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Sugaring off event creates sweet treats and memories

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

One of the traditions of the Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival takes place weeks before the carnival rides are assembled or the griddles heated to serve hundreds of pancakes. Syrup producers and community members gather each in year in February at the Vermontville Congregational Church for a sugaring-off party.

The event, hosted by the Vermontville Historical Society, gives producers and festival organizers the opportunity to meet the recently crowned maple syrup queen and her court. A potluck dinner is served while participants mingle and share memories of festivals past.

After the meal, glass bowls and spoons are brought out in anticipation of the main event, the sugaring off.

Before the crowd arrived, for the annual event Tuesday evening, Larry, Karen and Joyce Haigh were at work, getting the syrup ready to be made into candy.

When the large pans of syrup reach 240 degrees, they are removed from the stove and distributed to the eagerly awaiting crowd. Everyone is given a bit of the sweet substance to stir. After stirring constantly for a few minutes, the syrup turns into a milky white color and is ready to be placed on parchment paper before it hardens.

"I think we're going to have one of the best festivals ever," Syrup Association President Gene Fisher told the crowd. "There are so many volunteers that do such a fabulous job. The syrup corporation is very, very thankful for the help we've received from different people and organizations."

SUGARING OFF, continued on page 5

Mary Fisher, Jim Zemke, Beverly Lindburg, Barb Wright and Bill Lindburg each attended the first Maple Syrup Festival 70 years ago. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

Queen Stephanie Schaffer and court members Kristen Iszler, Bryanna Clow and Mollyann Morehouse watch over the syrup as it heats on the stove. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

Nashville Village Council debates zoning control

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Residents and the Nashville Village Council debated the future of the village's zoning during a public hearing and regular board meeting Thursday night. The village has been considering turning zoning over to Barry County to administer.

"I think if Nashville turns zoning over to the county, it'll be the worst mistake you could make," said Nashville resident Dave Murphy.

Jim McManus, director of Barry County Zoning, was at the meeting and answered some of the many audience questions presented. He said the county has worked to create an ordinance that would be the best fit for the village, though discovering all of the issues within the more than 300-page document proves impossible.

Village Council Trustee Jack Holden questioned the accessibility of county zoning members when issues arise.

"It would be nearly impossible for me to read through this book and think of every single problem that's going to ever occur. It's impossible," said Holden. "The problem is ... Ron's [Ohler] brought up some great stuff. It's really hard for a community ... if there was issues brought to the board we could make do with things. If we felt it was right, we could make do with things ... I don't know how you're ever going to be able to make it right. You'd have to go over every single thing in this book to make it right for Nashville."

> "I'm not going to say whether you should have it or not, but what I will say is if you don't have zoning, the first person knocking on your door is the motorcycle club because they were knocking on my door yesterday."
>
> Jim McManus, director
> Barry County Zoning

Village President Frank Dunham said the ordinances need to be rewritten since the village adopted a new master plan two years ago. He also stated that there has been an issue getting community members to be part of the zoning board.

Ron Ohler, member of the Nashville Zoning Board, brought questions to the meeting including animals allowed, additions to residences for at-home businesses and several other issues.

"I told Ron Bracy [current zoning administrator] I was terrified about county zoning taking over," said Ohler.

McManus said minor home occupations are allowed in the new zoning and some of the issues brought up pertained to businesses and not residential property.

Patti Branham, another member of the Nashville zoning board, said the village has other options, besides going with Barry

ZONING, continued on page 3

Participation needed for Nashville facade grant

A group of Nashville business owners are working together to pursue a facade grant for the village. Gary White, owner of Green Light Driving School, is working to gather resources and interest for the project.

Joe Agostinelli, a community advisory specialist,

FACADE GRANT, continued on page 3

Fire chief suspended then reinstated as firefighter

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

After receiving a six-month suspension at the Feb. 2 fire board meeting, Nashville-Castleton-Maple Grove Fire Chief Bill Wilson was reappointed to the department. Steve Augustine will remain acting chief.

Though he was re-appointed as a firefighter, Wilson expressed hesitancy to the board about returning to the department.

"Well, there are some things that have gone on in the past. They need to be fixed. It needs to be a group of people sit down and go over, and they need to be drastically looked at," said Wilson. "Before I would ever say that I'd even come back, I would have to see there's been some positive steps in the right direction. I also feel that there's been trust issues violated here, and I need to know that they're put back in place."

Augustine, requested a committee of firefighters and board members be put together to discuss issues within the department.

"We've had several dissuasions in the last few weeks as you can imagine, and the officers want to ask the board if they would be willing to form a committee. Pat [Powers], myself and Curt [Scramlin] would sit on the committee for the fire department and we'd like you to provide two or three. I don't know what you can do legally to keep it a closed meeting ... If it would work, and you're interested we'd like to set a date for that tonight," said Augustine. "We would like to sit down and talk with you about a lot of things. We believe things have been done and said on either side that haven't been right."

The fire board agreed to form the committee, with Frank Dunham and Doug Westendorp representing the board. The committee is set to gather at 6 p.m. before the township meeting at the Castleton Township Hall March 2.

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In This Issue...

- High school celebrates homecoming
- Township salary debate continues
- Celebrity readers visit Putnam
- Father / daughter dance set to benefit prom
- Lion cheer has solid round one at D4 tourney

Maple Valley crowns royalty, shows spirit at homecoming

The Valley boys take a time out. (Photo by JH Photography)

The Maple Valley Jazz Band keeps the crowd enthused. (Photo by JH Photography)

Queen Tina Westendorp accepts a bouquet of roses from high school Principal Todd Gonser. (Photo by JH Photography)

At right, Josh Burd shoots a free throw in the game against the Constantine Falcons. (Photo by JH Photography)

Zac Eddy and a member from the Blue Man Group show their school spirit at the games. (Photo by JH Photography)

Valley's Garrett Reid works to get a shot off against a Falcon on the offensive. (Photo by JH Photography)

Homecoming court members eagerly await the results of voting. (Photo by JH Photography)

Tyler Franks and Tina Westendorp were crowned Maple Valley royalty during the homecoming festivities last week. (Photo by JH Photography)

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10:00 . . . . . Church Service
11:00 . . . . . Fellowship

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Wed. Service . . . . . 7 p.m.
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PASTOR DEANO LAMPHERE
PASTOR MATT ROHDE

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Worship Time: 10:00 a.m.

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ZONING, continued from page 1

County.

"The easiest option is to join the Barry County Zoning. Other options include creating our own updated zoning or even doing away with zoning completely, as Ionia has. I am not endorsing any of the three," she said. "I believe the citizens of Nashville simply need to be aware that they have many options open to them. I have heard many times that there is not enough involvement in the local government. I do not think the answer is to get rid of local government. There does need to be more people willing to donate one or two nights a month to serving their community."

McManus addressed the possibility of following Ionia's lead and doing away with zoning. He said that while he could not endorse one action over another, he could say one thing for certain.

"If you were to choose Option 3 [no zoning] ... it doesn't mean you come under the county," said McManus. "I'm not going to say whether you should have it or not, but what I will say is if you don't have zoning, the first person knocking on your door is the motorcycle club because they were knocking on my door yesterday."

She also pointed out the costs involved if Nashville ever wanted to bring zoning control back to the village.

"Research began in earnest early 2009 to decide on what company we would hire to rewrite our zoning ordinances. A suggestion led to investigating the possibility of merging with Barry County, as it was thought to be the least-expensive solution. It appeared to have possibly saved the village $5,000 to $8,000. However, if this merger takes place, should Nashville ever want to be its own governing entity again, it will cost an estimated $200,000 to revert back to being autonomous," Branham told the council.

> "I have heard many times that there is not enough involvement in the local government. I do not think the answer is to get rid of local government. There does need to be more people willing to donate one or two nights a month to serving their community."
>
> Patti Branham, Nashville Zoning Board

McManus confirmed Branham's figures at the meeting and said he recommended that amount as a cushion for local municipalities to rely on if legal issues arise.

Dunham said the current ordinance was adopted in 1976 and is a copy of the City of Kentwood's ordinances that was adapted to fit Nashville.

Council Trustee Sandra Lundquist asked about current properties that are deemed noncompliant under county zoning.

"In the village overlay, anything existing would now be grandfathered in — no questions?" asked Lundquist.

"No questions," replied McManus.

The council voted to recess the public hearing until its next meeting Thursday, March 11, at 7 p.m. when they hope to receive more community input about the proposed changes.

The board also adopted an amended budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

"Overall, it looks good," said Village Clerk Cathy Lentz. "The receipts are a little above; the expenditures a little below."

The budget shows total revenue for the village at $105,803 and expenditures at $144,683 for and ending fund balance of $38,880.

Father / daughter dance set to benefit prom

Students and staff at Maple Valley High School will hosting a daddy/daughter dance Saturday, March 27, to raise funds for next year's prom. The event is open, not only to dads and their daughters, but grandpas, uncles, brothers and special friends, as well.

Teachers Jeff Seavolt and Mary Lesage are organizing the event which will be hosted at the Maple Valley High School cafeteria.

The cost of $5 covers punch, cake and cookies for participants; tickets will be $2 more at the door. The dance will run from 6 to 8 p.m. Seating in limited, so participants are encouraged to register early.

For more information, call the high school at 517-852-9275.

FACADE GRANT, continued from page 1

will be in town to meet with business owners during the first week of March and outline the steps of the grant process. Agostinelli will detail the program at the meeting and explain funds that could be used for the required 25 percent local match. a meeting will be held at Green Light Driving School on Main Street in Nashville if enough interest is indicated.

White said attending the meeting is not a commitment to participate in the program but is a way to learn about the requirements.

White said he is hopeful that local merchants will participate and take advantage of the chance to improve the community. The grant uses federal funds and could provide as much as $200,000 to the village. Grant money can be used for a variety of projects such as vertical walls, awnings and signage, explained White.

The number of businesses that show interest in the grant will determine if it moves forward, said White. A date and time for the meeting will be determined in the near future.

For more information on the grant project, contact White at 517-852-9189 or greenlightdriving@att.net.

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BARRY COUNTY EXTENSION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Barry County Extension Calendar of Events

Mar. 1	Deadline to join 4-H.
Mar. 1	Begin accepting fair camping forms.
Mar. 1	Goat Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
Mar. 1	Mark of Excellence Award applications due in the Extension Office.
Mar. 2	State 4-H Awards applications due in the Extension office.
Mar. 3	Livestock Developmental Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center.
Mar. 3	Dairy Developmental Committee Meeting, 5 p.m., Extension Office.
Mar. 4	Fair Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center.
Mar. 6	PQA Training, 9:30 a.m., Expo Center.
Mar. 8	Horse Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
Mar. 15	Teen Leadership Training, 6 p.m. Emmanuel Episcopal Church (315 W. Center St., Hastings)
Mar. 15	Poultry Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
Mar. 16	Mandatory Parents Meeting (parents of all youth in horse program), 6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church in Hastings.
Mar. 17	4-H Advisory Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Courts and Law Building.
Mar. 18	Fair Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center.

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SAT-SUN 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
MON-TH 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13)
SAT-SUN 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50
MON-TH 4:30, 7:15, 9:50
PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF (PG)
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MON-TH 4:10, 6:40, 9:15
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Local students on Davenport University dean's list

Davenport University has released its dean's list for the fall 2009 semester. The following local students were named to the list.

Bellevue — Karie Powers.

Nashville — Kaylea Piercefield.

Sunfield — Kathleen Moore.

Counselors needed for sixth grade camp

Maplewood Elementary is in need of sixth grade camp counselors. Maple Valley juniors and seniors are invited to apply.

Camp dates this year are May 12 to 14. The group will leave Maplewood School at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 12, and return on Friday, May 14, at 2:30 p.m.

Applications are available online at www.mvs.k12.mi.us until March 5. Prospective counselors should click on the campfire, fill it out and e-mail it back.

Judy & Sherman Scott
would like to say a big
THANK YOU

to all the relatives & friends
for the cards, clothing, money,
and especially their time.
A special Thank You to Tina & the
Mobil station, the girls at the bank
and everyone.
A very special Thank You to Doug
Kelsey & the United Methodist Church
for the benefit dinner for Judy.

WE LOVE YOU ALL & GOD BLESS.

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Area Obituaries

Oliver V. Bush

NASHVILLE, MI - Oliver V. Bush, age 81, of Nashville, passed away Thursday, February 18, 2010 peacefully at Pennock Hospital in Hastings.

Oliver was born in Grand Ledge on July 21, 1928, the son of the late James and Esther (Shance) Bush. He was raised in the Grand Ledge area and attended local schools, graduating from Grand Ledge High School in 1948.

He was the husband of Betty (McGill) Bush. The couple was married at the Grand Ledge Methodist Church on November 1, 1963. They made their home in the Grand Ledge area where they raised their family together. After retiring, Oliver and Betty relocated to the Nashville area to be closer to their church community at Nasvhille Baptist Church.

Oliver and Betty have been married for over 46 years.

Oliver was employed as an auto body repairman for the State of Michigan for over 17 years and later as a claims adjuster with Farm Bureau Insurance before retiring in 1996. Throughout the years, Oliver owned his own body shop and had done work for several area body shops in the Grand Ledge area. Body shops would often rely on Oliver's expertise and years of experience when complicated and difficult repairs were necessary.

Even in his spare time, Oliver was building something. He enjoyed building different types of boats, and even built his own airplane. The airplane built was a success despite reaching an altitude of only eight feet before landing. It was Oliver's attention to detail that set him apart as a true craftsman.

When Oliver wasn't working on a project, he and Betty loved to go camping and to travel. Over the years the couple has traveled all over the United States and enjoyed a cruise in the Hawaiian Islands.

Oliver is survived by his daughter, Shelley (Vance) Higdon; two sons, Gary (Carol) Bush, Terry (Cheryl) Bush; seven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Maynard; his sisters, Lottie, Gloria; and two infant brothers that died at birth.

Funeral services were held at the Nashville Baptist Church on Monday, February 22, 2010 with Lester DeGroot officiating.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Nashville Baptist Church, in Nashville.

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

Rose Marie Thompson

VERMONTVILLE, MI - Rose Marie Thompson, age 73, of Vermontville passed away Friday, February 19, 2010.

Mrs. Thompson was born April 22, 1936 in Vermontville, the daughter of Marion and Mabel (Eldridge) Hummel.

Rose married Donald Thompson in 1954 and they settled in Vermontville where they raised their five children.

She liked cooking and canning, especially her chicken and bean soup. She loved to read and do word search puzzles, but she most enjoyed family get togethers that included BBQ with the grandchildren.

Rose was employed at Michigan Magnetics and became a group leader, retiring after 30 plus years.

She is survived by husband, Donald; children, Alicia (Gareth) Tyler of Olivet, Rose "Rea" Kirby of Nashville, Trese (Rick) Paisley, Sue (Kenneth) Cowell and Donald "Bud" (Ursula) Thompson Jr., all of Vermontville.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte with Reverend Charles Jensen officiating. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Vermontville.

If desired, memorial contributions may be made to the family towards purchase of a headstone.

Family and friends are invited to www.PrayFuneralHome.com for further information and to leave notes of condolence for the family.

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Local students part of helping Olivet group

Thirteen Olivet College students and two staff members recently spent a weekend serving others at the Hosanna House through Hosanna Industries in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Students who took part in the trip included Kristin Chase, a senior from Hastings; Letesa Newsome, a freshman from Battle Creek; Jackie Taylor, a senior from Plainwell; Eleri Thomas, a freshman from Bellevue; and Amy Zesiger, a sophomore from Galesburg.

They spent the weekend of Feb. 12 to 14 working on various cleaning and renovation projects. Their work consisted of clearing snow and preparing meals for an injured snowbound woman, repairing areas of the Hosanna House and clearing snow from the grounds of Etna Congregational Church.

The trip was advised by Mike Fales, director of service learning and campus ministries, and Jean Paul Cortes, Olivet's Michigan Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA.

Hosanna Industries specializes in new home construction and home repair for low-income families and the elderly. Hosanna House provides a variety of services and programs including early childhood education, youth recreation, tutoring and mentoring, youth and adult technology, men's services, career development, health and dental care, and permanent supportive housing to persons living in Wilkinsburg, a borough of Pittsburgh.

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'Fed-up meter' hits limit

In My Own Write

by Amy Jo Kinyon

I've kept my thoughts on certain issues bottled up for several months now, but I cannot keep the cork on any longer. I just have to utter two words: Enough already. I am fed up with government officials grabbing the reins and kicking the horses into high gear without bothering to look at who is in the wagon with them.

I'm talking about many levels of government. The health care summit found those in power bickering about control of the system rather than fixing the system — the whole reason they were there in the first place. Enough already. Just knock it off. It doesn't matter if you like someone or agree with them on any other issue. You are supposed to be meeting to talk about one thing, not about who stole your toy (control of congress) in the sand box or won the last game of tug-of-war (public opinion).

My fed-up meter has reached the overflowing point. Officials in federal, state and local governments are bickering with each other more than guests on the Jerry Springer show. "He said ..." "She said ..." Just resolve the issues already and do what is right for the people who elected you, the ones you are supposed to be representing. We all work with people who, if we were not employed at the same place, we would not spend time with. That's okay. You do not have to like each other to work together or serve on the same board. You do have to do what is right for the citizens you are supposed to be representing.

I have never held a public office, but it is my humble opinion that too often, officials get caught up in the organization they are part of rather than getting caught up in the issues facing constituents.

We are facing enough issues without adding more complications that do little to solve problems. I urge those elected into power to take a critical look at the communities they serve and the specific needs of those in the communities. The best way to weather this economic storm is to work together for the benefit of residents. Big government is not going to look out for the little guy. It is up to us to invest in the organizations and causes we believe are important.

I will close with a few of my favorite quotes about government.

"Democracy is two wolves and a lamb deciding what to have for dinner. Liberty is a well-armed lamb," Benjamin Franklin.

"Ancient Rome declined because it had a Senate, now what's going to happen to us with both a House and Senate?" Will Rogers.

Words of the week

(courtesy of the National Spelling Bee)

The earliest evidence we have of "jittery" comes from the early 1930s, the same time period in which the first evidence of "snazzy" appeared. The 1930s were a productive time for the coining, or making up, of new words. Our evidence says that "hairdo" was first used in the 1930s, along with "okeydoke," "double date" and "bagel." Words that are coined during a given time often give us a clue as to what was going on in society. Other words from the 1930s that are a kind of time capsule ("time capsule" also is from the 1930s, by the way) include "jitterbug," "blitzkrieg," "Disneyesque" and "hiring hall."

Recently the Oxford Dictionary has added screenager, muggle, cyberslacking, bouncebackability and ego-surfing. I wonder what those words will tell future generations about this one.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Maple Valley Elementary Lunch Menu

Monday, March 1
Fish sticks, whole kernel corn, grapes, brownie.

Tuesday, March 2
Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, mandarin oranges, letter shaped snacks.

Wednesday, March 3
Cheesie bread sticks, spaghettios, carrot sticks, peaches.

Thursday, March 4
Fuller Goodtime. Stuffed crust pizza, tossed salad, pineapple, animal crackers.

Friday, March 5
No School.

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, March 1
Cheesie bread sticks, spaghettios, applesauce. Salad bar.

Tuesday, March 2
Grilled cheese, tomato soup, peaches. Burger/chicken bar.

Wednesday, March 3
Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, apple crisp. Mini bar.

Thursday, March 4
Kellogg Goodtime. Chili w/corn bread, whole kernel corn, pears. Mexican bar.

Friday, March 5
No School.

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.

Residents can get tax help from AARP

Ionia and Barry county taxpayers can receive free tax help through the AARP, according to State Rep. Brian Calley.

Now through April 15, the AARP Tax-Aide program offers free one-on-one counseling as well as assistance on the telephone and Internet to help people prepare basic tax forms including the 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ.

"This free program is so beneficial for people who are currently trying to make sense of their annual tax returns," said Calley, R-Portland. "The volunteers are all certified by the IRS and can provide a helping hand this tax season."

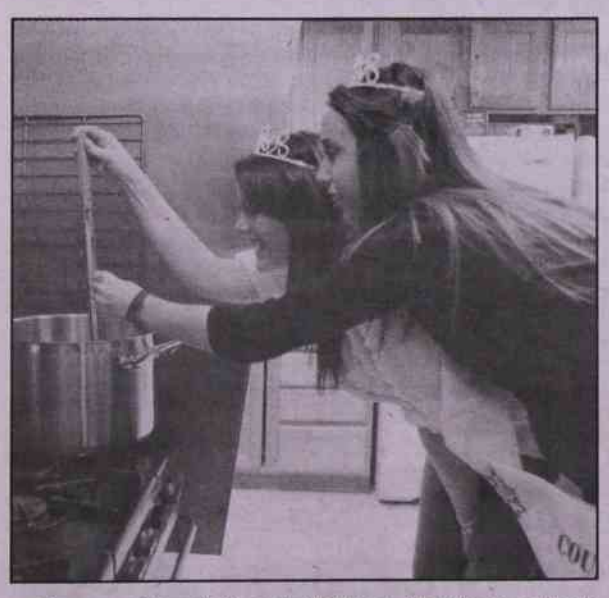
Middle- and low-income taxpayers are encouraged to use the program. Special attention is given to those age 60 and older.

Taxpayers can get more information at the Barry County Commission on Aging in Hastings or Ionia County Commission on Aging in Ionia. Residents also may contact Calley at 517-373-0842, or e-mail him at briancalley@house.mi.gov., for more information.

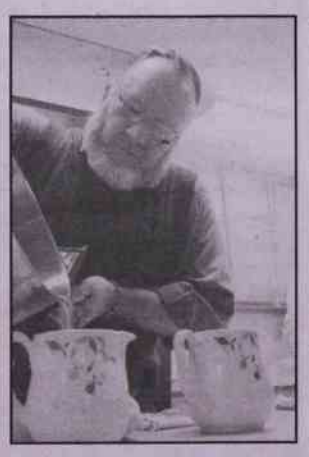
SUGARING OFF, continued from page 1

Fisher said this year, the 70th annual festival, will offer the traditional events that visitors have come to expect such as rides, food, a talent show, pancakes at the fire barn and American Legion. Along with the traditional aspects, new events are on the schedule for festival attendees to experience. Fireworks are planned for Friday night of the festival to celebrate the seven decades of festivities.

The festival will take over downtown Vermontville during the last full weekend in April.



Bryanna Clow (left) and Mollyann Morehouse check the temperature of syrup at the sugaring off. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Larry Haigh fills pitchers with syrup heated to 240 degrees. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

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Revue hosting auditions for 'Alice in Wonderland Jr.'

Auditions for The Revue's children's theater production of "Alice in Wonderland Jr." will be held Monday, March 1, for grades six to eight and Tuesday, March 2, for grades four to six, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Main Street Theatre, 301 N. Main St. in Nashville.

"Alice in Wonderland Jr." is based on the classic stories *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll. Alice takes madcap adventures in Wonderland as she chases the White Rabbit, races the Dodo Bird, gets tied up with the Tweedles, raps with a bubble-blowing Caterpillar and beats the Queen of Hearts at her own game.

Roles are plentiful, including three Cheshire cats and dozens of other wonderfully wacky characters. This fast-paced stage adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* features updated dialogue and new arrangements of classic Disney songs such as "I'm Late," "The Un-birthday Song" and "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah."

Rehearsals will be Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., beginning Thursday, March 4. The cast will include approximately 80 fourth through eighth graders. A portion of parts will be double-cast and only perform a single weekend.

Performances will be April 30, May 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9. On Fridays, April 30 and May 7, matinees will be performed for local schools in addition to an evening performance.

Prospective actors should arrive a few minutes early for the audition. Parents will need to fill out an audition form and provide a current photo of the child auditioning. Children will be called in groups of five or six to learn a portion of one of the songs and sing for the director, music director and producer. Some children will be asked to stay until the end of the auditions to read from the script.

Parents with children who fall in both age groups can bring them on the same day.

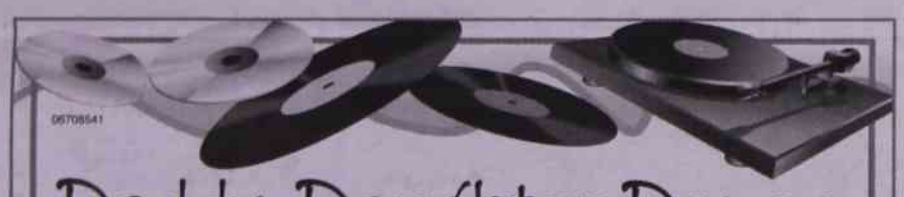
Each child cast in the show will be required to pay a $25 participation fee. This fee, to be collected at the first rehearsal, will cover a rehearsal CD of songs from the show, a souvenir short sleeve T-shirt, and any minor costume pieces (shoes, tights, etc.).

The Main Street Theatre is located in downtown Nashville, on the corner of Washington and Main streets. Use the side entrance and take the stairs to the top floor.

For more information, contact Hollie Auten at 517-726-0959 or e-mail therevue1@yahoo.com.

Nashville girl donates hair in memory of grandmother

Cylee Jo Hughes, 7, shows the 15-inches hair she donated to Pantene's Locks of Love program in memory of her grandmother, Brenda Hughes, who battled cancer for nine years. The Locks of Love organization provides custom hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children with long-term medical hair loss. Cylee, who attends Fuller Street School in Nashville, had her hair cut at Main Street Salon by owner Cheryl Pierce, who donated her services for the cause.



Daddy-Daughter Dance

(special grandpa, uncle, brother, or special friend)

Date: March 27, 2010

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Cost: $5.00/person, early registration
$7.00/person, at the door

Location: Maple Valley High School Cafeteria

Pictures will be taken during the dance
$5.00 for a 4x6 picture, and a flower.
Cost includes punch, cake, and cookies!

Please register early, by March 15th – seating is limited

Brought to you by the class of 2012 as a fund raiser for next years prom.

For any questions, Call Maple Valley High school at (517) 852-9275

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Story Board

Stories from our readers

Nashville
When I was a Kid
by C.J. Belson, Hastings

On Halloween night, the town fathers staged a party at the ballfield. There were huge bonfires, and it seems everyone dressed in some kind of costume. The costumes were homemade. I doubt there were no store bought costumes at that time. Many pranks were pulled around town by some of the older guys. They would pile all kinds of articles in the road on Main Street to block traffic.

One time, the morning after Halloween, I became aware that there was something amiss at Sehti Zemmer's hardware store. His store was across the street from our bakery and was piled high with every kind of junk. There were farm wagons and anything you can image all the way to the street and piled as high as the top of the building. There was even a horse buggy on the roof. I can't speak to Sethi's temperament, but I heard that at one time he had an argument with a salesman over politics and was seen choking the man.

Politics was always a hot topic in those days. The country, was in deep depression and everyone seemed interested as to what to do. People were going hungry in our town as well. There were many bets made over politics and some who lost their best paid with humiliation. One time, I saw a man push a peanut with his nose all the way up Main Street to satisfy a debt he made over politics. I believe that man was Hank Flannery.

Just south of our swimming hole was a hobo jungle. It was located near the Michigan Central Railroad tracks. We often talked to some of these men. They were mostly family men trying to find some way to find work to send money to their families. We had no fear of them at all.

One of these hobos we got to know on personal basis, since we fed him out the back door of our bakery/restaurant. He was a regular at our door. He made a camp out near Greggs Crossing (several miles up the tracks, west of town) and we found out he was killed by a train. We wondered if he just go so despondent that he jumped in front of a train. We fed many hobos out our back door, it seemed that we fed more there than inside. My mother was a very generous woman and couldn't turn any one in need away.

At that time, most of the country was on the move searching for a warm bed and a little food. Change was on the way since Roosevelt was about to run for the presidency.

We bought a defunct bakery's equipment about this time and moved it to Middleville. We began to bake in Middleville and also in Nashville, trying hard to stay afloat in the bakery business. We later had to abandon the Nashville store because it wasn't profitable.

We moved to Middleville where I lived for a year. I attended the Middleville school through the sixth grade.

This is the way it was when I was a kid.

*****

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.

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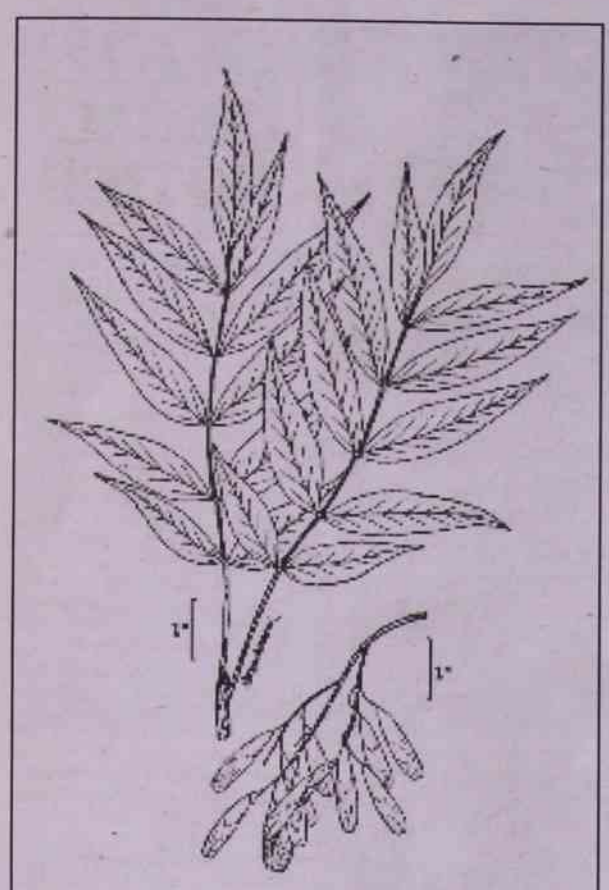
Local black ash stands sought for special research project



Black ash leaves and fruit (courtesy of the USDA-NRCS Plants Database)

Most forest landowners are aware of the devastation caused in recent years by the emerald ash borer (EAB).

This emerald-green beetle, transported from Asia, deposits its eggs beneath the bark of ash trees, leaving larvae to feed on the tree's cambium layer. The larvae's intensive feeding reduces the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients from the roots to the crown, ultimately killing the tree.

Researchers with the U.S. Forest Service and Michigan State University, led by Dr. Leah Bauer, have been working with biocontrol agents, in the form of parasitoid wasps, to determine their ability to decrease EAB populations in ash stands with a hope of saving uninfested or less-infested trees.

Black ash, the species most susceptible to EAB infestation, is used by artisans from Michigan's Native American tribes to weave beautiful baskets. Because of the species' cultural significance, the environmental committee of Gun Lake Band of Potawatomi is now considering a partnership with Dr. Bauer's team to study the effects of biocontrol on black ash.

The tribe is currently looking for large black ash stands on private lands to use as potential study areas within Barry County. Ideal locations are forest areas of at least five acres where black ash is the main species. The research team is looking for sites to release the parasitoids and for control sites where no wasps will be released. It is possible that release and control sites could be in the same forest, as long as there are other tree species in between the ash stands to limit the wasps from dispersing from one site to the other.

Ideal sites will have a low density of EAB currently active in the stand.

"We find woodpecker feeding on the upper and mid-bole (trunk) of some trees is the most obvious symptom of early infestation," noted Bauer.

Sites also should have trees that vary in age.

"We like a mixture of age classes to facilitate stand recovery, as many larger ash trees may already be heavily infested," she added.

Interested landowners must be willing to provide researchers access to the ash stands to monitor EAB and parasitoid levels. The research team also may need to remove approximately four trees per stand each year as a part of the study.

Bauer noted that these would be the most heavily infested trees, ones that will ultimately die from EAB infestation.

According to the USDA-NRCS Plants Database, black ash is a native deciduous tree. Alternative common names, such as swamp ash and basket ash, are descriptive of the preferred habitat and the primary use of the species.

Black ash is a small to medium-sized tree with opposite branching and compound leaves. Leaflets number from seven to 11 (typically more than green ash) and are green and smooth on both sides. The terminal leaflet has a short stalk, but the other leaflets are attached directly to the leaf stalk, or petiole.

The fruit is a samara with a broader wing than that of green ash.

The bark is pale gray and flaky, and the crushed foliage smells like elderberry. The first key to identifying black ash is that it grows on sites and soils with generally poor drainage, including peat, fine sands, and loams in bogs, streambanks and other low spots. It can tolerate a wide range of soil pH. It is slower growing (1.5 to 2.5 feet per year) than associated trees such as red maple.

Black ash runs from 30 to 60 at mature height. The species likes sun, so trees maturing in an open canopy may have a height advantage.

Landowners with black ash stands of at least five acres who are interested in participating in the study should contact Joanne Barnard at the Barry Conservation District, 269-948-8056 ext. 117, or e-mail joanne.barnard@mi.nacd-net.net. A preliminary stand assessment will be conducted on all potential sites before final study areas are selected.

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Barry County COA — Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Friendship Sites
Congregate Menu
Monday, March 1
Sloppy Joe, tator tots, coleslaw, orange bun.
Tuesday, March 2
Sweet and sour pork, rice, California blend vegetables, apple crisp, fortune cookie.
Wednesday, March 3
Glazed ham, roasted sweet potatoes, cauliflower, pineapple, dinner roll.
Thursday, March 4
Roast beef and gravy, baked potato, Prince Charles blend vegetables, banana, dinner roll.
Friday, March 5
Baked pollock with wild rice, peas and carrots, coleslaw, jello with fruit, dinner roll.

Home Delivered
Cold Menu
Monday, March 1
Turkey pasta salad, carrot raisin salad, applesauce, crackers.
Tuesday, March 2
Ground bologna, potato salad, pineapple, wheat bread.
Wednesday, March 3
Sliced ham and Swiss cheese, cucumber salad, mandarin oranges, wheat bread.
Thursday, March 4
Chicken salad, coleslaw, peaches, wheat bread.
Friday, March 5
Cottage cheese, corn and pea salad, tropical fruit, muffin.

Home Delivered
Hearty Menu
Monday, March 1
Sloppy Joe, tator tots, Brussels sprouts, fruit punch, bun.
Tuesday, March 2
Sweet and sour pork, rice, California blend vegetables, apple crisp.
Wednesday, March 3
Glazed ham, sweet potatoes, cauliflower, pineapple, dinner roll.
Thursday, March 4
Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, Prince Charles blend vegetables, blueberry crisp, wheat bread.
Friday, March 5
Baked pollock, wild rice, peas and carrots, asparagus, orange.

Activities Calendar
Monday, March 1: Hastings - March Birthday Party; Nashville 5 10:30 a.m.; Card Making 12:30 p.m.; Painting with Bob 1 p.m.; Zumba Gold 5:15 p.m. Delton - Card Making 12:30 p.m. H,W,N - Reminiscence.
Tuesday, March 2: Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Play Wii 10:30 a.m.; Kinship Info 1:30 p.m. GL - Cards 10:30-12:30.
Wednesday, March 3: Hastings - Music with Sam; Nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m. Delton - Reminiscence.
Thursday, March 4 - Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; TV & Popcorn; Zumba Gold 4:00, 5:15 p.m. Nashville - TV Time. Delton -Puzzles/Trivia.
Friday, March 5
Hastings - Exercise 9 a.m.; Bingo 10 a.m.; Model Railroad 10 a.m. Nashville - Bingo. Woodland - Visiting.

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Maple Valley students craft structures and street racers

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Students in Mary LeSage's tech education classes at Maple Valley have put their skills to use, building cars and bridges as part of the curriculum.

Students are learning about the relationships between design and structure durability and effectiveness. They have designed and constructed bridges to test the strength and integrity of their design skills.

For many students, however, the CO2 cars they constructed are the highlight of the past few weeks.

"I think racing is going to be the best part," said Austin Rood. "The cars are more adventurous than bridges."

Students drew their designs on a block of wood which was cut out by high school students in wood shop classes.

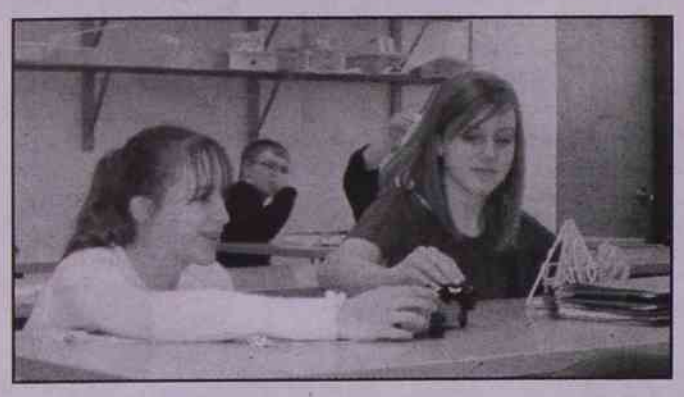
"I liked being able to design your own car," said Emily Mattocks.

The students painted their creations; some have even given them names.

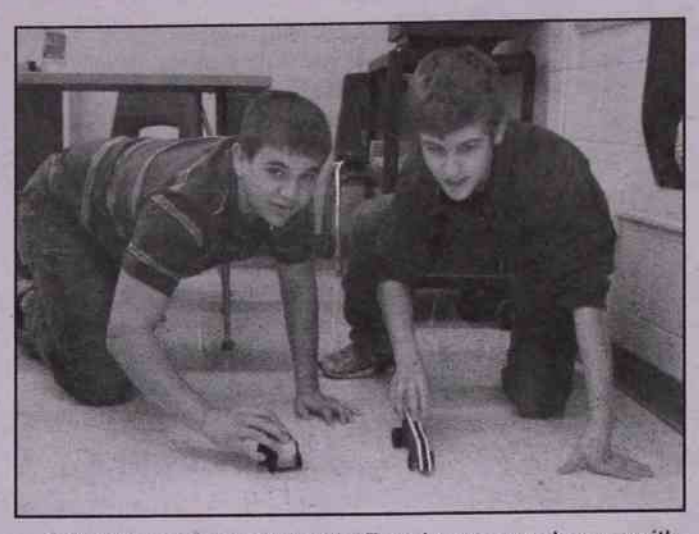
"I was going to name mine Sebastian but decided Phillip was better," said McKayla Lamance as she showed offer her hot rod.

A cylinder of compressed carbon dioxide will be placed in a hole drilled into the back of each car. To power the cars, a hammer-type mechanism is used to puncture the canister and send the car sailing down the track. A race takes less than two seconds from start to finish.

Students will race their cars next week and will find out if their racers are as fast as they are good looking.

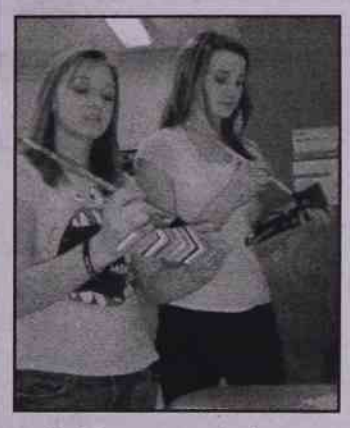


McKayla Lamance and Hanna Kyle compare their racers. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Dylan Kennedy and Austin Rood run a mock race with the cars they designed and built. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

Eighth grade students in Mary Lesage's class show the bridges and cars they have created during recent weeks. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)



Making sure their cars are stylish and fast, McKenzie Cornwell and Emily Mattocks add a few finishing touches. (Photo by Amy Jo Kinyon)

• NOTICE •

Anyone interested in serving as a Board of Review Alternate for Vermontville Township, please send a letter of interest to Vermontville Township, P.O. Box 215, Vermontville, MI 49096.

All letters must be received by March 15, 2010

Vermontville Township Board

06708764

VILLAGE OF NASHVILLE 2010-2011

The regular council meetings of the Village of Nashville are the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Nashville Council Chambers. The meeting dates are as follows:

March 11, 2010	March 25, 2010
April 8, 2010	April 22, 2010
May 13, 2010	May 27, 2010
June 10, 2010	June 24, 2010
July 8, 2010	July 22, 2010
August 12, 2010	August 26, 2010
September 9, 2010	September 23, 2010
October 14, 2010	October 28, 2010
November 11, 2010	November 23, 2010 (Tuesday)
December 9, 2010	December 23, 2010
January 13, 2011	January 27, 2011
February 10, 2011	February 24, 2011

The Village of Nashville will provide necessary and reasonable aids and services to the disabled and hearing impaired upon five days notice to the Nashville Village Clerk.

06708581

2010 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

Vermontville Township
P.O. Box 215
Vermontville, MI 49096

2010 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Vermontville Township Board of Review for 2010 will be held at the Vermontville Opera House, 230 S. Main St. on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 2, 9:00am to 10am for an Organizational meeting

Petitions will be heard on:

Monday, March 8, 3:00pm to 9:00pm = Appeal Hearing
Tuesday, March 9, 9:00am to 3:00pm = Appeal Hearing

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2010 assessments. **By board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 8th.**

The tentative ratios and multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2010 are as follows:

	RATIO	MULTIPLIER
Agricultural	50.00%	1.00
Commercial	50.00%	1.00
Residential	50.00%	1.00
Industrial	50.00%	1.00
Personal Property	50.00%	1.00

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice: The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon three (3) days notice. Contact Jack Owens, 7540 Vermontville Hwy., Vermontville, MI. Telephone No. 517.726.1241.

06707635

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act and the Michigan Civil Rights Act which collectively make it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, age or martial status, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To report discrimination call the Fair Housing Center at 616-451-2980. The HUD toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

06702731

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. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE YOUR HOME To: Richard Steger and Diana Steger 11900 Garbow 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: Orlans 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_search/), telephone (866) 946-7432, 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: February 27, 2010 Orlans Associates P.C Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 File Number: 191.4189 ASAP# 3463131 02/27/2010

06708587

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 Barry J. Raterink and Robin M. Raterink, husband and wife, to First Horizon Home Loan Corporation, Mortgagee, dated March 19, 2004 and recorded May 6, 2004 in Instrument Number 1127141, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by MetLife Home Loans, a division of MetLife Bank, N.A. by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Three Hundred Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Five and 65/100 Dollars ($315,965.65) including interest at 5.75% 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 MARCH 25, 2010. Said premises are located in the Township of Thornapple, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: That part of the Northeast one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of Section 21, Town 4 North, Range 10 West, Thornapple Township, Barry County, Michigan, described as: Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 47 minutes 15 seconds West 669.48 feet along the North line of said Section to the Point of Beginning; thence South 00 degrees 17 minutes 14 seconds West 1318.44 feet along the East line of the West one-half of the Northeast one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 52 minutes 34 seconds West 669.07 feet along the South line of the Northeast one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of said Section; thence North 00 degrees 16 minutes 10 seconds East 399.47 feet along the West line of the Northeast one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of said Section; thence South 89 degrees 47 minutes 15 seconds East 469.48 feet along the South line of the North 920.00 feet of the Northeast one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of said Section; thence North 00 degrees 16 minutes 10 seconds East 920.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 47 minutes 15 seconds East 200.00 feet along the North line of said Section to the Point of Beginning. Subject to Highway Right-of-Way for Finkbeiner Road over the most Northerly 33.0 feet thereof. The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. If you are a tenant in the property, please contact our office as you may have certain rights. Dated: February 20, 2010 Orlans Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400 File No. 238.7869 ASAP# 3454339 02/20/2010, 02/27/2010, 03/06/2010, 03/13/2010

06707916

Celebrity readers share stories at Putnam library

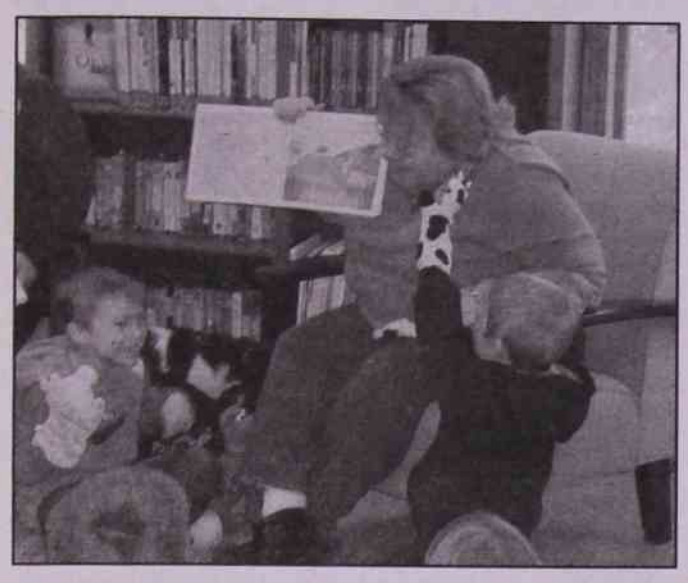
Over the past few weeks, 11 local "celebrities" have taken the time to read to children at Putnam District Library.

Tuesday, Feb. 9, the library hosted five readers: Dr. Mike Callton, Shari Carney, Gale Chaffee, Rod Scramlin, and Sarah Cook. Dr. Callton entertained youngsters with a book of opposites, while kids were snuggled up during a special pajama night storytime. Gale Chaffee wrapped up the evening with a classic bedtime story, *The Napping House.*

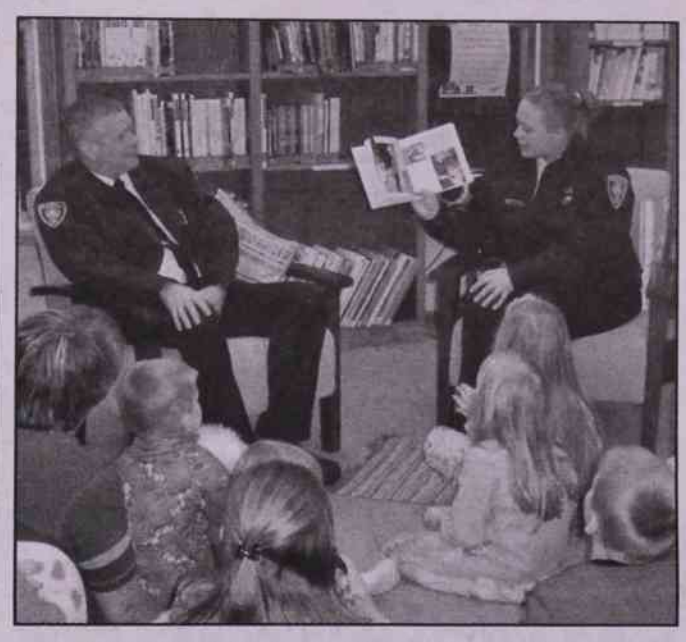
Stuffed Animal Day followed on Saturday, Feb. 13, with six readers in the mix. Kids brought their favorite stuffed animals to the library, and the stories were all about different creatures. Readers for the morning were Chris Ewing, Deb Crandall, Janet Adams, Aaron Staines, Sheri Ingram and Leslie James.

Kids have one more chance to hear celebrity readers this month. Saturday, Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. is the final session. The theme is patriotic, so kids should dress accordingly. Children and readers alike have been decorating the library with "I Love the Library because ..." posters. Take a minute to stroll through the library and find out why patrons love the library.

Credit toward the Million Minute Challenge at Fuller Elementary can be earned by attending a library event. Call the library at 517-852-9723 with any questions.



Janet Adams gets some puppet assistance from her grandsons, Devon and Matthew.



Nashville firefighters Rod Scramlin and Sarah Cook engage readers with the book, *I Want to be a Firefighter.*

LEGAL NOTICE

FORECLOSURE 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. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by: Eric A Reck, an unmarried man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., solely as nominee for Century 21 (R) Mortgage (SM), Mortgagee, dated November 26, 2007 and recorded December 5, 2007 in Instrument # 20071205-0004857 Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage was assigned to: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, by assignment dated August 11, 2008 and recorded August 18, 2008 in Instrument # 20080818-0008301 on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars and One Cents ($100,278.01) including interest 7.824% 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, Circuit Court of Barry County at 1:00PM on April 1, 2010 Said premises are situated in Township of Barry, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: That Part of the South One-Half of the North One-Half of the Southwest One-Quarter of the Southwest One-Quarter of Section 27, Town 1 North, Range 9 West, Township of Barry, Barry County, Michigan, lying Westerly of Consumers Power Company parcel as recorded in Liber 307 of Deeds, Page 449, as recorded in Barry County Register of Deeds and lying Easterly of the centerline of highway (Brooklodge Road), reserving the Westerly 33 feet for road highway purposes. Also the North one-quarter of the Southwest One-Quarter of the Southwest One-Quarter of Section 27, Town 1 North, Range 9 West, except a parcel sold to Consumers Power Company and recorded in Liber 307 of Deeds, on Page 449 and described as a strip of land 311 feet wide across the Southwest One-Quarter of the Southwest One-Quarter of said Section 27, and described as follows: To find the place of the beginning of this description commence at the Southwest corner of said Section, run thence South 89 degrees 46 minutes 05 seconds East along the South line of said Section, 871.05 feet to the place of beginning of this description; thence Continuing South 89 degrees 46 minutes 05 seconds East along said South line of said section 317.64 feet; thence North 11 degrees 30 minutes 15 seconds West 1345.05 feet to the South One-Eighth line of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 46 minutes 32 seconds West along said South One-Eighth line of said Section 317.63 feet; thence South 11 degrees 30 minutes 15 seconds East 1345.01 feet to the place of beginning. All in Section 27, Town 1 North, Range 9 West, Barry Township, Barry County, Michigan. This Mortgage encompasses the land and its improvements which consist of a Manufactured Home Dwelling that is permanently affixed to the land and is part of the real property. Said improvements are further described in Schedule A of the title. The unit was manufactured by Shamrock Homes in 4/11/88 with a model name of shamrock 4223. The unit is comprised of approximately 1,377 square feet of living space. The HUD Data Plate Serial Number is S/N4223AB with Certification Label Number(s) 004138A and 004137B Commonly known as 14855 Brooklodge Street, Hickory Corners MI 49060 The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 or MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 2/27/2010 Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, Assignee of Mortgagee Attorneys: Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Blvd. Suite 100 Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 844-5123 Our File No: 09-16058 ASAP# 3463650 02/27/2010, 03/06/2010, 03/13/2010, 03/20/2010 06708618

Castleton Township BOARD OF REVIEW Meeting Schedule

The Castleton Township Board of Review for 2010 will be held at the Township Hall at 915 P.O. Box 679, Reed Street, Nashville, Michigan 49073 on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 2 - Organizational Meeting - 9:00 am
Monday, March 8 - Appeal Hearing - 9:00-12 noon & 1-4 pm
Tuesday, March 9 - Appeal Hearing - 2-5 pm & 6-9 pm

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2010 assessments. Written protests may be sent to the above address by Monday, March 8. The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2010 are as follows:

Agricultural	53.48%	0.9349
Commercial	51.37%	0.9733
Industrial	49.12%	1.0179
Residential	51.70%	0.9671
Personal	50%	1.00

Cheryl L. Hartwell, Supervisor
Castleton Township
517-852-9479

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the township clerk at least seven (7) days in advance of the hearing. This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) MCLA41.72a(2)(3) and with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

06707849

Call 945-9554 for Maple Valley News classified ads

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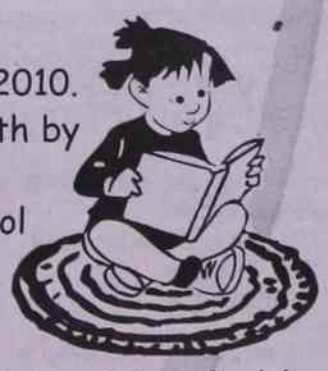
Maple Valley Early 4's Preschool is now enrolling for 2010-2011

Early 4's is Great Start Readiness Preschool (GSRP).
We are funded by a grant through the Michigan Department of Education.

This is a FREE program to those who qualify.

Students must:
- be 4 years old by December 1, 2010.
- meet qualifying factors set forth by the State of Michigan
- reside in the Maple Valley School District. We are unable to take school of choice students.



Call today to receive an enrollment packet and to schedule an appointment for our preschool round-up. 852-2075

06708604

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
VILLAGE OF NASHVILLE
Barry County, Michigan
Kellogg Street Improvements

Sealed Bids will be received by Village of Nashville in the Village Office located at 203 N. Main St, PO Box 587, Nashville Michigan, 49073 until **2:00 pm** local time, **Thursday, March 18, 2010,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Items of work include approximately 2,370 feet of road reconstruction, 1,555 square yards of HMA crushing and shaping, culvert and storm sewer replacement, 956 feet of concrete curb and gutter, HMA pavement, concrete pavement, slope restoration, and all related work.

Bidding Documents may be obtained at the office of Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering, Inc., 2960 Lucerne Drive, SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546, Telephone (616) 977-1000. A non-refundable payment of forty dollars ($40.00) will be required for each set of Contract Documents. An additional, non-refundable payment of ten dollars ($10.00) will be required for mailing the Bidding Documents. Bidding Documents may be examined at the following locations.

Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering, Inc., 2960 Lucerne Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Village of Nashville, 203 N. Main Street, PO Box 587, Nashville, MI 49073
Builders and Traders Exchange: 4461 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Builders and Traders Exchange: 3431 East Kilgore Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49001
McGraw Hill Construction/ReproMAX: 401 Hall Street SW, Suite 128B, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
McGraw Hill Construction/ReproMAX: 914 Vine Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Construction News Service, 1793 RW Berends Drive SW, Wyoming, MI 49519

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a certified check or Bid Bond by a recognized surety in the amount of 5% of the Bidder's maximum Bid price in the name of Village of Nashville.

This project is funded in part through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement program. Davis-Bacon Federal Wage rates are required.

The Village of Nashville reserves the right to accept any bid, reject any or all bids, to waive informalities and make the award in any manner deemed in the best interest of the Village of Nashville.

Village of Nashville

Frank Dunham
Village President

06708557

Raises and opera house once again sources of debate

by Amy Jo Kinyon
Staff Writer

Under a current policy, voted in place by the Vermontville Township Board, the Maple Syrup Association would have to pay $75 for each rehearsal and another $75 for use of the Vermontville Opera House during the syrup festival for the princess pageant.

Gene Fisher, president of the Vermontville Maple Syrup Association, attended Monday night's township meeting to address the issue and asked the board to revisit the policy.

"I know you need the money, but like I said, if you need something, the organizations are there to ask," Fisher told the board. "I can't understand it. It's such a fabulous building. We're one in 1,000 to have something like this."

Fisher pointed out that the association has not paid for use of the building in the past, and that the original purpose of the building was for community events.

"I'm proud of Vermontville ... This is a building we should be proud of," said Fisher. "The running down of a building is not when it's used but when it's not used."

Treasurer JoeAnn Nehmer said the decision to charge groups was based on a law, not the desires of the board.

"It wasn't something we agreed with," said Nehmer. "It's the law. We can't charge it out for one group and not the other."

The Michigan Townships Association Web site gives details about the use of township facilities. Use of a township hall and other facilities is under the complete control of the township board, which makes the rules and regulations governing such use, reads the site.

"If a township requires a deposit and charges a rental fee for township resident private users of the hall, the township should also apply the same deposit and rental fee requirements to services groups, including church groups ... It would be legal for a township to allow service organizations to use the township hall or other facility for free if the township also allows private individuals to use the hall or facility for free."

At the start of Monday's meeting, Trustee Brian Moore asked that the opera house rental topic be placed under new business for discussion by the board. During the discussion, Moore said he felt the township should let the festival use the building.

"This is a community event, and I think the board can make the decision for them to use the building," said Moore. "It's for our people ... I make a motion to let ... the syrup association princess pageant use the opera house on syrup festival weekend and the hours for their practices as a community event. I think we can do that."

"What makes you think we can do that?" asked Trustee Blair Miller.

Supervisor Jack Owens seconded the motion, and Miller continued.

"I understand there's a law against that. It was brought up by a resident, and that resident threatened legal action," said Miller. "I think we should move it to free ... With three rentals a year, rather than break the law with a motion. I think we should move it to free."

Fisher said if the rate was free to township residents, more donations from local organizations may result.

"I think if you move to free, you'd get a lot more [revenue] but we can't afford

> "It makes us feel like a bunch of idiots that we're going to charge $75 every time a little girl walks up the stairs,"
>
> Jack Owens, Vermontville Township Supervisor

$75 for 10 practices," said Fisher.

Miller removed bills from his pocket, offering them to Fisher to help pay for the rental of the opera house.

Owens commented on Fisher's presentation and said the board will look further into the issue.

"It makes us feel like a bunch of idiots that we're going to charge $75 every time a little girl walks up the stairs," said Owens.

Clerk Sharon Stewart assured Fisher that the board would work to see that the association could continue to hold the pageant in the opera house.

"I fully agree with Gene, but we've got a copy of the law. The points you bring up today make us feel really bad. We don't want to see the pageant go away," said Stewart. "There's got to be a way around the law; there's always loopholes. Even if the township has to sponsor that pageant, there's a way around it. We'll find a way around it."

Audience members also voiced their opinions about a salary increased proposed by some board members at a recent special meeting.

"I'm very unhappy with the direction the township has taken. I don't know how many times people have been down here protesting stuff," said community member Tony Feighner. "On top of the poor management I see from the board, they want raises on top of it ... I'm here to voice my opposition to any kind of raise in light of the actions they have taken over the last year."

The board will hold another budget meeting on March 10 at 7 p.m. in the opera house.

Moore also questioned the actions of Miller at a recent fire and ambulance board meeting. At that meeting, Miller spoke during the public comment portion and asked about funds generated by Yutzy Auctioneers at a benefit auction last summer. Moore said that Miller said he and the township board would like to know about the funds and how they were spent.

"I think Blair was wrong in doing what he did. I felt like I was stepped on," said Moore who is the board's representative of the fire and ambulance committee.

Miller denied speaking on behalf of the entire board at the meeting.

"That's why I always carry this," said Miller holding up a digital recorder. "I said myself and some township board members were curious where the money was spent."

Earlier in the meeting, Miller asked Ambulance Director Dan Sowles about the funds.

"Some of it has already been used," said Sowles. "The rest of the money is in the fire association, earmarked for EMS. We're looking to use it towards training and conferences."

Owens clarified that the money was donated to the association for use with the ambulance and was not part of the general budget for the department.

In other business Monday, the board also:

• Heard a report from Fire Chief Monte O'Dell detailing the fire department's activities during the month, which included nine runs in township, including two lift assists, two mutual-aid calls and one car fire.

• Heard from Sowles that there were 10 EMS calls in the township during the past month, eight of which were priority one situations. Sowles also said that he is working with Eaton County Dispatch on upcoming changes for the county's dispatching protocols.

FIRE CHEIF, continued from page 1

Board Chairman Rod Crothers said the suspension ordered for Wilson may not have followed procedure.

"I'd have to agree; we didn't remove Bill properly. He's an employee. Just to remove him and put him on six-month suspension arguably was not done according to procedure. I would entertain a motion to reinstate him at this time."

A motion was then made by Castleton Township Treasurer Dorothy Semrau to return Wilson to active duty and the position of fire chief. Rich Harwood seconded the motion.

Dunham proposed that the board members explain the reasons behind their votes in the same manner taken when Wilson was suspended.

"As far as discussion goes, I would prefer if we each went individually. I believe that we removed him individually, and we removed his rank individually and therefore, we should follow the reverse procedure," said Dunham.

"I don't think it was done according to procedure," replied Semrau.

"I agree with Frank," said Westendorp.

"That's because you've already discussed it," countered Semrau.

With a 3-3 vote, the motion failed to move forward. Along with Harwood and Semrau, Lorna Wilson (Bill's mother) voted in favor of the motion. Crothers, Dunham and Westendorp voted against the motion.

A second motion, made by Dunham and seconded by Westendorp to return Bill Wilson to active duty as a firefighter passed unanimously.

After the meeting, Crothers both Bill Wilson briefly discussed with *The Maple Valley News* and expressed a desire to move forward without rehashing events of the past few weeks.

"We removed him as chief without cause, he's an at-will employee, and that's all I'm really going to say. The rest deals with personnel," said Crothers. "Hopefully, I'd like to see Bill return as chief when he's ready."

"I have to know there's trust there, otherwise I have to make decisions," said Bill Wilson. "Those decisions include remaining chief, staying on as part of the department or leaving all together. Since they've chosen to do things they way they've done them, I have choices."

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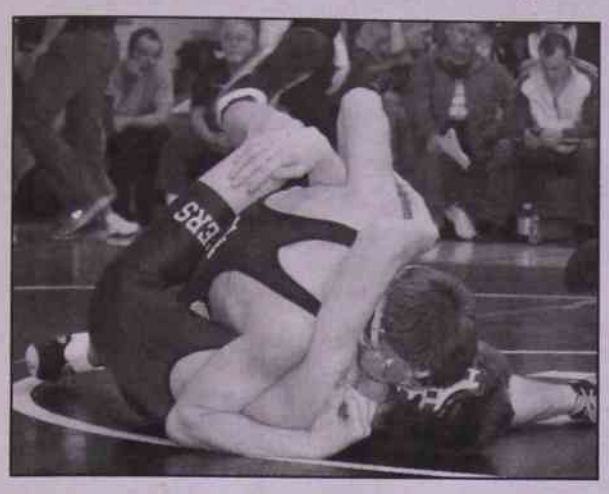
Pair of Lions will make first trip to the Division 4 Finals

The Lions who are left have shown some resiliency.

Maple Valley junior Zach Baird and senior Tyler Franks finished in the top four in their respective weight classes at Saturday's Division 4 Regional Tournament hosted by New Lothrop, to earn spots in the March 4-6 Individual State Finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills.



Maple Valley's Zach Baird holds Burton Bendle's Jared Garner on his back during their 119-pound consolation semifinal match Saturday at New Lothrop High School. (Photo by Cindy Gatewood)

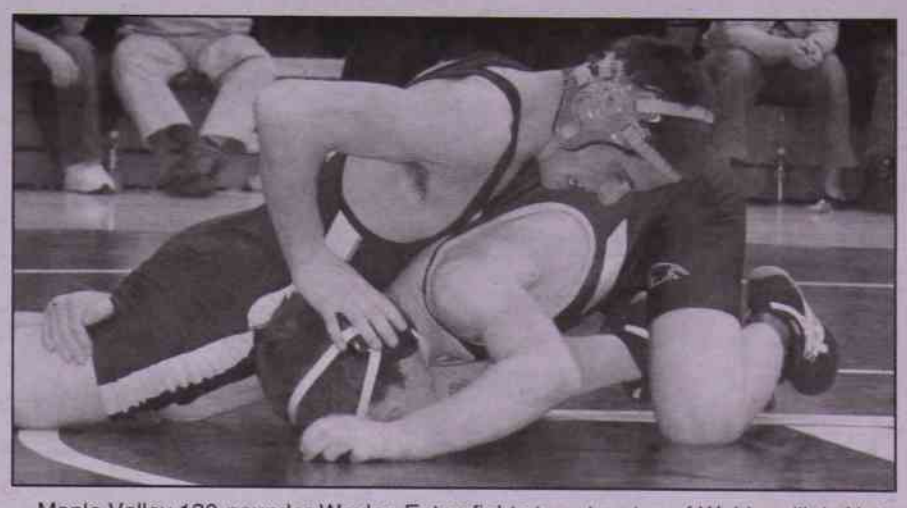
Franks was pinned by Burton Bendle's Andrew McCarthy in the second period of his first 140-pound match of the day, then had to battle through the consolation bracket to earn a spot in the state finals.

"They've picked it up quite a bit," said Maple Valley coach Tony Wawiernia. "From the team districts to individual districts they really picked it up. For one night of practice, something clicked or something."

It will be the first appearance in the state finals for both the Lions.

"They're pretty pumped," Wawiernia said.

"They wrestled quite well."



Maple Valley 130-pounder Waylon Eaton fights to get on top of Webberville's Nate Gardziella Saturday during the Division 4 Individual Regional Tournament hosted by New Lothrop. (Photo by Cindy Gatewood)

Franks started consolation with a pin of his own, of Saginaw-Nouvel's Jesse Vasquez, then scored a 5-1 decision over New Lothrop's Clayton Simons to guarantee his spot in the finals. Dansville's Kaleb Myer defaulted the consolation final match to Franks because of an injury, to leave Franks in third place for the day.

Baird won his first match of the day at 119 pounds, by pinning Pigeon-Laker's Nick Hilborn in 3 minutes and 30 seconds. Marlett's Travis Webster then topped Baird 12-1 in the championship semifinals.

Baird went down to the consolation semifinals from there, and secured his spot at states with a 17-7 major decision of his own over Burton Bendle's Jared Garner. In the match for third and fourth, Baird was pinned by Bellevue's Anthony Fuller in 2:42.

The other two Lion regional qualifiers were both 0-2 on the day. Steve Creller at 215 pounds and Waylon Eaton at 130 were both pinned in their opening round matches. Creller then was pinned to start the consolation bracket, while Eaton lost a tough 6-4 decision to Webberville Community's Nate Gardziella.

Maple Valley boys overtaken by the Eagles in second half

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Maple Valley's varsity boys' basketball team suffered its second three-point loss of the season to Olivet Friday, falling 62-59 on the road.

The Lions' Josh Burd had a three-point attempt in the final seconds, that head coach Trent Harvey said made it three quarters of the way through the hoop then rattled out.

Maple Valley led 34-30 at the half, but the Eagles went on a 19-9 run in the third quarter and held a slim lead for the remainder of the contest.

"We had quite a few turnovers (in the third quarter), and they hit some nice threes," Harvey said. "We had six turnovers in the third."

The Lions built their first-half lead with a solid offensive performance. After the two teams finished the first quarter tied at 10-10, the Lions outscored the Eagles 24-20 in the second.

"The kids shot the ball well, passed the ball really nice, and attacked the rim," Harvey said.

Trent Courtney led Maple Valley with 15 points, and Austin Tobias added 13. Burd had a nice all-around game, finishing with 12 rebounds and three assists.

Olivet got 16 points from Tim Johnson, and 14 from Jay Cousineau.

The Lions have two games left on the schedule, both Kalamazoo Valley Association contests. They host Galesburg-Augusta Tuesday, then Delton Kellogg Thursday. Maple Valley is currently 1-17 overall, and 1-15 in the league.

Schoolcraft topped the Lions at Maple Valley High School 72-30 Tuesday.

The Eagles dominated on the glass, outrebounding the Lions by ten, and limited Maple Valley to less than 20-percent shooting from the floor.

Burd paced the Lions with seven points, and Riley Fisher added six.

Lion cheer has solid round one at D4 District Tourney

Maple Valley's varsity competitive cheer team placed 12th at Saturday's Division 4 District Tournament hosted by Michigan Center.

The Lions started the day strong, but were unable to keep up with the competition in rounds two and three. Maple Valley's score of 178.5 was the eighth best in round one, and was just three tenths of a point behind the Vandercook Lake team which wound up placing fifth in the competition.

The Lions finished the day with a score of 536.3900, adding a 140.9990 in round two and a 216.9000 in round three.

Pewamo-Westphalia, which had the top score in each round on the day, took the district title with a score of 717.3074. The district champion Pirates scored a 212 in round one, a 208.5074 in round two, and a 296.8 in round three.

Michigan Center was second with a 707.3544, Laingsburg third at 663.5740, and Grass Lake fourth with a 630.8818.

The top four teams earned a spot in this Saturday's Division 4 Regional Tournament.

Behind those top four teams, Vandercook Lake scored a 601.2800, Webberville 598.3600, Albion 5 96.7200, East Jackson 594.2620, Springport 591.3000, Leslie 575.3560, and Bath 536.3990.

Lion ladies open postseason play at home Monday night

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Maple Valley head coach Landon Wilkes told his varsity girls' basketball team Friday, after its 65-32 loss at Olivet that a season is all about two journeys.

The first one, the regular season, is over. The second starts now.

"We'll come in Sunday, do a lot of shooting, go over the game plan, then go to work on Monday and see where the cards lie," Wilkes said.

Maple Valley opens up the Class C District Tournament its hosting on Monday night at 7:30 p.m. against Laingsburg. That's the second opening round game of the evening, as Dansville and Potterville face off at 6 p.m.

The winner of the Maple Valley game advances to face Bath in the semifinals Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

"It'll be a dog fight," Wilkes said. "Our district, we have a pretty tough district. We come out and do what we do and play hard and do the little things it takes and we'll see what happens."

What happened Friday night was that the Lions turned the ball over too many times against the 20 and 0, Kalamazoo Valley Association champions from Olivet.

"We had 20 turnovers in the first half, and ended up with 27 for the game which still didn't help a lot. If We could have limited our turnovers in the first half, you never know what could have happened," Wilkes said.

Olivet ran out to an 18-9 lead in the first quarter, then pushed that edge to 32-13 by the half.

Jackie Cousineau led the Eagles with 14 points, and Katy Barkley chipped in 13.

Elizabeth Stewart led Maple Valley with 13 points. Kaitlyn Petersen added five, and Kayla Shaw four.

The Lions end the regular season with a 10-10 record, and a 9-9 mark in the KVA.

Schoolcraft topped the Lions in league Tuesday at Maple Valley High School, 38-28.

Schoolcraft started to pull away a bit in the second half, outscoring the Lions 11-6 in the third quarter after holding an 18-12 lead at the half.

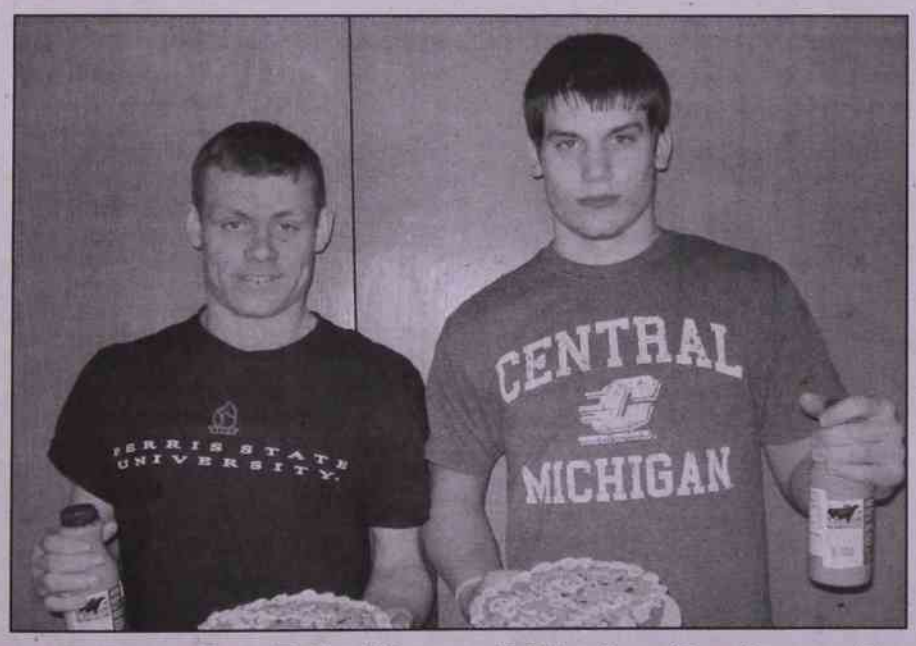
"We struggled to score a little bit there," Wilkes said. "When I looked at the shot chart after the game, we shot the ball 35 times inside the lane and shot eight free throws. Whether or not we were getting fouled and it was not getting called was beside the point. But we don't usually get that many shots inside."

Maple Valley was led by Stewart's 15-point night. Jordan Beachnau finished with seven points.

Schoolcraft got 16 points from Amanda Kotecki and 14 from Carly Scott.

Holding Schoolcraft to 38 points was a big positive though for the Lions.

"Our defense was the reason we were in that game, and we always haven't had that unfortunately this year. (Schoolcraft) struggled to have answers for our zone and our press we turned them over quite a few times."



Maple Valley High School Athletes of the Week

Tyler Franks (left) from the varsity wrestling team and Trenton Courtney from the varsity boys' basketball team have been named this week's Maple Valley High School Athletes of the Week. Franks has qualified for next week's Division 4 Individual State Finals, while Courtney had a great rebounding week for the Lions.

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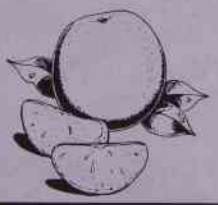

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