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The Sun and News

Your Hometown Newspaper Serving Middleville and Caledonia Areas

No. 6/February 9, 1999 | Middleville, Michigan 49333 | 128th year

TK students receive United Way award

Students at Thornapple Kellogg High School received a "Most Valuable Player" award from the Barry County United Way last Tuesday for their contribution to the 1998 United Way fund-raising campaign.

The award was received by members of the high school student council, who spearheaded a drive last December to raise funds for United Way and other organizations and individuals.

Most Valuable Player awards are given to organizations in various categories who have made outstanding contributions to the United Way campaign, according to Lani Forbes, Barry County United Way executive director.

Students contributed $1,000 to the United Way. Altogether they raised $3,900, according to TK Student Council Advisor Doug Hart. In addition to United Way, $1,000 was given to Love Inc., $1,000 for Christmas basket turkeys, and $500 to Wheels for the World (an organization that collects wheelchairs for the disabled). Two area families were also given Christmas presents, dinner, and groceries.

Hart said the annual fund-raising campaign is a yearly tradition at the school. "In the last four years they've raised $15,000." This year the student council "did everything" in the way of fund-raising activities, he said, including selling "candy grams," conducting a raffle, holding a talent show, having a "coin" drive, sponsoring a coed basketball game between faculty members and high school

See United Way award, pg. 2

Student council members (above) spearheaded the fund-raising campaign. In front is Missy Minor. In the second row (from left) is Samantha Schweder, Stacy Vandefifer, Jennifer Wasikowski, Nicole Craven, Tiffany Beuschel, and Mindy Beilfuss. In the third row (from left) is Erica Carter, Breyne Middleton, Saran Hoffman, Andrea Bouma, Alice Matson, Kristen Overbeek, Gwen Jeurink, and Shannon Burns. In back (from left) are council advisor Doug Hart, Shannon Richards, Courtney Smith, Tim Suwyn, Kyle McKeown, Ashley Carter, Stacey Bergakker, Nicole Jonker, Sara Huff, and Melissa Vantil.

Village Players to present 'Otis Crummy'

The melodrama "Curse You, Otis Crummy" calls on the many talents of the entire cast in this Village Players dinner Theatre production at the Middle Villa Inn on Feb. 19, 20, 26 and 27.

The fight between the villain Otis Crummy played by Mike Bremer and "Our Hero" Sheriff Claud played by Kevin Wiltrout gets the attention of the entire cast of the Village Players production of "Curse You, Otis Crummy!"

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

The villainous Otis Crummy will get his just desserts at the Village Players' production of "Curse You, Otis Crummy!"

Directed by Cheryl Cravero and Darlene Schellinger, the cast will brave boos and gasps from the audience as the young and lovely heroine is put in peril for her life.

This melodrama by Tim Kelley will tickle the funnybone in a trip back to the penny dreadful and cinema serial days. Come laugh and applaud as the Village Players raise funds for their scholarship program and the other community projects they support.

Starring in this dinner theater production are Brent Dietiker as "Big Slim, Doug Brinks as Diabolical Bill, Patty Higley as Tangerine Souffle, and Claudia Coffman as Effie Frump.

Mike Bremer will get a chance to twist his shiny black moustache and prove that his heart is as black as his cape. Dick Reyff looks the part of Banker Goofus Birdsong. Just to look at Helen Wingeier's Old Mother Hubbard means smiling.

Julie Coon's Cheerful Goodykoontz and Suzanne McIntyre's "Miz Kitchencupboard" help the story move on to its sentimental conclusion.

Kevin Wiltrout's Sheriff Claud is the rightful descendent of Dudley Doright.

Marc Moma as lawyer Muggleworth is no match for Carolyn Newman's Mrs. Muchmoney.

Also appearing in the role of dinner is the Middle Villa Inn's Italian buffet. This includes lasagna, Italian meatballs, pasta with assorted sauces, homemade garlic bread and Caesar salad.

"Curse You, Otis Crummy" will be presented on consecutive weekends Feb. 19 and 20, and 26 and 27. Tickets are $20 a person and $40 a couple. The social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner begins at 7:30 p.m.

Reservations are strongly recommended. Call the Middle Villa Inn at 795-3640 or 1-800-845-5269.

In This Issue...

- Blood drive planned Feb. 15 in Middleville
- Developer allowed to create parcels at greater depth
- Middleville home business request prompts public hearing
- Caledonia man dies in truck accident

Lani Forbes, executive director of Barry County United Way (right) presents the Most Valuable Player award to student council president Missy Minor and council advisor Doug Hart.

United Way award, from front page

non-senior basketball players, and auctioning off seniors, who had to do as their "owners" instructed for a day.

The auction alone raised $2,800, Hart said.

Forbes said the students' fund-raising activities raised their awareness of community needs and supported those needs.

Midge Pippel, assistant superintendent, said of the students' fund-raising that "it is exciting to see how our students are involved in community service. We are very proud of their accomplishments, but more importantly, they should be proud of themselves. One of the greatest joys in life is to make a difference — and they are making a difference, at such an early age!"

Phone book recycling drive to help Rain Forest Project

Four high school ninth graders, Janelle Sluis, Nicole Ashley, Amanda Trutsch, and Josh Switzer, recently gave a presentation at Caledonia Elementary as a part of the Rain Forest Project.

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Anyone who wants to recycle phone books in support of the Rain Forest Project may drop off their phone books between Feb.15 and 19 at Kettle Lake Elementary, Caledonia Elementary and at the Middle School.

Thirteen young people, accompanied by 11 adults, spent 12 days learning and working in Costa Rica last year as part of a two-year commitment with conservation oriented projects and advocacy for environmental concerns.

Dorothy Wolf, sponsor of the project, worked with the students before they took the trip. The educational preparation for the project in the first year focused on rain forest issues.

Wolf has asked people to save phone books for the drive. She can be reached at 698-0193.

Examples of their advocacy and conservation oriented projects include phone book recycling, giving educational slide presentations for any people who want to learn about rain forests, adopting streams to monitor and protect, working for ecological projects like Rails to Trails, writing letters to congressmen to encourage awareness and advocacy for environmental issues, public service for the community and park cleanups.

The next rain forest adventure will be in Peru in the year 2000.

Grand Am raffle tickets still available from TK senior parents

Raffle tickets for a 1999 Grand Am are still on sale for $30 each. Thornapple Kellogg Senior Parents are selling the tickets at all home basketball games and some of the home wrestling meets.

An up-close look at the car is available on Saturdays, Feb. 13 and 20, at Pastoors and Feb. 19 at the Hastings City Bank. Tickets are also being sold at Gavins, Middleville Floral and Four Star Video.

"We hope to reach as many parents as we can," Bonnie Slayton says. "There are only 1000 tickets available and the deadline is coming."

Call Slayton at 795-2192 or Deb McKeown at 795-9889 for information about the raffle.

The winning ticket will be selected at the final home basketball game Feb. 26.

Money raised will be used to fund a surprise night following high school graduation for seniors. The Senior Parents continue to meet to work on fund-raising and plans for this night of fun for graduating seniors.

The next meeting of the group is March 1 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. For more information about Senior Parent activities, call Wanda Vandefifer at 792-6717.

Middleville woman attends convention

Amy Lipscomb of Middleville attended the Creative Memories 1999 Regional Convention in Detroit Jan. 29-30.

Creative Memories, with its headquarters in St. Cloud, Minn., is an international direct sales company that teaches people how to organize and preserve their photographs in safe, meaningful and creative scrapbook photo albums. Home classes and hands-on workshops are offered by more than 40,000 Creative Memories consultants. The consultants also sell photo-safe albums and supplies.

Lipscomb, who attended the Regional Convention with more than 300 other consultants, has been with Creative Memories for four months.

She was the recipient of the company's award for 90-Day Success Plan and honored for her achievement at the recognition ceremony Jan. 30.

If anyone is interested in learning more about Creative Memories home classes, workshops or become a consultant, call Lipscomb at 945-0424.

T.K. schools have half day February 12

The Thornapple Kellogg School District will be closing at 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12.

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MEAP energy boost

Students in Shaun Davis' fourth grade class, like all the fourth and fifth grade classes (and middle school classes) started the school day with juice and a granola bar for energy on Michigan Educational Assessment Program days.

Middleville man wins national award

David Perkins

David Perkins of Middleville has been listed among the top 100 multimedia producers by AV Video Multimedia Producer magazine.

The award recognizes and honors outstanding creative talents who have made an impact within the industry. Perkins is the only winner from Michigan and one of 12 in the Midwest.

An independent panel of producers in the video industry made the selection. Winners were judged for their work and careers overall.

Perkins is the founder and creative director of Stone River Software Inc., a six-year-old Grand Rapids company. Stone River was nominated for "surfis.com," a media rich database driven web site for the contract furnishing industry. The site contains original art and extensive on line databases that serve the information needs of architects, designers and furniture dealers.

Prior to starting Stone River Software, Perkins had been active in the graphics design industry. In 1990 he realized that the print world was moving to more computer-driven on line applications. He is most interested in providing creative direction to the area's furniture industry.

Stone River's recent work has included computer-based training programs and web sites designed to market products.

Perkins lives on a large farm in Middleville and enjoys photography and spending time outdoors with his wife, Nancy. The couple horseback rides and canoes Michigan rivers. They have three grown children and a 2-year-old grandson.

La Leche League to meet Feb. 11

The La Leche League will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, at 1546 Payne Lake Road in Yankee Springs Township.

La Leche League offers support, information and encouragement for breastfeeding mothers. The organization has a lending library with books on childbirth, breastfeeding, child development and nutrition.

Those who are breastfeeding or pregnant and thinking of breastfeeding are welcome to come to the informational meetings.

This month's topic will be "Weaning and Nutrition."

For directions call 795-7021. For information on breastfeeding call Kathy Othmer at (517) 726-1264.

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TK student nominated for PLA program award

Brian McKeown

Brian McKeown, a Thornapple Kellogg High School senior, has been nominated to compete in the national Principal's Leadership Award Scholarship Program (PLA), sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

The Principal's Leadership Award Program is funded by Herff Jones, Inc.

Ellen Zack, principal at TK, announced the nomination, which places McKeown in the national competition. One hundred fifth national PLA winners will be chosen this spring to receive $1,000 college scholarships.

McKeown is a "Top Ten" student and has been class vice president for his entire high school career, a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the Barry County Youth Action Council, captain of the wrestling team, and member of the soccer team.

Principals in high schools throughout the country may nominate one of their student leaders. McKeown was nominated for demonstrating exemplary achievement in his work and participation in his school and community.

"He is an exceptional student and a fine example of the outstanding caliber of students in America's high schools," said Zack.

The Principal's Leadership Award scholarship helps assert the importance of a well-rounded education that includes extra-curricular activities as well as academic performance.

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1. NEW LISTING, GUN LAKE! 50 ft. of frontage on a prime sandy beach. Middleville Schools. This year-round home features a breathtaking view, 4 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, a 1-1/2 car garage with breezeway, a full basement and hardwood floors. Call Deb ... $169,900.

3. MIDDLEVILLE SCHOOLS. This attractive, 2 story home is located in one of the community's newest developments. It features 3 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, a 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. Reduced to ... $117,500.

2. THORNAPPLE - KELLOGG SCHOOLS. This immaculate, remodeled farmhouse features 4 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, a large pole barn, and storage shed. All this on 6-1/2 acres. Call Karen ... $149,900.

4. QUIET COUNTRY LIVING with lots of privacy and wildlife. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath sets on a partially wooded 5.3 acres. It features a spacious kitchen with oak cabinets, a living room with fireplace, and a deck. Call Kay ... $84,900.

5. 14.7 WOODED ACRES. Beautiful building site in the Thornapple-Kellogg School District. The survey, site evaluation and driveway permit are already done! Land contract terms. Call Ray Diehl at 1-800-241-5253.

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FOR MORE MIDDLEVILLE, GUN LAKE AND CALEDONIA AREA PROPERTIES PLEASE SEE OUR ADS ON PAGE 2 OF THE REMINDER, IN THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS AND IN THE HOMES DIGEST OF GRAND RAPIDS MAGAZINE.

Blood drive scheduled in Middleville Feb. 15

The Great Lakes Region of the American Red Cross Blood Services will have a blood drive Monday, Feb. 15, from 2 to 7:45 p.m. at the Middleville Baptist Church, 5075 N. Middleville Road (M-37).

For more than half a century, the American Red Cross has collected blood for use by people in need due to accident and disease. Volunteer blood donors have saved countless lives by giving the "Gift of Life" to those in need.

Patients in Michigan hospitals use 2000-units of blood products every day – one about every 43 seconds. Michigan recipients include people like Sean, a 9-year old recovering from chemotherapy; Ron, a state trooper shot in the line of duty; Claire, a newborn with a rare genetic disorder; and Carrie, who used 42 units of blood products after a car crash during her sophomore year of high school.

Blood donors come from every walk of life: executives, students, mothers, fathers, factory workers. Some donors give every 56 days. Some people celebrate their birthdays by sharing their life with others. For some donors, the proudest moment is when they receive a pin commemorating a landmark in their giving: one gallon, five, ten or even 20! Since donations are typically made into three different blood products, these donors have helped literally scores of people to return to health.

Even if people forget to give a gift on Valentine's Day, there's still time to give the Gift of Life to someone in need. Besides accident victims and cancer survivors, burn patients are some of the biggest users of blood products, requiring many units of whole blood, plasma and platelets to heal.

Those who are least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in reasonably good health are eligible to contribute.

Donors can always call 1(800) GIVE LIFE for locations of other blood drives near them.

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Meeting at the Caledonia Middle School, 9230 Kraft Ave.
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Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.
Evening Praise ..... 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY ..... Family Night 6:30 p.m.
7240 68th Street, SE – Caledonia
2 miles east of M-37
Pastor, Rev. Brian F. Harrison
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Alan D. Moody, Asst. Pastor
Douglas G. Beason, Visitation
Ted W. Stewart, Music
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.
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.

LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
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
Office: 868-0391

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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.
KAY TOWNSEND, Pastor — SHARON BARENDSE, Dir. of Christian Ed.
EDDIE ALLEN, DIR. OF MUSIC
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Church School, Sunday ..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Fellowship ..... 7:30 p.m.
Pastor Douglas Gregory 937-3372

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Sunday School ..... 11:15 a.m.
Evening Worship Service ..... 6:00 p.m.
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8:00 a.m. ..... Worship Service
9:15 a.m. ..... Educational Hour
10:30 a.m. ..... Worship Service
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Sunday School ..... 10:45-11:50 a.m.
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M-37 at 100th St.

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Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/
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Royale Ballard, Pastor
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Middleville Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.
Middleville Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.
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Barrier Free
M-37 Between Caledonia & Middleville
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Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Midweek Prayer & Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.
Rev. Thomas Sluis
Rev. Kati Bashor, Assoc. Pastor/Youth Ministries

Local Girl Scouts busy with fund-raising projects

Girls in Troops 895 and 3 in the Caledonia, part of the Cherry Valley Neighborhood, created soup bowls for God's Kitchen in Grand Rapids. Girls went to Naked Plates in Breton Village Mall where they designed and painted their bowls. The girls also painted another piece of pottery to take home.

Girl Scouts in Troop 769 discussed diversity, shared a love of dolls, enjoyed a tea party and even continued donating their pennies to the Juliette Low Friendship Fund on Feb. 4.

Girls in the Cherry Valley Neighborhood of Girl Scout troops have finished their cookie pre-sale.

The girls are selling more than just "Thin Mints." Many troops have worked on service projects since the beginning of the year.

Girls are collecting pennies for the Juliette Low Friendship Fund. The final collection will be on Saturday, Feb. 20, at "Thinking Day" at the Caledonia Middle School. Girls from across Middleville and Caledonia will meet to talk and think about serious issues.

Some troops have done beautification projects in their communities. Others have helped those less fortunate than themselves. Some work to make the public libraries more fun to be and read in.

The talents and energies of girls from the youngest Daisy to most mature high school age scout are being channeled into the community.

These first grade Brownies in Troop 894 went shopping and purchased food for the Middleville Food Bank. The girls used money raised in thier fall fund-raiser and decided on the best way to spend it. From left, are Michelle Lenartz, Audrey Kootsier, Kaylee Akey, Ashley Kidder, Ashley Lynn, Barbie Burger, Paige Starkey and Rebecca Denney.

Eleven local students on Calvin dean's list

Eleven Middleville and Caledonia area students have been named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Calvin College.

To be named to the list, a student must achieve at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and have a minimum cumulative average of 3.3.

The students, their parents and addresses, class levels, major fields of study and high school alma maters are as follows:

• Kelly L. Nicholson, daughter of Timothy and Margaret Nicholson of Hastings, a junior majoring in accountancy and a graduate of Thornapple Kellogg High School.

• Jeffrey T. Gray, son of Jeff and Kris Gray of Alto, a senior, social sciences group major, Caledonia High School.

• Michelle L. Batts, daughter of Anthony and Florence Batts of Caledonia, a sophomore, six-planned group minor, Grand Rapids Christian High School.

• Jason E. Bouwer, son of Earl and Nancy Bouwer of Caledonia, a senior, business accountancy, Grand Rapids Christian High School.

• Melanie S. Hanson, daughter of Larry and Cheryl Hanson of Caledonia, a freshman engineering major, Caledonia High School.

• Scott A. Robertson, son of Dr. Richard and Cynthia Robertson of Caledonia, a freshman biology major, Grand Rapids Baptist High School.

• Katherine J. VanderLaan, daughter of Jane B. planned group minor, South Grand Rapids Christian High School.

• Amanda M. VanWyk, daughter of Loren and Janet VanWyk of Caledonia, a junior majoring in Spanish, South Christian High School.

• Stacey E. Hopkins, daughter of David and Judy Hopkins of Middleville, a sophomore with a six Christian High School.

• Daniel T. Kokmeyer, son of Dr. Frank and Verna Kokmeyer of Middleville, a freshman with an undecided major, Thornapple Kellogg High School.

• Tracy A. Schondelmayer, daughter of Carolyn Getty of Middleville, a sophomore business major, Thornapple Kellogg High School.

VanderLaan of Caledonia, a junior business major,

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Two area couples examples of enduring Valentines

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

In a world where barely half of all marriages last, those that have remained strong for a lifetime sometimes seem mysterious, but perhaps those who have succeeded for decades are the ones who exemplify lasting marriage, and from whom others may learn.

Keeping romance alive in a marriage that has continued through many of life's challenges is an accomplishment realized by Gerard and Ellen Lehnert, who were married 42 years ago. Fred and Donna Winters also have been married for 27 years, and are still in love.

Both couples started their marriages when quite young, and they said they were ill equipped for it then. The Lehnerts were married at age 19 six months after meeting.

"We were babes in the woods then," Ellen Lehnert said.

The Winterses were married at ages 21 and 24 after a long acquaintance, but a two-month engagement.

The Winterses believe they got married much too soon and that they didn't really know each other well enough.

But distance was a barrier to courtship. So though Donna had an English teaching contract in New York, and Fred had been teaching for one year at Kentwood public schools, where he is still employed she gave up her job and moved here.

Fred and Donna Winters.

"It was a marriage based on faith," Donna Winters said.

Fred Winters agrees. "The good Lord was looking out for us."

These couples have lived different kinds of lives, though both couples have met many life challenges. The Lehnerts raised seven children, while the Winterses faced the sadness of having none.

"It was our intention when we married to have children," Fred said, "but that was not to be.

As individuals, each of these people feel successful in life.

Donna Winters began writing and in 1984 received a contract for her first book, "Love of Roses." This was soon followed by an offer from Zondervan for two more books. She has since become a publisher and continues to write and sell her historical Christian romance novels ever since.

Ellen Lehnert says their family is their greatest accomplishment. One son and six daughters are "all great kids, with good marriages, prepared for life, and they are good parents to their children." She said "Children are a responsibility; a prime commitment. They are going to need you for 20 years."

Gerard and Ellen Lehnert

People change, no matter how compatible they were when they met. Apparently flexibility and changing together is an important trait for staying together.

"We are different in some ways, the same in others. We have changed. We grew up together, some of us a lot more than the other," Ellen Lehnert said, joking.

"Yeah, I matured a lot faster," Gerard countered.

Both couples have faced individual challenges in life, many of which would have broken other couples.

Gerard Lehnert lost parts of both of his hands in an accident two weeks after their wedding. He was a tool and die operator where he continued working for a while.

He said Ellen was very supportive, and he still appreciates it that she never considered leaving him because of the tragedy.

"A lot of women would have," he insisted.

However this loyalty was not one way. While dating, Ellen had lateral sclerosis, with paralysis on her left side. She got better, and the cause was never diagnosed, but Gerard stood by her until she recovered.

About Gerard's injury, Ellen said "I knew he would be all right. He is a fighter. Proud and stubborn."

Nevertheless, at one point, she went on strike and made him feed himself, she said, laughing.

Gerard had to do a lot of practicing to learn to do very simple everyday things. Eventually he was able to tie his daughter's shoes, which is when Ellen thought he was totally all right.

Gerald said "I knew I would be all right when I opened my first bottle of beer."

Vocational Rehabilitation Services eventually sent him to a tool and die trade school at night, paying for books, training and supplies, while he continued with a sales job to support his family. He still works at Lescoa, where he estimates and projects the cost of tools and products for years in advance.

The Lehnerts dealt with the challenges of having seven children within the space of 15 years. Gerald has survived colon cancer, and they have looked after aging parents who lived near or with them. They have survived the deaths of several close relatives.

"That's just life," Ellen said.

The Winterses also look after aging parents, both in the home and near by.

Romance was an important part of each couple's relationship.

Romance is especially important to Donna Winters, because she writes and publishes romance novels, most of which are based in a historical Michigan setting, and some right in Caledonia, where they live.

The winter's first date was at the end of Donna's summer at Interlochen and Fred's job at Sleeping Bear dunes, where they met. They went out to dinner at Fish Cove at Leland. They still think of their meeting as a romantic story, even after 27 years.

When asked what was her most romantic memory, Ellen Lehnert said, long ago when Gerard brought her flowers once for no special occasion or reason, and was even too poor to buy them.

When Gerard was asked about his most romantic memory, Ellen answered, "Don't you dare say what your most romantic memory is!"

"We always loved each other," both Ellen and Gerard said. There was never any question of that.

Offering advice from experience, Ellen Lehnert said "Marriage is hard. You have to fight for it. Keep your promises, and don't sweat the small stuff."

They both place a value on commitment. "That promise means a lot. You stick it out." Gerard said. He said staying together is showing "respect for the institution of marriage...and respect for each other's families as well as to each other."

The Lehnerts love humor, and lace their family stories with tales and jokes about each other. This includes extended family and members. The Lehnerts traveled with their children a lot. They play tricks on each other, have family get-togethers, and things like bake-off contests.

Continued next page

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From previous page

Everyone agrees "Grandpa is pizza bake-off champion."

Ellen likes to tell about Gerard sitting on a picnic table on the down side of a slope. "The table tipped over, rolled over him, and he pushed it away to avoid being hit, and then it went all the way over him and he was clear, with nothing hurt but his dignity."

She said "Those are some of our fondest memories."

Donna Winters said, "You have to keep your priorities in line."

An example of letting things interfere with her priorities was when Donna would find she was putting her writing first, or when Fred Winters would put his responsibility to his job for the schools first. Donna was employed by Lear Siegler's, who paid for her to attend classes at Aquinas. While working and going to school she had little time left over for anything else. These situations led to revising priorities.

Ellen Lehnert said people let the wrong things come first, and neglect their families, and being together, to have a career and only "stuff" to show for it. Gerard could have gone to Detroit to live to advance his career, but stayed here to raise their family in one school, church and with family around them.

The Winterses gave a kind of composite formula for good relationship. "You do have rough spots. Sometimes you have to eat humble pie. Sometimes you must give the other person space. Always treat each other with respect, even if you are angry. If you love and respect each other, you can work through the differences most people run into. You must be willing to compromise. Keeping it all in balance is a daily struggle."

Both couples believe a foundation based in religious faith is the most important factor in keeping a marriage alive.

Donna Winters said, "God must come first, your spouse second, and everything else comes after that. If other things come before God, you will run into trouble."

Fred Winters said, "We are stronger now in our faith, and see God's grace in many situations. An important part of staying together is having a spiritual foundation."

Gerard Lehnert said, "Join a church, and be active in it. It gives your family roots. We stayed here in one place for the family, so our children would know their grandparents, would participate in family times and the church community."

Ellen Lehnert spends time working with young couples in marriage classes at their church, Holy Family. She says joining a church helps keep you and your family together. They participate as a family and in the church community.

Music teachers earn praise and money

Sonnet Allen-VanPatten reads the certificate praising Lee music teacher Jim Rathbun for his inspired teaching of young students. Winning essay write Cailey Howell and Rathbun look on.

Middle School band teacher Tom Nash thanks student Tuesday Howell and Sonnet Allen-VanPatten from the Grand Rapids Musicians League for his certificate and $50 check for the music Program.

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

"Without music, the world wouldn't be nearly as fun!"

Sixth-grader Tuesday Howell closed her second place prize winning essay with these words.

Third-grader Cailey Howell wrote in her first place prize winning essay, "Music is a wonderful gift that teaches me to concentrate and work hard. I am lucky to have Mr. Rathbun as my teacher at Lee Elementary."

Both girls belong to music clubs organized by the Grand Rapids Musicians League. The 250 student members meet in clubs for students in kindergarten through fifth grade or sixth through twelfth grades. Students attend meetings held at the Kretschmer Recital Hall at Aquinas College.

Students have the opportunity to hear everything from alphorns, to harmonicas to percussion and beyond. Participants in the clubs are primarily piano students.

The adult portion of the Musicians League runs an "Apples for Teachers" program. In the past, this program has donated instruments to music programs throughout Grand Rapids.

This year, an essay contest for the junior members was held. Students wrote essays telling why music was important to their studies and why their music teacher was the best.

Winning essayists received a $25 gift certificate to Malecki Music and their school music program received a check for $100. Second place essayists won a $15 gift certificate from Malecki's and a check for $50 for their school's music programs.

The Grand Rapids Musicians League is a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Tom Nash and Jim Rathbun both said they were pleased and surprised that their students think so highly of them. Sonnet Allen-VanPatten from the Grand Rapids Musicians League thanked both teachers for their hard work, good musicianship and inspiration of students.

Cailey wrote in her essay, "Music is also important because it is expressive and magical... You can relax and imagine you are a unicorn riding away to a magical island."

Allen VanPatten praised Rathbun for teaching musical hand signs to the third grade students. "I teach music at Cornerstone College and some of my students have never learned anything about hand signs."

Tuesday enjoys her band classes. "Mr. Nash sure knows how to make band fun. He is helpful to students who have troubles with their instruments.

See music, page 13

In Loving Memory of
Jeffrey Scott Velthouse
Feb. 13, 1974 - Dec. 24, 1989

How could we know that evening
That God would call your name
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.
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Nor could we say "Goodbye",
You were gone before we knew it,
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Caledonia band members approaching busy season

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Several band and orchestra events coming up soon offer the public many chances to enjoy musical performances starting from Tuesday, Feb. 16, through March.

The Mid-Winter Concert will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 16 by Caledonia Orchestra students, in which grades four through 12 will perform at the Performing Arts Center (note different time than previous concerts.)

The CHS Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will participate in the annual MSBOA District 10 Band and Orchestra Festival Friday, March 12, to be held this year here in Caledonia.

"This is the first year we have had two separate bands rehearsing during the school day. It's given us a tremendous opportunity to spend more time with every student," said Thomas Peck, high school band director. "We're looking forward to what the adjudicators have to share with us."

The CHS bands will serve as host for the biannual District 10 Honors Band in the Performing Arts Center on Thursday, March 18. The rehearsal will last the entire day, and culminate in a performance by more than 100 of West Michigan's finest high school band students.

Orchestra Students with Division I and II ratings at the MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival Jan. 30. (top left) Laura Casey, Nathan Dannison, Iain Stephenson, Amanda Overholt, Kim Schmidtke, and Julie Van Kalker.

On Thursday, March 25, at 7:17 p.m. in the PAC, the annual POPS concert will be held for the enjoyment of the entire family. Motivational speakers, music videos, skits, POPS music, jazz, swing, Fedora's percussion features, loads of laughs and more are promised. And it's all free.

Some of the Caledonia band and orchestra students who attended the Michigan Schools Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Solo and Ensemble Festival Jan. 30 in Kentwood are eligible to perform at the State Solo/Ensemble Festival Saturday, March 27, at Western Michigan University.

Band Students who came away with nine Division I ratings at the Solo and Ensemble Festival Jan. 30

Band students who came away with nine Division I ratings for the band last month were:

Percussion Ensemble — James Longman, Eric Jones, Paul Spica, Scott Brown, Chris Lafoy, Kyle Wellfare, Jake Finkbeiner, Marc Palma, Adam Bailey and Mark Zeeff.

Marimba solos — Molly Cryderman, Marc Palma and Jake Finkbeiner.

Snare Drum Solos — Mark Zeeff and Eric Jones.

Horn Duet - Ryan Slot and Molly Cryderman.

Trumpet Solo - Lois Gerke and Jordy Vandebunte.

Saxophone Quartet — Chad Radaz, Kristie Borr, James Stephenson and Jean Licari.

Flute Solo — Jenni Lillie, Heidi Williams and Kathryn Mahawilli.

Woodwind Ensemble — Lucas Gless and Adam Boot.

Piano Solo —David Cole.

The new CHS Jazz Combo made its debut Jan. 29. The combo is an offshoot of the Jazz Band. Offering attention to students in smaller ensembles has been an important ingredient in the band experience for all students this year, Peck said.

Peck said the high school band room has been treated with acoustical sound barriers, making the room safer and much more productive for every student.

Caledonia Orchestra Division I ratings given for the violin soloists by students who attended the (MSBOA) Solo and Ensemble Festival Jan. 30 were:

Violin Solo — Julie VanKalker.

Violin Solo — Laura Casey.

Violin Solo — Kim Schmidtke.

Violin Solo — Nathan Dannison.

Violin Solo — Iain Stephenson.

A Cello Solo by Amanda Overholt received a Division II rating.

Middleville man on Kettering dean's list

Ryan Tasma, son of James and Sandra Tasma of Middleville, has been named to the dean's list at Kettering University for the term ending in December, 1998.

The list includes students who attained a grade point average of 92 (out of 100) with no course grade below 85.

Marking its 80th anniversary this year, Kettering University is one of the nation's pre-eminent cooperative education institutions and offers academic programs in engineering, applied science, and management. Its 2,500 students alternate between campus studies and work experiences with the about 700 employers who participate in the co-op program.

Eight area students on CMU honors list

Eight area students were named to the fall semester honors list at Central Michigan University.

To make the list, a student must earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

The students and class levels, grouped by their hometowns, are as follows:

• Freeport — Senior Amber L. Holcomb.

• Middleville — Junior Brett A. Bremer and senior Sarah L. Wisniewski.

• Alto — Freshman Lillian R. Hawkins.

• Caledonia — Freshman Kami L. Pentecost, sophomores Michele M. Capio and Kristi L. Schmidt and senior Derika N. Jousma.

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Caledonia Women's Club legacy lives on

Caledonia Women's Club members lined up in the front row at the Senior Girls Tea last June.

Senior girls and their mothers were honored at the Senior Tea, sponsored by the Caledonia Women's Club.

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

One of the enduring organizations that is part of Caledonia history is the Caledonia Women's Club, which formed in 1916 under the name, "Equal Franchise and Educational Club," with the major goals of obtaining the vote for women and for education.

The group continues to build on a rich tradition of altruism and public service, and it continues to leave its mark on the community.

The information for this article came from three members, Pat Cavner, Ann Laug and Gerry Fairbrother, and from many old documents and records the group owns collectively.

The club started with four women, with Mrs. Fred Swain as the first president. In those days, women seldom used their first names, and believed the marital title was a mark of proper dignity and respect. This custom was followed at least until the 1950s.

By 1917, the group had nearly 30 members and actively campaigned for the right to vote. As a club, members put up signs around Caledonia, but by the very next day they had all been taken down.

According to early written accounts, these women were not to be easily discouraged, and they went on strike at home, refusing to cook meals or do any housework "or else," and got their husbands to agree not only to the signs, but to vote in favor of woman suffrage.

Because no women could vote for their right to do so, enlisting male sympathizers was absolutely necessary to pass the 19th amendment, which finally was approved Aug. 26, 1920.

After that, the club changed its name to the Caledonia Womans Educational Club. The membership rose to around 40 and because they met in their own homes, they cut off the number who could join, and kept a waiting list of those who wanted to join.

The club met twice a month. Proper attire at these meetings included a hat, gloves and furs. They were the "Who's Who of Caledonia."

Because education was revered, teachers were honored annually with a dinner. Meetings were changed to Saturdays for teachers' convenience, but teachers still used Saturday for shopping.

In 1923, the Federation of Women's Clubs of Michigan was formed, and the Caledonia club joined. The federation included garden clubs, reading and library clubs, and others. Political motives underlay the federation, with an effort to use their numbers to influence issues they supported. Prohibition was one such issue.

A later cause influenced by the federation was the white line on the edge of the road, and the helmet laws on Michigan's books.

The connection between women's clubs and libraries in Michigan was widespread. Ninety-five percent of libraries in Michigan were started by such clubs as the one in Caledonia.

In the late twenties, the club became known as the Caledonia Women's Club.

In 1928, the club's chosen name for Caledonia Lakeside Park was assigned by the Board of County Park Commission.

One of the main projects considered by the group was always a public library. In 1932, through the efforts of the Women's Club, a public library was brought to Caledonia, as recorded in a history of the Caledonia Library by Russ Wendt. At first, Emma Swain held books in a shelf in her home, known as the Emma B. Swain Bookshelf.

The first library was located in the lumber yard showroom, later the front part of a barbershop, which was converted from a spot which had earlier been filled by crates of chickens. Books were donated by Caledonia villagers and the Women's Club purchased 50 at a time. Book rentals paid for more books.

For years a memorial book was given to the library when a member died.

The club bought tables and chairs for the library, selecting only the finest furnishings for the time, from Holland.

Between 1935 and 1945, the library was moved to a

See Women's Club, pg. 11

IN THE SERVICE

Adam Erway

Adam Erway, a 1998 graduate of Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville, enlisted in the Marine Corps' active duty (infantry) Jan. 28 at the recruiting substation in Lansing.

He enlisted for four years and is scheduled to report to recruit training on Feb. 23 in San Diego, Calif. He is expected to graduate sometime in May.

Erway is the son of Richard Erway of Middleville and Joann Erway of Middleville.

Erik S. Lake

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Erik S. Lake, son of Harold B. Lake of Alto, recently reported for duty with Naval Forces Marianas, Guam.

Lake's rotation to a new duty station exemplifies the worldwide assignability of Marines and Sailors. This flexibility allows our naval forces to protect U.S. national interests around the world while providing a visible deterrence for regional conflicts.

The 1994 graduate of Thornapple Kellogg High School joined the Navy in January 1995.

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Caledonia Planning Commission makes recommendation

Developer allowed to create parcels at greater depth

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

The Caledonia Township Planning Commission Feb. 1 approved a recommendation to allow developer Fred Riebel to create parcels of land with a depth greater than the ordinance generally specifies, on a parcel of about 75 acres on 108th Street.

Juergen Nitzsche and Barry Slinkman presented the land use request. The plan included a division into 16 lots along a main artery through the high ground of the parcel. The lots were to range from more than two acres to around nine or ten.

Lots normally are supposed to have a depth of no more than three times the width of the parcel at the front setback line. The purpose is to avoid the creation of "bowling alley" lots, and to prevent building homes at too great a distance from the front of a lot.

When the topography prevents the conformity to those lot proportions, the Planning Commission may opt to approve lots longer than the norm. This was the reason for the recommendation.

An area along one side of the property drops at an angle of about 30 degrees. Building in that area was not being considered. The parallel lots would have views along the bluff overlooking the receding countryside, at the backs of the one- and two-story homes, and would not allow structures built there. Homes would fall within the desired distance from the setback specified by the ordinance.

The developer did not want to put the dropped area into a conservation easement or common area, though Commissioner Deb Steketee pointed out the sustained economic value of developments with common areas in conservation easements.

Riebel said the topography would naturally encourage its use as a natural area with wildlife, although the area is not forested, but was recently used as an alfalfa field. The smallest lot was designated for a common area with a tennis court suggested as its use. Divisions were made to conform to the land division act, requiring frontage of 200 feet at the setback line.

Neighbor Mark Freeman took exception to the statement that all lots met the 200-foot frontage requirement, even at the setback. He said lot No. 7 was 184 feet, and lot No. 3, nearly rectangular, was 170 feet at the front and 165 feet at the back.

"How can there be 200 feet across, anywhere on that lot?" he asked.

A house presently on one of these lots will be removed, and a new structure built.

Ed VanderVries, now acting as zoning administrator, said the development had been reviewed. He said exceptions are allowed where the topography interferes with normal lot proportions, and that these dimensions will comply.

Another problem forseen by Freeman was that his house was in the direct path of the road into the development. Cars exiting from the neighborhood at night would aim headlights directly at the back of his house for the most of their egress. The private road, built on flat land would have no houses or trees or hills to buffer the light hitting his home.

A township ordinance does specify that development should not cause a nuisance to neighbors, but these standards are easier to impose on a planned unit development (PUD) than in a development created under the land division act.

Developer Riebel said he would be happy to plant a buffer of pine trees at the edge of his property to screen the neighbor. Barb Freeman mentioned there was a low area near that part of the road, where there was a drainage ditch and where water sometimes flows over the proposed road area. She said she was afraid the wet area would interfere with the planting of the trees there. Other agencies have jurisdiction over those issues, however.

Mark Freeman wanted to know what meeting he should come to for assistance if these proposed solutions did not correct the problems, but no answer was forthcoming. No condition was placed on approval of the request, because it had only to do with lot proportions.

The developer twice expressed a desire to work with the Freemans and to "be a good neighbor."

Septic systems had already been approved by the Health Department.

The private road driveway had been approved by the Road Commission, but the private drive was yet to be checked by the fire department, and must meet township stipulations for private drives.

In another matter, the Planning Commission recommended approval of a land split requested by Calvin Kooiker on 68th Street, already in effect by Township Board action. The request came after the split and the home was lived in, retroactively to bring the split into compliance with land division requirements.

Apparently many land divisions in progress when the law changed went through without sellers being aware of the change. This lot had been split into two by the previous owner, and one lot sold to Kooiker. A house was moved onto the lot and Kettle Lake sewer units purchased, assigned and hooked up without the appropriate paper work. It met all the land division requirements.

The new owner was asked to provide surveys, applications and approval from the health department to be in compliance. The property came to the attention of officials because the lot was in a plat. The township does not want to penalize the buyer for what the seller did in error, or with a land contract, or before the law was changed.

The county has no rule to prevent land divisions or to earmark the township rulings that apply to these situations.

Steketee said a system or check list was needed to make sure that all steps were followed and requirements met.

Commission Chairman Roger Keating said the Feb. 15 meeting would include a half hour presentation by various local administrators who are in charge of township sewer facilities and utilities projects. This is part of the information gathering process for the new general development plan.

The first stages for getting people involved in the process will begin that night. Keating asked the commissioners to come with pictures, sketches and ideas of industrial, residential, commercial and park areas, with each of their visions for the township plan to ultimately be reflected on a land use map. Each should have a vision of what they would like the community to become.

Determining what types of backgrounds for people in the private sector would be representative of the public interest may be discussed. Eventually, Township Supervisor Bill Johnston will appoint individuals to work on a citizens' advisory committee that will work with the Planning Commission on the new plan.

Nextel Communications, scheduled to come with a request to allow a Nextel communications tower near Patterson and 68th Street did not appear at this meeting, as expected. Nextel is a wireless communications provider, a nationwide company with an FCC licence. Installing a tower requires a special use permit.

Nextel spokesperson Mike Schmidt was to come with the company engineer to answer questions about the tower, and other options Schmidt ruled out. The matter had been tabled twice in previous meetings. Originally Nextel requested a 185-foot tower, but later revised the request downward to 154 feet. The tower would not require lighting.

The commissioners were concerned about the proliferation of such towers over the landscape. A few years ago, a similar Cellunet tower was put up near Whitneyville and 68th Street, which will carry three other services on its tower. Another tower exists near the northern end of Duncan Lake.

Commissioners had hoped such services as Nextel could use existing towers such as the Cellunet tower near Whitneyville Avenue to avoid erecting more towers.

Time management seminar is scheduled for February 27

The Redeemer Covenant women's group is bringing radio personality and organizer Judy Warmington to the Caledonia area for a one-day seminar on time management for women, titled "For the Time of Your Life."

Warmington, whose program "Woman time Management" can be heard weekdays on WWJQ, 1260 AM, and on WCSG, 91.3 FM, will be speaking at Redeemer Covenant Church on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Warmington, who is often accused of being "born organized," will share her secrets of success, among them the art of planning and prioritizing. Using a down-to-earth approach with humor and candor, she offers realistic solutions for "cleanies" and "messies" alike.

Judy Warmington

During the all-day seminar at Redeemer Covenant, women will learn how to "eat an elephant" (one bite at a time!), how to "de-junk" their lives, and how to get out from under "stress mess."

To register for this event, call Peggy Sattler at 878-9913 before Monday, Feb. 22. Tickets are $12 per person, and include the full seminar, plus a lunch. Various time management resources will be available for purchase during and after the seminar.

Redeemer Covenant Church is located on Hanna Lake Avenue in Dutton, just south of 68th Street. Call (616) 698-8001 for more details.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Thornapple Kellogg School Lunch Menu
Wednesday, Feb. 10

Macaroni and cheese, peas, wh. wh. bread, pineapple.

Thursday, Feb. 11

Sweetheart chick. nuggets, mashed potatoes, wh. wh. bread, carrots, rasp. sherbet.

Friday, Feb. 12

1/2 day.

Monday, Feb. 15

Inservice day.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

Cornstack, chips/chili, lettuce, soft pretzel, pears.

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. Lowfat chocolate and white milk available with each meal.

Thornapple Kellogg Breakfast Menu
Wednesday, Feb. 10

Scrambled egg with ham, toast, jelly, juice, milk.

Thursday, Feb. 11

French toast sticks, syrup, juice, milk.

Friday, Feb. 12

Breakfast pocket, juice, milk.

Monday, Feb. 15

Inservice Day.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

Bagel with cream cheese and jelly, 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.

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Middleville home business request prompts public hearing

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Anna Crofoot of 316 W. Main St. in Middleville attended the Feb. 2 Middleville Planning Commission meeting to request permission to establish a home business selling cement ornaments from her home.

Crofoot had sold these ornaments from a commercial location on M-37 this past summer, but increasing disability has caused her to ask for the home business status.

Members of the commission said they were concerned if the definition of home business would match Crofoot's business since she sells the ornaments but does not make them in her home.

Commissioner Gary Warner assured Crofoot that they wanted to be fair to her but that the commission members have a responsibility to do their best for the entire community.

Due to the complex issues and wanting neighbors to be able to comment on this issue, the commission tabled Crofoot's request. They have scheduled a public hearing for the March 2 Planning Commission meeting, which will begin at 7 p.m.

David Dykstra has requested that four lots be removed from the design for the Bryanwood II project. At this time the four lots cannot be served by sewer. Dykstra will return with a plan for these lots at a later date.

The commission approved the changes and sent the request on to the Village Council for action.

Dykstra also presented a plan to expand the office area of the Dan Valley Excavating building. Once Dykstra agreed to change the plan to meet side setback requirements, the commission approved his request.

In other business, members of the Planning Commission welcomed Bryan Gruesbeck, the new assistant planner. All the commissioners are looking forward to working with and learning from him.

House fire causes $20,000 in damage

A fire at 216 Dayton Thursday evening in Middleville caused an estimated $20,000 in damage.

According to Thornapple Township Emergency Services Chief Robert Woodard, the fire started in a second floor attic. The cause is still under investigation. The fire was contained to the attic, but there was smoke damage throughout the home.

No one in the Jaworski home was injured during the fire, which was reported at 7:19 p.m. last Thursday.

Women's Club, from page 9

room above the Earl Stanton's Insurance Agency. In the late forties, the librarian was paid $1 per day and later the library was moved to a downtown location. There were several different librarians over the years.

In the 1940s the Women's Club organized annual book sales to raise money for their educational projects, at first on the library, and during the war, funds to the Red Cross. Later they contributed to a Korean War project. The club also has held geranium and poinsettia sales since the forties.

The club started giving scholarships to girls in 1948. They were awarded at the Senior Girls Tea, another Caledonia tradition. The scholarships were around $150 in the sixties, and went up to a $500 amount now. If enough money could be raised, more than one scholarship was given.

In the late seventies, the Caledonia club was given the state "Business for Beauty" award, given by the Federation of Women's Clubs for their efforts to improve the downtown street area, and the remodeling of store fronts.

On May 21, 1974, a three-acre parcel that had been part of the township dump south of the high school was donated to the schools, and the women's club was involved.

The state gave a grant to the project, and Department of Natural Resources officials came for the opening presentation. The property was to be a conservation project for use by the schools. Plantings of identified trees and shrubs were made. A flagpole and trash cans were painted.

The schools were to use the area as an outdoor classroom for biology, science, math and other subjects.

The Federation of Women's Clubs offer many benefits for belonging to the Federation, such as grants for projects up to $1,500.

Next week, members will attend "Legislation Day" with other women's club members, to be given presentations by legislators on public issues important to women.

One federation project is Girls Town, at Bellville MI, called Loch Rio, near the Detroit area. About 14 girls with various physical, emotional or mental problems are placed in the facility for limited periods and moved gradually to transitional placements, and several support staff people are part of the effort. There is 24-hour supervision by social workers, a psychiatrist and a community liaison.

Recent involvements of the local members include the Adopt-A-Highway project, and the club maintains a section on Hammond between 68th and 76th streets.

The Caledonia club also is involved with the Santa Claus Girls, who wrap gifts purchased with donated money for 2,300 families and 9,000 children at Christmas time. Gifts include wearables, mittens and hats, candy, toys and books for each child. Club women volunteer to wrap. Likewise, there are other groups, such as men's clubs that deliver the gifts.

There are various purposes for the club in the present, including social meetings. The group still helps support the library, and still gives scholarships to senior high school girls. There are grants available to members who want to take classes and go to seminars. They also bring speakers in for information on various topics.

Laug took her interest to stem illiteracy to a personal level, volunteering to help children at Kettle Lake in a reading program.

Women interested in joining the Caledonia Women's Club may call Fairbrother at 891-8880.

Newest additions at the TK Library

Fiction

Dark Justice by William Bernhardt; American Icon by Pat Booth; Sweet Anger by Sandra Brown; Angels Flight by Michael Connelly; The Desert Crop by Catherine Cookson; Southern Cross by Patricia Cornwell; Incendiary Designs by Michael Dymmoch; Rivan Codex by David Eddings; Krondor the Betrayal by Raymond Feist; People of the Mask by Kathleen O'Neal Gear; In Danger's Path by W.E.B. Griffin; Par Four by Elizabeth Gunn; Triple Play by Elizabeth Gunn; Misery Loves Maggody by Joan Hess; Four Corners of Night by Craig Holden; Breach of Duty by J.A. Jance; The Prodigal Spy by Joseph Kanon; Billy Straight by Jonathan Kellerman; Seize the Night by Dean Koontz; Mara and Dann by Doris Lessing; Where the Heart is by Billie Letts; The Big Bad City by Ed McBain; Black Horses for the King by Anne McCaffrey; Amsterdam by Ian McEwan; Duane's Depressed by Larry McMurtry; Night Whispers by Judith McNaught; Other Worlds by Barbara Michaels; Celebration by Fern Michaels; Basilica by William Montallbano; Wild Crafters by Skye Kathleen Moody; Body in the Bookcase by Katherine Page; Cloud Nine by Luanne Rice; All I Desire by Rosemary Rogers; The Law of War by William Shatner; Easy Money by Jenny Siler.

Non-Fiction

The Victors: Eisenhower and His Boys by Stephen Ambrose; American Women in Science: 1950 to Present by Martha Bailey; Pie and Pastry Bible by Rose Beranbaum; Best American Short Stories 1998; The Seekers by Daniel Boorstin; The American Heritage History of the United States by Douglas Brinkley; The Greatest Generation by Tom Brokaw; Complete Guide to Environmental Careers; Australia by Eyewitness Travel Guides; Coaching Wrestling Successfully by Dan Gabe; New Zealand Handbook by Jane King; World Boom Ahead by Knight Kiplinger; Maslow on Management by Abraham Maslow; Kiplinger's Practical Guide to Your Money by Ted Miller; Painting Glass by Moira Neal and Lynda Howarth; Nike is a Goddess: The History of Women in Sports; The Power of Simplicity by Jack Trout; Wildflowers; Ancient Rome: An Introductory History by Paul Zoch.

Children

Cam Jansen and the Catnapping Mystery by David Adler; Adventures of Wishbone No. 15: A Pup in King Arthur's Court by Joanne Barkan; Things That Are Most in the World by Judy Barrett; Will You Take Care of Me? by Margaret Bridges; How to be a Friend by Laurie Krasny brown; DW's Lost Blankie by Marc Brown; The Long Ride by Bonnie Bryant; Seeing Things My Way by Alden Carter; Second Stringer by Thomas Dygard; Kingfisher First Animal Encyclopedia by John Farndon; Bandit's Moon by Sid Fleischman; Jump Ball by Mel Glenn; Show and Tell by Stephanie Greene; Creepy Riddles by Katy Hall; Just Juice by Karen Hesse; A Koala is Not a Bear! by Bobbie Kalman; One Last Wish by Lurleen McDaniel; Beezy at Bat by Megan McDonald; Pooh's 1 2 3; Jigsaw Jones No. 3: The Case of the Secret Valentine by James Preller; Wishbone Mysteries No. 12: Forgotten Heroes by Anthony Steele; Private Lily by Sally Warner.

Books on Tape

Four to Score by Janet Evanovich; The Hammer of Eden by Ken Follett; Swimming to Catalina by Stuart Woods.

Videos

Madeline.

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46 area students take part in FFA districts

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

FFA District Leadership Contests were held last Thursday at Caledonia High School, where 39 high school and seven middle school members participated.

Many Caledonia members gave outstanding performances and several students qualified for regional leadership contests to be held at Cedar Springs High School Thursday, Feb. 18.

Jill Zinger won a gold award for the Prepared Public Speaking contest with her speech on transgenics.

Both Caledonia Parliamentary Procedure teams qualified for regionals. The team, chaired by Jason Workman, included Archie Warner, Lisa Kaechele, Mat Ayriss, James Sheely, Andy Schupp and Mike Klapmust. They took first place with a gold award. Jake Gerst's team with Megan Nickerson, Becky Haywood, Erin Mulder, Ryan Haywood, Eric Yonker, and Kelly Wagner took second place with a gold award.

The Caledonia Agricultural Forum team took first with a gold award discussing "Farmland Preservation and Property Rights" for the district contest. Maygan Post is chair of the team, which also includes Justin Workman, Tony Governal, Marcie Crandall, Kelly Goodwin and Brian Anderson.

The Greenhand Conduct of Meetings team took first place with a gold award. The team consists of President Star Haldaman, Sarah Ayriss, Bobbi Meyer, Tyler Gamlin, Seth Temple, Amanda Trutsch and Jake Klapmust.

Dan VanKalker and Brooke Wierenga took first place for their demonstration on pole barn construction to win a gold award.

The Caledonia Middle School team took first place and a gold award in the Junior High Conduct of Meetings contest. The team includes President Jenny Workman, Taylor Smith, Alex Buchanan, Jordan Sheely, Katie Meyer, Pamela Martin and Kaylin Barnes.

Competing, but not qualifying for regional competition, was Betty Meyer, who spoke on "Agricultural Education and FFA" for which she took third with a gold award.

The Demonstration team of Carrie Baxter and Jenny Martin received a silver award for their presentation on "Houseplant Care." Both Jan Hunt and Joe Risdon received silver awards in the Job Interview contest.

Jameson Langkamp, Megan VanZalen, Mike Tomasek, Grace Boylan and Jorge Bourzac served as timekeepers for the contests.

Other schools and FFA chapters participating were from Lowell, Lakewood, Ionia and Saranac.

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Caledonia man dies in truck accident

Brian J. McGavin, aged 27, of Caledonia was killed instantly in Grand Rapids Monday, Feb. 1, in a freeway accident on a ramp connecting west bound I-96 with southbound U.S.-131.

Lieutenant Tom Hundt of the State Police post in Rockford, said McGiavin and the female driver had both been drinking, and were not wearing seat belts at the time of the accident, which occurred at about 12:30 a.m. Her truck failed to negotiate the ramp's curve and left the road, hitting an embankment edging the ramp and causing both to be thrown from the small Chevy S-10 pickup. The driver was from Grand Rapids.

Hundt said his impression was that both people might have survived had they been wearing their seat belts.

McGavin is survived by his parents Tim and Jan McGiavin of Caledonia, his sister and brother-in law Janelle and Lloyd Bailey of Middleville, his grandmothers, Mrs. Ellen McGavin, and Mrs. Orpha Cooper, both of Grand Rapids, several uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Funeral services at the Caledonia Funeral Home and interment at Lakeside Cemetery were held Thursday of last week.

Obituaries

Brian J. Mc Gavin

Brian J. Mc Gavin, age 27, passed away of accidental injuries Monday, February 1, 1999.

Brian is survived by his parents, Tim & Jan Mc Gavin of Caledonia; sister & brother-in-law, Janelle & Lloyd Bailey of Middleville; grandmothers, Mrs. Ellen Mc Gavin and Mrs. Orpha Cooper both of Grand Rapids; several aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

Funeral Services for Brian were held Thursday, February 4, 1999 at the Caledonia Funeral Home.

Interment was in Lakeside Cemetery.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to a charity of one's choice.

Neva R. Smelker

HASTINGS - Mrs. Neva R. Smelker, age 83, of Hastings and formerly of Freeport, passed away Wednesday, February 3, 1999 at Borgess Medical Center.

Mrs. Smelker was born on December 9, 1915 in Barry County, the daughter of Forrest and Mae (Ware) Price.

She was raised and attended schools in Barry County.

She was married to Keith L. (Pete) Smelker on January 3, 1934.

Neva was a homemaker, loved cooking, hand sewing, reading poetry, she enjoyed her flowers, and gardening. She was a caring, loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother (her grandchildren were the love of her life) always doing kind deeds for her family and friends.

She was a member of Farm Bureau, life member of the Hastings O.E.S. Chapter No. 7.

Mrs. Smelker was preceded in death by her husband, Keith L. (Pete) Smelker; grandson, Thomas Allen; one sister, and three brothers.

Neva is survived by her son, Howard D. Smelker of Boca Raton, Florida; three daughters, Shirley (George) Miner of Sturgis, Linda (James) Allen of Lake Odessa, Brenda (Donald) Williams of Richland; ten grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren; one sister, Helen (Paul) Burkey of Hastings; two brothers, Kenneth (Marian) Price of Alto, Beryl (Jeanette) Price of Middleville; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services for Mrs. Smelker were held Saturday, February 6, 1999 at the Beeler Funeral Chapel, Middleville. Reverend Michael Funderburg officiated.

Interment took place in Freeport Cemetery, Freeport.

Memorial contributions may be made to Barry Community Hospice or a charity of your choice.

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1-800-870-7085

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1009 West Green Street
Hastings, MI 49058
(616) 948-3112 or FAX (616) 945-4130

Pennock Healthcare Services

Fund-raiser planned

Fun Services rep-resentative Tim Vollink demonstrates two of the prizes available for students who sell items in the Middle School PTO fund-raiser. Forms are available in the Middle School office or are available by calling Jan Stora at 1-616-792-6868.

Caledonia TOPS #0546 news

The group's Feb. 2 meeting opened with the TOPS Pledge.

The thought of the week was three great essential of happiness: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.

Awards night, open house and election of officers was discussed. The program was on combination foods, from the "Choice Is Yours."

Rita won the 50-50 drawing. An open house is planned for Tuesday, Feb. 23.

Members closed with "The More We Get Together."

Caledonia TOPS meets every Tuesday evening at Caledonia United Methodist Church, 250 Caledonia. Weigh-in is from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. For information, call Dorothy at 795-3700, or Rita at 795-3685.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA PLANNING COMMISSION

Roger Keating, Chairman

MEETING NOTICE

A Regular Workshop Meeting of the Charter Township of Caledonia Planning Commission will be held beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 15, 1999 at the Caledonia Village Township Office Building, 250 Maple Street in Caledonia, Michigan.

Note: Individuals with disabilities may request auxiliary aids and services for the meeting by contacting the Township Clerk at (616) 891-0070.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
2. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA
3. CONSIDERATION OF THE FEBRUARY 1,1999 MINUTES
4. INQUIRY OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
5. PUBLIC COMMENT *(BRIEF)*
6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
   A. Presentation from Utility Committee Representatives and Discussion
   B. Consideration of "Amendments on Accessory Buildings in R-R, R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts"
7. NEW BUSINESS
   A. Workshop Regarding Revisions to the General Development Plan
   B. Other
8. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS
9. COMMISSION COMMENTS
10. PUBLIC COMMENT *(EXTENDED)*
11. ADJOURN

FROM OUR READERS

Local Citizens Speak Out on Issues

School board has taken our building, our name

To the editor:

Recently, the Middleville-Thornapple Kellogg School Board unanimously approved a recommendation from their Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee to effectively eliminate "Middleville" when referring to our school system.

The recommendation mandates that Superintendent Jay Cason address all staff in writing with the proclamation effective Feb. 1, 1999. In addition, the board nixed a local committee's venture to preserve a small piece of nostalgia and save the existing middle school.

Ironically, both of these decisions, have eroded a small piece of who we are and where we come from.

As a proud graduate of Middleville-Thornapple Kellogg School (and Henry J. Dugan High School) and until recently a lifelong resident of Middleville, I am appalled, almost slighted, that my hometown now no longer is referenced in our public schools.

My profession as a dental supply provider allows me to travel all over the west side of the state. In my dealings with clients, our conversation often is directed at local sports teams. I speak with pride of my alma mater and their recent success on the soccer fields, football field, hard courts, links, and wrestling mats. Almost to a client, I am obliged to clarify the whereabouts of T.K. with the important descriptor: Middleville.

It seems that our local board's decision may have been done hastily. I am surprised that such an important decision was rendered without properly sampling the public. A survey, possibly a public forum, or even a steering committee would have provided a better representation of the feeling of the public.

Incidentally, a strategic planning committee in fact exists. Why this issue was not forwarded to that group is perplexing.

If the school board is concerned with an "identity crisis," maybe the solution rests with a name change. What would it take to rename our school district "Middleville Public Schools" or "Middleville Area Schools?" The affiliation with the Kellogg Foundation has long expired.

Short of circulating petitions and lining up support, how can we assert our "Middleville Pride." They may take our building, but they cannot take our name?

Art A. Anderson,
Middleville Alumnus

Let's let council know opinions on police idea

To the editor:

Three cheers to the Village Council of Middleville for considering the residents and taxpayers of our community. They are exploring other alternatives to police protection.

For years, a great number of our residents have questioned not only the need of a local police department, but also the growing size. We have had many controversies concerning our police department.

Now, it seems, we can have the same coverage for less money. Even the DARE program in our schools would be kept intact.

In this day of rising costs and taxes, I think it is very important to explore all alternatives. How can our community possibly go wrong in giving it a try? If it doesn't work out, we could always go back to what we have now.

I would also like to applaud the council for contemplating a public hearing to have a voice. I realize that there are supporters and non-supporters of the issue and that's why it is very important for everyone to attend the public hearing.

Let your voice be heard. It will also give insight to the community as to how each and every one of our council members views the issue.

So please everyone, let's let our council members know how we feel, good or bad.

Nikki Miller,
Middleville

Cheers for the 'Bucket Brigade'

To the editor:

Not only is TK's varsity basketball team fun to watch... so are their fans.

An energetic dance team and a jazz band that has no equal in the area are both great entertainment, as well.

But last Friday night, as the Trojans clung to a slight lead over Calvin Christian, the team's sixth, seventh, and eighth players scooted onto the floor, turned the crowd upside down, and the game around.

At the end of the third quarter Mark Neason, Kyle Preslar, and Ben Profit exploded onto the court – with their buckets and drumsticks. In less than two minutes the had the entire crowd whipped into a wild, uplifting frenzy that infected all and ignited the team to a seemingly lost level of play.

As the referee shooed the "drummers" off the floor, the basketball team returned... with a totally re-energized attitude. TK smothered Calvin in the opening moments of the fourth period and were able to cruise to a 10-point victory.

The creativity of that trio and their awesome routine had slammed the door shut on any hopes that the opposition may have had about winning that game.

I salute the "Bucket Brigade." These guys were an incredible addition to another fun Friday night at TK High.

Mike Bremer,
Middleville

Music, continued from page 7

Tuesday also wrote, "We have learned to work together... Performing in front of an audience is also a skill that will help us throughout our lives."

Tuesday also imagines that in the future she "might be the band director making jokes with my students."

Principals Sharon Kalee and Jeff Kulhanek thanked the Grand Rapids Musicians League for helping encourage music in the schools.

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EdwardJones speaker, Mark D. Christensen, Investment Representative, is familiar with the retirement plans of many local companies. He specializes in retirement planning and IRA Rollovers. EdwardJones focuses on helping individuals build financial security and progress toward their investment goals.

Seating is limited, so call now!
(616) 945-3246, our on 24 hour reservation line

Trojans take down No. 2 basketball Broncos

Not to be denied.

Call it an upset if you may, but Middleville's 78-74 overtime win over Coopersville Friday was more about a healthy basketball team persevering and proving that it can play with the very best.

The host Broncos entered the game 13-0 and ranked No. 2 in Class B.

In the first meeting between the O-K Blue basketball teams Dec. 18, the Broncos ran away with an easy 64-40 road victory.

This time it was the Trojans' turn, and they certainly didn't miss a beat.

"They were really focused," Middleville Coach Kurt Holzhueter said about his team's performance. "They refused to let Coopersville go out on any long run."

The action was running at a fast pace to start. The host Broncos held a 23-15 advantage after one quarter... "too many points" according the Holzhueter's evaluation of his team's defense.

In the second quarter, however, the Trojans' defense tightened up and helped to trim the deficit to just five points, 39-34, at half.

With Dan Finkbeiner igniting Middleville's offense in the third quarter, the black and orange were not only able to erase the deficit, but take a 51-47 lead into the final eight minutes of regulation. Finkbeiner scored 8 of his team-high 20 points during the third quarter.

The play was nip and tuck down the stretch with Middleville squandering two chances to win the game at the end of regulation. Coopersville outscored Middleville 19-15 in the fourth quarter to send the game into overtime, 59-59.

Andrew Hillman drilled the first basket in overtime and Middleville never trailed after that.

Hillman and Finkbeiner eventually would foul out of the game, but the Trojans were not to be denied and players such as Zac Truer and Steve Shear picked up the slack.

"It was a neat atmosphere," Holzhueter said of his team's thrilling triumph.. "We brought a spectator bus down to the game and the guys piled on at half court after the game. It was pretty exciting."

The score book was quite balanced for Middleville. Besides Finkbeiner's 20 points, Ben Lucas tallied 16, Hillman 15, Ken VanRyn 8 and Garrett Weatherhead 8.

As a team, the Trojans hit 30-of-49 from the field for a sparkling 62 percent. Middleville also did a nice job of holding onto the ball, committing just 14 turnovers, much less than the first time the two teams battled.

Van Ryn's two free throws with six seconds left gave the Trojans' the final winning margin, 78-74. The Trojans made good on 6-of-8 attempts from the charity stripe in the extra session.

Hillman and Lucas both pulled down 6 rebounds, but Coopersville still held a 37-31 edge on the glass.

VanRyn's efforts created more than just points, as the dynamic guard also dished out 8 assists and made 5 steals.

Stingy defense was probably the difference in the outcome. Holzhueter used Drew Chamberlin, Finkbeiner and Weatherhead to guard Coopersville's star T.J. Meerman. The scheme worked, as Meerman tallied just 11 points and only one field goal.

The victory puts Middleville at 10-3 overall and 7-2 in the O-K Blue, just one game behind Coopersville in the league standings. The Trojans host Hamilton tonight (Tuesday, Feb. 9) and travel to Rogers Friday (Feb. 12).

Dodge, Beckett tops on the hill at Cannonsburg

The Veterans Memorial High School Championship was held at the Cannonsburg Ski Resort Feb. 4.

Caledonia's Matt Dodge placed second in the senior division and second overall with a combined time of 47.70, just three-fourths of a second out of first place.

The boys division included 135 racers.

Scots' sophomore Rebecca Beckett took home first-place honors in the sophomore division with a combined time of 1:06.34. Beckett placed seventh overall, 1.87 seconds out of first place.

The girls division had 78 participants.

The fourth league meet also was held last week. Caledonia's boys sixth overall with 207 points. The girls ended up eighth with 152 points.

East Grand Rapids, the host teams, finished first in the boys, while the girls from Forest Hills Central were the meet champions.

Dodge was third in the slalom (19.81) and seventh in the giant slalom (23.27).

Kyle Oatley was 26th in the slalom (23.01) and 32nd in the giant slalom (25.55).

Rebecca Beckett was 17th in the giant slalom (27.67) and 35th in the slalom (39.37).

Lauren Ondersma placed 23rd in the slalom (29.51) and 28th in the giant slalom (30.16).

Caledonia Athletic Boosters get-away weekend is Feb. 27

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

The Caledonia Athletic Boosters are looking forward to their major fund-raiser of the year, a get-away weekend Feb. 27 at a Holiday Inn in Montpelier, Ohio, climaxed by a $15,000 reverse raffle, in which $10,000 will go to one lucky grand prize winner.

Also given away will be $5,000 in additional cash prizes. Three hundred tickets for these high stakes prizes may be purchased for $100 apiece.

It is possible to come for the night, on Saturday or for the whole weekend, to take part in whichever way time allows.

For hotel reservation information, call 1-800-851-8300. Buffet tickets are $35. To purchase a raffle ticket or more information, call Bob Jackson at 891-8427 or Jayne and Clare Sherwood at 868-6596.

The Athletic Boosters' main goal is to enhance the tools and facilities the coaches and school need to teach and prepare young athletes. The second goal is to promote school and community spirit.

Over the past two years the Boosters have contributed more than $24,000 directly to the school. These dollars have purchased the soccer field lighting system, one half of the wrestling mats, uniforms and warm-ups, a pitching machine, volleyball net system for tournaments, ski gates, plus middle school donations.

The boosters also played a key role in guiding the recent allocation of millage funds for all athletic facilities.

One activity the boosters are seen doing is managing concession stands at school events. The group also publishes seasonal sports programs for calendar listings, with team pictures, and advertising connected with the sports events throughout the year.

The Boosters are led by Dave Allen, president; Bob Jackson, vice president; Dick Gless, treasurer, and Bob Hardin, secretary.

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Scots stun Huskies in Gold hoop thriller

Nick Jenema (44) goes inside for two of his game-high 28 points during the Scots' hoop win over the Huskies.

Caledonia's Joe Lillie (12) drives in for a fast break layup during first half action last Friday against Forest Hills Northern.

Scots' Dave Schadler (32) lets a jumper fly over a Huskies' defender in O-K Gold varsity hoop action at Caledonia High School.

It was a game to build on, as Caledonia's varsity cagers sprung a thrilling 51-50 upset on O-K Gold rival Forest Hills Northern last Friday at Caledonia High School.

Valentines Day may not come 'til Saturday, but Coach Kevin Wolma's Scots' used heart as a weapon to meet their means versus the Huskies.

"They showed more heart and emotion," Wolma said of his team's inspired play. "It's a lot of fun to win a game like this one."

Caledonia (4-9 overall and 4-5 in the O-K Gold) scored its finest win of the season versus Forest Hills Northern in a contest that included 28 points from junior center Nick Jenema.

Jenema's turnaround hoop with seven seconds remaining in the fourth quarter gave the Scots their game-winning points.

"He stepped up and wanted it," Wolma said. "The thing is Nick is a warrior out there; nothing is going to get him down."

The Scots trailed by eight points, 38-30, entering the fourth quarter, but Jenema hit 14 of the team's 21 during the final eight minutes to help get the job done. Jenema finished with 12 field goals and made good on 4-of-4 attempts from the charity stripe.

A Matt Born three-pointer put Caledonia to within five points, 38-33, with 7:42 left and a Joe Lillie defensive gem that led to two free throws by Born kept the Huskies' advantage at five, 42-37, with 5:34 remaining.

Jenema tallied an easy two inside the paint at 4:45 to make it a 42-39 contest and a Lillie rebound, that ended with a Jenema put back, brought the Scots to within one point, 42-41, at the 4:08 mark.

Lillie scored 4 points, but also made three defensive gems that led to Caledonia hoops down the stretch.

"He (Lillie) gives us so much energy," Wolma said of Lillie's contributions. "He gives you everything; that's why I love him so much."

Dan Bloemers scored, off a Shane Mendez steal, to keep the Scots within shooting range, 48-45, with 1:45 to go and Jenema's turnaround at 1:10 made it a one-point contest, 48-47.

After two free throws by Jenema with 31 seconds left, 50-49, FHN had a chance to extend its lead out

See hoop thriller, pg. 19

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Athletes of the Week

Todd Maines
Caledonia High School

Maines, described as a team oriented athlete by Scots' mat coach Jim Maxim, went undefeated and won a weight class championship at the Jan. 30 Caledonia Invitational and posted a pin in 1:10 Feb. 4 versus Kenowa Hills.

Hillary Stone
Thornapple-Kellogg High School (Middleville)

The left-handed middle hitter collected 6 kills in a match with Rogers Feb. 4 to up her team leading total to 76. Stone also was instrumental in helping the Lady Trojans make it into post pool play at the Jan. 30 Delton Invite.

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This is is Caledonia Athletic Boosters primary fund-raiser. come for the day, come for the night, or come for the weekend. For hotel reservation information, call 1-800-851-8300. To purchase your ticket, or for more information, call Bob Jackson at 891-8427, or Jayne and Clare Sherwood at 868-6596.

Lady Scots, Trojans score wins at Delton Invitational

Both area varsity volleyball teams took part in the Jan. 30 Delton Invitational and collected some nice victories with solid efforts.

Caledonia and Middleville competed in the area spiking event that featured a few of the most talented volleyball teams in the area.

Caledonia competed in the White pool at the Delton Invitational and split with Hamilton 6-15, 16-14 and Vicksburg 11-15, 15-8. The Scot spikers lost to Kalamazoo Christian 15-10, 15-4 and to the host Panthers 10-15, 15-8, 11-15 in the tournament's quarterfinals.

Middleville beat Bellevue 15-4, 15-5 and split with Delton Kellogg 8-15, 15-8. The Lady Trojans also lost to Potterville, 15-6, 15-13.

Kalamazoo Christian won over Delton Kellogg 15-9, 15-6 in the semifinals and beat Hamilton 15-8, 15-11 in the championship match to earn first-place honors.

Hamilton earned its spot in the finals with a 15-11, 15-7 semifinal triumph over Potterville.

In its O-K Blue match versus Wyoming Rogers Feb. 4 Coach Cindy Middlebush's Middleville team dropped a 15-10, 8-15, 8-15 decision.

Hillary Stone led the Lady Trojans with 6 kills versus Rogers to up her season total to a team-leading 76. The left-handed middle hitter also got some help from Payshence Erb, who contributed with some powerful kills.

Caledonia plays at Forest Hills Northern Thursday in O-K Gold action, while Middleville will host O-K Blue foe Spring Lake.

Erica Carter looks to put the volleyball on the other side of the court during volleyball action at the Delton Invitational.

Middleville's Shayna Neason attempts to put the ball past the opponent's front row block with teammates Payshence Erb and Amanda Bowyer backing her up on the play.

Caledonia's Nicole VanderMolen goes up high to make this kill attempt in varsity volleyball action last week at Delton Kellogg High School.

JV Scot cagers fall twice

Caledonia's junior varsity basketball team absorbed two losses last week, losing to Cedar Springs 84-59 and Forest Hills Northern 56-44.

Cedar overwhelmed the Scots with 10 three-point shots and never trailed. Kyle Kleersnyder led Caledonia in scoring with 14 points and Jerome Gardner added 10. Kleersnyder also grabbed 6 rebounds, while Josh Swartz added 5.

In the Forest Hills Northern contest, Dan Kietzman tallied 11 points, Kleersnyder 7 and Mark Breen also added 7. Ben Busman Busman scored 6, while Kleersnyder was tops on the boards with 5 caroms.

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Two area residents join Barry County CASA board

Janet Clancy of Hastings has been hired to coordinate the work of local CASA volunteers and a myriad of other duties. As executive director, she also has the challenge to guide Barry and Eaton counties into a new joint CASA venture.

Nancy Goodin and Dan Parker, both of Middleville, are serving on the CASA Board. Both are enthusiastic about getting information about this essential service out to the greater Middleville community.

In Spanish, the word *casa* means home. In English, *CASA* is the acronym for the Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer program. And that's related to homes, too.

CASA volunteers believe that kids have a right to a safe home with loving people who care for them. That's why they are willing to spend some of their spare time representing the best interests of abused and neglected children who land in court because they have been victimized by their families.

In the CASA program, screened and trained volunteers independently review, research and monitor children's cases and are considered the "eyes and ears" of the court and a "voice" for the child. Based on their findings, CASA volunteers recommend to the judge what's best for a child's future – adoption or to be reunited with parents.

Barry County has had its own CASA program since 1991, but CASA is new to Eaton. The name of the new non-profit joint program is Barry/Eaton CASA For Kids, Inc.

"I'm honored to have been chosen for this position," Clancy said in Judge Richard Shaw's courtroom, after taking an oath to be an official officer of the court.

"I'm just excited about the CASA program...I have a wonderful, supportive board. They are very enthusiastic," Clancy said. I have support from Pat (Wagner) at the state level. To be able to bring this into Eaton County, I think, is going to be very exciting and then to maintain and improve what we have here in Barry."

Family Court Judge Shaw said Clancy brings a lot of enthusiasm and experience from working as a family support worker in the Barry-Eaton Healthy Families program where she was part of the original staff.

Goodin recently attended a three-day "Training the Trainers training." There are currently four CASA volunteers to serve Barry County and training will be held soon to bolster the program with new recruits.

Clancy will be trained as a trainer by Patricia Wagner, Barry's first CASA executive director, who also had a key role in forming the local program with Ron Decker, Barry-Eaton Family Independence Agency (FIA) director; Family Court Judge Richard Shaw and Don Rewa of FIA.

Wagner now oversees the operations of CASA programs all over the state and is in charge of program development for the Michigan Association of CASAs.

Technically, Wagner is employed by Children's Charter of the Court of Michigan. When she started working on the state level there were six active CASA programs and now there are 13 and another 12 in the development stage.

State Rep. Terry Geiger and his staff are helping set up a work committee to draft CASA legislation, Wagner said. If the legislation is passed, it would primarily "standardize the quality of CASA programs across the state."

Training, operations, support network and volunteer qualifications would be standardized to create quality CASA programs, she said.

Solid foundations for programs are necessary to ensure that children continue to have a voice in court, Wagner added.

"Right now in Michigan, there are probably 10,000 children in (foster) care (or living with relatives) because of abuse and neglect...Somebody's got to look out for the kids," she said.

That's exactly the reason Judge Shaw recognized the need for a local CASA program.

After Shaw had been on the bench just a few years, he was handling a case in another county and heard a couple of CASA volunteers testify.

"...I was quite intrigued," Shaw told the gathering at Clancy's swearing-in ceremony, because many times caseworkers have such large case loads that they don't have time to really know each child on a personal level.

Middleville residents Dan Parker and Nancy Goodin welcome the opportunity to serve on the board with new CASA Director Janet Clancy. (From left) Darlene Niethamer, recent interim director of the Barry County CASA program; Patricia Wagner, state program manager for the Michigan Association of CASAs; Clancy, Family Court Judge Richard Shaw, Parker and Goodin.

After Wagner agreed to help start the local program, Shaw said, "I could see an immediate effect in terms of the attitudes of kids in court. I felt that I could sleep a lot better...knowing that someone was checking on the children, talking to them, holding the key for everybody...which is really what CASAs do."

CASA volunteers work in partnership with a child's attorney and assigned caseworker to ensure that all services are being provided for the child and the family. Volunteers assist in making sure the child's educational needs are being met.

The volunteers also let the children know that they are an advocate, a friend in the system and help the kids understanding the procedures. While developing and maintaining a relationship with a child, the volunteers also learn about a child's needs and feelings.

"The CASA takes time to find out as much as possible about the child from relatives, neighbors, teachers, and friends and provides objective information to the Family Court Judge," according to an informational brochure about the program.

A CASA volunteer is an independent appointee of the court and does not replace a social worker.

"I think our program is unique here in that we are associated with the Family Independence Agency," Shaw said, "and we do that for the reason we don't really have the resources to really screen people. It makes sense that we link ourselves with FIA, even though some CASAs are totally independent of FIA and some even independent of court."

The cooperation with the Barry-Eaton FIA has been fantastic, CASA leaders say, and all have a goal "not to let any child fall through the cracks of the system," Shaw said.

The FIA facility in Barry County donates office space for the local CASA program, too.

Combing efforts with Eaton County evolved after lengthy consideration, Shaw said. The joint program allows enough resources to pay an attractive salary and benefits "to have a good job to offer a director...That's why we combined.

"There has been a lot of work done by a lot of people to get this combined program under way," he said.

"...It's a happy day, it's been a long time in coming...I want to thank Pat (Wagner) for getting this new (CASA) position created and the board set up."

He recognized local interim CASA director Darlene Niethamer "for filling in very capably...You did a great job...You kept the troops fired up." Shaw also said Niethamer sometimes accepted extra cases during the transition period.

Wagner also praised Niethamer for "strong leadership during the last year."

Niethamer said she appreciates the work that goes into the CASA program, and she's excited about the children who are going to benefit because of the expanded program. Clancy has a heart for children, she noted.

Other Barry-Eaton CASA board members are Caroline Dimmers, Clare Tripp, Don Rewa, Jim Fuller, Sue Hoffman, Denise Clarke, Mary Durham, Sherry Arends and Nancy Moore.

For more information about the local CASA For Kids program, call Janet Clancy at (616) 948-3213.

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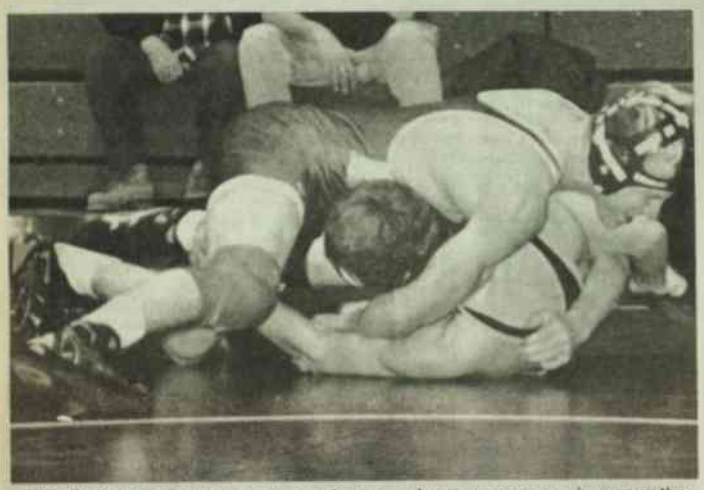
Scot wrestlers show heart in recent matches

Todd Maines makes sure that this Kenowa mat opponent cannot get up in Thursday's dual at Caledonia High School.



Nick Draft was one of the fortunate Scot wrestlers to manage a pin versus the Knights.

Scot mat man Pete VanderVeen, at 215, pins a Knight during an O-K Gold dual last Thursday at Caledonia.

Caledonia's Rory Root win at 112 gave Caledonia's wrestling squad an early 10-0 advantage on Kenowa Hills.

Wrestler Todd Maines went undefeated and won a weight class championship for the host Scots at the Jan. 30 Caledonia Invitational.

The Fighting Scots' team finished fifth with 48 points.

Portland, Shelby and Godwin also were teams at the tournament.

Coach Jim Maxim's Caledonia matmen were back in league action last Thursday, dropping a 46-33 decision to Kenowa Hills.

Michael Tomanek was a winner on a void at 103.

Rory Root made it 10-0 Caledonia with a 19-7 major decision at 112.

Maines didn't take very much time in disposing of his Knight opponent, registering a pin at 135 in 1:10.

"Maines gets fired up," Maxim said. "He's only about 60 percent (healthwise). He's fired up a quality beyoud a kid to a coach."

Josh Baltrusaitis won 15-0 at 145 to make it 22-21 Kenowa.

Nick Draft gave the Fighting Scots a 27-22 lead with a pin at 152 that took 2:45.

Pete VanderVeen also scored a victory at 215 on a fall that took 2:50.

The matchup versus the Knights served as "Parents Night" and showed the heart of Maxim's Fighting Scots.

"They (Kenowa) have a quality team with the kids that they have back in their lineup," Maxim said. "They beat us heads down, (but) our kids gave it their heart."

The quality of O-K Gold wrestling this year makes it even more difficult for Maxim's Scots, who have suffered through numerous injuries during the course of the season.

Stegeman scoring points for Dutch

Senior forward Pat Stegeman has contributed greatly to Hope College's mens basketball season.

Stegeman, a 6-1 graduate of Caledonia High School, is averaging 11.8 points and 4.9 rebounds for the Flying Dutchmen who entered their basketball week at 8-10 and 4-4 in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Stegeman scored 13 points in an 86-82 loss to Defiance Jan. 27 and also tallied 18 markers Jan. 30 in an 80-65 triumph over Olivet. Stegeman's season high for points was a 21-point effort, just one short of his career high of 22.

On the boards, Stegeman had a season best of 14 caroms versus Cornerstone, 11 of which came on the defensive glass.

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Trojans trounce Wolverines in OK Blue hoop action

Middleville out-scored Godwin Heights 27-9 in the second quarter and pulled out an 83-58 O-K Blue basketball victory last Tuesday at Thornapple Kellogg High School.

The Trojans trailed 13-10 late in the first quarter and went into the second stanza down 13-12.

The 27-9 run, though, put the Trojans well in command, 39-22, as tough defense was a big bonus. Middleville had 22 field goal opportunities in the second quarter compared to Godwin's 4.

Middleville led 63-37 after three quarters as four Trojans tallied double figures.

Ben Lucas had a season-high 17 points and made good on 7-of-10 attempts from the charity stripe. Lucas also was a big asset on the boards as was Zac Truer.

Andrew Hillman, Ken VanRyn and Dan Finkbeiner each scored 7 points. VanRyn also did a nice job delivering the rock, dishing out 8 assists to go along with his 5 steals.

Thirteen Trojans in all tallied points in the rout, a game that the Wolverines were pressed into 30 turnovers, 22 in the first half.

Middleville's point total was its highest of the year. The Trojans made good on 35-of-62 from the field for a solid percentage of 56.

Ken VanRyn (30), shown here in a recent varsity basketball game at TK, was a major contributor in the victory last week over Godwin Heights. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

Hoop thriller, from page 15

with a couple of free throw attempts. The attempts, however, were unsuccessful, setting up Jenema's big game-winning shot.

The Huskies darted out to a 17-9 lead after one quarter and were up by two points, 25-23, at the break. Jenema scored 10 of his 28 in the first half with some solid inside moves.

Trailing by just one point early in the third quarter, 25-24, Caledonia watched FHN make a 6-0 run to extend the lead out to seven points, 31-24. The Huskies' power underneath was taking over at that point, but Jenema then would make all the right moves to help the Scots' pull off the upset.

"This is the biggest win this program has had in five to six years," Wolma said. "This is Forest Hills Northern, a quality opponent."

The first time the two teams met Dec. 15 the host Huskies shot past the Scots 73-49. This time Wolma's team did not waste any of its opportunities.

"They stepped up and made the shots when they needed to," Wolma said. "We've reached a new level tonight; we rose to another level."

Caledonia hopes to continue its success tonight (Tuesday, Feb. 9) when they travel to Belding. The purple and gold return home Friday (Feb. 12) to entertain O-K Gold rival Sparta.

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