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Nashville shows holiday spirit at parade



Acting as the grand finale, Santa waves to the crowd during the parade. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Decked out in their greenery, Putnam District Library supports show off their decorations. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

More parade photos on page 6



'New' principal at Fuller elementary extends recess time

The parents of first grade student Michael Groves had the highest bid in a silent auction at Fuller Street Elementary School in Nashville, winning their son the position of "Principal for a Day." Michael performed a building check with Principal Jason Miller, greeted teachers, made the "executive decision" to lengthen his first grade recess and assigned Miller to recess duty. Michael also had his picture taken with the principal and the man in red himself, Santa. Here, Principal Jason Miller, Acting Principal Michael Groves, Chandler Murton, Buck Schrader and Jaden Rodriguez enjoy a pizza lunch.

Avengers Motorcycle Club denied clubhouse in Nashville

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

The Avengers Motorcycle Club was denied a zoning variance Thursday night by the Nashville Village Zoning Board of Appeals. The club submitted an application and other necessary paperwork to obtain a permit for their clubhouse at 105 N. Main St. Ron Bracy, zoning administrator for the village denied the initial permit, citing ordinance 3.14 D which states that any principal building shall not be located less than 50 feet from any other lot. The ordinance applies to churches, schools, clubs or lodges in the business district of downtown Nashville.

There was a bit of confusion concerning the purpose of Thursday's public hearing. Jim Willett, President of the Avengers was under the impression that the board would decide if a variance would be granted to the club at the meeting. The board, however, said they believed the purpose of meeting to be to determine if Bracy had followed the ordinance and completed his job accurately.

"We are here to decide, did he (Bracy) follow the ordinance and did he do due diligence," said board member Orvin Moore. "In all reality, we're not here to hear whether that's an allowable use or not. The purpose of this hearing is to see if he did his job or not."

Willett said he was under a different understanding

concerning the purpose of the hearing.

"I understand he was doing his job, he was following what he was supposed to do. There's no question of that," said Willett. "We were under the impression that we could come here today and get it settled."

After much discussion, the board made two motions. The first confirmed by a unanimous vote that Bracy had followed the ordinance when he denied the initial request. The second motion unanimously denied the request for variance, based on the ordinance regulations. Section 18.05 of the ordinance code lists provisions for granting a variance. Those include special features of a building that makes a structure unusable for any other purpose than the one proposed. Moore said the building at 105 N. Main St. is similar to others

in the district which makes granting a variance for its use as a clubhouse impossible.

"Usually, in most cases, there's something substantial that makes it so that building could not be used for a different business or different uses," said Moore. "I just don't see anything there that would allow us to grant a variance."

Towards the end of the nearly three hour meeting, Willett questioned whether or not he could open a motorcycle repair shop in the same space under the ordinances. Bracy said he would handle that application as a new proposal and would need to take a look at the ordinances but that it might be a possible option. Business hours and other criteria would have to be detailed in the application, said Bracy.

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- School district faces more tough choices to balance budgets
- Readers pack library to visit Santa
- New program to honor local high school performers
- Lion cheer team places fifth at Barry County Invitational

Local senior is semifinalist in Coca-Cola scholarship

Unlike most high school students, Maple Valley senior Amanda Erwin will be

spending her Christmas break completing several writing assignments.

Erwin has been named a semifinalist in the Coca-Cola Foundation's Scholars pro-

gram. She is one of 2,200 applicants selected as a semifinalist and must complete a secondary application, including essays, official transcripts and two letters of recommendation to move on to the next step. Erwin plans to finish those requirements in between presents and family festivities during the next two weeks.

If selected as one of the 250 finalists, Erwin will travel to Atlanta, Ga., in March 2010 where she will find out if she has been awarded a \$10,000 or \$20,000 scholarship. In Atlanta, Erwin will be interviewed by a national selection committee representing outstanding leaders in business, government, education and the arts.

Erwin said she was excited when the news came that she was a semi-finalist due to requirements of the scholar-

ship selection process.

"I was really excited. I've been looking for scholarship opportunities, and this was based on academics, so I was really excited," said Erwin.

High school counselor Dawn Yager has worked at Maple Valley for the past seven years and said Erwin has gone further than any other Maple Valley student who has applied for the scholarship. Yager said Erwin's semifinalist status is just one example of the potential she possesses to succeed both in and out of the classroom.

Though she has been accepted into Central Michigan University, Western Michigan and Michigan State, Erwin is holding out for word from the University of Michigan. Once enrolled, she will pursue a chemistry or biology major with possibly a pre-

medicine focus.

"My mom is a chemistry teacher, and I've been thinking that's how I can help society, with the advances in medicine, world research and whatnot," said Erwin.

She currently is president of the National Honor Society, captain of the quiz bowl team and member of the Spanish honor society.

Yager said there has been an influx of students seeking scholarship opportunities this year, and students also have been completing college applications earlier than in the past.

"I don't know how many transcripts and recommendations I've sent out. There have already been more students filling out paperwork this year than all of last year combined. We've been finding out about persistence, patience and problem-solving," said Yager.



Amanda Erwin and school counselor Dawn Yager check out the requirements for the Coca-Cola scholarship. Erwin learned that she is a semifinalist in the competition. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

Kids write letters to Santa

Through a special arrangement with the North Pole, Santa shared a few letters he received from local children with the *Maple Valley News*. The letters were placed in a special mailbox located by the gazebo in downtown Nashville. Though the jolly old elf himself is too busy preparing for the big sleigh ride to write back right now, Mrs. Claus took a few moments out of baking cookies for the elves to respond to the letters.

My name is Abbagail. For Christmas I would really like a baby doll.

Thank you,
Abby
age 18 months

Dear Abby,
Mr. Claus is busy getting ready for the big day, so I am taking care of the mail. Thank you for being a good girl and write to us again next year!

Love,
Mrs. Claus

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

My name is Lillian. For Christmas I would really like a sleeping bag.

Thank you,
Lilly, age 3

Dear Lilly,
I hope you have a very Merry Christmas, Lilly! Be sure and write again next year.

Love,
Mrs. Claus

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I hope all is well at the North Pole.

My mom would like to know if you want cookies and milk or a sandwich and soda? She says variety is good.

I hope you think I've been good enough for some presents this year. I'm just asking for a few things like a board game (doesn't matter which one, we just need a new one for our family game night), some art supplies and a Nintendo Wii. But, if you can't get the Wii, I'd like some Barbies. I hope you have a safe trip, and remember to bundle up, it'll be cold.

Thank you,
Elizabeth, age 9

Dear Elizabeth,
I think a sandwich would be a wonderful treat for Santa. Could you put out milk with the sandwich? Soda can make Santa burp, and we don't want to wake up any of the children while he is visiting houses.

Love,
Mrs. Claus

Dear Santa,
Hello and how are you doing? This is my very first letter to you. I'm really excited about Christmas, it's so pretty with all the lights.

I am just asking for a few things this year. I'd like to have a baby boy Cabbage Patch Doll, a Crayola Color Me a Song and a play cell

phone (I like pink, but any color will be fine).

My mom says have a safe trip.

Sincerely,
Lauren, age 1

Dear Lauren,
Thank you so much for your letter. It was wonderful to read your first letter to Santa. Thank you for being a good girl and write to us again next year!

Love,
Mrs. Claus

Dear Santa,
I'm sorry for being a little naughty this year. Please forgive me.

Love,
Kayli

Dear Santa,
My name is Alexis. Thank you for last year's presents. I liked everything.

Thanks,
Alexis, age 7

Dear Alexis,
I am so glad you liked your presents last year. Hopefully, this will be another merry Christmas for you and your family.

Love,
Mrs. Claus

Dear Santa,
My name is Jamie. I would like a princess sleeping bag. I would also like a princess learning laptop.

Thank you,
Jamie, age 5

Dear Jamie,
Thank you for your letter. It was wonderful to hear from you. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas.

Love,
Mrs. Claus

Dear Santa Claus,
I'm sorry about all the commotion I caused the night I wasn't sure you existed. If you would like to, take away one gift, or two, or three, or all. I won't have a night like that one anymore. From now on, I will believe in you. Please write back.

Noah

Dear Noah,
Thank you very much for your letter. I am very glad to hear you are sorry for causing a commotion and that you won't have any more nights like that. Remember to try and be a good boy, I will make sure Santa reads your letter right away.

Love,
Mrs. Claus

Dear Kayli,
Thank you for your apology. Santa will be happy to read your letter. Have a merry Christmas and write again next year.

Love,
Mrs. Claus

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Sheriff encourages designating a driver this holiday season

As family and friends reunite this holiday season the Michigan Sheriffs Association and Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf remind residents that anyone caught driving drunk will be arrested and prosecuted.

Barry County deputies will be out in full force to prevent impaired driving.

"If you are arrested the cost of

your defense and potential fines can be thousands of dollars, and you could lose your driving privileges forever," said Leaf.

The winter holidays are among the deadliest times of the year, he added, due to increased incidences of impaired driving.

"Many people simply do not realize the consequences of driving after drinking. The statistics

are alarming: 297 people were killed in 2008 in alcohol-related crashes in Michigan," he said.

"If you are impaired ... either take a cab home, have a sober designated driver take you home or stay the night where you are.

"Drunk driving has a devastating effect on our community," said Leaf. "My deputies will make every effort to keep the

roads in Barry County safe by arresting those irresponsible individuals that make the decision to drive drunk."

Sheriff Leaf's final advice to those who wish to ring in the new year by consuming alcohol: "Designate a driver that will stay sober and have a happy new year."

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*Cultivation of
the Spirit*

If you would be a truly spirited person, you must seek the Spirit continuously and be receptive to its influence in your life. This requires, first and foremost that you truly want to live a spiritual life, and secondly, that you open your heart and soul to God. Different religious traditions may describe this process differently. Evangelical Christians may describe it as accepting Christ as their personal Saviour. Catholics have a formal confirmation procedure where young people affirm their acceptance of God's way. Adherents of certain Eastern religions describe this receptivity as having the wisdom gate opened. James Taylor sums it up well in his song "The Secret of Life" when he says that "The secret of love is in opening up your heart." Realize that the gate of the soul is the narrow gate, and that it takes courage to open up your heart, but there is no shortcut to having the spirit of God within you. Pursue the way of the Lord. Cultivate your inner spirit. Perform virtuous deeds. Join in the family of God.

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love.

R.S.V. 1 John 4:7-8

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PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH

School district faces more tough choices to balance budgets

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Though a \$127 per-pupil cut from Gov. Jennifer Granholm is off the table for now, school districts are still struggling to not only meet this year's budget demands but put together a balanced budget for next year.

Districts have already seen their budgets for this year cut by \$165. Currently, the board is facing close to a \$435,830 deficit. The Maple Valley Board of Education will make a decision at the January board meeting concerning the 2009-10 budget.

Maple Valley Superintendent Kim Kramer outlined to the board at its meeting Monday, Dec. 14, what he said he views as the three options for the district to balance its current budget. The board adopted a balanced budget in June of this year, as required by state law but has struggled with cuts handed down from the state as legislators have worked to balance their budget. With the state's deadline of Oct. 31 to balance its budget, districts have faced changes in the aid packages after programs and staff have been working under required balanced budgets for more than four

months.

The first option presented by Kramer to balance to 2009-10 budget, would deduct the balance from the fund equity. The fund equity is commonly used by districts to fill the gap at the start of the year until the state presents a budget for schools. Most schools in Michigan must borrow funds from the state to cover those costs. The Maple Valley fund equity is currently at \$1,312,857, nearly \$3 million less than 2003.

"Some say we need to stop cutting our programs as it will drive students away," said Kramer. "Furthermore, we need to stop threatening and just run our programs as long as we can, with what money we have and see what the state does with the 40-plus schools that are already in bankruptcy."

The second option would include taking a portion of the needed money from the fund equity and a portion from mid-year cuts.

"Probably a prudent thing to do, but what to cut?" asked Kramer in his report. "There are ramifications with everything on the list. These ramifications we will not like and may not be good for students."

The list included no new hires, eliminating the liaison police officer position, eliminating junior high sports, increasing the pay-to-play fee and discontinuing the elementary media center aide position, among others. The board voiced support for freezing all non-essential purchases and spending the carry-over from the Great Start Readiness Program. These two actions would save the district \$135,000.

"Personally, I can see putting the spending freeze in place and using the \$35,000 from GSRP as a cushion against the possible \$127 [per pupil] cut," said board member April Heinze. "I think we plan for the worst and hope for the best."

The third option Kramer outlined is to take all of the needed funds from mid-year cuts, though he expressed his displeasure with this option.

"This would send devastating ramifications throughout the district," said Kramer. "It would result in layoffs affecting our staff. I do not think it is fair. Yes, we will have to make bigger cuts in next year's budget but it is better, in my mind, to do this at the beginning of a year, not in the middle when we have made promises to our staff and parents."

Looking to next year's budget and the nearly \$1 million that will have to be cut, Kramer recommended that the board begin the process now by forming a committee and seeking input from a variety of sources on how to best meet the needs of the district.

"Next year's budget will be the most difficult to put

together in the history of Maple Valley Schools. We are facing a potential of nearly a \$1 million deficit. Major decisions will need to be made," Kramer told the board. "Community and staff input are important. In harmony, the board needs to establish clear goals and parameters as we struggle with this daunting task."

With Kramer retiring from the superintendent position at the end of the school year, the board is exploring options for his replacement. One of those options has the potential to save the district between \$30,000 and \$50,000 next year by job sharing with another district. Kramer said the administrations of both districts have been exploring sharing services along with a superintendent.

"Operations, transportation, child care, athletics and special education are some that could possibly be started as early as this year," said Kramer. "Others in central office such as business, payroll and accounts payable are in the future once a technology connection can be made and common software can be purchased."

Also at the Monday night's meeting, the board heard a presentation by William SaintAmour about the results of district-wide survey recently completed.

In overall satisfaction, the district scored 69 out of 100 and 74 out of 100 in the well-trained employees category. Under communication with the public, Maple Valley scored nearly 13 points over the overall Michigan score of 60.5 out of 100. SaintAmour said any score over 70 is extremely solid, and Maple Valley had several categories over that mark including: school system image, parents feeling like a partner in education, the district creating prepared students and the district providing life skills to the students. The district scored the lowest in the "well-managed and spends wisely" category (54 out of 100) and amount of parents who participate in parent organizations (54 out of 100).

In other business, the board:

- Heard a report from Dr. **SCHOOL BOARD, continued on page 7**

Area Obituaries

Russell O. Smith

VERMONTVILLE — Russell O. Smith, age 92, of Vermontville passed away Monday, December 14, 2009 at his Vermontville home.

Russell was born in Vermontville on December 16, 1916, the son of the late Frank B. and Sarah (Snore) Smith. Russell was raised in the Vermontville area and attended Vermontville and Nashville Public Schools, graduating from W.K. Kellogg High School in 1933.

Russell began his working career working his family farm in Vermontville. He later took over his father's bus driving position with Nashville Schools. In the early 1960s Russell began working in the custodial department where he faithfully served for 20 years before retiring in 1980.

He was the husband of Mary (Dillenbeck) Smith. The couple was married on June 22, 1941 at the Kilpatrick United Brethren Church in Woodland. The couple made their home on Russell's family farm in Vermontville where they raised their family together. The couple has been married for over 68 years.

Russell loved to help others. His work ethic was more than evident in his willingness to help anyone who was in need. After Russell retired in 1980 he and his wife Mary spent their winters together volunteering at the Youth Haven Ranch in Picacho, Arizona, where Russell contributed to countless hours doing volunteer work. His volunteer work was not limited to just the winters; his summers in Michigan where spent volunteering his skills at Vermontville Bible



Church, Youth Haven Ranch in Michigan, and the Ao-Wa-Kya camps in Stoney Lake, Michigan.

Russell is survived by his beloved wife of 68 years Mary; a daughter, Carolyn (Larry) Trumble; his sons, Doug (Sue) Smith, Donald (Joan) Smith, Dave (Sheryl) Smith and Duane (Rebecca) Smith; a foster son John (Isla) Harris; four sisters, Marie Fisher, Madelyn Davidson, Donna (Louis) Hickey and Sharon Helliwell; a brother, J. Edgar (Sandy) Smith; 13 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at The Vermontville Bible Church, in Vermontville, on Thursday, December 17, 2009 with Pastor Daniel Smith officiating.

A private family interment took place immediately following the funeral service at Hosmer Cemetery, Nashville.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Youth Haven Ranch, 3796 Perrine Rd., PO Box 97, Rives Junctions, MI 49277.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Daniels Funeral Home in Nashville. Please visit our website at www.danielsfuneralhome.net for further details.

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Barry County Extension Calendar of Events

- Dec. 21-23 MSU Extension Office closed during lunch.
- Dec. 24-25 County Buildings closed for Christmas Holiday
- Dec. 29-30 MSU Extension Office closed during lunch.
- Dec. 31 County Buildings closed for New Year Holiday
- Jan. 1 County Buildings closed for New Year Holiday
- Jan. 11 Horse Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.

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Nashville shows holiday spirit at parade



Showing that politicians do their own work once in awhile, Barry County Commissioner Mike Callton details his ride for the parade. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Shane McNeill from Maple Valley Pharmacy waves to the spectators. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Donning their elf finery, the float from the Nashville Shell Station prepares for the start of the parade. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



The motorcycle club, The Avengers make their way through downtown during the parade. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Frosty cruises in a boat from Wheeler's Marine Service. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Playing a few holiday marches, the Maple Valley High School band gets the crowd clapping. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

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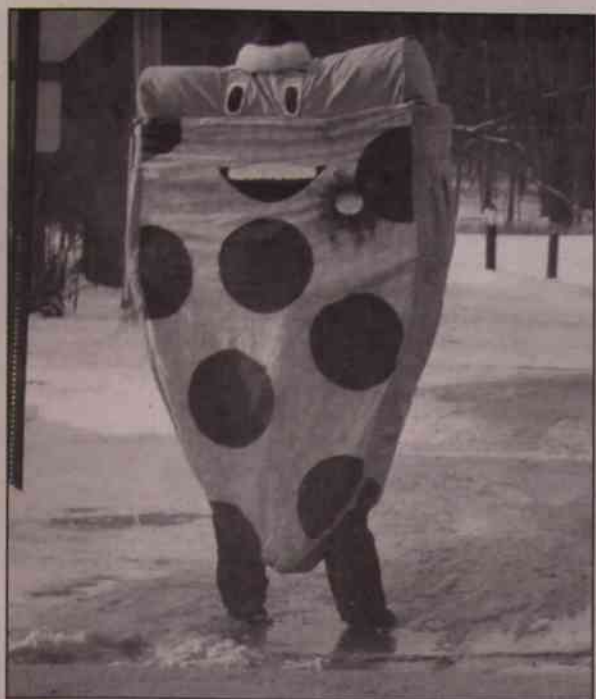
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CVS #8052



What better treat than a hot piece of pizza on a cold day? Roush's Pizzeria entered this slice into the parade. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Out of 37 names entered into the drawing, 10-year-old Rachel Morris of Nashville won a new bike sponsored by Green Light Driving School. (Photo provided)



Heather Dockter was the winner of a stocking stuffed with goodies during the Christmas festivities Dec. 12. Dockter, shown here with Hope and Cody Musser, took home a Hometown Lumber \$25 gift certificate; Country Kettle Cafe \$10 gift certificate; All That Glitters poinsettia plant; MOO-ville collection of children's toys; Court-Side Embroidery and Screen Printing a Nashville sweat-shirt, a Maple Valley long sleeved T-shirt and 'Talk to the Paw' infant onesie; Green Light Driving School 36-piece glove box tool kit, ink pens and mini-flashlights; Good Time Pizza coupons for free bread sticks; Maple Valley Pharmacy coffee mug, book and certificate for a 30-minute massage; and Putnam District Library mug, pens, magnet, five free DVD rentals and a *Where the Wild Things Are* coloring book. Missing from the family photo is Shawna Dockter. (Photo provided)



Re-creating the nativity scene, complete with sheep, youngsters from St. Cyril Catholic Church ride through town. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

SCHOOL BOARD,
continued from page 4

Kathleen Booher from the Michigan Leadership Institute on the superintendent search process the district would go through if her firm is hired.

"We don't want to hire someone because they're a good interviewer," Booher told the board. "We want to hire someone who has the best potential for success in the position."

Thanked Hewlett-Packard for donating laptop computers to the district, the Maple Valley Kiwanis Club and Eaton Federal Savings Bank for donating dictionaries to every third grade student, Tri-County Electric for donating 10 mini-computers and Dr. David Mansky, podiatrist, who donated many pairs of boots for students.

The board will meet again Jan. 11, 2010, at 7 p.m. in the administration office at the high school.



Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Friendship Sites Congregate Menu

Monday, December 21
Alaskan stuffed salmon; wild rice, Brussels sprouts, peas, apple.

Tuesday, December 22
Oven fried chicken, coleslaw, corn, mixed fruit, biscuit.

Wednesday, December 23
Glazed ham w/pineapple, roasted sweet potatoes, sugar snap peas, bread pudding, dinner roll.

Thursday, December 24
COA closed. No meal delivery.

Friday, December 25
COA closed. Merry Christmas. No meal delivery.

Home Delivered Cold Menu

Monday, December 21
Peanut butter and jelly, pea and cheese salad, tropical fruit, English muffin.

Tuesday, December 22
Egg salad, pickled beet and

onion salad, tropical fruit, wheat bread.

Wednesday, December 23
Sliced turkey w/Swiss cheese, potato salad, apple-sauce, wheat bread.

Thursday, December 24
COA closed. No meal delivery.

Friday, December 25
COA closed. Merry Christmas. No meal delivery.

Home Delivered Hearty Menu

Monday, December 21
Alaskan stuffed salmon, wild rice, Brussels sprouts, fruit punch, bun.

Tuesday, December 22
Oven fried chicken, corn, green beans, mixed fruit, wheat bread.

Wednesday, December 23
Glazed ham w/pineapple, roasted sweet potatoes, sugar snap peas, bread pudding, dinner roll.

Thursday, December 24
COA closed. No meal

delivery.

Friday, December 25
COA closed. Merry Christmas. No meal delivery.

Activities Calendar

Monday, December 21:
Hastings - December craft 10:30; Music with Sam 10:30; Card Making 12:30 p.m.; Painting with Bob 1 p.m. Delton - Nashville 5-11:30 a.m. H,W,N, Reminiscence.

Tuesday, December 22:
Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Play Wii 10:30 a.m.; Red Hat Christmas Tea 2 p.m. GL -Cards 10:30-12:30.

Wednesday, December 23:
Hastings - Music with Sam; Tai Chi 5:15 p.m.; Nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Blood Drive 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Delton - Reminiscence

Thursday, December 24
COA closed. No meal delivery.

Friday, December 25
COA closed. Merry Christmas. No meal delivery.

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HOLIDAY HOURS:

Thursday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Day - **Close at 1 pm**

Friday, December 25th
Christmas Day - **CLOSED**

Thursday, December 31st
New Year's Eve Day - **Close at 5 pm**

Friday, January 1st
New Year's Day - **CLOSED**



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Burros and balls take to the court for FFA

Jaime Curth
FFA Reporter
The Maple Valley FFA

put on its annual donkey basketball tournament Dec. 3 in the Maple Valley High



The faculty team came out victorious in the annual donkey basketball competition recently held at Maple Valley High School. (Photo provided)

School Gym.

This year's contest featured four teams. In the first game, the juniors of Maple Valley went against a group of community members. The community members were defeated 6-4. The junior team was comprised of Tyler Rourke, Eric Scott, Chandralyn Thornton, Sharmen Fletcher, Tiffany Ryan, RJ Browne, Cody James, Wayn Eaton and Kristen Iszler. The community members consisted of Mike Callton, Ben Geiger, Laverne Mast, Eli Coblenz, Austin Garn, Jack Cripe, Lee Hansbarger and Joe Yoder.

In the second game, Maple Valley seniors went against a team composed of Maple Valley faculty. The seniors came out behind in this contest. The staff team included Brian Lincoln, Robb Rosin, Bryan Carpenter, Josh Meersma,

Andy Romes, Jeremy Milarch and Wally Woodman. The seniors were Terri Hurosky, Clint Litzenburg, Micheala Bauer, Brandon Sams, Matt Spencer, Dustin Davis, Josh Hall, Aquib Sadman, Luke Wymer and Aliena Frabry.

This made for an exciting championship game in

which the Maple Valley faculty outplayed the juniors 10-8.

Donkey basketball was played with four players on the floor at once, each having their own donkey. Players had to be mounted to shoot the ball and also had to either be seated or pass the ball to someone who was

seated. Most players were on the floor more often than they were on the donkey.

Jaime Curth, co-chair of the tournament said, "The game was a lot of fun, and drew a good crowd which gained the FFA chapter approximately \$950."

From Our Readers Local Citizens Speak Out On Issues

Celebration was community affair

To the editor,

I would like to commend the Nashville community for its Christmas celebration last weekend. I was welcomed with open arms Saturday by the children of the community, as well as their parents and grandparents while we

made 'noisemakers' for the children to shake during the Christmas parade.

Community members did a good job of working together to create a family event that brought people to the downtown. The Nashville Village Council members should also

be proud for supporting community efforts to have a fun and enjoyable activity that involved local residents, businesses and other organizations.

Megan Lavell,
Hastings

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 having 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, 66.06 feet; thence South 84 degrees 26 minutes 46 seconds East, 160.62 feet; thence North 78 degrees 36 minutes 03 seconds East, 84.89 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 78 degrees 36 minutes 03 seconds East, 265.70 feet; thence South 03 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds West, parallel with said North and South 1/4 line, 224.37 feet; thence North 79 degrees 20 minutes 05 seconds West, 184.52 feet; thence North 19 degrees 28 minutes 04 seconds West, 18.89 feet; thence North 88 degrees 09 minutes 21 seconds West, 70.84 feet; thence North 04 degrees 57 minutes 23 seconds East, 117.72 feet to the point of beginning. Subject to and together with easements for ingress and egress described as: A 66 foot wide easement for ingress, egress and public utilities described as follows: 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, 160.62 feet; thence North 78 degrees 36 minutes 03 seconds East, 84.89 feet; thence North 78 degrees 36 minutes 03 seconds East, 265.70 feet; thence South 03 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds West, parallel with said North and South 1/4 line, 224.37 feet; thence North 79 degrees 20 minutes 05 seconds West, 184.52 feet; thence North 19 degrees 28 minutes 04 seconds West, 18.89 feet; thence North 88 degrees 09 minutes 21 seconds West, 70.84 feet; thence North 04 degrees 57 minutes 23 seconds East, 117.72 feet to 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

Students earn high-class ride

Several Maple Valley Junior High School students took a ride in style recently. The group was rewarded for being the top sellers in a recent fundraiser with a limousine ride to MOO-ville Creamery in Nashville.

This year's top sellers for the junior high fundraiser were Hannah Hilton, Austin Brooks, Taylor Fisher, Haley James, Aaron Krive, Mackenzie Greenhoe and Trenten Leonard.

The school earned \$4,730 from the fundraiser that will be used toward field trips to reward hard work and good behavior, as well as buying items for the school. This year's purchases will include a digital camera to document the junior high students' events and accomplishments, as well as a classroom set of laptops.

"We would like to acknowledge all those who



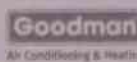
Hannah Hilton, Austin Brooks, Taylor Fisher, Haley James, Aaron Krive, Mackenzie Greenhoe and Trenten Leonard were rewarded with a limo ride to MOO-ville after a school fundraiser. (Photo provided)

put their time and effort into selling items as well as those who supported us with their

purchases," said Christina Smith. "We really appreciate everyone's contribution to

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- Courtside Embroidery
- Meijer of Charlotte
- Missy's Shop of Styles in Charlotte
- Sunrise Candles - Mrs. Graber

for donating items for the Maplewood Holiday Gift Shop drawings which contributed to the huge success of our Annual Christmas Event.

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Vermontville Township Library challenges patrons to read 100 stories

When making resolutions for the New Year, consider adding reading to the list. The Vermontville Township Library is challenging its patrons to "read 100 stories" in 2010. This challenge is open to both children and adults who would like to make it their goal to read 100

books in the coming year. Participants will keep a reading log of the books they read throughout the year, and readers who complete the 100-book challenge will be invited to a celebration event in January 2011.

Readers may read any books they choose, and any books read for any other library program may be counted in the 100 stories. Throughout the year, readers will be asked to choose a

book from each of several book lists to include in their reading choices. These lists include Pulitzer Prize for fiction, the Modern Library 100 Best Books of the Century, Time Magazine 100 Most Influential Novels, Readable Classics, New York Magazine "Best Novels You've Never Read", Oprah Winfrey's Book Club, and the Book Sense Book of the Year list.

Young readers will be

asked to choose from Caldecott Award Winners, classics, Newberry Award Winners, 100 Best Books for Children, and Michigan Children's Books. These lists are linked to Web sites that help readers choose books they might like to read.

As part of the challenge, readers also will be asked to share one story each month to "Read, Remember, and

Recommend." This short question page is designed to highlight a book that a reader might like to share with others. These will be kept in a binder in the library to help readers in their book choices.

Reading logs may be picked up at the library, and reading will begin on Jan. 1, 2010. More information is available at the library at 517-726-1362.

Good News From the Pulpit

Like a child

by Rev. Cathy Christman
Nashville UMC

These Sundays in Advent have been giving us the opportunity to hear again, new and fresh, the story of God's steadfast love for his people. God has not forgotten the promise of the One who will sit in David's throne to rule with justice and righteousness, the One who will come to liberate God's people from the bondage of sin and the power of death. In Jesus, God's kingdom breaks into history. God becomes so much more than the omnipotent and all-powerful being. God becomes human. God begins to know the ills and problems that humanity faces.

This week, I've been reading a passage from Luke 1:46-55 and thinking about the concept of joy and the coming of the Christ child at Christmas. How does this joy that Mary sang about pervade our own lives? I even asked this question in Bible study. How can we find joy in all aspects of our own lives?

This time of year is a very wonderful and loving time of year. Families get together, and decorations go up. We are excited about the giving of presents and the ability to see long-lost friends. For most people, this is a joyful time of the year.

For others, this time of year is frustrating. It is disappointing and sometimes even painful. For some, family is not in the picture, or they are gone and cannot visit. For some, the money just isn't coming in to purchase presents. Where is the joy in this?

Think about the Luke passage. Mary, a teenager, was singing about God's praises for the gift that God gave her in the Christ child. Listen to her words, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant." This child was going to bear the child of God. Through our lenses, this is kind of scary. A child was going to have a child. And yet, through all of this, she was still able to sing and still able to see the great joy in this birth. God gave her his love in the form of Jesus and showed incredible mercy and promise to her. God knew what she needed to hear to find the joy in this moment. God broke through all the barriers of the human world and came simply as a child, simply as a child. In the simplicity of a child's heart, God became human and came to show us the true power and grace that is God. In one of the simplest things of this world, some of the greatest joy is found.

It is hard sometimes, to see the joy in life. It is hard sometimes to find the hope and the joy when all around you is falling or being broken. I'm writing to tell you the good news my friends: no matter how much life gets in the way, God will find a way to make those rough places smooth. In Scripture, we read about how John the Baptist came to prepare a place for Christ and how he wanted to make the world right for the birth of this child, but the miracle is that Christ came to make the world right for us. Christ came to smooth out the rough places. Christ came so that we may know the love of God for our very own. Plain and simple as that. Merry Christmas.

In My Own Write

by Amy Jo Kinyon



A few ideas

We have all heard the news about school and their budget troubles this year. But, what about next year? If we thought this year was bad concerning funding, just wait until next year. Maple Valley faces a \$1 million deficit for next year. ONE MILLION DOLLARS. When I was a child \$1 million dollars seemed like an amount only reserved for royalty. Now that I'm in my third decade, it still seems like a lot of money. It means even more when we have to look at taking that much away from our students.

It means that it's time for us in the community to step up. Time to do what we can to support the district and maybe offer some of the non-essential activities in other ways.

Just a few ideas:

How about a rec. league for the sports? This could encompass all of the youth sports that already take place and give them a more effective organization. The coaches and such could remain the same, there would just be one league to oversee each sport and determine new offerings that would benefit the community. Marshall has a thriving rec. league that does so much more than softball leagues. There are nature walks organized, wildlife events and many more activities that could fall under the league. This would also create a way to take advantage of the rail-to-trail initiative being worked on in the communities and a way to make the Valley more appealing to new residents.

How about an arts council? Hastings has a wonderful arts council that promotes culture and the arts through a variety of fun and interesting events. The arts council could help run the school drama and musical function and promote the wonderful artists we have right here in the Valley. From wood sculptures to pottery and painting, there is a wealth of talent right in our community. The Revue Theatre company has done wonderful things for the community. Hundreds of thespians each year get a chance to work on their skills while entertaining and maybe even educating local residents. Why not expound on that and offer more opportunities through a community organization rather than the school district?

These are just a few of the ideas that came to mind as I was thinking of ways the district could find a glimmer of light in the dark state funding tunnel. These would be wonderful benefits to the communities as well as the students and help Maple Valley sustain through the tough economy. I am sure there are more ideas out there, I just hope they are brought to the attention to the board in the coming weeks. Whether we agree with every decision the board makes or get along with everyone on the board, it's time to step up. The students need our help.

Nashville man sentenced

Daniel Jay Wright, 43, of Nashville pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance, less than 25 grams, second offense.

On Oct. 15, Wright was found to be in possession of cocaine. He was sentenced last week to six months in jail by Judge James Fisher.

Wright also was ordered to spend 36 months on probation and to attend substance abuse counseling and cognitive behavior therapy while in jail. He was assessed \$60 crime victim rights fund, \$68 state minimum costs, \$500 court costs and \$360 in probation fees.

The last 90 days of the jail

sentence may be suspended upon payment of \$628.

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 vendue 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 06701919

LEGAL NOTICE

FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES US TO ADVISE YOU THAT COMMUNICATION WITH OUR OFFICE COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND THAT ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE, AS YOU ARE ENTITLED TO SPECIAL PROTECTIONS. To: Kenneth G. Lynema and Wendy Lee Lynema 4867 Bender Road Middleville, MI 49333 County: Barry State law requires that you receive the following notice: You have the right to request a meeting with your mortgage holder or mortgage servicer. The person to contact and that has the authority to make agreements for a loan modification with you is: Orland Associates, P.C. Loss Mitigation Department, P.O. Box 5041, Troy, MI 48007-5041, (248) 502-1331. You may contact a housing counselor by visiting the Michigan State Housing Development Authority ("MSHDA") website or by calling MSHDA. The website address and telephone number of MSHDA is: (www.mshda.info/counseling_arch), telephone (517) 373-8370, TTY# 1-800-382-4568. If you request a meeting with the servicer's designate within 14 days after the Notice required under MCL 600.3205a(1) is mailed, then foreclosure proceedings will not start until 90 days after the date the Notice was mailed to you. If you and the servicer's Designate reach an agreement to modify the mortgage loan, the mortgage will not be foreclosed if you abide by the terms of the agreement. You have the right to contact an attorney. You may contact attorney of your choice. If you do not have an attorney, the telephone number for the Michigan State Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service is 1-800-968-0738. Dated: December 19, 2009 Orland Associates P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 File Number: 200.5403 ASAP# 3380590 12/19/2009 06701919

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New program to honor local high school performers

Local high school thespians have been left out. Nearly every club that is part of a school district celebrates the achievements of its members at a special event at the end of each year. For students who participate in high school musical productions, however, it's all over after the final curtain call. The first annual Excellence in High School Musical Theater Awards, however, is about to change that lack of recognition.

Seeking a way to acknowledge those students who put months of work into their productions each year, the Excellence Awards were created to provide a high-visibility event for high school students and the public to celebrate the outstanding work in high school musical theater. Public and private high schools in both Barry and Eaton counties are invited to participate in this event. Amy Jo Kinyon, director of the Excellence Awards, said she couldn't be more excited about the event.

"Students put months of work into a production. They rehearse and train, just as

athletes do, yet at the end of their season, the curtain closes and nothing else happens," said Kinyon. "These awards are a way to spotlight the outstanding work of not only the students, but also the faculty and staff of the schools. It is going to be an all-out affair in May at the awards ceremony. Think of the Tony Awards — just on a smaller scale."

Live music, performances by the nominees and guest presenters are just a few of the activities set to take place at the gala event.

"We may not be able to get an actor like Hugh Jackman to emcee the event, but we're sure to have just as much fun as the Tony Awards," said Kinyon.

Recognition of outstanding achievement by students and educators will be made in the areas of performance, design, direction, choreography, technical production and overall production excellence. The Excellence Awards judges are comprised of area theater professionals, performing artists, theater arts educators and those with a history in the theater field. Three judges

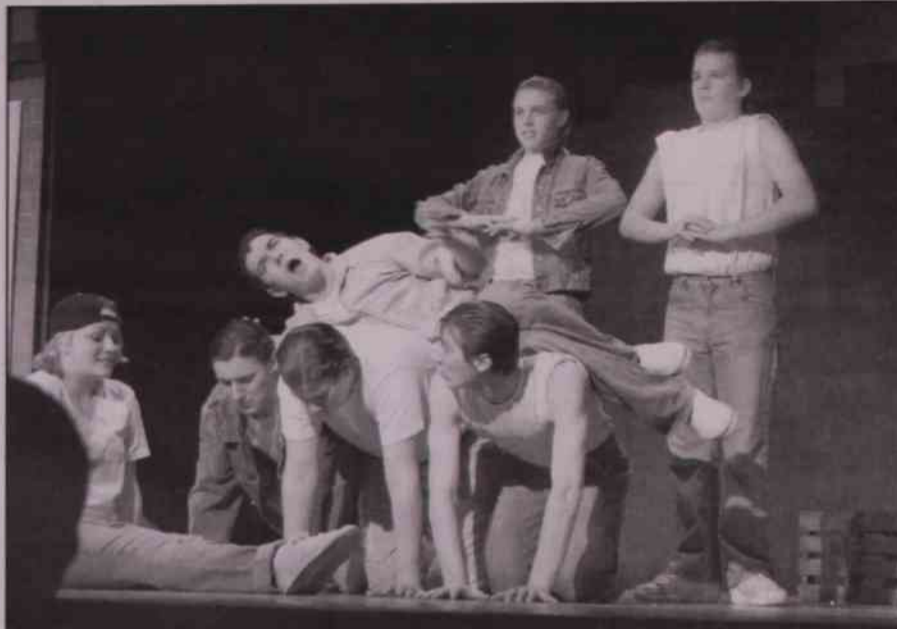
will attend each participating school and evaluate their production. Schools nominated for best musical production will perform one musical number from their show.

Looking beyond high school, the Excellence Awards also will help cultivate the careers of participants. The winners of Best Actor and Best Actress also will be entered in the National High School Theater Awards. The Jimmy's. Winners will be invited to travel to New York where they will join finalists from throughout the country in a gala awards ceremony.

Just as athletics and other school clubs teach teamwork, camaraderie and foster the talents of students, theater serves the same purpose, said Kinyon.

Actor Morgan Freeman said high school theater helped him succeed in the classroom because it brought out skills he might not have discovered outside of school.

"When I was a teenager, I began to settle into school because I'd discovered the extracurricular activities that interested me: Music and



Participants in local high school musical theater productions, such as those in last year's production of "West Side Story" at Maple Valley High School, will now have an opportunity to be recognized for their hard work through a new program.

theater," said Freeman.

Kinyon is currently on the fundraising circuit, looking for local organizations or individuals to donate toward the event. She said the hope is to make the ceremony a community-sponsored event, where local organizations come together to support the students.

"We are looking for sponsors to help cover the costs of the awards and use of the facility for the ceremony. We need to purchase 18 personalized awards at a cost of \$50 each. That is really a small price to pay to recognize the hard work put into each production by the students," said Kinyon.

Ever the marketing-minded person, Kinyon said the advertising and publicity sponsors receive for their investment will far outweigh the price.

"Sponsors will be featured in all publicity for the event as well as being featured dur-

ing the ceremony. Sponsors of the awards will be announced with the award, featured in all publications for the Excellence Awards and will be engraved on the awards themselves," said Kinyon. "It's really a great opportunity to reach a new customer base from not only Barry and Eaton counties but beyond."

The cost of the awards, printing of tickets and programs, along with rental of the facility add up quickly, but Kinyon said she is certain there will be enough support.

"In the two counties, we have a variety of groups that already support the arts. This is just one more avenue to show that support. Theater has such a positive impact in so many of our lives that it is natural for us to foster those students exploring theater in high school. The Thornapple Players, a wonderful community group, has already

committed to being a sponsor and I have no doubt others will follow in their footsteps," said Kinyon.

The theater bug bit Kinyon while in high school. She recalls how taking to the stage in even the smallest of roles had a profound effect on her.

"Before I became involved in theater, I was the last person you would think of as 'outgoing.' I didn't even like to order my own food at a restaurant because that involved talking to someone I didn't know. Then, for some strange reason, I decided to try out for the school production. 'There I was, singing 'Amazing Grace' in front of an auditorium of my classmates. After that first show, I was so much more confident in myself that I could actually order my own sandwich," joked Kinyon.

"The benefits of the theater are immeasurable. They extend beyond the classroom and into the everyday," she continued. "Theater builds character, both on and off the stage."

Public and private schools are invited to participate in the program and may find out more information online at excellenceawards.wordpress.com or by e-mailing excellenceawards@gmail.com or call Amy Jo at 517-231-1554.

Middleville man to be sentenced next month prescription case

Pleading guilty to one felony count of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud in a plea agreement with the Barry County Prosecutor's office, Charles Chapman, 34, of Middleville will find himself in court again Jan. 20, 2010, for sentencing.

Chapman also pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts, one for operating a

motor vehicle without security and another for unlawful use of a registration plate. He faces a maximum penalty of four years in jail and a \$30,000 fine for the felony charge, one year in jail and/or \$500 fine for the motor vehicle security violation and up to 90 days in jail and/or a \$100 fine for the registration violation.

Chapman said his brother,

Cory Chapman, posed as a doctor and called in a Vicodin prescription in his name, something he was unaware of until he picked up the medication at Maple Valley Pharmacy in Nashville.

"At the time, I didn't know what it was," Chapman told Judge Fisher Wednesday morning in court. "It was actually for my brother."

Santa presents reading gifts to students



Santa hands out T-shirts to students in one of the classrooms at Fuller Street Elementary. (Photo provided)

Santa gave out reading T-shirts to Fuller Street Elementary students and talked to classes about the importance of reading.

Fuller students are asked to wear the T-shirt to school every Friday for the rest of the year to help promote the 1-million-minute reading contest taking place.

Students are tallying reading minutes to try and accumulate 1 million before the end of the school year. If they are successful, Principal Jason Miller will read to the students from the roof of the school.

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Lion cheer team places fifth at Barry County Invitational

Without a round three score, Maple Valleys' varsity competitive cheer team finished fifth among the five team's at Wednesday evening's Barry County

Invitational hosted by Thornapple Kellogg High School.

The Lions tallied a 171.5 in round one, then added a 130.7472 in round two, for a

final tally of 302.2472.

Thornapple Kellogg took the crown as Barry County's top team away from Lakewood for the first time.

Lakewood head coach Kim Martin said that her team had way too many motion errors in the first two rounds of the competition. They still managed to be in second place, behind the eventual champions from Thornapple Kellogg, heading into round three.

Lakewood scored a 207.7 in the first round and 197.5864 in round two. The Vikings' round two score was the best of the day. In round three, Lakewood scored a 269.8, which was second only to the host Trojans.

"We had an incomplete round three, due to my main flyer and most valuable player from '09 being out with mono so that automatically put us down 18 points," said

Martin.

The Vikings would up finishing just over 15 points behind Thornapple Kellogg in the final standings with a total of 675.0864 to 690.5428.

Thornapple Kellogg scored the highest total in round one, a 214.6, then added a 194.5428 in round two and a 281.4 in round three.

Hastings was third with a final tally of 662.1656,

including the second best round two score of the day a 195.6656.

Rounding out the varsity scoring, Delton Kellogg finished with a total of 558.9740.

Hastings won the junior varsity championship with a score of 558.9740, and the evening's middle school title went to Thornapple Kellogg's Orange squad with a tally of 110.880.

Maple Valley wrestlers win their first conference dual

Only one match ended with less than six points going up on the scoreboard in the Lions' conference opening dual with Parchment Wednesday evening.

It was a Lion loss, but it was enough to help the Maple Valley varsity wrestling team to a 42-41 Kalamazoo Valley Association victory.

Maple Valley wrestlers earned three pins in the dual, and got six points four times from voids in the Parchment line-up. Parchment had six pins and one technical fall from voids in the Parchment line-up. The Spartans topped Parchment 72-10 and Maple Valley 69-3.

The Lions' lone win came at 119 pounds, where Baird decided John Kaminski 10-6.

Maple Valley's Eaton at 135 and Samann at 152 both lost tough one-point decisions. Samann was downed by Dylan Louis 6-5, while Eaton fell to Jake Baker 4-3.

Maple Valley will be home today (Dec. 19) for its own Jesse Snow Memorial Invitational.

Waylon Eaton (135), Tyler Franks (145), and James Samann (152).

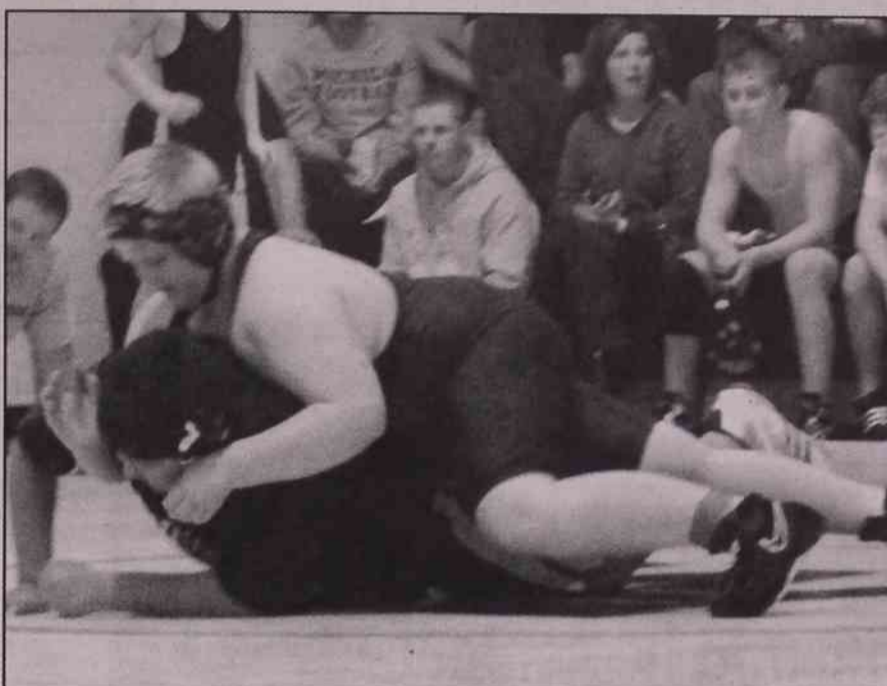
Parchment got pins from Greg Bosma (140), Andrew Lorio (160), Joe Perry (189), Calvin Kortz (285), Dakota Ogilvie (103), and Travis Van Deerveen (125).

Maple Valley was 1-1 in its two duals on the night, while Parchment was 0-2. Battle Creek Lakeview downed both of them in non-league duals. The Spartans topped Parchment 72-10 and Maple Valley 69-3.

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Holden Creller (top) holds an opponent on his back as he works his way towards a first place finish at Sunday's meet in Lansing.

Ten from club earn medals at Waverly

The Maple Valley Youth Wrestling Club sent 15 wrestlers to the Lansing Waverly Tournament last Sunday, and ten of them earned medals.

Jesse Brumm, David Hosack-Frizzel, Chandler Murton, and Holden Creller all won their weight classes.

Second place finishers were Christian (Buck) Schrader, Austin Zank, and Dillon Terpening. Bryce Bignall was third, while Lane Morris and Sam Bonney both placed fourth.

Lion ladies fall to Schoolcraft Maple Valley boys drop first two in KVA

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Maple Valley's varsity girls' basketball team fell to 1-3 in the Kalamazoo Valley Association and 2-3 overall with a 52-46 loss at Schoolcraft Friday night.

The Lions built an eight point lead in the first half, but managed just four points in the third quarter as the Eagles took over the ball game.

"Our defense was not at the intensity of where we need it to be, and our offense runs off our defense," said Maple Valley head coach Landon

Wilkes of that third quarter lull.

The Lions were able to battle back in the game in the fourth quarter and pulled within three points with the basketball in the final minutes, but had to start fouling late to try and get the ball back in their hands and Schoolcraft pulled away a bit.

Jennifer Kent led Maple Valley on the night with 17 points.

"The other girls found (Kent) for open looks," Wilkes said. "I think we moved the ball fairly well. We've still got to work on it

some."

Elizabeth Stewart and Terri Hurosky added 12 points each for the Lions. A factor in the third quarter problems was that Hurosky had to sit on the bench in foul trouble for much of the period.

"Terri does a great job on defense and rebounding the basketball fairly well for us, and does a lot of things," Wilkes said.

Schoolcraft got 17 points from Amanda Kotecki, and 12 from Brooke Gifford.

The Lions were coming off their first league win after topping Kalamazoo Christian

Tuesday night 42-37.

After holding the Comets to just two points an opening quarter in which they built a 10-2 edge, the Lions allowed Kalamazoo Christian to put 19 points on the board in the second quarter.

"Our defense was very lackluster in the second quarter," said Wilkes. "At one point we had the lead up to 15, but we just quit doing the little things."

The little things like boxing out, outletting the basketball, and moving the ball around on offense which the Lions had been doing well early on were pushed a side a little bit by the thought that they had control of the game.

The Lions still had a 25-21 lead at the break, and never gave that up in the second half.

"We came out and had a lead and we kept it," Wilkes said. It wasn't real pretty, but we kept it."

Hurosky led the Lions with 16 points on the night, and Mikaela Bromley chipped in seven and Kent six along with 13 rebounds.

Emily Corning paced the Comets with 16 points and Kayleigh Vankeulen added 11.

The Lions head to Pennfield Tuesday to make up the game that was postponed due to the snow last week.

Points have not been easy for the Maple Valley varsity boys' basketball team to come by in their first two Kalamazoo Valley Association contests of the season.

The Lions fell to 0-2 in the league as they were downed at Schoolcraft Friday night 69-19.

The Eagles went on a 10-2 run late in the first quarter and never looked back, outscoring the lions 28-11 in the second quarter to take a 44-13 lead into the break.

Josh Burd led the Lions with five points, and Austin Tobias, Garrett Reid, and Ross Smith chipped in four each.

Kody Chandler paced Schoolcraft with 13 points and four steals, Tyler Dow and Luke Ryskamp added 11 points. Derek Lennen fin-

ished the night with nine points and seven rebounds.

The Eagles improved to 4-0 on the year with the win.

The Lions opened their season Tuesday night, falling at Kalamazoo Christian 58-33.

The Comets only led 14-11 after one quarter, but then held the Lions to just four points the rest of the half as they built a 28-15 lead.

Burd and Tobias had six points each for the Lions, while Cody Leinhart and Smith added five apiece.

Kalamazoo Christian got 11 points from Jordan DeHaan and ten from Tyler DeKoekoek.

The Lions return to action on Tuesday night as they travel to Pennfield to make up the contest that was postponed last Friday night.

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