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No. 1/January 5, 1999 | Middleville, Michigan 49333 | 128th year

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Caledonia Twp. may split voting precincts further

Caledonia Township Clerk Pat Snyder asked the Township Board last month about an option of dividing the two existing voting precincts in the township into three or four.

She said the Nov. 3 general election had a 60% turnout, and in the 1996 general election, 91% of registered voters had voted.

Snyder said there were 2,200 voters at the town hall and 1,950 at Precinct No. 3 at Kettle Lake, with lots of waiting. She was concerned about not being able to handle all the people who might show up at the next major election. Trustee Mike Dunn verified that there was a long wait at Kettle Lake late in the day, and that some people left without voting.

Normally the split would be required by rules governing elections, when a precinct reached between 2,800 to 3,000 voters. She said splitting could only be done at a certain time of the year, and the logistics of getting new equipment, and notification in advance of the elections were factors to be considered.

Snyder said the township could accommodate the splits with available space. Voters coming to the town hall could either vote at the same site, or be directed to the fire barn next door. Voters at Kettle Lake could use the cafeteria as a second site. Hiring an extra polling person would be needed.

She said one voting machine was needed for every 400 voters, and space also was needed for the voting stations. She said all the stations they had were used steadily throughout the day. The length of time at each station is extended during presidential elections, because more items are on the ballot.

Snyder had checked the cost of the additional voting machines needed. Normally they cost $4,200, but used, they could be obtained for around $3000 each. Quotes from various vendors would be needed. Board members encouraged Snyder to gather more information.

Snyder said the only way the extra precincts might be delayed would be if absentee voting was made much more easy, so that a sub-

See split precincts, pg. 2

Caledonia Township may join Metro Council

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

The Caledonia Township Board is considering joining the Grand Valley Metro Council, but it postponed a decision at its Dec. 16 meeting, pending more information.

Gerald Felix, executive director of the Metro Council, spoke to the board after having made a presentation to the Planning Commission Nov. 23 (covered in detail in the Dec. 4 issue of Sun and News). A recommendation from the Planning Commission in favor of joining had come before the board.

Proponents of the move have said that input on transportation planning and decision making for money spent on roads and highways throughout the area could present an advantage to the township. This was discussed, along with several other committees and boards within or affiliated with the organization that might offer advantages for Caledonia.

> Cooperative buying of items, supplies, equipment, etc., through (Grand Valley Metro Council) has been considered by many to have more than paid the membership costs involved.

General networking on local planning and influence on political issues was thought to be a major asset in being a member. In the past, the main reason for not joining has been over a fear of being taxed, which GVMC can not do. Felix said no one who has joined, has ever left the Metro Council.

Cooperative buying of items, supplies, equipment, etc., through GVMC has been considered by many to have more than paid the membership costs involved.

A Geographical Information System, (GIS) to be installed for township use is being considered. Money has already been set aside for a GIS mapping system in the budget for next year.

The Metro Council has REGIS, or Regional GIS, its own complex map generating system which is available either separately or in combination with membership in the Metro council. REGIS was compared with another GIS program available locally from Manatron of Kalamazoo.

Township Planner Tim Dolehanty said Manatron's program had been tested and in operation for 12 years, and is available at about a third of the cost of REGIS. He said existing equipment owned by the township could be adapted and upgraded to use the system, which would also help reduce the overall cost. He said the cost of the package includes any hardware needed, a plotter and upgrades.

Manatron also has resource people who work with their users. Dolehanty said the present data already compiled by the township would be immediately usable, while all of the information being compiled by REGIS will not be fully operational for up to three years.

The township would not have to use or pay for REGIS to be a member of the Metro Council. Dolehanty is to come back with cost comparisons between different GIS programs and perhaps a demonstration in January.

In other recent business of the Township Board:

- A policy to be Y2K (year 2000) compliant was approved as an amendment to the Township Policy Manual. The staff will inventory the ways to be Y2K compliant, including phones, electrical components, computers, heating systems, etc. The township could send a statement to vendors, and other people they work with, such as banks, insurance companies, etc., of the policy, thus being Y2K compliant with their requirements, and being able to require it of others as a matter of policy.
- Five new appointments

See Metro Council, pg. 2

'Over the Rainbow' set at area church

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

The Caraway Street Ministry of Peace Reformed Church will present "Over the Rainbow," a twist on the classic movie "The Wizard of Oz" in three performances this weekend at the church on M-37 between Middleville and Caledonia.

On Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 3 and 6 p.m., the gymnasium of the church will be transformed into the land of Munchkins, Emerald City and in this presentation, Dorothy's heavenly home.

The hard work of memorizing lines will soon pay off for (left) Beth Blocksma as Glenda the guardian angel and Dorothy (Lynnette Wingeier) who needs her help in the Caraway Street production of "Over the Rainbow" at Peace Reformed Church Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 9 and 10.

Many familiar characters are part of this presentation but there are "divine" twists to the story. The music will be familiar to those who love the movie but the words have been altered.

Darlene DeGroot wrote this retelling and directs the play. In it she uses Dorothy, the Tin Man, Scarecrow, Cowardly Lion, the great and powerful Oz, Munchkins, Auntie Em and Uncle Henry to tell the story of Dorothy's quest to reach her heavenly home.

"Demonne" the witch has been sent by Satan to keep Dorothy from following the narrow path that will lead to heaven. Dorothy is helped in travels by Glenda, her guardian angel.

"The message of our presentation is that Satan only has as much power in our lives as we allow him to have," DeGroot says.

Beth Blocksma plays Glenda and Lynnette Wingeier is Dorothy. Jackie Scholten gets to chew up the scenery as the evil Demonne. Other cast members are Chris Wingeier as the Scarecrow, Tin Man Wayne Kidder and Auntie Em Lori Kidder and Cowardly Lion, Jeff Scholten. Pam Schmid, Annette Richardson and Brad Kidder are the Munchkins. Gary Havens plays both Uncle Henry and the Great Oz.

Many hours were devoted to the set and props to make it exciting for children and adults.

DeGroot says, "A rainbow of helium balloons will arch over the gymnasium and there is real corn in the field for our Scarecrow donated by Marty Wenger and Henry Ahrens."

Ernie DeGroot has set up lights to create the special effects needed for the Emerald City. Sandy Joyce has created costumes which make the local actors and actresses look like clones of those from the movie.

The director says, "We are hoping this production entertains and inspires the audience to contemplate the paths they are traveling in life."

Tickets are free to this production but the Caraway Street Ministry asks that those who would like to attend call the church office at 891-8119 to reserve tickets.

The Caraway Street Ministry meets every Sunday from 6 to 7 p.m. Activities, directed to children ages 4 through fifth grade, include puppets and skits.

The focus of Caraway is to teach basic Biblical and moral values in a fun, entertaining and unique way, according to Lynnette Wingeier.

She said, "Over the Rainbow' allows us to expand this effort to live a life pleasing to God to more people."

In This Issue...

- Middleville man's case to go to trial
- Top local stories from local communities in 1998
- TK PTO elections set for Thursday
- Championships and big honors numerous in '98

Metro Council, continued from front page

were approved to the Fire Department Advisory Committee. Daryl Penfold, the Village Council president, and Ed Fischer were appointed to terms to expire in 2001. John Potter and Bill Johnston were appointed through the year 2000, and Gordon Joustra was appointed through 1999.

• The new Facilities Committee is setting up a preventive maintenance program for each township owned facility. A history on the buildings, with scheduled building checks, needs assessments, lease and rental agreements will be included.

• The Grounds Committee, which deals with landscaping around the above facilities and is chaired by Vicky Grant, is recording the various facilities on digital camera for landscaping planning use in the future.

• The township and village are attempting to set up a cooperative Christmas tree recycling program, with date and place to be announced in January. The village, which has a chipper, will shred the trees for composting chips, which will be used around public areas in the community.

• Township Supervisor Bill Johnston is working with Bob Evans, owner of the LaBarge Dam, which is being considered as a donation for a township park. Johnston said a legal description of the land had been obtained, and the situation needs to be thoroughly examined to see if the township can acquire the land without unseen liabilities.

> A lighting ordinance was approved. The terminology measures light beyond property lines, to prevent disruptive glare for neighbors or by passing drivers.

• A lighting ordinance was approved. The terminology measures light beyond property lines, to prevent disruptive glare for neighbors or by passing drivers. A measure of 10-foot candles at the property line was defined as normal intensity lighting. Dolehanty said most businesses are already compliant. The light intensity at the Amoco station in the village at M-37 and Main Streets was said to be measured at 13-foot candles.

In the future, an applicant would need to show on the plans where the lighting would be directed and use fixtures that would prevent glare and light trespass into surrounding areas. These definitions would also apply to signs.

• A mileage rate for township employees on the job, which will keep pace with the IRS mileage allowance was approved by the board. The IRS rate allows 32.5 cents per mile at present.

• Township resident Nick Unger, recently elected as president of the Michigan chapter of firefighters with hearing loss, spoke to the board about a previous township firefighter policy adopted in 1992. He said the policy disallowed a deaf fire fighter from wearing a hearing aide while taking the regular qualifying exam, as required by the disabilities act. He said some people had even lost their jobs as a result. He said the same policy did allow sight impaired people to wear their glasses while taking the exam.

Unger said the National Fire Disabilities Act changed that requirement in 1997, which did allow disability accommodation, including glasses and hearing aides, to be used when taking qualifying exams. He said the local Fire Department had not modified its policy, and asked the township to read current guidelines, review personnel policies in general, including the Fire Department, to bring the local policy into compliance with the national standard.

Holiday tea served for guests

Students in Jan Muir's third grade class at Lee Elementary served a Holiday Tea for invited guests, including their parents and school board members. Then they sang and recited the "Night Before Christmas."

Area School Lunch Menus

Thornapple Kellogg School Lunch Menu

Wednesday, Jan. 6
Chili/crackers, w.w. bread, veggie stix, pears.

Thursday, Jan. 7
Meatball sub, McFall, cheeseburger, corn, fresh fruit, graham cracker.

Friday, Jan. 8
Pizza, baked beans, blueberry cobbler.

Monday, Jan. 11
Beef dippers, Spanish rice, green beans, w.w. bread, applesauce.

Tuesday, Jan. 12
Cornstack, chili/cheese, lettuce/chips, breadstick, pineapple.

Note: Cold cereal is available each day. There will be some breakfast changes in those buildings where breakfast is eaten in the classroom. We always have at least two alternate choices for lunch each day. At this time we will offer the following choices: Monday, Hot Dog on Bun; Tuesday, Ham and Cheese on a Bun; Wednesday, Salad; Thursday, Hamburger on Bun; Friday, Fishwich; Every Day, Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich. Low-fat chocolate and white milk available with each meal.

Thornapple Kellogg Breakfast Menu

Wednesday, Jan. 6
Oatmeal, brown sugar, muffin, juice, milk.

Thursday, Jan. 7
Bagel, cream cheese and jelly, juice, milk.

Friday, Jan. 8
Cereal choice, muffin, juice, milk.

Monday, Jan. 11
Breakfast pizza, juice, milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 12
Pancake sausage on a stick, juice, milk.

NOTE - A variety of cold cereal with a muffin or graham crackers available each day. Some items may not be offered in buildings where breakfast is served in classrooms.

Split precincts, cont'd from front page

stantial number of voters could be handled in that manner.

Presently, a voter must be handicapped or out of town in order to vote as an absentee.

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Caledonia couple uncovers unusual family stories on Internet

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Some of the most intriguing stories imaginable can be found in one's own family history.

Jay and Eileen Shook of Caledonia uncovered one of those stories just this month, when the Shooks found the entire military record of a little known ancestor.

Among the family treasures was a daguerreotype, a kind of photography, of Eileen's great-great uncle, John Peter Bailey, who was pictured in the casket at age 24, attended by his young mother. Bailey died after returning from the Civil War.

The family had a hand-me-down version of this uncle's death.

Bailey was thought to have died at home, "but the date and place didn't jibe," Shook said. After researching for hours, Shook finally obtained the entire military record of Bailey on Dec. 5, 1998.

Bailey, a carpenter at the time, volunteered to join the Union side in the Civil War. He was 22 years old, born Oct. 22, 1841. The young blue eyed, light haired, fair complexioned soldier and was 5 feet 10.5 inches tall.

Bailey was sworn in on Nov. 10, 1863, at Newton Falls Ohio, and two months later became a sergeant in the 6th Regiment of the Ohio Cavalry while at Camp Cleveland Ohio in December.

He was taken prisoner in battle on Oct. 1, 1864. The particular battle was in dispute. He was recorded as an absent prisoner of war from October 1864 to April 1865.

The Army also believed Bailey had died in a rebel prison on March 5 , 1864, in Salisbury, N. C., but that was cancelled as erroneous 20 years later, when an audit brought other information to light.

He was instead sent to a hospital in Annapolis, Md., March 10, 1865, and from there, was furloughed home to Ohio, where he died. He was granted a 30-day furlough on March 20, 1865, and died on March 31, 1865, with the cause of death unknown.

Eileen Shook watches as Jay Shook works on the computer, printing an enlargement of an old family photograph.

He may have been very ill from exposure, starvation and disease from harsh battle conditions and the prison, and family versions say he was very thin when he died.

"It was not unusual to make photographs of people in their caskets," Shook said. "People did not travel as easily as they do now. It was the sometimes the last chance and the only way to show a relative who lived far away how someone looked."

Shook also knows a lot about the history of Caledonia and the region surrounding it.

Jay and Eileen Shook have lived in their present Caledonia home for 39 years.

Jay was born in the house now known as the boarded up Dettman house on Emmons Street. His mother's family, and Abraham Dettweiler, his great grandfather, was one of the founders of Caledonia, who helped build the Mennonite church near the Caledonia cemetery. That church later became the United Bretheren Church which subsequently burned down.

The Dettweiler name got changed to Detwiler along the way, when in one of the world wars, German names became unpopular. Shook has discovered when researching family trees, you must often research several phonetic versions of a name, and the different spellings can often be related.

Shook is an example that it is possible for people who came into the world in a different era can grow and adapt to the computer age and beyond, even into the next millennium. Shook surfs the Internet on a daily basis.

Sometimes the stories Shook uncovers while researching genealogy are as unique as the history he collects. One of the people who contacted him recently to share information on family names, lives in Juneau, Alaska. Shook had only one generation preceding ancestors Samuel and Elizabeth Easterday.

Howard Lanham wrote, "I noticed your query. I am aware of a marriage between Samuel DeCamp and Elizabeth Easterday. Her immigrant ancestor was Martin Easterday (Ostertag), who died in Frederick County, Md., in 1784."

He offered more information, and sent more names

See Caledonia couple, pg. 5

John Peter Bailey, who died at age 24, pictured with his mother, Rebecca, Mahnensmidt Bailey, around age 43 at the time of his death.

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MLS

1. MIDDLEVILLE SCHOOLS! This quality built, 3 yr. new home features almost 2000 sq. ft. of finished living area. 4 bedrooms including master suite with bath and walk-in closet and more, all setting on nearly 10 acres. Call Dave..... $179,900

2. NEW LISTING, MIDDLEVILLE SCHOOLS! This attractive, 2 story home is located in one of the community's newest developments and features 3 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, 2 stall attached garage and a large fenced back yard. The lower level has daylight windows and is plumbed for a 3rd bath. Call Larry $119,900

3. PRICE REDUCED! MIDDLEVILLE! New quality built home features 3 bedrooms with possibility of more (pick your colors!), living room with cathedral ceiling, breathtaking hilltop view, high efficiency furnace, central air and easy access to Grand Rapids. Call Deb $124,900

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Village Stylists

Welcomes
Lori Brandon
to its staff.

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Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-9;
Friday 9-5; Saturday 9-2.

Wheelchair campaign continues

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Students in Room 303 at Thornapple Kellogg High School will continue collecting used wheelchairs, walkers crutches and canes for the Wheels for the World organization.

The organization received a $500 check from the Christmas week charity campaign organized by the high school's Student Council.

The students in Room 303 hope that over the holiday vacation families had a chance to look through attics and in the back of storerooms and garages for the no longer needed wheelchairs and other items which could be used by those less fortunate.

Students want people to remember that it is okay if these items need repair, the Wheels for the World organization provides for the repair of wheel chairs and other items before they are distributed to foreign countries.

Items can be left at the high school office or brought to Room 303.

Wheels for the World was organized in 1993. The organization provides a means for used but serviceable wheelchairs to be passed on to those in need.

The local office can be contacted at 616-795-3712. Kelly McKeough, Barry County Collection Coordinator, would be happy to talk with local organizations about Wheels for the World.

Bridles and Bits has Christmas party

The Bridles and Bits 4-H Club held its annual Christmas party Dec. 21 at the Hope Township Hall.

The meeting was called to order by the president. The vice president did the pledges. Then the attendance was taken, and new members were introduced.

Old business discussed included members of the club who went to the Christmas party for foster children on Dec. 12.

New business discussed included an announcement that the next meeting is at Roller Rama Monday, Jan. 18. Its a roller skating party, $2.50 per person, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. No roller blades.

Members discussed the Stallion Expo in March.

Engagements

Holt-Vandal

Tim Charles Holt and Lenda Louise Vandal, both of Grand Rapids, will be joined in marriage on Feb. 13, 1999.

The future groom is a graduate of Romeo High School. He is the son of Gene and Janice Manning of Romeo and the late Charles Holt.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Thornapple Kellogg High School and Central Michigan University. She is the daughter of Leonard and Mary Anne Vandal of Middleville.

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GRACE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Proclaiming the Whole Counsel of God
Services at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
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a place to belong...a place to become
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Youth Group Sunday Evenings ..... 7:00 p.m.
Meeting at the Caledonia Middle School, 9230 Kraft Ave.
Michael Stowell, Pastor
Chrissey Dykstra, Worship Leader
Church Office 616-891-1047
Visit our web site www.brightside.org

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Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.
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Evening Praise ..... 6:00 p.m.
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George M. Coon, Youth Pastor

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Sunday Morning Worship Service ..... 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service ..... 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Mid-Week Prayer ..... 6:45 p.m.
Word of Life Clubs ..... 6:45 p.m.

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CHRISTIAN REFORMED
6201 Whitneyville Avenue
Morning Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages ..... 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.
Pastor Roger Bultman
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Church Office Fax 281-7686

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Kraft Avenue at Johnson Street
Rev. Dave LeBlanc, Pastor
Phone 891-9259
Saturday Evening Mass ..... 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass ..... 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Redeemer Covenant Church
A Member of the Evangelical Covenant Churches of America
9:30 AM Worship, 11:00 AM Chr. Ed.; 6:00 PM Wed. Family Night
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Located in Leighton Township
Corner of 2nd Street and 142nd Avenue
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages ..... 9:45 a.m.
Contemporary Style of Worship
Sunday Evening Service ..... 6:30 p.m.
Pioneer Club
(K thru 6 Grade) - Wednesday ..... 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting - Wednesday ..... 7:00 p.m.
Youth Fellowship - Sunday ..... 7:00 p.m.
RIP TORKEMA Pastor — 891-8028

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8146 68th St., near Whitneyville Ave.
Church School
Sunday ..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Fellowship ..... 7:30 p.m.
Pastor Douglas Gregory 957-5372

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Sunday Morning Mass: 9:30 a.m.
792-2889

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708 W. Main Street
Morning Worship Service ..... 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School ..... 11:15 a.m.
Evening Worship Service ..... 6:00 p.m.
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Kraft Ave. & 84th St., Caledonia, MI
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"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love." Rom. 12:10
8:00 a.m. ..... Worship Service
9:15 a.m. ..... Educational Hour
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Sunday School ..... 10:45-11:50 a.m.
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Al Tiemeyer, Community Calling
Church Office: (616) 891-1512
M-37 at 100th St.

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608 - 145th Avenue (at Green Lake)
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Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
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Mark Lillie, Associate
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Alto, Michigan 49302
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/
Children's Classes ..... 7:00 p.m.
Royale Bullard, Pastor
– 868-6437 –

UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES
Freeport–Middleville–Parmalee
Freeport Morning Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.
Freeport Sunday School ..... 11:00 a.m.
Parmalee Morning Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.
Middleville Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.
Middleville Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Lee Zachman
Rev. Paulette Cheyne 765-5316
Church Office Phone – 795-9266

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Worship Service ..... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Norman Kohns – 616-891-8167
250 Vine Street
Church Office: 891-8669

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Wednesday "Family Night"
6:00 p.m.
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Inspiring, Positive, Relevant, Joyful

Peace Reformed Church
Barrier Free
M-37 Between Caledonia & Middleville
Sunday Worship Services 8:30 or 11:00, 6:00
Sunday School 9:45
6:00 Cutaway St.
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Caledonia couple, continued from page 3

in the family tree, including John George Easterday, born in September 1769 and George Easterday, born Nov. 15, 1800. Martin Easterday's birthdate was unknown. His wife Maria's surname was recorded in a 1790 census as "Yesterday."

It may turn out that Shook has more information to offer Lanham than Lanham can offer him, but it is through these contacts that all the interconnecting family trees can be completed.

Shook said his interest in genealogy grew slowly. Perhaps it started when his son Brian did a genealogy project in high school which was only partially finished. He used to think those hand me down family stories were boring, until he got interested in his wife's family tree.

Eileen Shook's grandmother, Edna Minnie Sechler, died leaving a lot of letters and documents to her daughter, Gladys Belle Bond. Jay Shook began to look through the old papers. He had a Heath H-89 computer with a "Roots" program, with which he began doing some basic documentation.

Then he found another program, Mormon PAF, which was a little better. From there he went to a "Family Tree" program using a Packard Bell. About that time, Eileen's mother, Gladys, died. The Shooks inherited even more letters and documents.

Susanna Bailey with a favorite cow. Susanna was Eileen Shook's great-grandmother, and mother of Edna Sechler Bond, Eileen's grandmother.

Shook said about that time he got more interested.

"Once I got started, I couldn't stop. Like with chips, you can't eat just one. It's like detective work. One story leads to another. You have to keep digging."

Shook now spends several hours a day digging, using the Internet, on his new Gateway 2000 system with a 10 gigabyte hard drive. He records his data in the Family Tree program. The program is capable of generating family trees of various generations, indexing the information and of incorporating notes, documents and photographs.

If the story of "Uncle John Peter Bailey" was unusual, so was the tale of Eileen Shook's grandmother, Edna Sechler, who was John's niece.

Edna Sechler met her husband to be," William Bond in Ohio. Bond's family, especially his mother, did not approve of Edna, but they married anyway, and moved to Iowa, where the Bonds lived. Edna and her in-laws never got along. They had three children and lived on a farm until William's death from pneumonia at age 35.

Now, Edna was alone with three children. Not all of the in-laws were hostile. Ellsworth Bond, William Bond's brother, later courted Edna, but she was not willing to accept him.

Shook said he thought she had made a mistake. He had met Ellsworth and thought he was a very nice man.

Edna chose instead to come back to Ohio with her children, and had her husband William's body exhumed and brought to Ohio.

Years later, she married Cornelius Miller and lived to age 96.

Edna, by the way, was also interested in genealogy and worked at recording information on an old fashioned typewriter up until her last days, when she died in November of 1974.

Jay Shook has recorded more than 7,200 names on his own and his wife's collective family trees, with various kinds of documents, photos and stories about many of these ancestors. He uses the Mormon library, county clerk offices and other resources.

Penningtons to observe golden anniversary

On January 8, 1999, Vance "Bud" and JoAnne (Bergman) Pennington will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Vance and JoAnne were married in 1949 by Rev. Robert Smith at the home of JoAnne's grandparents, in Bowens Mills at the Old Bowen House.

Their children are Andrew and Nina Pennington and Sherri Pennington. They have four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

There will be an open house upon their return from Florida in the spring. If you wish to send a card, they would be very welcome. Vance and JoAnne Pennington, Trailer Square, 16 C Street, Plant City, Florida 33566.

'Wednesday Night... Live' programs start Jan. 13

Caledonia United Methodist Church is starting a new program beginning Wednesday, Jan. 13.

"Wednesday Night...Live" is designed for all age groups and will begin with a family dinner at 5:30 p.m. ($3/adult, $2/children ages 5 and up, $10/maximum per family).

The evening will include devotions, children's choir rehearsal, activities for children not in choir, study room (if homework's a must), kids' club for all children, and the choice of Bible study or a planned speaker/interactive sessions for adults. The evening will adjourn at 8 p.m.

The series will be held at the church, located at 250 Vine St. (north off Emmons Street from M-37).

For more information, call the church office at 891-8669. Those who reach a recording can leave name and a number.

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Looking back on the top stories of 1998

Odyssey of the Mind teams strutted their stuff at a dress rehearsal performance before the regional competition in March.

The Thornapple Kellogg Problem Solvers took first place in the state championship. Pictured are (from Left) Ben Meekof, Nichole Jonker-Slayton, Jenny Tobin and not pictured Betsey Steensma.

A gorilla, also known as principal Bill Rich, read to students as a prize for March's reading month activities.

Volunteers with the Paul Henry Trail Association worked for hours renovating two bridges along the trail. An official ribbon cutting was held during Heritage Days in December.

Editor's Note: The Sun and News' coverage in 1998 of Middleville, Thornapple Township and Yankee Springs Township activities was handled by Mandy Habel, Shawna Suwyn Hubberth and the current reporter, Patricia Johns. All contributed to this article.

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

The year just ended was a lot like all others. There were accomplishments, disappointments, births, deaths, discoveries and renewed interest in the familiar.

Each family and person living in this area will remember 1998 in their own way. Significant changes and events might not even have been covered in the paper.

Growth continued in Middleville Village.

The new sewer project was approved and work began on new developments. Soon more than 500 new homes will bring new residents. Village President Lon Myers said he sees the expansion of the village having the greatest impact on the past year.

A Local Development Finance Authority was approved by the Village Council in December. No one knows for sure what impact this will have on the area in the future.

Village Manager David Arking also praised the new sewer system for allowing growth to continue "in the way it should." He also noted the opening ceremony for the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail as significant for the village.

A year's controversy on the contract for emergency services with Yankee Springs Township was handled amicably. Robert Woodard, chief of Thornapple Township Emergency Services noted that the

Continued next page

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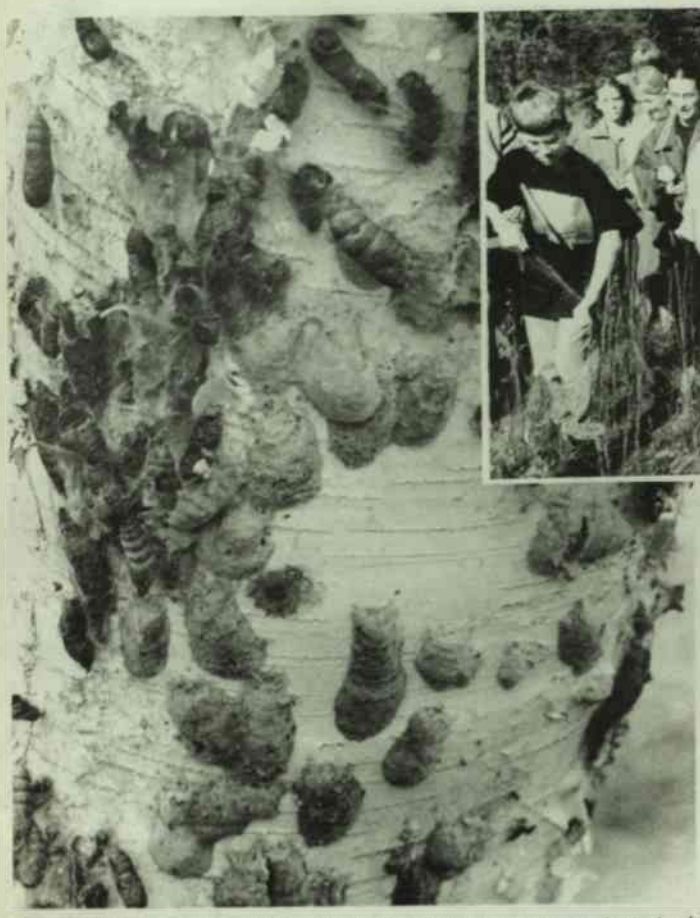

Gypsy Moths were everywhere and efforts to control the pest were the topic of several meetings.

Middle school science students helped preserve native Michigan flora. Here they are picking little bluestem prairie grass seeds.

Vandals attacked more than 100 stones in the Mount Hope Cemetery. After they were repaired, vandals attacked some of the same stones.

From previous page

completion of the Fire Barn to serve the Yankee Springs area and the new fire truck were welcome additions to the area.

Several problems crossed township lines. Communication towers were hot items in Thornapple and Yankee Springs townships. All the discussions and disagreements about towers have not been resolved in Yankee Springs, but two towers will soon be constructed in Thornapple Township, one on the Tom Otto property and the other on the Palmer property near M-37 and Parmalee.

Zoning questions have haunted the waking and sleeping hours of members of planning and zoning commissions in Middleville, Thornapple and Yankee Springs.

In Middleville, Assistant Village Manager and Planner Joe Partridge resigned to take a position with the City of Grand Rapids. Meanwhile, the Planning Commission is working on questions of how to prepare for growth and how to revise the master plan for the village.

Dr. Eldon Newmeyer, chair of the Middleville Village Planning and Zoning Commission, said, "We are beginning to see the impact of planned unit developments like those of Dykstra and Getty."

In Thornapple Township, new ordinances, new questions and new ways of land use are being considered. Commission members have struggled to work with developers and protect the rural quality of life.

Thornapple Township Supervisor Don Boysen said, "Trying to cope with growth, zoning questions and community concerns has been part of this year."

In Yankee Springs, the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Township Board worked together and decided that hiring a professional planner would help them make the best decisions possible.

Yankee Springs is working to revise its ordinances, deal with the challenge of summer cottages becoming year round homes and look toward future development.

Yankee Springs Supervisor George London said, "In some ways this has been a difficult year, weighing homeowners' needs and concerns. In other ways it has been very exciting. The fire barn was completed and Middleville Tool & Die received a grant which allowed them to move and expand."

In the Thornapple Kel-

Continued next page

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Looking back , from page 7

Students at Page celebrated Dr. Suess' birthday.

Volunteers in the schools were thanked at a special assembly in June. Here, third grade students perform a folk song.

The Thorn-Barry Apartments on Lincoln Street were opened for occupancy in January and development has continued apace during the year.

The construction of the new middle school reached more than the half way mark during 1998. The school should open with the 1999-2000 school year

logg Schools, life goes on pretty much as usual. But there are some highlights.

Superintendent Jay Cason mentioned that continued achievement, as measured by the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP), continues to improve. Cason said more than 80 percent of students were satisfactory in elementary math and approximately two-thirds were satisfactory in reading.

Other accomplishments included the Thornapple Kellogg High School Future Problem Solvers team winning the state championship.

Construction was completed at Page and West Elementary School. West has been officially renamed Lee Elementary School in honor of Rebecca Lee.

Work on the new middle school continues. Construction should be completed in time for the opening of school in 1999.

The fate of the current middle school is now in the hands of the school board. Two community organizations have worked to try to save the building and the result will not be known until 1999.

The school district received more than a quarter million dollars worth of grants from the state and other funding sources.

There are new teachers and a few teachers retired. Ellen Zack and Dan Erb are in the leadership positions at the high school, as principal and assistant principal, and they will now enjoy the newly refurbished offices.

After almost six months of repair, the pool will reopen to classes and community.

The life of the community goes on as well. The outpouring of generosity and accomplishment is possible because of the time and energy given by volunteers.

Ray Page spoke highly about the effort and success of the sports teams in Middleville through 1998. He also mentioned "the growth of the town and the growth of community spirit."

Lani Forbes, a Middleville resident who became director of the Barry County United Way, said, "Being able to work in the community is important to me. I am so proud of the kids who work on community projects."

Whether volunteers are from Rotary, the Parent Teacher Organization, the churches or other groups, the life of the community is richer because of them.

Through a lot of hard work from many volunteers the new fire barn was completed in Yankee Springs Township[.

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Obituaries

Waive D. Long

CALEDONIA - Waive D. Long, age 93, of Caledonia, passed away Saturday, December 26, 1998.

She was retired from Michigan Bell.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, LeRoy Cox and Stanley Long; and her son-in-law, Jack F. Johnson.

She is survived by her children, Jean (Ed) Kenyon of Rochester, New York, Donna Johnson of Alto, and Rolland (Colleen) Cox of Middleville; eight grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; and one great great grandson; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Wava & Virgil Goodman of Lansing; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral and Committal Services were held Tuesday, December 29, 1998 at the Caledonia Funeral Home. Reverend Norman Kohns officiated.

Interment took place in Lakeside Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids.

Kerwin Darryl Booher

LUCAS - Kerwin Darryl Booher, age 62, of Lucas, passed away Tuesday, December 29, 1998 at his residence in Lucas.

He was born March 6, 1936 in Hastings, the son of Russell and Mabel (VanBlarcom) Booher.

Kerwin retired from the United States Postal Service in 1998, where he had been a mail carrier for the Cadillac area and previously for the Manistee area.

Kerwin was a veteran of the United States Armed Forces. He was a life member of the American Veterans Post #110 in Cadillac, a member of the American Legion Post #300 in Lake City and the Eagles Lodge in Lake City.

Kerwin is survived by two sons, Joseph (Dawn) Booher of Middleville, and Keith (Linda) Booher of Toledo, Ohio; granddaughter, Devann Booher of Toledo, Ohio; mother, Mabel Booher of Vermontville; two brothers, Vernon (Ann) Booher of Lake Odessa, and Durwood (Jeanne) Booher of Battle Creek; special friend, Pearl Mead of Lucas.

Cremation has taken place and memorial services will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Wexford-Missaukee.

Arrangements were made by the Terwilliger Funeral Home in Kaleva.

Middleville man's case to go to trial

A 22-year-old Middleville man will go to trial on a felony charge of receiving and concealing stolen property instead of accepting a 90-day jail sentence for his role in the July 1 break-in of the Thornapple Kellogg Middle School.

Aric Lee Foster had agreed to plead guilty to a lesser charge in exchange for a 30-day jail sentence, but changed his mind Monday when Barry County Circuit Judge James Fisher attempted to impose the stiffer sentence.

Defense attorney David Gilbert told Fisher prior to his client's plea withdrawal that Foster, who has two prior felony convictions, had not participated in the actual break-in, but did admit to trying to help dispose of the items.

"Your client's record has earned him a trip to Jackson prison, in my estimation," said Fisher. "However, I'm not the prosecutor and I have no control over the charging process. But I'll tell you right now that he's not getting away with a 30-day jail sentence."

Foster insisted he had nothing to do with the break-in, but claimed responsibility for his role after the fact.

"I don't have a good background record and there's nobody to blame, not my friends, not drugs, just myself," he said. "I'm sure you're getting sick of me taking up your time."

"I'm not sick of you taking up my time. I'm unhappy that you keep showing up in front of me," said Fisher. "I don't believe this story that you were just riding around with these other individuals. I think you were more involved than that."

Fisher commended Gilbert for working out the lenient plea bargain agreement.

"I'm convinced you have no intention of changing your ways," said Fisher to Foster. "I hope I'm dead wrong, but I've seen nothing to lead me to believe I'm wrong."

Foster, however, rejected Fisher's sentence of two years probation and 90 days in jail and withdrew his guilty plea.

A trial date on charges of receiving and concealing stolen property worth more than $100 and of being a habitual offender, is expected to be set at Foster's Jan. 14 pretrial hearing. Foster remains free on bond.

In other business last Monday at Barry County Circuit court:

• Kim Lee Lyons, 38, of Middleville, stood mute to a charge of resisting and obstructing a Middleville police officer Oct. 10 in Middleville. He is also charged with third offense drunk driving, second offense driving on a suspended license, and with being a habitual offender.

A Jan. 14 pretrial hearing was scheduled.

• Jesse Joe Bardwell, 26, of Middleville, is being held on $100,000 bond for an alleged third probation violation. Bardwell, who is on probation for a 1997 conviction of third degree criminal sexual conduct, pleaded not guilty to violating his probation by failing to report to his probation officer, to submit to chemical testing and to undergo counseling.

If convicted, he could spend a maximum of five years in prison.

A Jan. 4 pretrial hearing was scheduled.

• Lewis Terrebone, 36, of Wayland, was sentenced to nine months in the Barry County Jail and two years probation for his conviction of attempted receiving and concealing stolen property worth more than $100.

Terrebone was charged after he was accused of taking a boat motor, a boat seat and a gas can Aug. 7 in Yankee Springs Township.

Terrebone, who previously spent time in prison in Pennsylvania and in Arizona, has been in trouble with the law for the last 20 years, "basically your entire adult life," said Fisher.

"You would think you would outgrow it," said Fisher to Terrebone at his sentencing Monday.

But according to defense attorney Dave Kuzava, Terrebone claims a third party was told by the boat owner to retrieve the boat and take the items, but the third party mistakenly took the wrong boat. Terrebone then helped the man remove the items from the boat.

"If it were not for Mr. Terrebone, the items would not have been recovered," said Kuzava. "He was able to help the police recover the motor and to recover the boat."

Terrebone was also placed on two years probation and was ordered to pay $250 in restitution, $500 court costs and a $500 fine. He is eligible to perform community service work in lieu of his entire fines and costs.

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Caledonia scrambles to cope with rapid growth during 1998

Shirley Bruursema with a bouquet presented to her by the Kent District Library Association.

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Growth continued to be the biggest issue affecting the lives of Caledonia citizens in 1998.

Caledonia Township appears to have one of the higher rates in the county and state, but actual figures apparently are not in yet. The trend of general urban sprawl and high growth rates of areas surrounding Grand Rapids contributed to the pressures, but added factors such as expansion of the Kent County International Airport and installation of the new South Beltline highway at the north edge of the township increased Caledonia's attractiveness to developers.

In an effort to deal with the pressures, the Township Planning Commission embarked on an effort to develop a new general development plan that would best meet the needs of residents and control the kind of growth that would be allowed in the future.

The township is considering joining the Grand Valley Metro Council in order to network with surrounding areas in dealing with

From previous page

Some Caledonia Village citizens were upset over the tree removal ordered during the sidewalk replacement.

The Yankee Springs area, showing trees defoliated by gypsy moths on June 15.

Wetlands area on Blackstone Estate property near to where developers planned to build a road across to join two areas of the development.

Planning Commissioner Deborah Steketee.

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Township Trustee Patti Cress, who headed up the gypsy moth spraying program in Caledonia Township.

Massed in shadowed crevasses, clusters of moths prepared for the next explosion of their numbers in 1999. This is at the Saskatoon Golf Course.

The Rails to Trails project clears old railway for use as a linear park in Caledonia.

From previous page

growth. The township probably will install a GIS system for generating various types of maps that show various geological, geographical and sociological demographic factors for immediate access to the changing factors. Money already has been budgeted.

One changing force outside the township is the Kent County International Airport. Current work on the north-south runway being used for increased cargo air traffic is bringing commercial traffic, which expected to increase traffic loads on area roads.

Kent County International Airport Director James Koslosky spoke with Caledonia Township planning officials Sept. 28. Frustrated citizens living in the northern end of Caledonia Township questioned and criticized the noise generated by the expanding airport.

The Coalition for Responsible Aviation is circulating a petition signed by residents and commuter passengers. Deb Steketee, a Caledonia Township resident and a member of the Planning Commission, made a verbal appeal before the Kent County International Airport Aeronautics Board Nov. 23, asking for restricted use of the north-south runway, support for updating the Part 150 noise exposure map to reflect the current extension and realignment of the north-south runway, and support for using airport funding for restriction studies and noise abatement-mitigation efforts.

Steketee presented information she had gathered on the Kent County International Airport at the Planning Commission meeting Dec. 21.

One factor that has changed in the airport data is land use surrounding the airport. In 1990 most of the land was vacant or agricultural, including in Caledonia Township. Most of it is now residential, commercial and industrial.

Some major commercial land purchases north of the township also herald the progression of intense development toward Caledonia.

The construction of the new Southbelt bypass, which includes only two or three interchanges between the interstate highways, increases the competition for land purchases in those areas. This makes the area along M-37 off the highway a prime target for development.

North of Caledonia, Broadmoor continued to be widened with a goal of completion to 68th Street by 1999, as a part of the building of South Beltline. There are not a lot of optimum places left for industrial complexes near an interstate highway, except for Caledonia Township, and pressure may be great for officials to allow both commercial and industrial development.

The new South Beltline and changes in airport uses will require corresponding changes in roads leading to and from them. Many of these changes will affect

Continued next page

Deer tracks cross the prairie sod along the approach toward the new Emmons Lake Elementary School off Kraft Avenue.

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Larry, Austin, Ben and Nathan Stauffer

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Former Caledonia graduates, Senator Dick Posthumus and his wife, Jan, made a special appearance at Caledonia High School's dedication of the new Myers athletic stadium.

former Athletic Director Jeanne Glowicki left Caledonia just after the dedication of the athletic stadium.

Looking back, from page 11—

roads in northern Caledonia Township, and the lifestyles of people using them.

At the Caledonia Planning Commission Oct. 26, Steve Warren, director of planning, Kent County Road Commission and Dennis Kent of Michigan Department of Transportation explained plans for major road improvements over the next few years.

All year, both village and township residents debated the pros and cons of paving and extending 100th Street just south of Caledonia High School opening an east-west corridor from U.S.-131 to Caledonia and bypassing the downtown area. A petition was circulated in favor of the changes without results so far.

Effects of growth on the environment are being realized all over the township. Jasonville Farms began building Condo units in early 1998.

Approval for the Blackstone Estates housing development located between McCords and Snow Avenues north of 68th Street came after a long battle spanning years of controversy. Blackstone developers went to Kent County Circuit Court nearly two years ago to overturn a referendum preventing rezoning, and won the right to have the parcel rezoned as a planned unit development (PUD) to allow 91 home sites in the development.

At the April 6 meeting this year a Blackstone developer confirmed work was already taking place without permits. Construction was halted until the plan could be evaluated. Recommendation by the Planning Commission was eventually granted.

Efforts to encourage common open space within developments were made by planning commissioners until it became clear that many developers saw this as a way to get approval for more undersized lots in a given area in order to maximize profits. Often this was at the sacrifice of the health of the environment. Many fear eventual pollution of water supplies by crowded and inadequate septic systems.

New approaches to limit lot size and require open space are being looked at by commissioners. An effort to create natural community space was made when the Lepard family offered to donate a part of development land to be used as a woodland park. The Lepard family wanted to set aside the wild area at the north west corner of the property as a nature preserve.

The Lepard request to rezone 140 acres from Rural Residential to a Planned Unit Development was approved by the Caledonia Township Board Aug. 19. The immediate goal of the Lepard family was to finish the 17-site condo, the first

Continued next page

Glowicki's position is to be filled by Matt Fronimos.

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From previous page

phase of the site condominium project. This project was renamed Tiger Lily Estates.

Two new school structures in the past year replaced old facilities, but also expanded capacity. In January, the Caledonia bus fleet moved to the new transportation and maintenance center, after using the previous building for about 50 years. The Ralph E. Myers football stadium opened Sept. 4 and was rededicated under the former stadium name.

Superintendent Doug Busman said the increase in school age children surprisingly falls far behind the rate of growth in the township. Perhaps this will reduce the pressure in the future for new school buildings.

The new Emmons Lake Elementary School is expected to mature in the fall of 1999. The building on Kraft Avenue went up this fall, with the exterior nearly completed and interior finishing under way.

Growth brought a new medical facility to Caledonia residents. Metro Health Plaza brought many previously unavailable medical services to the doorstep of local residents when four osteopathic family practice physicians opened the new 12,000-square-foot building just off M-37. It is affiliated with Metropolitan Hospital in Grand Rapids.

When the new general development plan is complete, planners hope they will have incorporated new ways to preserve open space and protect the environment to enhance the quality of living for a better lifestyle for future residents.

Growth cannot be prevented, but some believe the particulars can be governed in effective ways.

The library:

An issue spanning both the township and village governments involved building a new library. In spite of the growth of everything else in Caledonia, a new library seems no closer to reality than it did in 1997, regardless of years of effort to make it happen.

A special joint meeting between the Caledonia Village Council and Township Board was held early in 1998 to discuss the library as a joint venture. A decision there to take the existing plans to the Village Planning Commission and to request village zoning variances was nullified when the Village ZBA approved a variance on the setback requirement, but the majority vote was disallowed for lack of a two-thirds majority. The ZBA approved parking for the site with a sufficient majority.

The newly elected Village Council then declared the Village Planning Commission to be unofficial because no record of establishing the commission could be found. Subsequent appointments changed the configuration of members who had previously approved the library concepts developed by previous trustees and commissioners.

The new council had been elected on a stand against double taxation, caused by living in the village and township. Most generally favored no duplication of services by the village and township, and many mentioned ownership of the present library building. Though most said they were in favor of a new library building, they thought the township should own it because they did not want double taxation.

The Village Council passed a resolution in May to discontinue its role in the library business, and to give its share in the old building to the township, if possible, to apply toward the new library.

In July, the library survey circulated by the Caledonia Township Board was completed and evaluated. Ninety-two percent of respondents said they favored a new library. Fifty-one percent said they favored a new library building only if it did not raise taxes. No strong preference for a library site location was indicated by the survey.

Barb Gall, former Caledonia reporter, with her dog Mason, in 1997.

Board members for the new Caledonia Endowment Foundation are (from left) Judi Dean, Robert Lillie, David Morrow, Allison Hall, Ken Rieth, Kathy Jackson, Mary Morgan, Carolyn Price, Tom Kaechele and Jackie Steeby.

By August, the village effort to give away the library to save village money had already cost around $4,000 in attorney's fees in drawing up the documents to handle the transfer or sale to the township. President Daryl Penfold said he took responsibility for the fact it had cost so much. Penfold said an agreement had been drafted, and the village was waiting for a response from the township to set up a meeting.

In September, the Caledonia Township Board renewed discussion on a new library building, giving Eric Longman of the Caledonia Library Advisory Board an audience in which he reviewed matters concerning the library back to the summer of 1995 when the LAB had made presentations to both the Township Board and Village Council. He mentioned work with the Friends of the Library on several fund-raisers, including a 5K run and the local corn maze, which brought people from Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

"...we obtained preliminary approval from both the township and village to proceed with plans to build next to the Village/Township building," Longman continued.

"It is at this point that several things happened, effectively stopping the progress. The committee failed to apprise the newly elected township boatd of our activities to that point, although these activities were a matter of public record.

"The village elected a new council, one that was eager to get out of the library business. Despite efforts to... move forward, little has happened since October 1997."

Requests to move ahead did not result in any concrete plans or township recognition of those previously invested in work to create the building.

Township Manager-Planner Tim Dolehanty said the first priority of the township was revision of the general development plan, under the pressure of rapid development.

While other committees were audited, changed, altered, re-instituted to make sure they were functioning for the township, the New Library Building Committee was never really acknowledged.

Dolehanty said legal counsel had concurred that the status of the Library

Continued next page

Caledonia Township Planner /Manager Timothy Dolehanty.

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From previous page

Board was not legal. Longman had said past Township Board members had changed the by-laws, but Dolehanty said there was no record in the minutes of 1993 to verify this, and "If it was not written down, it didn't happen."

Dolehanty also said the township didn't have enough of the money to build a library.

Another option Dolehanty mentioned was a millage or bond issue.

He said yet another option would be to hire an outside consultant. He expected that cost would be from $25,000 to $50,000, unless some firm would donate time and money to the project.

In October, Township Supervisor William Johnston hinted at a different vision for a new library than had been proposed by library proponents in the past. He said he was in the preliminary stages of looking at a shared multi-use building with other agencies, where the uses would be helpful to each other. Johnston said they needed to work to find funding sources, and that other things needed to be explored.

The facility Johnston envisions would include a library, classrooms for Grand Rapids Community College, uses by the public schools and perhaps a sheriff substation, providing all the agencies involved could find a way to be involved and make it work for them.

Claudya Muller, director of Kent District Library, said a shared facility might save money overall.

Celebrations:

In the midst of rapid growth, Caledonia area residents continued to show they have not forgotten their history. In 1998, Alaska residents celebrated their Sesquicentennial on Memorial Day and the village had its usual Fourth of July activities.

But one of Caledonia's annual downtown events, an annual car show, may have been seen for the last time, unless some new sponsor takes on its planning in the future. The car show was the project of Shirley and Bill Hyatt, who organized this community event for the past seven or eight years retired from the effort.

Tragedies:

One heartbreaking change came to the Whitneyville Bible Church on June 16 when part of the building was destroyed by fire after a lightning strike. A fire that burned unseen in the scissors trusses of the building for several hours finally erupted into a blaze that could not be extinguished, even though seven fire departments were on the scene.

Members came to watch their memories reduced to ashes as the 11-year-old addition burned to the ground. Remaining still is the original chapel at the front of the church.

Almost miraculously, the firemen filled carton after carton with files and books, passed them out a window, up to five truckloads. Pastor Sluys had many old books and Bibles, a lot of his personal history, and records which had been his father's, which were saved.

Notable people:

One person with great impact on local government and on people's lives, both directly and indirectly, has been Township Planner Timothy Dolehanty. He has helped to create changes on all levels of the way the township operates, and those measures are sure to affect others in the township government for many years to come.

He has drafted a policies and procedures manual, salaries and job descriptions of employees in the township, helped with zoning definitions and ordinances and now is assisting with the a new general development plan for the township.

Township officials appreciate the vast amount of work he has accomplished, complimenting him and giving him several salary increases over the past year.

Another person from Caledonia, but affecting government from the state level is Senate Majority Leader Dick Posthumus, a Caledonia High School graduate, who was named by Gov. John Engler as his running mate, now lieutenant governor-elect.

A community loss came with the death of former Sun & News reporter Barbara Gall, who died in late October after a brief battle with cancer. She was 56.

Gall started as a news reporter at the Sun & News in February 1988 and retired in October 1997. Since then she had worked part time as editor and writer-photographer of "Take Five," a newsletter published by and about the Caledonia school district.

Gall taught in Indiana before coming to Michigan. She was a fierce advocate for and about the education of children and for the schools, which led her to the Take Five position, allowing her to stay involved with what was happening in the school system.

Gall lived in the Caledonia area for 13 years. She had been involved in many volunteer activities and community services over the years, such as serving on the board of the new Education Foundation, and working as a volunteer at Meyer May House in Grand Rapids.

An example of a lifetime contribution to the area is Shirley A. Bruursema, who was been selected to be recipient of the Michigan Library Association Trustee Citation of Merit Award awarded in October. The award is one of several given out annually by the Michigan Library Association.

Bruursema has been a volunteer for the cause of libraries for more than 15 years. Her first service position was as a liaison for the Gaines Township library.

Another who has contributed special expertise to the community in the past year is Deborah Steketee, who was appointed by the township board March 18 to fill the open position on the Planning Commission. The term of the position she fills will expire in the year 2000.

Steketee's background in environmental quality and science was an area on the Planning Commission which had been weak, and it was felt her expertise would be a welcome addition to the commission.

Steketee received a doctorate this year in the Joint Public Policy program, School of Public and Environmental Affairs and Political Science Department, Indiana University.

Many other citizens have been honored for outstanding achievements, as well as having made contributions to the community. The absence of mention here is not meant to minimize noteworthy accomplishments by other citizens.

The environment:

Growth pressures in the township threaten to destroy the natural features of the landscape: the very qualities that make the area attractive to would-be residents. Ecology and preservation of the natural environment is important to many Caledonia Citizens, but how to achieve the best solutions is often unclear.

Ecological concerns caused Planning Commissioners to proceed with caution before giving approval for a special use permit to build a new car wash on Whitneyville Road at 68th Street. The applicant made repeated appearances before the commission to attempt to answer many questions about pollution of the environment.

Approval finally was given to applicant John Crissman by the Commission in July after Township Planner Tim Dolehanty said assurances had been given from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that car wash operations, as generally proposed, do not introduce any materials into the public sanitary sewer system that cannot be handled by existing methods.

Township Planning Commissioners tried to save existing stands of trees, or to convince developers to postpone cutting them. They asked developers to plant trees between houses and roads.

People in the village struggled over the removal of 12 to 14 trees during the replacement of sidewalks.

Ironically, in July, vandalism resulted in the loss of 44 trees valued at around $18,000 at the Caledonia Middle School and high school located in the parking islands and along the driveways.

Meanwhile, some people feared a gypsy moth invasion would defoliate the township. Aerial spraying was undertaken for the second year in the area, under the direction of township officials. Residents were to request spraying before April 17. Surveys were completed in April.

The spray, Bacillus Theringeinsus (Bt), which caused intestinal paralysis in the insect, was said to be a naturally occurring organic bacterial substance and would not affect other life forms. Caledonia Township officials approved using the higher concentration, costing $14.50 per acre to be billed to property owners.

Gypsy moth spraying was completed in Caledonia Township May 18 and 19, about two weeks earlier than the usual time.

Some owners claimed to be within spray blocks without having requested spraying. Later it was learned, if owners did not request the inclusion, payment was voluntary.

Some citizens said payment was not the issue, but said the spray endangered the health of people, animals and foliage, claiming the Bt spray had many toxic properties which were being hidden from the public.

Some said spraying was not necessary because there was no epidemic in Caledonia. They said some blocks with an estimated minimum of 117 egg masses per acre were sprayed.

Compared to the Yankee Springs area about 12 miles to the south, which suffered massive defoliation and was not sprayed, this seemed

Continued next page

The bus fleet moved into Caledonia's new Transportation and Maintenance Center in January of 1998.

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO THE RESIDENTS OF YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Yankee Springs Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 21, 1999, commencing at 7:30 pm at the Township Hall located at 284 N. Briggs Rd., to conduct the following business:

1. ZOC 99-01-01. A request by the Township Planning Commission to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance to allow cellular towers in the "Agriculture" Zoning District by Special Exception Use Permit. Article II would be amended to include definitions of a "Wireless Communication Facility" and a "Wireless Communication Support Structure". Article III Section 15.3.2 would be amended to include "Wireless Cellular Communication Facilities" as a Special Exception Use in the "Agriculture" Zoning District. Article IV would be amended to include the requirements of a "Wireless Cellular Communication Facility" including:
   - A. The required size, in square footage, and road frontage of the proposed parcel for the supporting structure and its equipment.
   - B. The type and height of the supporting structure.
   - C. The type of lighting to protect the supporting structure.
   - D. The size of accessory building to house the equipment in conjunction with the supporting structure.
   - E. The removal of the supporting structure when it is no longer in use.

   Copies of the proposed text will be available at the Township Hall during regular business hours, after January 6, 1999.

2. ZOC 99-01-02. A request by the Township Planning Commission to amend Article XVIII, "Zoning Board of Appeals", of the Township Zoning Ordinance as follows:
   - Sec. 1 - Establishes the Zoning Board of Appeals.
   - Sec. 2 - Defines membership requirements for the members of the ZBA, including an alternate member.
   - Sec. 3 - Defines the conditions under which the alternate member may temporarily replace a member of the ZBA.
   - Sec. 4 - Restricts the member from the Township Board and the Planning Commission from also being an officer of the ZBA.
   - Sec. 5 - Defines the terms of office of each member of the ZBA.
   - Sec. 6 - Defines the method of filling vacancies on the ZBA.
   - Sec. 7 - Defines "Conflicts of Interest" involving the ZBA member.
   - Sec. 8 - Defines the authority of the ZBA to act on requests for variances.
   - Sec. 9 - Defines the limits of the ZBA's authority to act on variances.
   - Sec. 10 - Describes the method of making a request for a variance.

   Copies of the proposed text will be available at the Township Hall during regular business hours, after January 6, 1999.

3. Such other business as may properly come before the Planning Commission.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Zoning Ordinance will be available for inspection at the office of the Township Clerk, 284 N. Briggs Rd., during regular business hours and will also be available at the time of the public hearing. Written letters of comment will be accepted until the start of the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Planning Commission reserves the right at or after the public hearing, to make changes in the proposed amendments to the ordinance.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township will provide to individuals with disabilities, necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services may as may be required, upon 5 days notice to the Township Clerk of the need for the same.

All persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place to participate in the discussion of the above proposal(s).

Al Schwennesen, Secretary
Yankee Springs Township
Planning Commission

301

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Middleville Village Council will hold a special public hearing to hear comments on the proposed FY 1999 village budget as part of its regular January 12, 1999 meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council chambers at 100 E. Main St., Middleville, MI 49333. The proposed budget will be available for public inspection at the village offices located at the same address beginning January 5, 1999. Questions or comments may also be directed to the Village Manager at 616-795-3385.

300

From previous page

true. In September, Michigan Department of Agriculture Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Manager Jim Johnson said, "The hot spot for 1999 will be Barry County."

He said it is anticipated that participation in the program to suppress the spread of the insect will increase, resulting in spraying around 150,000 acres in 1999 in from 25 to 27 counties, compared to 19 this year.

Nevertheless, natural organisms in the environment were said by entomologists and other proponents to be effective in combatting the gypsy moth invasions, in cycles of years, and spraying was not advised by the National Forestry Service. Biological control companies made claims of remedies to the problem which cost a great deal of money, but few made convincing arguments showing they actually were able to suppress the moths.

In an area long known for its open farm land and meandering streams, rapid development has priced most potential park sites out of reach of township money.

Because of this, the opportunity for a donated park land at the LaBarge Dam on 84th Street and the Thornapple River, was seen as a fortunate gift provided it will not be a liability to the township.

The area includes a varied natural terrain with trees and prairie on both the east and west sides of the river, upstream and downstream from the dam. Negotiations are under way to make the park a reality.

The National Rails to Trails Conservancy now owns most of the property that was once owned by the railroads. The old railroad right of ways are being cleared and cleaned up and paved in many areas of the state for non-motorized uses, including biking, hiking and skiing.

The Rails to Trails linear project progressed in Caledonia Township, as work crews from Michigan Department of Corrections work release inmates worked on the project last summer.

Much of the northern part of the railway is cleared up into Grand Rapids. Nineteen miles from Caledonia to Hastings and eventually south from Hastings to Vermontville would complete a planned trail as long as the Hart-Montague Trail and the Kal Haven Trail. It would interconnect with the Kent Trails and other trails north of Grand Rapids.

"Friends of the Thornapple Trails Cleanup supervises the trail in Middleville, and has been supporting and directing the cleanup in Caledonia Township in preparation for when Kent County Parks takes over supervision of the trail," said Fred Fleischmann, parks chairman.

Another effort to preserve the natural landscape was made when the Lepard family offered to donate a part of development land to be used as a woodland park. The Lepard family wanted to set aside the wild area at the northwest corner of the property as a nature preserve.

An April recreation grant request to develop park facilities in connection with the donated nature preserve on the Lepard property was denied later in the year. The township intends to apply again or pursue other avenues for funding to develop the park.

The schools:

Three new facilities appeared this year according to plan, by the Caledonia School District, though their emergence was the result of several years work.

A new transportation center was put up in 1997 and put into use in January 1998. The Ralph E. Myers Stadium was dedicated at the beginning of the 1998 school term. The new Emmons Lake Elementary is becoming a reality as the exterior and interior move toward completion.

Caledonia Elementary Principal Gordy Nickels began working with a group of 40 citizens, parents and teachers in the fall of 1995 on the Emmons Lake School. This year Nickels was selected to become the new principal of the new Emmons Lake Elementary School. He was replaced at Cal El by Sheryl O'Connor, who had been the principal at Sycamore Elementary in the Hopkins school district

The NEA ratified the contract offered by the Caledonia School Board after several months of negotiations Jan. 29. An increase in salary of 2.3% was granted for this year, and an additional 2% will be added each year through the year 2000.

Salaries of new teachers started at $30,513 and the top salary is $58,585. The agreement will affect 178 teachers.

Administrator's salaries increased in about the same percentage amounts as the teachers increases.

A new training center requiring the purchase of six new iMac computers and software was approved in September for $8,100 out of bond money established for that purpose by the Caledonia Board of Education.

The school board election

Continued next page

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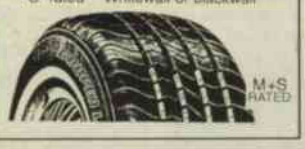

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From previous page

resulted in the return of incumbents James Gless and Bernard Nagel in the election held June 8.

Just after the athletic stadium was completed this fall, Jeanne Glowicki, athletic director at Caledonia High School, accepted a position as the new Bretton Downs Elementary School principal in East Grand Rapids. She was replaced by Matt Fronimos from Grand Rapids, who will begin this month.

With an eye to the future, the Caledonia Board of Education approved an allocation of $50,000 for the Caledonia Education Foundation in September. This money originally came from the local district's award in the statewide Durant lawsuit, and that figure was matched to donations already raised by the non-profit corporation. Additional donations already have brought the total up to $110,000.

The foundation had its inaugural reception Sept. 22, when the board of directors, advisory committee and school administrators joined with governmental officials and staff to celebrate the launch of a campaign to raise $1 million by Dec. 31, 2000. Long-range planning will include the growth of the endowment through ongoing fund development programs.

The money will remain in perpetuity, with only the income generated by that fund to be used in the form of grants for exceptional educational programs and initiatives that would not otherwise be underwritten by Caledonia Community Schools.

Following the efforts of the Educational Foundation, Marc Stephenson, speaking on behalf of the band boosters appealed to the Caledonia Board of Education, at the Nov. 17 meeting to request a large contribution from the school board to start a foundation grant for that organization. The boosters were asking for a grant of a large one-time contribution or several yearly contributions to the fund, with a request for $50,000 to begin the foundation and a lesser amount in the future.

One of the most unusual opportunities for learning came for 13 Caledonia middle school- and high school-aged young people who took part in an event-filled trip to the Costa Rican rain forest this summer, accompanied by 11 adults. The 12 days in Costa Rica were packed with activity.

Caledonia students seem to be benefiting from the extra investment of time, attention, and cooperation devoted by teachers, parents and community. They also make contributions back to the community in projects like road cleanups and adoption of up to 25 underprivileged families at Christmas time.

Showing high achievement in educational efforts as well, Caledonia students finished with a higher average score on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test last year, with a score of 75.1 instead of the 65.6 that was expected.

The village:

New faces appeared on the Caledonia Village Council, including President Daryl Penfold, Clerk Clarence Slaughter, Treasurer Shirley Wabeke and Trustees Arlene Oaks and Jeff Kusmierz, as a result of the village election March 9.

Caledonia citizens supported a unified platform offered by this group of candidates. Penfold's proposal to lower the tax millage rate by 25 percent seemed attractive. He said this would still leave an excess of $51,000 in the village budget. Audy, Kusmierz, Oaks, Noordhoek, Slaughter and Wabeke all supported his proposal.

The new council put its new leaner $240,000 budget in place for 1998-99, revised from one proposed earlier in the year by the previous council.

Meeting several goals as quickly as possible was made a priority by President Penfold. Sewer and sidewalk replacement were put on top of the list. In June the Village Council approved payment for this year's sidewalk replacement project, for $71,652. A community development block grant received for the sidewalks was for $53,000, reducing village costs.

Removal of sidewalks in July affected decisions about tree removal, which brought many citizen objections over removal of potentially healthy old trees.

In August the council approved approximately $35,000 for improvements to the antiquated sewer system in the historic part of the village.

Caledonia Village Clerk Clarence Slaughter resigned his post in September after his personal unpaid debt led to the temporary shutdown of village offices. Barry County District Court had entered an order of default against the village for failure to respond to a four-month-old garnishment served on the village against Slaughter's wages to be handled through the State Bank of Caledonia. Slaughter knew this was happening but "misplaced the papers." The court had ordered the seizure of more than $1,700 to pay Slaughter's debt and court costs and directed the bank to pay the money from village funds.

The Village Council voted to change the clerk's position from elected to an appointed one and adopted another resolution to hold non-partisan elections in the future. The council did not re appoint anyone to the clerk's position by the end of 1998.

In October, Penfold proposed modifying the fiscal year of the village bookkeeping system from March 1 through Feb. 28 to July 1 through June 30. He said the change would coincide with the time of year the Kent County Board of Equalization establishes the tax base, and the assessed value of property, which produces more precise information for predicting the figures for the coming budget period.

By October, little progress had been made to repair village sewers. Bickering village officials was said to be the reason Caledonia Village Manager Pete Stull quit his part-time job suddenly on Oct.19. There were claims by officials that Stull was planning to leave in November anyway. The council has functioned without filling the vacated position.

In November, the treasurer's position was also made an appointed one, but Shirley Wabeke's elected term was to be completed before going into effect.

Tempers flared at the Nov. 9 Caledonia Village Council meeting over limited progress in repairing the 1934 sewer system, and Trustee Dan Erskine was removed as chairman of the Sewer Committee.

By December some sewer repairs had been made, and other emergency solutions were being attempted before winter prevented the needed work.

The township:

The Caledonia Township Board began work on its new policies and procedures manual early in '98. The township budget planned for 1999 topped $1 million for the first time.

Salaries were raised to go into effect in 1999 to help compensate for the additional work load brought on by growth. Wage levels established for all township officials, both elected and appointed, were established after an extensive wage and job analysis with comparisons of all similar jobs performed within other surrounding geographical areas.

Trustees' pay was raised 14.3%. The planner's salary increased from $37,080 to $41,250, and went up another $12,000 in August when the position became manager/planner.

An administrative assistant position was approved in August, with the salary discussed for this position at $23,000. Mary Chapman was hired in October for the amount approved. She fills a full time position fulfilling four basic functions, working with building inspections, with Planner Tim Dolehanty on planning and zoning matters, assessment issues, and with the utilities administrator.

The board also conducted an audit on all committees, commissions and boards under its jurisdiction to be sure each met the full requirements of the state, and of its own stipulations.

The Township Board raised most of its fees for services, permits and licences on Jan. 21 by as much as 500%. Variance requests for homeowners was left the same at $250 per request.

The board added new computer equipment early in the year to optimize efficiency in the office, and continued to make both computer and program changes through December. Still under consideration is a new GIS system for the township.

Growth may require the splitting of township polling precincts, and requiring the purchase of additional voting machines to permit a growing population to vote at the next presidential election.

A petition to recall four Caledonia township officials, Supervisor William Johnston and Trustees Patricia Cress, John Porter and Bonnie Keller was requested from the Kent County Election Commission by a committee calling itself Caledonia Citizens for Responsive Government in late September.

The CCRG has issued press releases over the past three months with various criticisms of these board members. There were complaints about the way the gypsy moth program was handled, including billing residents who did not request spraying. The CCRG says property taxes were increased. In November CCRG complained that Caledonia Township had the highest property tax rate of all the townships in Kent County. Township officials say they actually went down.

The press release stated the board had a chance to reduce taxes to 2.0167 mills, the board voted to keep them at 2.7377 mills, a slight reduction from last year's 2.7933 mills.

Dolehanty took issue with the criticisms. He said Caledonia Township's general fund budget is not higher than figures from surrounding townships. He said 1.9602 mills assessed against property in Caledonia Township was an extra millage voted by the township citizenry.

Another complaint was made in December charging selective enforcement of the township sign ordinance last winter, which was covered then and recently in the Sun and News, with debate from people on both sides of the issue.

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Are 300,000 Americans eating themselves to death?

The condition of being overweight results in 300,000 deaths per year.

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's day Americans gain between five to ten pounds and consume two pounds of fat. Americans are just too fat. Research says 55 percent of all adults are overweight.

If the trend continues, experts say that within a few generations virtually every U.S. adult will be overweight, plus one-third of all children.

"Overweight and obesity pose a major public health challenge," says National Heart Lung, and Blood Institute Director Dr. Claude Lenfant. Recently, the American Heart Association added obesity to its list of major risk factors for heart disease and heart attacks. Obesity is a reason why so many Americas have elevated cholesterol and blood pressure levels. It is also linked to stroke, diabetes, premature death and asthma.

According to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, the trend in the prevalence of overweight and obesity is upward. However, studies are showing we are eating less, but we are heavier than ever before. It doesn't make sense. Could it be that everything we believe about weight control may be wrong? After all, if there is one thing Americans know ho to do is to diet. It has become a real national pastime.

Ten years ago your local supermarket would have been fortunate to even find one tiny section with lowcal foods and liquid meals that had no flavor. Why? Because fats help to bring out the flavor in food.

Today's supermarket is a dieter's paradise. There are non-fat yogurts, fat-free cookies, pastas, muffins and desserts, and even cholesterol free eggs and cheeses. A lot of these foods taste more delicious than their heavyweight originals.

If we are all eating light, why are we getting heavier? Today our foods in the supermarket are created by engineers, not by chefs. They have developed all kinds of new fat substitutes. So what is the problem?

"It is the fat substitutes themselves. Many of them are made from sugar and other ultra-refined carbohydrates," states Rick Handel, a leading nutritional scientific researcher and a member of the Institute of Food Technologists, and the Herb Research Association.

So that high tech brownie you're eating may have no fat, but in fact delivers twice the sugar calories of Mom's homemade. "Too many empty carbohydrate calories in the diet can be as bad as or worse than too much fat," says Handel.

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine says that eating too much sugar, bread or pasta steps up production of metabolic enzymes that make us store more fat. There is a place for carbohydrates, proteins and even fat.

"In moderation, fat in the diet helps slow down the absorption of calories. It also helps stimulate the hormone CCK, which signals the brain that you are full, says Handel.

How about those fad diets, low calorie diets, very low calorie diets, and ultra low calorie diets, or cabbage soup diets. At first you will lose some weight, though the pounds lost are mostly water and lean muscle. As your body senses that it is starving, your metabolism slows down to a crawl and protects itself by converting everything you eat into reserved fuel, fat. When your body goes into fat storage mode, you quickly go back to your original weight, but a greater percentage is fat and a lesser percentage is lean muscle tissue. And since only lean muscle tissue can burn calories, any future diet will become more difficult. This leads to the yo-yo syndrome. Every cycle of weight loss is followed by even more weight gain.

The National Institute of Health reporting in the Annals of Internal Medicine tells us not only caloric restrictions are not a good long term strategy for weight loss, but for some people cutting back on calories can lead to health risk. Also, the safe way to lose weight doesn't come from a drug. Drugs have uncomfortable side effects, including diarrhea and drowsiness. Regarding the hype for the herbal pills promising miraculous results without dieting or exercising, most of these are loaded with stimulants or harsh laxatives.

So what is the solution? "It is not simply a nutrition problem," states Dr. Earl Mindell, a leading nutritionist in America and an expert on vitamins, dietary supplements, nutrition and the author of the international best seller, the Vitamin Bible. Dr. Mindell is convinced that for permanent weight loss, individuals need to seek programs that require a multidimensional approach that includes a healthy, but simple eating plan, exercises, behavioral strategies and goal setting. A successful program should include a thermogenics aspect that does not stress the adrenal system. Thermogenics is the metabolic process by which we maintain our body temperature by burning our stored body fat as fuel.

"Weight loss is not an all-or-nothing proposition," said Dr. C. Everett Koop, the former U.S. Surgeon General. "Losing a few pounds and keeping them off is very significant."

For educational information on healthy weight control call (888) 688-8048.

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TK PTO elections set for Thursday

Mid-term elections are on the agenda for the Thursday, Jan. 7, meeting of the Thornapple Kellogg PTO.

There is an opening for an executive treasurer to serve from January through December 1999.

There are also openings for secretaries for the McFall and Page PTOs. Nominations for these positions will be accepted from the floor. Parents of children in any of the Thornapple Kellogg elementary or middle schools are eligible for these open positions.

Also on the agenda is a final decision about holding a carnival. Cheryl McMillan needs a few volunteers to work on the event before taking on the effort.

Anyone who has time and who enjoys having fun with kids is invited to attend the meeting to volunteer or send their name into school.

Call Patricia Johns at 795-8739 if you can help with the carnival.

Budgets will be presented for approval and there will be an update on fund-raising. Fund-raising companies will be invited to do presentations in February and March for next year.

The middle school portion of the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the McFall Library. The elementary portion begins at 7 p.m. Child care is provided.

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97 Pontiac Grand Am SE 4 door, auto., air, only 21K miles, green $11,495
97 Chev Cavalier 2 door
96 Buick Park Avenue
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98 Chev Blazer LT 4 door, 4x4, leather, sunroof, pewter.
98 Chev Silverado Ext Cab 4x4 350 V-8, auto., air, 3 door, white
98 Pont Transport 4 door, 7 passenger van, dark teal
98 Chev S-10 Ext Cab 4x4 V-6, auto., air, 3 door, only 3700 miles!
97 Chevrolet Silverado Ext Cab 4x4 Long box, 350 V-8, auto., air, Z71
97 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4 door, 4x4, leather, CD, white & blue
96 Chevrolet S-10 Ext Cab Pickup V-6, auto., air
96 Chev Silverado 4x2 350 V-8, auto., air, green
96 Chev Blazer LT 4 door, 4x4
95 Chev Silverado Ext Cab 4x4 350 V-8, auto., air
95 GMC SLE Ext Cab 4x4 350 V-8, auto., air, black
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Championships and big honors numerous in '98

Many thrilling and victorious moments were enjoyed by Middleville and Caledonia high school teams and area athletes in 1998.

Here is a look at just a few of the top stories from the past 12 months.

We start with the most recent stories and work our way backwards to the early '98 year accomplishments.

The dates that appear are the editions of the *Sun & News* that the stories appeared in.

Dec. 15 — "A future Charger cager": Caledonia multi sports star Stephanie Algera signs on to play college basketball at Hillsdale College. Algera averaged 14 points and 9 rebounds for the Lady Scots during her senior season. She was All-OK Gold and a varsity starter for four years at Caledonia.

Nov. 24 — "Lady Trojans give 'Cats real scare in district hoops": In one of the most exciting prep basketball games of the season, the Lady Trojans from Middleville nearly knocked off heavy favorite Wayland in the district championship game at Wayland Union High School. The 'Cats, however, snack away with a 56-54 triumph. Payshence Erb led the Lady Trojan charge with 20 points. Sarah Schut had 14 and Jessica Crowley tallied 11 markers. Erb's total included five three-pointers.

Nov. 24 — "'Hawks have just enough to beat Scots in final": Caledonia's girls cagers also had a shot to win a district championship, but fell to Wyoming Rogers 64-60 in the championship contest. Anne Morgan led the offensive charge with 19 points, Stephanie Algera collected 14 and Anne Schmidt added 10.

Nov. 10 — "Trojan golfer earns All-State honors": Junior Adam Seifert was named All-State honorable mention in Class B. Seifert had an average of 38.4, finished with 193 1/2 points in the O-K Blue and totaled 274 points overall.

Nov. 10 — "Area runners, teams run for season medals, season bests at State": Not only did the Middleville girls cross country team compete at the State finals, but some area individuals earned some medals. Middleville's Ryan Hesselink was ninth in 15:39, Caledonia's freshman sensation Tim Ross was 16th in 15:45, Caledonia's Liz Fortuna was 17th in 18:50, Caledonia's Brooke Wieringa was 20th and Middleville's Danielle Quisenberry was ninth in 18:40.

Nov. 3 — "Scots drop 1-0 match to Falcons in regionals": The Caledonia soccer team's successful campaign ended with a tough 1-0 defeat to West Catholic at the regionals held at Caledonia High School. The lone tally came from the Falcons in the first half.

Oct. 27 — "Trojans win league crown outright": Coach Tim Penfield's gridders went undefeated in the O-K Blue to take the conference championship. Middleville's winning streak in the league went to 20 in a row. Quarterback Dan Finkbeiner, runningbacks Zia Shook and Miso Glavan and defensive stars Jeremy Vandefifer and Jason Barager were just a couple of the standouts that helped the Trojans to gain a spot in the post-season Class BB playoffs. The final league triumph was a 35-29 victory against Calvin Christian.

Oct. 20 — "Trojan harriers take league firsts": The Middleville cross country teams fared quite well in the O-K Blue, winning the girls title and taking two individual firsts. The winners were the Trojans' girls team, Danielle Quisenberry as an individual in the girls and Ryan Hesselink in the boys race. Members of the championship girls squad were Quisenberry, Jen Verkerke, Christine Dood, Erin Deschoff, Almena Rabbers, Amber DeMaagd, Quisenberry, LeAnn Pitt and Coach Tammy Benjamin.

Oct. 10 — "Still in first, soccer Trojans beat B.C.": Middleville's varsity soccer team were leaders in the O-K Blue from start to finish and a 2-0 triumph over Byron Central secured its spot at the top. B.J. Shuck and David Williamson contributed to the goal scoring in this match, while goalkeeper Andy Clinton recorded his fourth season shutout.

Sept. 8 — "It's all Scots in season opener with Trojans": Caledonia opened its banner 1998 football season with a 34-6 thumping over rival Middleville. Shane Mendez gained 127 yards on the ground for the victorious Scots and Miso Glavan had 79 yards running for the Trojans. The Scots remained in playoff contention until their final game of the season.

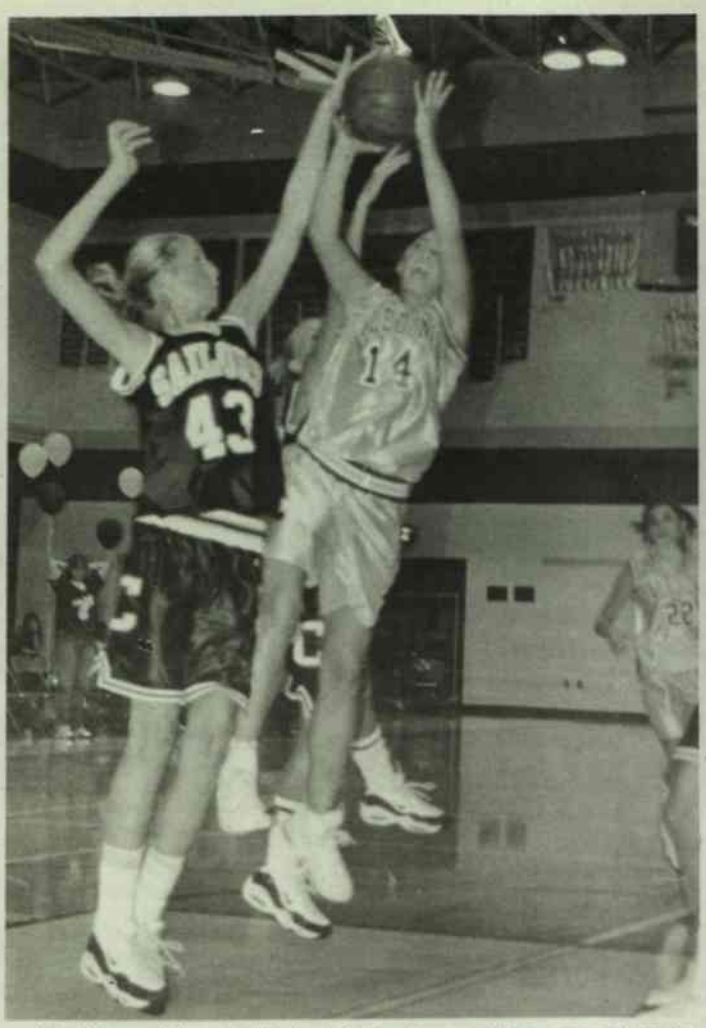
Sept. 1 — "First national title won by Wieringa": Zach Wieringa, of Middleville, not only was part of the Michigan team that took first place honors at the AAU Junior Olympic event, but he also shinned as an individual. In the finals, Wieringa had a first place 8.25 on the vault, a first place 7.55 on the parallel bars.

June 16 — "TK cheerleaders best at Regional Showcase": The Lady Trojans scored first place honors at the All-Star Regional Showcase at Cedar Point on May 30. Team members were Betsy Steensma, Felicia Davis, Stephanie Higgins, Brittany Cash, Missy Minor, Tina Trudell, Loretta Huntington, Andrea Bucher, Becky Worth, Sarah Hoffman and Coach Kelli Leep.

May 26 — "Signing to Play": Jennie Doyle, a multi sports star at Middleville, signed a national letter of intent to play college basketball at Lake Superior State University. She has become a prominent member of the team in her first season.

May 12 — Caledonia boys take first in Gold with two-win week": Caledonia's boys track team scored 107 1/2 points to gain its championship in the O-K Gold. Scoring individual firsts for Coach John Soderman's team at the championship meet were Chad Wangerin (discus), Kyle Velting (high hurdles), Jason Roh (100 and the 200), Dustin McFarlan (400), Eric Dygraaf (high jump), Scott Busfield (800), Steve Benham (pole vault) and Rob Lillie (3200).

May 5 — "Running with WMU": Middleville runner Jessi Davis signed a national letter of intent to run for Western Michigan University's track and field program. Davis, an all-conference champion, planned to run the mile for the Broncos' program.



Anne Morgan (14) guided the Lady Scots offense in big games such as the ones with South Christian.

Middleville's girls cross country team went to State in '98 and won O-K Blue top honors.

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Quarterback Dan Finkbeiner (12) sparked Middleville's football team to an O-K Blue championship and a spot in the State playoffs.

Trojans take second at TK dual tournament

Middleville's mats men placed second Dec. 30 at its own wrestling tournament with Grand Haven's squad gaining top honors.

Coach Tom Lehman's Trojans beat St. Johns (49-22), Caledonia (57-18) and East Kentwood (54-25) but could not out-score a very solid Rockford team.

"Things went pretty well," Lehman said. "We're 7-2 this season and the only losses have been to Grand Haven and Rockford."

Evan Space was the lone Trojan to go 4-0 at the tournament with a perfect mark in the 125-pound weight class.

Posting 3-1 marks were Ben Sevald at 119, Luke Egolf at 130, Tim Stevens at 171, Jeremy Vandefifer at 189, Miso Glavan at 215 and Marc Carter at heavyweight.

Chad Reil also had a strong showing with a 2-0 effort at 145. Jason Austin at 103 and Jeremy Straight at 160 also collected two mat victories.

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From previous page

March 10 — "Trojan wrestlers bow out painfully at State finals": The Middleville wrestling program, led by coach Tom Lehman, qualified for the State finals for a third consecutive year, but lost to Dowagiac 30-27. Some key members on the '98 team were Ron Haynes, Jared Otto, Kyle Brower, Erik Vernon, Spencer Romph, Jeremy Vandefifer, Israel Rosales and Dendel Craven. Brower ended up being a State champ at 103, while Spencer Romph finished second in the State. Romph had a team record 175 wins during his career, while Brower was one back with 174. Middleville wrestlers' banner season included a championship in the O-K Blue conference.

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Baby Nathan Bars Take The Prize

(NAPSI)—The home of C&H Sugar, tiny, picturesque Crockett, California, is also home to some dedicated cookie bakers. This little community situated east of San Francisco on a scenic bluff overlooking the Carquinez Strait, is an authentic small town with a long-standing baking tradition. Life here is as sweet as it gets.

In 1906, when C&H Sugar opened its cane refinery, Crockett became a company town and still retains some of that aura. Everyone knows everyone else. Town elders tend the historical museum and wax eloquent about judge Joseph Crockett, the former California supreme court justice for whom the town was named. And many families can trace their C&H connection back three generations. It's a very close knit community where people care about each other and traditional values reign.

Baking is as natural as breathing in Crockett. It's how residents show their love and how they stay connected to family and friends. Baking skills are highly prized in this little town so there was major excitement this summer when C&H Sugar set out to find the best cookie bakers in the community and slapped down a $1,000 grand prize to back the challenge.

The whole town took notice. Everybody was abuzz about the Great Crockett Cookie Contest. The competition was stiff. After much tasting and deliberation, the panel of distinguished judges including food experts, community leaders and C&H representatives, awarded the top prize to a 50 year resident of the community, Kathleen Thomas, for her "Baby Nathan Bars." Although well known as an excellent baker, the modest Kathleen came expecting to perhaps win a cookie jar. She did considerably better. Her luscious no-bake cookies combining sugar, corn syrup, crisp cereal and peanut butter with a topping of barely melted chocolate and butterscotch morsels, moved the judges, and later Kathleen almost to tears. It's as close to heaven as a cookie comes.

Baby Nathan Bars were named for Thomas' first grandson, who is still a little young to eat them but will surely indulge as he grows older. But, you can indulge right now. Baby Nathan Bars are quick and easy, so no matter how little time you think you have, there's time to make these winners.

KATHLEEN THOMAS' BABY NATHAN BARS

1 cup C&H Granulated Cane Sugar
1 cup light corn syrup
1½ cups peanut butter
6 cups of a crispy wheat or rice cereal
1 cup butterscotch morsels (6 oz. bag)
1 cup chocolate chips (6 oz. bag)

Bring sugar, corn syrup and peanut butter to a boil, stirring constantly to avoid burning. Pour hot mixture over cereal and mix well. Pat into a greased 9" x 13" baking dish. Sprinkle butterscotch morsels and chocolate chips over the top. Heat in oven or microwave until morsels and chips can be spread over cereal mixture. Cool and cut into squares. Makes approximately 1½ dozen bars.

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