Savings, Maple Valley Kiwanis and a slew of other organizations are helping individuals and families. It has been encouraging to see that when the needs have grown, so have the number of projects to help. I'm glad that I live in a community where so many are willing to give their time and talents to help others. That's really what the season is all about.

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The Barry Community Foundation offers a range of philanthropic options.

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Donor-Advised Funds are often created as an alternative to a private foundation and allow donors to recommend the charitable organizations and causes to be considered for grants. They can be established in two forms:

Non-Endowed Donor-Advised Funds allow the donor to recommend grants from both principal and income.

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Scholarship and Award Funds are established by donors wishing to make education available to individuals in their communities.

You may also wish to:

- consider naming your community foundation as the beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance policy.
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Local choir sings in Hastings



Members of the Da Capo Choir from Maple Valley High School entertained the GFWC-Hastings Women's Club with a variety of songs during the club's Dec. 4 holiday program. The choir is directed by Ryan Rosin. The choir will present its Christmas concert at 7 p.m. Dec. 17 in the Maple Valley High School auditorium. (Photo by Elaine Gilbert)

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Barry County United Way close to reaching goal

"The Barry County United Way Board of Directors is so thankful that despite these tough economic times, the businesses and employees, to date, have raised 77.4 per-

cent towards the initial goal of \$580,000," said Barry County United Way Executive Director Lani Forbes.

"We have seen many employee campaigns come in above last year," she added.

Hastings Mutual Insurance Company, Walker, Fluke and Sheldon,

Coleman Agency, Bradford White and J-Ad Graphics have all had increases in participation or giving.

"Currently, 43 programs are funded through last year's campaign (see the annual report in the center section of today's *Reminder*). Despite the great support of the community, United Way definitely needs your support to reach this year's goal," she added.

Allocations Committee Chairperson Cort Collison said, "Our agencies told us going into the campaign that they would need \$580,000 in funding this year to maintain

the programs that we are currently funding. However, we have had five new programs request funding that totaled \$91,000, bringing the total requests to \$671,000. It will be very difficult making funding decisions this year."

More than 30 donors from all areas of Barry County make up the allocations committee. Any United Way donor who would like to serve on the allocations committee is invited to call the United Way office at 269-945-4010.

"It is not too late to get your contribution in for this year's campaign," added Forbes. "If you missed the campaign at work, ask your payroll department for a payroll deduction slip or you can mail your contribution to the Barry County United Way at 450 Meadow Run, Suite 300, Hastings, MI 49058.

Contributions also can be made online through the Web site at bcunitedway.org.

Feeding neighbors can bring tax relief

Residents can receive some tax relief and help provide food to neighbors by making a monetary contribution to the Food Bank of South Central Michigan. Such donations may be eligible for a special Michigan tax credit of up to half of the contribution, in addition to possible federal deductions.

To take advantage of this opportunity for the 2009 tax season, contributions must be received by Dec. 31.

The food bank serves a group of 18 agencies in Barry County. So far this year, it has distributed 847,037 pounds of food in Barry County, more than it sent out all of last year. This distribution has saved food bank nonprofit members in Barry County more than \$1.11 million, according to Bob Randels, food bank executive director.

"We're a regional entity. That means we get national and statewide resources and bring them in to Barry County," said Randels. "We're the Feeding America food bank for the county."

He noted that Feeding America (formerly known as America's Second Harvest) is the national network of food banking. The food bank also belongs to the Food Bank Council of Michigan,

enabling access to statewide resources.

Randels said that this year has been a particularly challenging one for the food bank, with the recession placing many more households in need. A full 39 percent of the individuals the food bank serves via its hunger-relief network are children.

"Most often, behind every struggling adult who is unemployed or underemployed with no health insurance, there are children," he said.

Earlier this year, the food bank conducted an extensive hunger study, interviewing 430 recipients of emergency food.

"Time and time again, we

were told things like, 'I've never had to use a pantry or soup kitchen before ... if it weren't for this food, I'm not sure what my family would be eating.'"

Contributions may be sent to: Food Bank of SCM, PO Box 408, Battle Creek, MI 49016 or online at: www.foodbankofscm.org.

The Food Bank of South Central Michigan is a United Way Program delivery partner.

LEGAL NOTICE

AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NOTIFY (248) 362-6100 IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Keith R. Gilbert, a single man of Barry County, Michigan, Mortgagor to U.S. Bank National Association ND dated the 20th day of January, A.D. 2006, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Barry and State of Michigan, on the 26th day of January, A.D. 2006, in Instrument No. 1159376 of Barry Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of \$109,591.08 (one hundred nine thousand five hundred ninety-one and 08/100) plus accrued interest at 6.1% (six point one) percent per annum. And no suit proceedings at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof. Now, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, and pursuant to the statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of January, A.D., 2010, at 1:00:00 PM said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction, to the highest bidder, at the Barry County Courthouse in Hastings, MI, Barry County, Michigan, of the premises described in said mortgage. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the Township of Hope, in the County of Barry and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: Township of Hope, County of Barry, Michigan: Parcel of land located in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 9, Town 2 North, Range 9 West, described as: Commencing at the South 1/4 corner of said Section 9, thence North 03 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds East, along the North and South 1/4 line of said section, 2,029.23 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing North 03 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds East, along said North and South 1/4 line and the point of beginning. AND Parcel of land located in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 9, Town 2 North, Range 9 West, described as: Commencing at the South 1/4 corner of said Section 9, thence North 03 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds East, along the North and South 1/4 line of said section, 2,029.23 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing North 03 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds East, along said North and South 1/4 line and the point of beginning. Commonly known as: 4422 Carr Drive Parcel Number 08-07-009-001-67 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: December 5, 2009 WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A. By: Michael I. Rich (P-41938) Attorney for Plaintiff Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 2155 Butterfield Drive Suite 200-S Troy, MI 48064 WWR# 10029093 ASAP# 3362884 12/05/2009, 12/12/2009, 12/19/2009, 12/26/2009

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land located in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 9, Town 2 North, Range 9 West, described as: Commencing at the South 1/4 corner of said Section 9, thence North 03 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds East, along the North and South 1/4 line of said Section 2,029.23 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing North 03 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds East, along said North and South 1/4 line, 66.06 feet; thence South 84 degrees 26 minutes 46 seconds East, 183.62 feet; thence South 50 degrees 22 minutes 08 seconds East, 107.35 feet; thence South 19 degrees 28 minutes 04 seconds East, 122.88 feet; thence South 79 degrees 20 minutes 05 seconds East, 184.57 feet; thence South 03 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds West, 66.58 feet; thence North 79 degrees 20 minutes 05 seconds West, 231.32 feet; thence North 19 degrees 28 minutes 04 seconds West, 142.65 feet; thence North 50 degrees 22 minutes 08 seconds West, 68.88 feet; thence North 84 degrees 26 minutes 46 seconds West, 160.58 feet to said North and South 1/4 line and the point of beginning. AND Parcel of land located in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 9, Town 2 North, Range 9 West, described as: Commencing at the South 1/4 corner of said Section 9, thence North 03 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds East, along the North and South 1/4 line of said section, 2,029.23 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing North 03 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds East, along said North and South 1/4 line, 66.06 feet; thence South 84 degrees 26 minutes 46 seconds East, 183.62 feet; thence South 50 degrees 22 minutes 08 seconds East, 107.35 feet; thence South 19 degrees 28 minutes 04 seconds East, 122.88 feet; thence South 79 degrees 20 minutes 05 seconds East, 184.57 feet; thence South 03 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds West, 66.58 feet; thence North 79 degrees 20 minutes 05 seconds West, 231.32 feet; thence North 19 degrees 28 minutes 04 seconds West, 142.65 feet; thence North 50 degrees 22 minutes 08 seconds West, 68.88 feet; thence North 84 degrees 26 minutes 46 seconds West, 160.58 feet to said North and South 1/4 line and the point of beginning. Commonly known as: 4422 Carr Drive Parcel Number 08-07-009-001-67 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: December 5, 2009 WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A. By: Michael I. Rich (P-41938) Attorney for Plaintiff Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 2155 Butterfield Drive Suite 200-S Troy, MI 48064 WWR# 10029093 ASAP# 3362884 12/05/2009, 12/12/2009, 12/19/2009, 12/26/2009

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 Chad A. Schondelmayer, unmarried man by Lorie K. Bowerman, as Attorney in Fact, to Comerica Bank, a Michigan State Chartered Bank, Mortgagee, dated October 12, 2005 and recorded October 14, 2005 in Instrument Number 1154574, and Loan Modification recorded 03/09/2006 Document Number 1161096, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Bac Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Three Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Three and 64/100 Dollars (\$203,343.64) 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 JANUARY 7, 2010. Said premises are located in the Township of Thornapple, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Condominium Unit 42, Mulberry Hills Estates, a Condominium according to the Master Deed recorded in Document 1092759, First Amendment to Master Deed recorded June 16, 2002 in Document 1106585, and Second Amendment to Master Deed recorded October 4, 2004, in Document 1134901, in the Office of Barry County Register of Deeds and designated as Barry County Condominium Subdivision Plan Number 24, together with rights in the general common elements and the limited common elements as set forth in said Master Deed and 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 28, 2009 Orland Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400 File No. 617.1880 ASAP# 3358105 11/28/2009, 12/05/2009, 12/12/2009, 12/19/2009

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for this purpose. If you are in the Military, please contact our office at the number listed below. Notwithstanding, if the debt secured by this property was discharged in a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy - proceeding, this notice is NOT an attempt to collect that debt. You are presently in default under your Mortgage Security Agreement, and the Mortgage Holder may be contemplating the commencement of foreclosure proceedings under the terms of that Agreement and Michigan law. You have no legal obligation to pay amounts due under the discharged note. A loan modification may not serve to revive that obligation. However, in the event you wish to explore options that may avert foreclosure, please contact our office at the number listed below. Attention: The following notice shall apply only if the property encumbered by the mortgage described below is claimed as a principal residence exempt from tax under section 7cc of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.7cc. Attention Lucas Johnson and Jennifer Johnson, regarding the property at 212 W S St Hastings, MI 49058. You have the right to request a meeting with your mortgage holder or mortgage servicer, Potestivo & Associates, P.C. is the designee with authority to make agreements under MCL 600.3205b and MCL 600.3205c, and can be contacted at: 811 South Blvd., Suite 100 Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 844-5123. You may also contact a housing counselor. For more information, contact the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) by visiting www.michigan.gov/mshda or calling (866) 946-7432. If you request a meeting with Potestivo & Associates, P.C. within 14 days after the notice required under MCL 600.3205a(1) is mailed, then foreclosure proceedings will not commence until at least 90 days after the date said notice was mailed. If an agreement to modify the mortgage loan is reached and you abide by the terms of the agreement, the mortgage will not be foreclosed. You have the right to contact an attorney and can obtain contact information through the State Bar of Michigan's Lawyer Referral Service at (800) 968-0738. Dated: December 12, 2009. Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Blvd., Suite 100 Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 844-5123 information may be faxed to (248)267-3004, Attention: Loss Mitigation Our File No: 09-18361 ASAP# 3372155 12/12/2009

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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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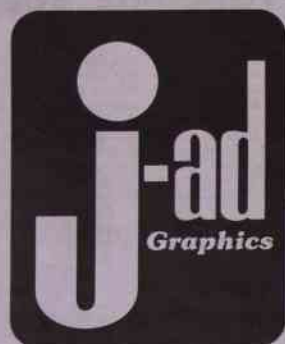
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DK uses depth to pull away from Lions in 2nd half

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

More often than not the substitutions were five in and five out for the Panthers Tuesday night.

Delton Kellogg's varsity girls' basketball team used its depth to score a 55-23 victory at Maple Valley, improving to 3-0 overall on the season and 2-0 in the Kalamazoo Valley Association.

"It kind of fell together tonight," said Delton Kellogg head coach Rick Williams. "It looked better. I'm just deep and I've got athletes. It's a pretty simple formula."

Williams said he has seen Kalamazoo Christian substi-

tute its players like that for years, and is planning on sticking with the strategy for as long as it keeps working at least.

Delton Kellogg had ten different players score in the ball game, led by senior guard Hannah Williams who tossed in 13 points, and also had three steals.

Kali Tobias finished with eight points and a team-high six rebounds, while Paige Green and Andrea Polley added seven points each.

The Lions never led after an offensive put-back by Delton Kellogg's Amber Saurers in the first minute of the second quarter, that put the Panthers up 11-10, but Delton didn't really start to

pull away until going on a 17-2 run in the third quarter.

Maple Valley is now 1-2 on the year, and 0-2 in the KVA, having also lost a league contest against Galesburg-Augusta last Friday.

The Lions turned the ball over 21 times, compared to 17 for the Panthers.

"They've just got to play basketball," said Maple Valley head coach Landon Wilkes. "I'm at a loss for words."

Delton Kellogg changed its full-court pressure to a diamond in the second half.

"That got us up with that first group," said coach

Williams.

The Lions played a part in doing themselves in too.

"I don't know how much other teams are affecting us. It's us affecting us," Wilkes said.

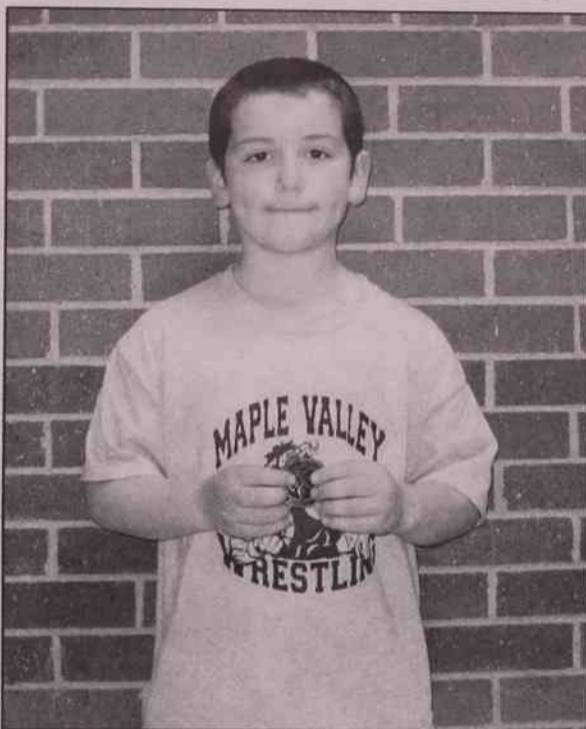
"There's a difference between thinking you're working really, really hard, and actually working really, really hard," Wilkes said. "As coaches, we have to right the ship and fix the problems."

Jennifer Kent led Maple Valley with seven points, while Mikaela Bromley and Jordan Beachnau chipped in four each.



The Lions' Zoanne Siple looks to get a shot over Delton Kellogg's Shelly NeSmith (54) during their teams' Kalamazoo Valley Association contest Tuesday night. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

Wrestling club has 15 medallists at first tourney



Klyne Hughes placed third at last weekend's tournament hosted by Portland.

The Maple Valley Youth Wrestling Club participated in its season opening tournament last weekend at Portland.

The area youth earned 15 medals for top four finishes in their weight classes.

Flight champions from Maple Valley were Christian Schrader, Jesse Brumm, Chandler Murton, and Jace Heinze.

Jayce Raymond, Gavin Bartley, and Bryce Bignall were second.

Third place finishers were Derek Sackitt, Holden Sackitt, David Hosack-Frizzell, Klyne Hughes, Heath Flower, Wyatt Baird, and Holden Creller, Dillon Terpening was fourth.



Maple Valley senior Elizabeth Stewart puts up a jump shot from the right side Tuesday night against Delton Kellogg. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

NOTICE
CASTLETON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW

The December 2009 Board of Review will meet on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at 9:00 A.M. to correct clerical errors, approve Principal Residence Exemptions not timely filed and take any other action allowed by statute.

Cheryl L. Hartwell, Supervisor

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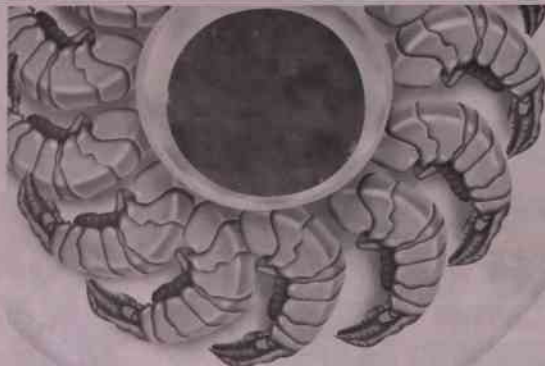
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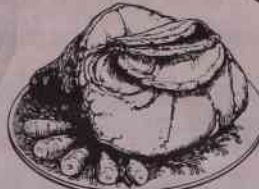
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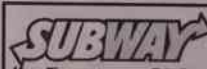
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