The Sun and News

Your Hometown Newspaper Serving Middleville and Caledonia Areas

No. 48/November 30, 1999 | Middleville, Michigan 49333 | 127th year

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Once again, the crowd gave its team a real lift with their colorful costumes and entertaining cheers last Wednesday at the basketball regional final held at Wayland Union High School. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

Lady Trojans move to state quarterfinals

WAYLAND — During its impressive tournament run, the Middleville's girls basketball team has not shied away from battling the best.

And beating the best.

Coach Marcy Uyl's Lady Trojans won their fifth game of the Class B tournament and netted their 24th consecutive win with a 45-35 regional championship triumph last Wednesday (Nov. 24) over Lansing Catholic Central at Wayland Union High School.

"We were looking for good teams to test ourselves against and that is paying off," Uyl said.

The style of ball may change from game to game, but the final result has been all Lady Trojan victories.

"That's the way they have played all season," Uyl said of her team's determined effort. "We have just gone with what has been going good for us. Sometimes it's frustrating and I felt like we were a little down tonight."

The Lady Trojans captured a regional championship with wins over East Grand Rapids and Lansing Catholic Central. The team includes (front row) Katie Schultz (14), Erin Palmer (42), Payshence Erb (12), Sara Williams (21), Jessica Crowley (33); (back row) Lyndsey VanAman (32), Ashley Carter (10), Stephanie Bell (20), Andrea Bouma (24), Erin Robertson (34), Leslie Crowley (31), Sarah Schut (5), Jill Williams (44) and head coach Marcy Uyl. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

After opening up the year with a tough loss to undefeated East Kentwood, Middleville (24-1) has been on a serious roll, using its tough defense as a means of making it to the round of eight. The black and orange face Flint Powers tonight (Tuesday, Nov. 30) in the State quarterfinals. The game will be at Lansing Eastern High School.

LCC (17-8) scored the first basket of the fourth quarter last Wednesday, to trim Middleville's lead to five points (31-26) with 7:10 to play.

But, the Lady Trojans were relentless in their attack and tallied 14 points before the frame concluded, eight of those markers coming from the free throw line.

Middleville led 12-6 after the first quarter and 20-16 at the half. In the third quarter its lead was expanded even more as the team scored 11 points and held LCC to 8.

"Obviously, we got the job done in the third quarter," Uyl said.

Freshman Leslie Crowley led the Lady Trojans with 20 points, scoring at least four points in every quarter. The 6-2 freshman, who was recently named first team All-State, also pulled down 10 rebounds and blocked two Lady Cougar shots.

"As good as she is on the floor, she's probably a better person," Uyl said of her star freshman. "We have talked all year about her stepping up."

And she did in a big way.

Sarah Schut added 11 points and Payshence Erb 9, for the winning team.

Jenny Green was tops in LCC scorebook with 8 points.

From the field, Middleville made 15 of 37 shots for 40 percent and LCC hit 16 of 50 attempts for 32 percent. The Lady Trojans benefited greatly from the free throw line hitting 12-of-17. LCC, in comparison, made good on its only two attempts.

See Lady Trojans, pg. 10

Chad Curtis honored as citizen of Middleville

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Baseball player and former resident Chad Curtis was named an honorary citizen of Middleville during a council meeting Tuesday evening, Nov. 23.

Village President Lon Myers presented Curtis with a key to the village and a resolution that praised Curtis for his accomplishments both on and off the baseball diamond.

Also in the realm of sports, members of the Thornapple Kellogg girls' cross country team, which won the state championship Nov. 7, will be invited to a Middleville Village Council meeting. Curtis, the Trojan girls and coach Tammy Benjamin all will be part of the parade.

In another matter, Dave Kenyon asked for approval of the snowmobile route through the village. There are only a few changes in the route.

There was a discussion of the best way to control speed on Green Lake Road between the new middle school and the intersection at Green, Main and Bender.

Village Manager Bryan Gruesbeck told council that Brad Lamberg, engineer-manager with the Barry County Road Commission, suggested conditional speed limits that would be posted for a limited time at the start and end of the school day.

School Superintendent Jay Cason told Gruesbeck that he will send a letter to the Road Commission requesting these conditional speed limits.

The transfer of police services document is being adjusted still, and once all the details are agreed to, it should not take long to complete the transfer.

Earthtech reported that nickel levels from Bradford White are within acceptable limits.

The next scheduled meeting of the Middleville Village Council is Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

Mike Bremer (left) of Bradfc ts Chad Curtis with a Bradford White cap and a race car bearing the Bra go.

In This Issue...

- Holiday fun set for Freeport and Middleville Saturday
- Caledonia village applies for $300,000 face lift grant
- World Series star Chad Curtis happy to be home
- Local girl confesses to two bomb threats

Holiday fun set in Freeport and Middleville Saturday

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Crafts, cookies, greens, angels books and off course a jolly old elf will fill the Middleville and Freeport with seasonal fun this weekend.

Lorna Baker will be host for her second holiday craft fair in the Middleville VFW Hall on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

Shoppers will find craft and gift items and even a flea market Christmas table. Lunch items also will be available.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, book bargain shoppers can start at 7 a.m. in the Freeport Community Hall. Coffee and the bargains will be hot. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Freeport Library, Freeport Historical Society and the Freeport Boosters.

Book shoppers can continue their search for bargain best sellers beginning at 10 a.m at the Thornapple Kellogg School and Community Library sale in the front lobby of the high school. This book sale ends at 3 p.m. Librarian Deb Jones invites book lovers to stop in before or after the parade.

But what if a cookie craving hits you? The Middleville United Methodist church has the answer with their annual cookie walk beginning at 10 a.m.

There is also a greens sale and once the cookies and pine boughs are gone, the sale is over. All suggestions say go early for the best selection.

At noon the Village Players will present their annual holiday presentation "If Angels were Mortals." Admission is just one non-perishable food item. Food items will be donated to the Food Pantry.

At 1 p.m., the parade will make its way down Main Street to the Methodist Church. Highlights of this year's parade include Chad Curtis, the state champion Thornapple Kellogg girls' cross country team and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

Santa will meet with good little girls and boys following the parade.

The parade is sponsored by the Middleville Lions Club. Parade organizer Bill Kenyon invites local organizations to join the fun. Lineup is at 12:30 in the parking lot at McFall.

Call Kenyon for details at 795-3669. Kenyon reminds participants that they can hand out candy to bystanders, but not throw it.

There is still time after the parade to visit the book sale in the high school lobby or shop for just the right gift or get a Christmas tree.

The presentation "If Angels were Mortals" by the Village Players at the Middleville United Methodist Church is one of the highlights of Saturday. Admission is just one non-perishable food item. Pictured (from left in the front row)- are Sheryl Morton-Smith, director Suzanne McIntyre and Judy Moore, (center row) Patty Higley, Rhonda Fisk, Mary Fairchild and Darlene Schellinger, (back row) are Dick Reyff, Mike Bremer, Julie Coon, Helen Wingerier and Jackie Willson.

Improv exercises added to Super Saturdays program

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

If there is enough interest and volunteer coaches, the Instant Pudding Improv challenge from Destination Imagination will be added to the "Super Saturday" lineup.

"Super Saturdays," a series of programs for Thornapple Kellogg students in grades 4 through 8, will begin Saturday, Dec. 11.

Parents and students interested in joining this team competition should attend an information session at 9:30 a.m. at the library. Teams also will have an opportunity to meet after the Super Saturday presentation.

Students can participate in the Instant Pudding Improv teams without attending any of the other Super Saturday programs. A copy of the Instant Pudding Improv challenge is available at the library.

Students are invited to come be a "Knight for a Day" on Dec. 11, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in a progam with James Cross, who portrays a knight from medieval times. Students will be able to try on armor as well.

On Jan. 8, storyteller Jennifer Strauss Ivinskas will help students learn to tell their own stories or tall tales.

On Jan. 22 students will enjoy a magic show, with magician Johnny Jay, and learn three magic tricks.

Other programs will include a visit from Grand Rapids Symphony percussionist Bill Vits and McFall's own scuba diving expert, Bill Rich.

The series of programs is underwritten by the Thornapple Kellogg School District and sponsored by the Thornapple Kellogg School and Community Library.

These interactive learning programs are geared to helping children to expand knowledge, discover and have fun.

All programs begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Thornapple Kellogg School and community library. Registration is required by calling the library at 795-5434.

One-Room Schools tour is Saturday

The Gaines Township Historical Society will sponsor a One-Room Schools Christmas Tour of Gaines Schools Saturday, Dec. 4, between 1 and 4 p.m.

The public can tour Gannon (1883) at the corner of 100th Street and Kalamazoo, Dodge (1890) at the corner of 84th Street ad Kalamazoo, and Detray at the corner of 100th Street and East Paris.

Gannon and Dodge are private residences and recently have been remodeled by Kathy VanderStel and Andy Wyngarten, respectively. Detray is being renovated by the society to preserve the one-room school legacy. The schools will be decorated in Christmas splendor.

Free refreshments will be served at Detray, so start the tour at Gannon or Doge, finish at Detray to have some fun.

Tickets for the tour are available at the door of each school, $3 per person, children under 10 free. Also, the society is selling raffle tickets for a Christmas quilt done by the members of the society and having a bake sale at Detray. For more information, call 891-9141.

Gingerbread session set at Caledonia Library

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

A tasty program featuring gingerbread stories and songs is scheduled at the Caledonia Library for Thursday, Dec. 2.

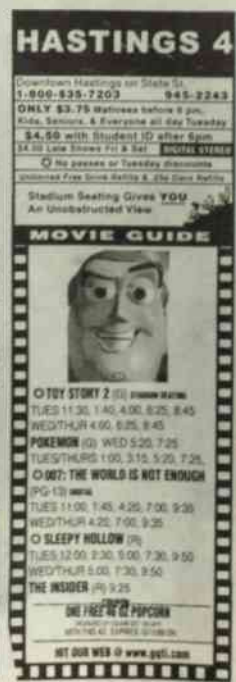
A gingerbread craft will be made during the session, which will be held at 3:45 p.m. Registration is required to prepare ahead for the craft activity. Children over age 3 may take part, but may need a parent to help.

"Glorious Gingerbread," a simple graham cracker cottage will be made. Games such as "The Gingerbread Cookie Toss," and "Outfoxing the Gingerbread Boy," may be played.

Jan Brett's new book, *The Gingerbread Baby*, the retelling of the Gingerbread Boy story will be read.

For more information about the program or to register for Glorious Gingerbread, call the library at 891-1502.

Call 945-9554 to place your ACTION-ad!



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Van pool database to help commuters detour S-curve

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Grand Rapids Area Transit Authority (GRATA) is coming up with some creative solutions for people who regularly come to Grand Rapids and who will be deterred when U.S.-131 is closed down to complete the work on the "S" curve.

These services will include Caledonia residents who work in Grand Rapids, and according to a survey of license plates, GRATA has concluded there are a substantial number who work downtown.

For those who regularly work downtown, Express Bus and subscription service from any "Park and Ride" lots may be available. This service is paid for in two ways. One is paid by the employer who gains significant benefits or deductions. The other is paid for by the employee with pre-tax dollars. The first $65 per month paid by the employee in this way will be completely exempt from federal income and payroll taxes and generally state and local taxes as well, resulting up to $15 per month in tax savings.

Subscription service may also be available in other areas of town as well, and it would be worthwhile to ask.

South Express buses from Park and Ride lots on 54th Street/U.S.-131 and at 28th Street (Studio 28) will run every few minutes during peak hours. They will get passengers downtown faster, traveling in the high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lane on Century Avenue designed for multi-passenger and emergency vehicles.

The MichiVan ride sharing or van pooling program for people commuting to work also will be implemented. People regularly traveling into Grand Rapids to work may enroll to either provide or receive rides. Participants will be matched with co-workers or anyone in the database, according to preference.

The MichiVan Program is administered by VSPI Inc., a nation-wide professional ride sharing management firm, and sponsored by the Michigan Department of Transportation. The program may be handled through the employer, or by a group of commuters.

A ride share application is the way to get started. MaryAnn Ferris said GRATA is having a huge response for ride share since it was clear the S curve on U.S.-131 was going to be closed.

See S-curve detour, pg. 19

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Evening Praise ..... 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY ..... Family Night 6:30 p.m.
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2 miles east of M-37
Pastor, Dr. Brian F. Harrison

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

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Sunday School for All Ages ..... 10:45 a.m.
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www.lakesidecommunity.org (under construction)

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Church Office Fax 281-7686

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Sunday Mass ..... 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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Pioneer Club
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Prayer Meeting - Wednesday ..... 6:30 p.m.
Youth Fellowship - Sunday ..... 7:00 p.m.
RAY TOWNSEND, Pastor
891-9028
e-mail: leighton@iserv.net

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3/4 mile west of Patterson Rd.
(northwest of Gun Lake)
Sunday Morning Mass: 9:30 a.m.
792-2889

Good Shephard Lutheran Church
908 W. Main Street
(Missouri Synod)
Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School ..... 11:00a.m.
Adult Bible Class ..... 11:00 a.m.
Rev. E. Anthony Sikora
Church: (616) 795-2391

MIDDLEVILLE CHRISTIAN REFORMED
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Sunday School ..... 11:15 a.m.
Evening Worship Service ..... 6:00 p.m.
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8:30 a.m. ..... Worship Service
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Morning Worship...11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship...6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting...7:00 p.m.
Rev. Royle Ballard, Pastor
Phone 868-6437

UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES
Middleville – Parmelee
Parmelee Morning Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.
Middleville Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.
Middleville Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Lee Zuckman
Church Office Phone – 795-9266

CALEDONIA UNITED METHODIST
Worship Service ..... 10:30 a.m.
Jr. Church (Licensed Nursery & Child Care)
Rev. Norman Kohns – 616-891-8167
Youth Minister: Randy Powell
250 Vine Street
Church Office: 616-891-8669
Fax: 891-8648

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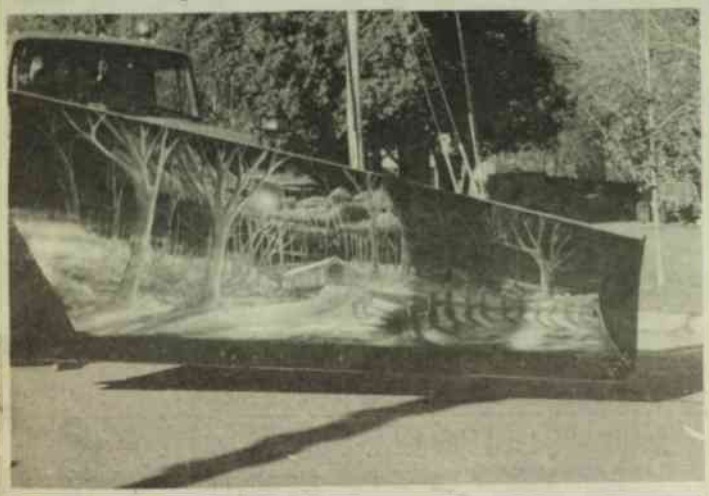
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Midweek Prayer & Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.
Rev. Thomas Sluys
Rev. Karl Bashor, Assoc. Pastor/Youth Ministries

Caledonia Christmas Parade will be Dec. 11

Last year Santa rode in a carriage behind big draft horses in Caledonia. The reindeer and elves got to ride too.

Santa talks to small children after the parade. Usually Christmas candy is passed out by American Legion volunteers.



Some special decorations have shown up in the past, like this detailed painting on the village snow plow, last year.

A Caledonia holiday tradition of joy and celebration includes the annual Christmas Parade which will be held at 11 a.m. Dec. 11.

Several local groups and organizations usually take part every year, which takes advance notice to get ready. Organizer Bill Neil would like people to remember the date of the parade and make time to plan for those spectacular floats they have always dreamed about creating.

A balloon Santa seems to show up on different years under the sponsorship of various businesses, and Santa even manages to make time in his busy schedule to ride through the streets of Caledonia every year.

Farm teams of horses and wagons, and individuals who own company trucks or antique cars are planning to join in. What is not known are what creative floats may yet delight and dazzle adults and children alike in this year's parade.

Neil says many people show up to surprise everyone at the last minute, and no doubt there will be some of those this year too.

This is a great opportunity for businesses to be visible in a new and different way. There is no cost to enter the event. The float can be as elaborate as the sponsor chooses.

The American Legion will offer a breakfast at the Post Hall on Cherry Valley, before the parade to warm the tummies of participants and parade watchers alike. Proceeds will be used to help the needy.

Parade participants will gather at the Community Education Building at the end of Main Street at 10 a.m. The parade will pass down Main Street, and circle around and end back to the place of beginning.

For information and to help Neil know what to plan for, call him at 891-9748.

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We know that there is no place like home, however, when you can no longer stay at home safely, the next best choice is EMERALD MEADOWS

Heritage Day at Kettle Lake blends old, new entertainment

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

The annual Heritage Day at Kettle Lake Elementary Nov.17 this year included activities that were old standbys, and others that were a little different, though all emphasized historical and early American traditions.

Parents were invited in an effort to give families a chance to do things together at this school wide morning and lunch event.

Some activities that have become a tradition are candle making, a horse and wagon ride, and crafts. Garth Butler, a Native American gave a presentation and brought a large exhibit of native objects and artifacts. Parents, grandparents and children also enjoyed dancing together in a group activity led by square dance callers Dick and Joyce Rees.

Butler, whose native name is "Gekek," which means hawk, is of Chippewa descent, comes from the Muskegon River area. He appeared dressed in clothing that would have been worn in the 1700s, including a felt beaver hat, which illustrated Europeans made felt with the fur of the beaver and explained the trade in beaver pelts.

Michigan's Native Americans adopted the white man's clothing rapidly after it was introduced. In the meantime, many people also dressed in blankets over the skin and fur clothing they did wear.

Before that, people had a hard time keeping covered in their clothing of skins and furs. Preparing the skins was labor intensive, and usually was done by the women. They did not weave material from fibers.

Butler said one of the Chippewa native values was to do for the village first. Children were taught to address their elders as uncle, aunt, grandmother and so forth. Another value was to give gifts, but native etiquette required that the one receiving a gift would give something

Continued next page

Garth Butler brought a storehouse of animal hides for children to identify. Here he holds up a skunk pelt.

After Butler's presentation, students came to look at the large number of native objects Butler brought, and answered individual questions.

Wagon rides behind horses is a regular activity at the annual Heritage Day Celebration.

Joyce Rees encouraged people practicing dance formations, while Principal Jeff Worman looks on.

Redeemer Covenant Church invites you to the 1999 Christmas "Festival of Light," featuring the musical—

A CHRISTMAS INVITATION – *Come as you are!*

December 3 and 4 - 7:00 pm
December 5 - 6:00 pm

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Wheelchair accessible, nursery provided.
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Caledonia Michigan

Women's club plans holiday meeting Dec. 8

The General Federation of Women's Clubs-Gun Lake Area will meet at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, at Bay Pointe Restaurant, Marsh Road, Gun Lake.

Anyone interested in attending should call this month's hostesses, Marilyn Page, 795-7817 or Linda Molitor, 878-0165 for information.

The holiday program will be the "Singing Mothers" and the Thornapple-Kellogg High School Honors Choir. Other activities will be a silent auction, with proceeds going to Operation Smile and the secret pal holiday gift exchange. Members also are reminded to bring hats and mittens for elementary children, donations for Christmas food baskets, and cards for veterans.

There will be a holiday party for residents at the Laurels of Sandy Creek Nursing Home in Wayland on Dec. 22. Caroling, cookies and gifts will be shared with the residents. Call Marilyn Finkbeiner (795-9206) for information or plan to meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Amoco Station, corner of Patterson and Chief Noonday.

Besides Gun Lake Area residents, the GFWC-Gun Lake Area Women's Club welcomes residents from Delton, Martin, Shelbyville and Wayland. For more information, call membership committee members Harlene Kok 792-4398, Amy Smendik 795-4348 or Joan Weick 672-5242.

Dick and Joyce Rees from Greenville led dance activities for parents and children.

From previous page

better when it was their turn. Elders ate first because they were the wisest and most important for the village to listen to.

When a mother first gave birth, she would bathe the baby in the river, no matter what time of year it was. Bathing in the river every morning continued all through life.

Butler said names given for children might be "Robin," or "Singing Star" or "Jumping Cricket." Children were expected to help do chores like gather wood. Names could be reassigned, and if a child developed undesirable traits, the name could be derogatory, like "Scared rabbit," or "Sleeping mouse."

Later in life a young person might go on a vision seeking quest, and would give away all his belongings to others in the village.

When a person did something brave or unselfish, an elder might rename a person at a special ceremony and with a title indicating strength and valor.

Butler said his tribe ate berries, grapes, nuts, corn, herbs, hunted animals and birds, made maple syrup and candy. Michigan native people lived in long houses and wigwams.

Children played games which were related to learning hunting skills. Adults hunted with bows and arrows, and smaller bows and arrows were used by children to hunt smaller game, like turkeys and birds and rabbits. Girls and boys were not taught to play games of only one gender. Boys could play with dolls and girls could hunt, Butler explained.

Children also played games of trade, in which they would try to outwit an opponent, and win all. If it was a friend, or the French, the win would be modest, but if the opponent was of the British, the native child would play to win all, and try to humiliate the other child.

Garth Butler dressed as he would have looked in the 1700's as a Native Chippewa of Michigan.

Native people traded for furs, for clothing, ornaments and tools. Porcupine pelts were valued for the quills which were used in decorating clothing.

Children learned to track animals. A game they played was "tracking and smacking." They would try to follow the tracks of an animal and stalk it so quietly they could actually touch the animal before it heard them.

It was not wise to follow the tracks of a large animal in this game however. One story Butler told was of a boy who stalked a bear, and when he realized he wouldn't be wise to smack the bear, he retreated, but too late and the bear had him for dinner.

If a person had a "protective animal spirit," or totem, Butler said that person would never hunt or kill his or her totem.

Some games still played now came from the native people. One is cat in the cradle played with a long loop of string. Another is a button on a string which twists and whirls and makes a whirring sound.

Native dolls did not have faces, which Butler explained with a folk tale. A doll which had a face was very beautiful. One day she looked down in the water and saw her own reflection. After that, everywhere she went she said, "I am so beautiful," and refused to play with the children. Finally the Creator said the doll had been created for the children to play with, and from then on no doll would be more beautiful than the child it was made for. From then on, no doll had a face.

One game used a pair of balls tied together with a string, and throwing and catching it on a forked stick, requiring skill and agility which would be useful later in life.

Adults also played games, which were sometimes quite violent. Butler told about Lacrosse, a game played in this area. The native name was "Little Man's War," in which hooped Lacrosse sticks tossed balls with the intention of hitting a pole. Sometimes 300 men would play, spread out over a mile.

Women were capable of using weapons and sometimes carried them for men. In one instance, Butler said, at Fort Machilmackinac the soldiers made the mistake of thinking women didn't use weapons, and made the native men leave their weapons outside before letting them enter the fort. The women carried weapons in under their blankets, and passed them to their men, and the natives took the fort.

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Kettle Lake students make presentation for school board

Fifth-graders in the classes of Laura Coolman, Carmen Petrosky and Steve VanderLaan took part in an integrated project, which included science, art, math, music and language arts, presented before parents Nov. 11, and and excerpts were performed for the school board Nov. 16

A group of Kettle Lake students gave a musical presentation under the direction of Colleen Kalajainen, using music that related to their integrated project entitled, "Earth: Voices of a Planet." Here, Brady Fischer, Eric Bates, Christine Yanosik and Kevin Coolman play xylophones.

Jeni Poliski stands beside her map of the world which identifies the areas the classes focused upon in their integrated project. Research was done to complete the science projects and each child completed a different project on a different topic.

Nick Schwab played a hand drum during the performance. Students created environmental projects which fell into several areas of the curriculum.

The students also made papier maiche puppets, which had moving parts, with the help of art teacher Deb Trent. The animals were painted with neon paint and choreographed in a "dance" of creatures with a black light, which was performed for the school board Nov. 16.

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Reading celebrated at TK, no matter what the grade

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

While learned articles decry the state of reading in the United States, the Thornapple Kellogg school district is doing its best to encourage students to read for information and pleasure.

It doesn't matter whether it is a kindergartner new to reading or a high school student ready to share a love of reading with younger students, reading is happening in all the buildings.

At McFall Elementary, athletes from the high school have traveled down to read to students in kindergarten and first grade. Teachers read out loud every day.

Shelley Erb's first-graders have been studying books by Jan Brett. In November students traveled to Pooh's Corner to meet the author and hear her talk about her newest book, "The Gingerbread Boy."

They learned that it takes Brett a year to finish a book. She explained the significance of some of her illustrations. She told the students that she changed the ending of the story because she had not liked the traditional ending.

Students also read some of her other books before returning to school.

School librarians work with students at all the schools assisting students with finding just the right book. Seasonal and new book displays can be found at all the buildings.

At the middle and high school, the librarians help students negotiate the automated card catalog, help with research and encourage pleasure reading.

Book fairs and inexpensive book order forms can put books in the hands of students. The Saturday reading program presents students with books purchased by the PTO as prizes for students who attend at least five of the 12 weeks.

Authors come to school as well. At Page Elementary School, Johnie Tuitel came to school to talk during Disability Awareness Week. Page is one of the 10 schools he still visits once a year.

Students at Page read his books "The Barn at Gun Lake" and "Mystery Explosion." Tuitel's visit was sponsored by the Page Thornapple Kellogg PTO.

Page fifth-graders also have the opportunity to explore books and do self testing through the supplemental accelerated reader program.

At the middle school, classes encourage reading in several ways.

Sixth grade language arts rooms have comfortable corners for pleasure reading. Seventh grade students have to carry a book for silent reading every day. Part of every day is spent in silent reading and students have to write about what they read each day. There are prizes for the readers who read the most each week.

Eighth grade teachers reward students for reading achievements as well. One recent field trip to a Western Michigan football game was enjoyed by students and teachers.

Assistant Superintendent Midge Pippel said, "We are beginning to see the results of emphasis on reading. Our test scores have improved and students and teachers are enjoying the reading experience."

Johnie Tuitel told Page fourth-graders that writing was a difficult profession. He talked about how his life has given him ideas for his books.

Shelley Erb and her students took time to read following the book signing.

Sheryll Poel of Pooh's Corner opens books for author Jan Brett. Brett enjoyed meeting McFall first-graders at a recent book signing.

Lee Librarian Cindy Brooks reads to a classroom during library time.

McFall principal Bill Rich explains the reading log to students at Celebrate Reading.

High School athletes travel to McFall to share their love of reading with kindergarten students.

Christmas Home Tour will be Sunday in Caledonia

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

The Senior class of 2000 Christmas Home Tour will offer an opportunity this Sunday afternoon to see some of the beautiful houses built in the Caledonia area.

This large home, graced by slender trees, is owned by the Karolionok family.

Located in Piney Woods, the Bravata Home is uniquely decorated.

Some are uniquely created by the homeowner, and others developed to express personal taste over time. Eight homes will be opened for visitors and decked out for the holidays, for the tour being held Sunday Dec. 5 from 1 to 5 p.m.

The tour includes an appetizer buffet from 3 to 5 pm. at Brandywine Restaurant, at the Glen Valley Center, 9175 Cherry Valley in Caledonia.

Tickets may be purchased at Brandywine Restaurant, Mulberry Bush Gift Shop or the Caledonia High School office.

Tickets will cost $12 on the day of the tour, available at Brandywine Restaurant between 1 and 3 p.m.

If purchased in advance, tickets are only $10 for a Sunday afternoon of unusual entertainment plus the appetizer buffet.

Please purchase tickets in advance by calling 891-6989. 891-1517 or 891-9585.

Laura Shoemaker was kept busy during the craft show on Nov. 20, selling tickets to the Senior Class of 2000. Tickets are still available.

Book talk presentation is tonight at McFall Elementary

Tucked among the many craft tables were school organizations. Here members of the color guard (from left) Jennifer Tatar, Tara Somers and Danyle Cheesebro entice shoppers to buy their warm purple blankets.

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Anyone who might be curious about the recent talk about children's books may want to give that special child or adult a gift that will last a long time.

But those who go to a bookstore or explore an online site may come away without purchasing anything because it is just too confusing.

Guidance is available for children's books at a book talk given by McFall Elementary Principal Bill Rich at 7 p.m. tonight, Tuesday, Nov. 30. Rich will read and discuss some of his current favorites, which have been child tested.

Come to the McFall Library and discover what is new and exciting in the world of children's books with a guide who knows books.

Some books will be available for sale that evening.

This event is sponsored by the McFall Thornapple Kellogg PTO. The school is located on Main Street in Middleville, just west of M-37.

The Caledonia Band sponsored Craft Fair Nov. 20 was filled with music and fun, here the Caledonia Flute Ensemble plays seasonal tunes.

Special story time set at Freeport Library

Kim Domke, shown with son Luke and friend Michael Kuth at the summer reading program.

A special story time will be held at the Freeport District Library Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 9:30 a.m.

Kim Domke, a favorite of the summer reading program will lead this hour with Christmas songs and other activities. This program is open to all preschool children ages 3 to 5.

Parents also will be able to sign up their preschooler for the 10-week winter story time. Children must have been age 3 by October and not over the age of 6. At this time, the library offers two sessions Wednesday mornings at 9:30 and 11. Each session is about 40 to 50 minutes, with story time and craft time.

If interested in the winter session, sign up at the library or phone (765-5181) after dec. 8. Class size is limited.

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Lady Trojans, continued from pg. 1

Defensively, Middleville had a solid game plan, but it didn't require a whole lot of pressure.

"We tried to pressure them a little bit, but they (LCC) are a well-coached team and very disciplined," Uyl said. "We have played some good teams and we have kids who come off our bench and do a good job like Sara Williams."

The Lady Trojans' success on the defensive side of the floor is something the team has worked on and now they are tasting the fruits of their labors.

"Our offense works off our defense," Leslie Crowley said. "We just try to shut them down."

"We worked really hard in practice (on defense) and we knew that we had to defend their 3s," Jill Williams said. "I've concentrated on rebounding, which is a major part of my game, and good defense."

Jill Williams certainly came with some solid "d" versus LCC. She blocked two Lady Cougar shots and made three steals.

Teamwork has been another plus for the Lady Trojans during its championship run.

"We have a lot of chemistry; we've all been playing forever," Jill Williams said. "We just all work together. We can shoot from the outside, in the post we can score; we have all the weapons."

"We just work together so well," Leslie Crowley said. "Our communication, that's our key. When we talk, we do good."

• **Crowd Noise Addressed:** Roughly 20 minutes before the ball game, Lansing Catholic Central fans were already addressing crowd noise, basically the sounds coming from the Middleville side. The Trojan fans do a great impression of the Cameron Crazies at Duke University with colorful costumes, horns, signs and inspiring antics. You could say that the team's fan base gives them the sixth person advantage.

• **"They're All Here":** Well maybe it's a bit of an exaggeration, but one Lansing fan figured that the entire town of Middleville was at the regional championship. After further review, though, the Sun & News figures that only two-thirds of Middleville was actually at the hoop extravaganza.

Sara Williams (21) pulls down an offensive rebound over LCC's Susan Syrjamaki (33). (Photo by Perry Hardin)

Leslie Crowley (31) was able to shoot at will over the Lansing Catholic Central defense. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

• **Lady Trojans in Black:** There's no doubt that Middleville's girls cagers have some of the best uniforms in the State. The black road uniforms not only are stylish, but make the team look real tough. You could say that the uniforms fit their style.

• **Threshold For Pain:** Middleville senior Payshence Erb obviously has a great threshold for pain. We have seen her many times dive for loose ball and go out all lengths to make a play and she did again versus LCC. But like an Energizer Bunny, Erb got right back up and drained a free throw attempt to help her team's cause.

Middleville 45, Lansing Catholic Central 35

Middleville 12 8 11 14=45
LCC 6 10 8 11=35

Middleville (24-1): Sarah Schut 5 (1) 0-0 11, Payshence Erb 1 (1) 6-9 9, Leslie Crowley 7 6-8 20, Jessica Crowley 1 (1) 0-0 3, Jill Williams 1 0-0 2.

Totals: FG 15, FT 12-17=45

LCC (17-8): Lisa Richter 1 (1) 3, Jenny Green 4 0-0 8, Molly Potvin 2 0-0 4, Annie Mooney 2 2-2 6, Susan Syrjamaki 3 0-0 6, Morgan Potvin 1 0-0 2, Mary Dillon 2 0-0 4, Trisha Goris 1 0-0 2.

Totals: FG 16 (1), FT 2-2=35

Middleville will next play in the Class B State quarterfinals today (Tuesday, Nov. 30) against Flint Powers. Here, team members come together to celebrate its trophy-winning accomplishment. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

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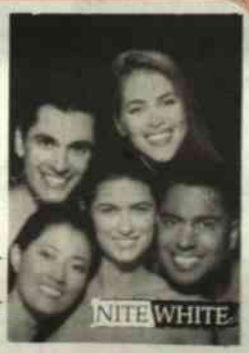

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You've Got Game!

Payshence Erb (holding trophy), Jessica Crowley (33) and Leslie Crowley (31) celebrate with fans last Wednesday's regional championship achieved at Wayland Union High School. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

Regional Champs, the Lady Trojans' team includes (front row) Katie Schultz (14), Erin Palmer (42), Payshence Erb (12), Sara Williams (21), Jessica Crowley (33), (back row) Lyndsey VanAman (32), Ashley Carter (10), Stephanie Bell (20), Andrea Bouma (24), Erin Robertson (34), Leslie Crowley (31), Sarah Schut (5), Jill Williams (44) and head coach Marcy Uyl. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

Sarah Schut (5) slips inside and scores two over three Lansing Catholic Central defenders during the regional title contest. (Photo by Perry Hardin)

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Caledonia village applies for $300,000 facelift grant

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Caledonia Village has decided to file an application for a state grant to reconstruct the downtown section of Main Street, between Church and Mill streets.

The $300,000 grant application must be turned in by Dec. 6 to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Village officials said a community's application often is not considered the first time it is submitted, and although it may be some time before money is available, the process must be undertaken each year to be considered in the future..

The village is in competition with 200 other communities for the funds. A survey and exact drawing is required at the time of the grant application.

Local officials hope the 40-page grant request, along with several letters of recommendation, will be completed by Dec. 6.

A committee was appointed to include Marsha Humphrey, Wendy Zandstra, Dan Erskine and Lisa Segard. Village Manager Sandy Ayers is also involved.

The Caledonia Village Enhancement Committee invited local home and business owners to come to a meeting last week to help plan a downtown improvement project. A large number of residents attended.

The village, the township and the schools also are involved in future planning, and already have committed to trying to collaborate on the various parts each unit of government is responsible for. The enhancement of the village is seen as an important part of the larger effort.

The plan was first considered because the storm sewers and sanitary sewers need to be replaced, an extremely expensive proposition. Part of the cost of that replacement requires the streets be dug up.

If a grant is approved, the MDOT would help pay for part of the sanitary sewers and street reconstruction, with the village paying for about 20% of the cost in matching funds. The amount of matching money comes to around $60,000. Getting grant money for any part of the total project will help achieve the ultimate goal of replacing the sewers, which date back to the mid-1930s.

Some other expenses connected with the projects could come out of the village wallet, however. The project would be most efficient if the strategic elements all were done at the same time.

Such other features might include burying the power and telephone lines, putting in street lights without overhead lines, including trees, and brick pavers in the sidewalks to enhance the appearance of the downtown area.

Paul Galdes, representing engineers Flies and Vandenbrink, who will be putting the grant package together, presented a preliminary overview of some elements and problems the village might encounter.

The presentation included lighting styles, pictures of brick pavers, tree planters, styles of benches for public seating, and views of improvements made in other villages.

The MDOT will not pay for underground wiring, and that cannot be included in the match if the village wants it done. Michigan Bell already has an underground conduit under the sidewalk on one side.

Trees would be selected for root systems that would not damage underground infrastructures.

Galdes said the village might also want to include new lighting fixtures at the M-37- Main Street entrance into the village, and on Maple and Main to create a consistent appearance for people driving through.

Several citizens were very enthusiastic about prospects to improve the appearance in the village.

Eva Engle, speaking in favor of the plan, said she didn't want to see the village continue to fall apart. "This is an opportunity to save it," she said.

Some said they liked what Rockford had done. They said Caledonia had considered it, but had not moved ahead, and said it had been a mistake not to move in the same direction much sooner. Some suggested it would be nice to see specialty shops in the downtown area.

Beth Sleutal, a resident on Main Street and a member of the Planning Commission, was in favor of making improvements in the village. She said it was already known that the new Southbelt and the widening of M-37 will bring urban development all around the village.

The township already is considering paving 100th Street south of the village, and commercial and industrial PUDs are being considered for an area on the southeast corner of the intersection of 100th and M-37.

"I would like to see Caledonia to have a separate identity," Sleutal said.

She also said she believed there would be ways to find additonal parking.

Jake Sleutal also said property owners in the village did not want their property values to go down. He said he wanted to move ahead. He said he didn't want the deterioration in the village to get worse.

"It should look better than it does," he said.

Others talked about improving some downtown buildings, possibly creating a historic appearance in the village, and perhaps bringing back some historic landmarks and a few details to create that character.

One woman said she would like to see a gas light village atmosphere, because Caledonia was built around the train station. She said the original lighting was with gas lights. She said she would like to see the depot painted green, although she was not asking for a full restoration. She suggested she would like to see a mule on the door of the lumberyard, which there used to be years before.

One problem would be parking. The MDOT requires as a condition of its grant that diagonal parking be replaced by parallel parking. This will remove about one third of the parking along the streets.

Another location for parking in the area is hard to come by. Village Council members thought an area north of the shopping section would be available if paved. The grant could include paving for additional parking, if a spot is found.

Martin Hall of the Caledonia Elevator said some businesses were required to have a certain number of parking spaces nearby, based on the floor area inside their establishments, as a condition of doing business. He said he was concerned over the constriction this might impose on local businesses.

Hall also suggested he would like the village to look at another option for the rail trail to be re-routed, rather than to pass right through the central area of the grain elevator.

Historically, the elevator is a landmark established because of the agricultural roots of the area when there were good reasons to build the elevator next to the railroad.

It was not created to function as a bicycle trail. Re-routing the trail might be easier than encroaching on the historic business that has managed to survive into the next millennium. Perhaps the renovation of the village could come up with Rails to Trails solution less problematic for the elevator.

Resistance over fears of being told to restore a building to its historic origins was raised by Larry Alkema of the H& L Manufacturing Company. He was also afraid his taxes would go up.

Alkema said he had enough on-site parking for his employees, so reduced parking would not affect him.

But he asked, "If improvement brings in more business, where are they going to expand to, and where are the customers going to go?" He said there was more room for expansion along M-37 than in the village.

He said his total staffing had already been reduced from 125 to 75 and now was at 50 employees because of the costs of doing business. He also said he was worried that once into the project, the village might raise taxes to cover the costs. He said he would be forced to move out of the area if that happened.

Segard asked if Alkema did not participate, did he object to the improvements being made around his business, and he said he would not mind in that case.

Galdes said that when such improvements are made in small towns, often a rebound of interest and business is seen to result.

Although the project is maybe a year or more down the road, Village Council members did say the project might still require a capitol improvement bond in the future.

Committee members acknowledged there could be a cost to the village. Whether or not the village is improved, the project will probably have to take place anyway, just to replace the sewers, and this involves much of the cost. If the MDOT funds part of the project, the village would be farther ahead, some committee members stressed.

Some committee members suggested citizens look at an improvement as reaping the benefit of the taxes already paid, rather than presuming it would mean additional taxes in the future.

The next meeting of the committee and for citizen input will be Jan. 25 at 7 p.m.

Senior citizens' luncheon set for Dec. 9 at Mid Villa

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

The Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon, sponsored by the Thornapple Kellogg schools, will be held at noon Thursday, Dec. 9, at the Middle Villa Restaurant.

The deadline for reservations is Friday, Dec. 3. For reservations, call 795-3397.

Senior citizens who live within the boundaries of the Thornapple Kellogg school district are invited to this festive holiday luncheon in the Meadows Banquet Room. Ample parking is available in the rear of the Middle Villa, with easy access to the banquet room.

Entertainment will be provided by the Honors Choir singing seasonal music following the luncheon.

Reservations are required. Call 795-3397 and leave name, telephone number and the number coming to lunch.

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jessica Crowley

Thornapple-Kellogg High School (Middleville)

Crowley scored 21 points, including 11 in the second quarter and a 5-for-5 effort from the free throw line, in Middleville's 59-57 overtime triumph over Wayland in district basketball action Nov. 17. Both teams came into the post-season matchup with one loss.

Joe Lillie

Caledonia High School

Lillie received academic All-State recognition from the Interscholastic Track Coaches Association. Lillie, a senior captain, has a grade point average of 3.97 and ran on the fighting Scots' cross country squad that was seventh at State in Class B.

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Caledonia DECA students take part in GR conference

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Twenty-three students from the Caledonia chapter of DECA took part in the Central Region Leadership Conference at the Amway Grand Plaza Nov. 19-21.

DECA is a co-curricular, student -centered educational organization. Its mission has been to enhance students' education with interests in marketing, management and entrepreneurship. DECA acts as an advocate of marketing education and is committed to business and education partnerships growth.

Members' goal is to develop success skills to carry into their business and personal lives after graduation.

Each student was required to attend five breakout sessions. The students could choose from 50 options. Some examples included effective communication for success, marketing a professional sports team, effective listening in business relationships, and many others.

The events did not occupy all the available time, and the young people used free time to go to the new mall in Grandville, attend a Griffins hockey game, to hang out at the dances, or to check out downtown Grand Rapids.

Caledonia DECA students went to the Central Region Leadership Conference Nov. 19-21.

DECA member Audrey Harp commented, "Overall, this was a great learning experience for all, and is good preparation for district and state competitions held in January and March. All the students and advisors had an awesome time and we can't wait until the next DECA conference!"

The students were accompanied by three advisors, Tom Miller, Margaret Anderson and Michelle Miller.

Students who attended were Erin Jones, Adam Puricelli, Nicole Rahm, Sara Damghani, Mike Klein, Katrina Shoemaker, Casey Winslow, Brian Anderson, Debbie Dascanio, Audra King, Tom Sheehe, Holli Victory, Mike Bashlor, Tyler Funk, Andrew Kroll, Paul Spica, Sarah Meekhof, Korin Rabley, Audrey Harp, Stacee Holvey, Brendan Grimes, Lindsey Sinclair and Jake Ware.

OUR Land Committee plans to meet Dec. 1

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

OUR-Land Committee members are working on a general one-year schedule to try to raise awareness of Barry County residents about land use issues critical to their future.

The OUR-Land name is an acronym for Our Ultimate Resource — Land.

The next meeting of the committee at large will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec.1, in the Community Room of the Courts and Law Building in Hastings.

A presentation by Monica Rappaport on the Barry Conservation District will be given. Other speakers also may make presentations on intensive animal agriculture.

A culmination of the committee's work is to be reached in May of 2000. The committee will begin planning for that meeting.

The committee has been breaking into four action groups, working toward specific goals within each group sometime within the next year. The four groups formed around the general areas of open space preservation, planning and zoning, infrastructure, and surface and groundwater protection.

Groups already have been sponsoring outside speakers to make presentations before the public, members of the OUR Land Committee and action group members.

People interested in being involved in the OUR-Land Committee or who would like to be part of a particular action group may call 945-9866.

Area gridders on All-State team

A number of football players from Thornapple Kellogg, Caledonia and South Christian high schools have been named to the 1999 Associated Press Class B All-State football team. The squad is selected by Michigan sports writers and broadcasters.

South's Ron Jansen, a 6-3, 210-pound lineman, was named first team.

Marc Carter, a lineman from TK, was selected as honorable mention as was his Trojan teammate, Dan Kiel. Kiel is a senior quarterback.

Ted Newhoff, a linebacker for South Christian, was also an honorable mention pick as was Dan Bloemers, a runningback for Caledonia's Fighting Scots.

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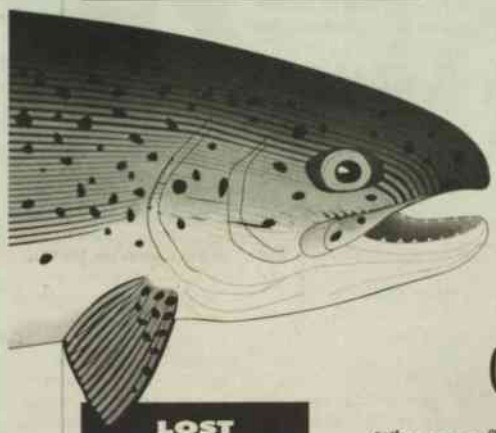

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Professor Higbee's STREAMS

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The recently published STREAM MAP OF MICHIGAN resembles another map—known to Pennsylvania anglers as the "Lost Stream Map."

The "Stream Map of Pennsylvania" was completed in 1965 after a thirty-year effort by Howard Higbee, a former Penn State Professor.

Professor Higbee succeeded in creating a map of the highest detail possible...a map that shows every stream and lake. He painstakingly plotted by hand, the location of 45,000 miles of streams onto a 3 x 5 foot map.

The map sold extremely well-- until it was lost several years after it first appeared in print. Incredibly, the printer entrusted with the original drawing and printing plates, declared bankruptcy, then carelessly hauled Higbee's 30 years of work to a landfill.

The few remaining dog-eared copies became a prized fisherman's possession. Professor Higbee was offered $400 for one of his last maps. And state agencies were forced to keep their copies under lock and key.

Experts told Professor Higbee that reprints were impossible, because the maps were printed in non-photographic blue.

Then, in 1991, at the age of 91, Howard Higbee's dream came true. Computers made it possible to reprint the map. Holding an updated map, Howard said, "I never thought I'd live to see this day."

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World Series star Curtis happy to be home

You could say that the life of New York Yankee outfielder Chad Curtis has changed drastically since he became a World Series hero and helped his team to capture another world championship.

But Curtis' priorities certainly have not been altered and the love for his home town remains as true today as it was when he was climbing trees and playing Little League games growing up in Middleville.

Here are a few words from Curtis when the *Sun & News* met up with him last Tuesday (Nov. 23) at the village meeting in Middleville.

As far as a place to grow up, Curtis said that Middleville was top notch.

"It was an enjoyable place to grow up and it still seems to be that kind of place," Curtis said. "It's just nothing but good memories. A lot of it has to do with the people and the weather. I can remember Russell Street; we had a tree and when I climbed up it, I could see what was going on around town."

He did not spend all of his time, however, climbing that tree. He also remembers playing in the streams, playing in Little League games and attempting one day to hike all of the way from Middleville to Hastings.

"I made it to Irving Township and decided to go back," Curtis said. "I have all kinds of good memories and that's what drew us back to the area."

Other memories include attending Trojan football games as a youngster and admiring the talents of such athletes as Doug Ybema who helped the black and orange to achieve on the gridiron.

"I remember those people; the biggest football game was always in Middleville," Curtis said.

Now a big professional athletic celebrity, Curtis still calls the Middleville area his home for great reasons.

Baseball may be his occupation, but he hopes his life is more than bats, gloves, baseballs and home runs like the two he smacked in Game 3 of this year's World Series that gave the Yankees a 6-5, 10-inning triumph over the Atlanta Braves.

"I like to look at myself as a Christian man first and a family man," Curtis explained. "Baseball is down the list. I'm not going to let that (his celebrity status with the "Bronx Bombers") change me."

"Always keep family, people as the most important things," Curtis said. "It's tough sometimes, not seeing the kids all year. It can be real tough."

Curtis and his wife Candace have three children, 5-year-old Cori, 4-year-old Cassidy and 3-month-old C.J., also known as Chad Curtis Jr.

Baseball was always close to Curtis' heart and while growing up he remembers listening to the Detroit Tigers on the radio. He remembers Alan Trammell, Lance Parrish... Lou Whitaker... stars he actually got to play with during his year and a half with the Tigers.

Chad Curtis, with 3-month-year-old C.J. in hand, was honored at the village meeting in Middleville last Tuesday. Pictured with Chad and C.J. are village president Lon Myers and clerk Roselle Havens.

His two and a half years with the New York Yankees have been nothing but super. He says the team understands totally what its goals are.

"One of the most misused and over-used terms is chemistry," Curtis said. "We are a bunch of guys with a common goal. You have a 162-game season and a group that is focused. (Yankee manager) Joe (Torre) has a big part in that."

Curtis, 31, has played eight years in the Major Leagues. His "Bigs" career started with the California Angels and then continued with the Detroit Tigers, the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Cleveland Indians and now continues in the "Big Apple" with the New York Yankees.

"It was a tremendous thrill (in 1995-1996) to play for the Tigers with (Kirk) Gibson, (Alan) Trammell and Lou (Whitaker). I am very thankful for that time, it had a bitter-sweet feel to it."

Being a professional athlete means, at times, that Curtis must look at himself as a role model and attempt to do the best he can in that position. His father, Ted Curtis, who worked with the Thornapple Kellogg Schools for many years, is one person who Chad finds himself emulating more and more as he matures through life.

"As I get older, I find myself being more and more like my dad," Curtis said. "I find myself many times asking myself what Jesus would have done. The effort is to do it like he would have. That would be my goal."

Life after baseball is something that Curtis chooses not to look at until the day becomes closer. He does hope to use his time as a professional to the utmost.

"I want to use my time to do beneficial and positive things in other people's lives," Curtis said. "I may have an opportunity to be a voice that is heard. If I can take 10 people and be a positive difference, (that is what I hope).

Being in the public's, and the media's, eyes means that athletes like Curtis have a chance sometimes to speak, or not speak, about certain topics. After the 6-5 win over the Braves in Game 3, Curtis, and his Yankee teammates, decided not to speak to NBC commentator Jim Gray. Gray had made some remarks about former Cincinnati Red star Pete Rose, on an NBC broadcast, and many in the baseball world felt that his attempt was a bit too attacking. When Curtis chose not to speak to Gray, one media member said that he would put Curtis in the Hall of Fame just for that.

At the village meeting Nov. 23, Curtis was named an honorary citizen of the village and was handed a key to the city. He will also make an appearance at the Middleville Lions' Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 4.

76ers football team finishes season with perfect record

The Middleville 76ers B football team, comprised of sixth and seventh grade athletes, recently polished off a perfect 7-0 season.

Middleville's gridders, coached by Tom Fletke, Monte Munjoy, Doug Ybema, Seth Nelson and Pat Pullen, by winning all seven earned a championship with big wins over local foes.

Middleville defeated Lake Odessa 16-14, Maple Valley 22-8, Woodland 38-14, Lake Odessa 40-14, Maple Valley 36-14, Sunfield 44-0 and Saranac 28-16.

The 1999 Middleville 76ers B football team (in no specific order) Michael Munjoy (7), Ryan Fletke (9), Ben Ybema (10), Jakob Wierenga (11), Justin Wilson (15), Kick Boonstra (16), Josh Dykstra (17), Cliff Tomson (18), Eric Reeder (20), Matt Miller (24), Michael Gurski (25), Tim Hall (27), Adam Loveless (34), Travis Young (37), John Yeazel (47), Aaron Pitt (49), Jordan Chavis (51), Josh Hilton (52), Josh Meyering (55), Isaac Thaler (59), Josh Cross (61), Lance VanPutten (65), Dan Buxton (68), Kyle Wiggin (69), Nathan Labine (72), Kyle Bradley (75), Nick Tumes (78), Layn Mugridge (79), Mike Mugridge (80), Scott Brown (81), Ray Lilley (84), Anthony Nofke (85), Bill Bird (86), Reed Ebmeyer (88), Troy Hayward (92), Ben Tewnessen (95), Jeff Stout (96) and Chris Ray (97). (Photo provided)

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EXCHANGE FINANCIAL

Judy Sloan new director of program

Mentoring program continues at TK

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

During the previous school year Chris Boysen investigated mentoring programs that would provide support for students who need a little extra attention.

She and teachers Beth Bauer, Brad Warren and Phyl Miner and parent Judy Bouma received training and in March trained 12 community members in the Pilot/CO-pilot mentoring program.

Ten of the volunteers worked with students at Page Elementary School and two with middle school students. Each week the volunteers served as co-pilot to their student pilot, allowing the student to decide whether to study together, talk, play games or even just sit in a companionable silence.

This program is for students who just need a little one-on-one attention from a caring adult. Comments from the students have been positive.

Bauer and Warren were impressed by how much was achieved during the eight weeks students met with the mentors. Teachers saw improvement in behavior, attendance and even in grades.

Volunteers also were enthusiastic about being able to share time with students. The most often heard comment was that it was "fun."

This school year most of the volunteers are continuing and a new class of 12 mentors to work with Page students went through training.

Judy Sloan, who was one of the original volunteers, was selected to coordinate the program this year. She is receiving additional training and is eager to train others.

Tentative plans are to have a class for mentors in January. These volunteers would be trained to CO-pilot at the middle school.

Judy Sloan

For information about the mentoring program and volunteer requirements, call Sloan at 795-2263. Information about the program is also available at the community education office at 795-3397.

Project tries to preserve community's character

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Community character can be preserved, and the method for achieving it is available to anyone who would like to try it.

So say officials from seven Michigan communities that participated in a project that has resulted in a model method of land use planning that can help protect community character and reduce conflict while accommodating growth.

The home grown approach to land use decision making was facilitated by the Land Information Access Association (LIAA) of Traverse City.

LIAA Executive Director Joe VanderMeulen said"...Most Michigan residents want land use planning and zoning that manages growth and preserves community character, with a special emphasis on the preservation of water quality, recreational lands, and wildlife habitat, but in many places, we're quickly losing community character as urban centers decay and sprawling development consumes our historic landscapes."

The seven communities that participated were Escanaba, Alpena, Fremont, Grand Haven, Owosso-Corunna, Milford and Adrian. These areas ranged from small towns to fast growing cities.

The LIAA helped residents identify critical features in each community they wished to preserve. Surveys determined that residents wanted to preserve local water resources, wildlife habitat, recreational facilities and parks above most other resources.

The association then guided a team of residents in using computer based mapping and multimedia systems to identify and document those features most important to community character. Each of the community groups began drawing up maps of key local and natural and historic features. In addition to creating specialized computer systems for public use, this project helped to build new cooperation within the seven communities.

"This project really helped the Fremont community move toward and enhance the cooperative spirit that contributed to joint planning, said "Holly Moon, supervisor of Dayton Township.

The project partners believe community planning can be better informed and more democratic by giving everyone equal access to land use and planning information. They believe the project demonstrated a new more effective method of land use planning.

The LIAA report, called "Building a Sense of Place, A Cooperative Approach to Discovering and Preserving Community Character," calls for more aggressive involvement of citizens and civic groups in the preservation of community character. The report is emphatic in its call for intergovernmental cooperation in community land use planning and resource management.

The report is accompanied by a CD that includes fully functional examples of the work of each community and short presentations by 10 of Michigan's top land use experts. It includes pictures, graphics, videos and sophisticated mapping tools.

The project has been so successful that a new, more extensive approach has been planned. The Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Associations of Regions, and Michigan Association of School Boards have announced a new partnership with the LIAA to test the process on a county-wide basis. The local government associations, known collectively as the Michigan Council of Local Governments, are now soliciting proposals from counties to participate in the new grant-funded project.

Funded by grants, the *Building a Sense of Place* Project was directed by LIAA and supported by a first time partnership with the Michigan Municipal League and The Nature Conservancy.

The LIAA is a non-profit corporation.

VanderMeulen said, "We are paying too high a price for urban sprawl and failing downtowns — pollution, traffic congestion, more taxes.

"There's an emotional price, too. The character of our communities is being erased by the endless repetitions of strip malls, chain stores and restaurants. We are losing our sense of community and connection to one another. It is way past time to change that."

The process demonstrated by the project promises to reverse a trend that many communities often feel helpless to prevent.

People interested in more information may contact LIAA by calling (616) 929-3696 or website: http://www.liaa.org.

Girl confesses to two bomb threats

A 13-year-old Thornapple Kellogg Middle School student who confessed to police Tuesday to making the two most recent bomb threats at the school is facing two possible felony charges, Sgt. Tony Stein said last Wednesday.

The girl admitted to authorities she wrote a note found in a science classroom Friday, Nov. 19 which stated "There is a bomb in the building," said Stein.

"The building was secured and searched by Thornapple School District employees who found no suspicious objects," said Stein.

The girl also confessed to writing a threat on a Styrofoam plate found in an art room on Nov. 10.

Stein said the girl has been suspended for 10 days while awaiting a Board of Education discipline hearing expected to be held on or around Dec. 6. That hearing could result in her being expelled from school for 180 days or longer.

Of the eight total bomb threats at the middle school and high school this school year, police have obtained confessions from five different suspects, all of whom are being prosecuted.

Though none are being charged as adults, the maximum possible penalty is four years in prison, said Stein.

More likely the suspects are facing possible time in a juvenile detention center, a youth home or jail, he said.

"If we feel the circumstances warrant it, we would ask that they be charged as an adult," he said.

Three of the eight bomb threats are still unsolved.

Middleville man accused of pointing unloaded gun

A 25-year-old Middleville man accused of pointed an unloaded shotgun at another man and making threats may be charged with domestic assault, according to a report by the Hastings Post of the Michigan State Police.

The two men allegedly were involved in an argument over the volume of a stereo when one of the men went to his bedroom and retrieved the weapon.

He is accused of poking in the other man in the right shoulder with the barrel of the gun and threatening to shoot him.

Charges are still pending.

MIDDLEVILLE
Village Council Meeting

Synopsis
VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE, MICHIGAN
COUNCIL MEETING
November 9, 1999

The regular meeting of the Village of Middleville, Michigan Council was called to order by its president, Lon Myers, at 7:02 p.m. on November 9, 1999 in the Council Chamber of the Village Hall. Members present: David Newman, William Nesbitt, Floyd Bray, William Kenyon, Michael Lytle, Marilyn VandenBerg and Lon Myers. The minutes of the October 27, 1999 meeting were approved with corrections. The agenda was approved as presented.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

1. Commended Lisa Finkbeiner, the Director of the Lincoln Meadow Residence, and the Housing Commission for the excellent evaluation received from the State Housing Commission which gave the residence a 100% rating.

2. Approved payment of the invoices dated November 3, 1999 in the amount of $13,712.73 on the motion presented by Mr. Lytle with support from Mrs. VandenBerg.

3. Approved payment by the Barry County Commission from the Utilities Improvement Project Funds of an invoice submitted by Attorney Youngsma in the amount of $52.50 on the motion presented by Mr. Newman with support from Mr. Lytle.

4. Approved the POLC Termination Agreement ending the Village's association with the POLC and Officer Seifert as part of the transfer of services from the Middleville Police Department to the Barry County Sheriff. The motion was made by Mr. Newman with support from Mr. Bray.

5. Approved the highest bids offered on the Village items advertised for sale on the motion made by Mr. Kenyon with support from Mrs. VandenBerg.

6. Approved a resolution to upgrade former Police Chief Shoemaker's MERS pension from B1 to B2 per the agreement in his severance package on a motion offered by Mr. Newman with the support of Mr. Bray.

7. Adjourned the regular meeting at 7:57 p.m. on the motion made by Mr. Newman with the support of Mr. Bray.

Respectfully submitted,
Roselle Havens, Clerk

The complete text of the minutes may be read at the Village Hall at 100 East Main Street Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.

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No Preference Towing renovates new location

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Chad Teague purchased No Preference Towing Oct. 15 and the last six weeks have been filled with a flurry of activity as he hires new drivers, develops new services and renovates a new location on Third Street in Middleville.

Teague is a family man who gained much experience working in the family business of industrial truck cleaning. He has a mechanical background and managed a fleet of 15 vehicles.

Teague is looking forward to the challenge of running the towing business he says, "I wanted to do something on my own."

He grew up in Kentwood and now lives in Wayland with his wife, Tracie, and children Tyler, Travis, Alison and Rachel.

Among the services No Preferences can offer is area wide coverage with quick dispatch to the Kent and Barry County areas, as well as Wayland.

Teague also thinks that the full service truck he has will be a real benefit to those who just need a minor repair to get on the road. This truck will provide roadside emergency service.

No Preference will custom long distance towing and an affordable snowplowing service. Snow plowing will be available on an "as needed" basis for those who can manage their driveway most of the time, but just need to be plowed when the snow is really deep.

He also can provide a full line of automotive detail services, including fabric treatments and one year waxing.

Over the last several weeks he has been renovating his building, constructing an eight-foot fence (for which he received approval from the Village of Middleville) and meeting his neighbors.

"My neighbors have been great," Teague said. "I am looking forward to making a positive impact on the neighborhood and community.

No Preference offers 24-hour service, competitive rates, a COD discount and direct billing.

For more information, call 795-2200.

No Preference Towing owner Chad Teague has worked hard since Oct. 15 to get his new Third Street location renovated and ready to provide service to the community.

Thornapple Recreation Committee elects officers

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Members of the new Thornapple Recreation Commission elected officers at their meeting Nov. 16.

Tom Lehman is chair, David Newman is vice chair, Marilyn Vandenberg is secretary and Walt Eavy is treasurer.

During the meeting, the members of the commission discussed updating the recreational plan, which is a prerequisite to applying for grants.

Also discussed was the need to continue the good working relationship with organizations like such as the Barry County YMCA and the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO).

Members of the committee are researching the recreational resources within the Thornapple Kellogg School District and surrounding communities.

The committee will be setting goals and priorities. A second public meeting will be scheduled before the recreational plan is completed.

The next meeting of the recreation committee will be on Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. in Middleville Village Hall.

Parents' forum planned at TK

A parents' forum to deal with recent bomb threats is planned for 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, at the Thornapple Kellogg Middle School.

"With the continued threats of violence seemingly aimed at our middle school, and with the resulting dilemmas facing our school community, we have decided that we would like to host another parent forum," Superintendent Jay Cason said. "While the forum is primarily for parents of middle school children, any interested patron is welcome to attend."

The forum will be held in the middle school cafeteria.

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Card Of Thanks

TOLAN GARY AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK our Peace Church family for all the support and prayers that were given to us while mother battled cancer. For all the food that was brought in to us by our members and also mother's long time friends. To Dr. Zakeman and Pat and Dr. Delongpre and Peg for their wonderful care of her. To Hospice of Michigan and Jan, Cindy, Vickie for their love and care to both of us. God's light really did shine in her and she is at peace at last. To the family members who visited us and gave encouragement to us. May you all be blessed by our loving Father in your times ahead as we all get older. A special thanks to our friends and for the girl's at BSF International, and for Reverend Norman Kohns and Reverend Cindy De-Young, Reverend William Martin and to Tom Kaechele, mother would have cried over your beautiful song. Pastor Jerry and Marsha Mahler for their visit and prayers. To my special friend Nancy whose love for us and the Lord are her testimony in every day life. Thank you all, Gary & Carole.

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Kettle Lake students make pies for Mel Trotter Ministries

Heather Pederson, Carli Dutcher and Ashley Diedrich pause to look around after filling one bowl with apples for one of their pies.

Over 140 students at Kettle Lake were involved. Mel Trotter needed over 1600 apple and pumpkin pies. Pie shells were obtained with a Meijer donation giving the school a $50 gift certificate.

Michele Jenkins demonstrates using an apple peeler to three students who are helping make pies to help stock the Mel Trotter Ministries for Thanksgiving dinner. The dinner for needy people was held at the Amway dining room.

Britt Wilkerson and Katie Heller peel apples the old fashioned way. Both fourth- and fifth-graders took part in the community service project.

Joel Atkinson takes a turn peeling apples while Justin Batton, Scott Cargill and Britney Brown see how it is done. Some of the students also made pumpkin pies.

Todd Crissman and Tyler Rea prepare apples for the apple peeling machine, creating a huge pile of peelings.

S-curve detour, continued from page 4

The service organizes commuters into groups and then provides them with a luxury passenger van, with full administration, insurance and maintenance coverage.

Members of the van pool reduce their commuting costs and can create commuting routes that meet the personal needs of the members.

The driver is able to ride free to and from work, as well as use the van after work hours and on weekends, for seeing to the maintenance needs of the vehicle. Drivers records are checked to insure they are licensed and a safe driver.

Costs are divided among the other passengers. The vehicle is operated on a 30-day lease, so that if too many people drop out the terms can be re-negotiated.

The program is not limited to the Grand Rapids area. Commuters may be coming from great distances away. People who come from a long distance to their place of employment can benefit greatly from this program.

It is also not necessary for the work destination to be Grand Rapids for people to vanpool, since this program is created for Michigan residents. There must be enough commuters traveling from a central location to the same destination, usually, and the time of travel must match for six through fifteen riders.

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Established area jeweler relocates in Caledonia

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Well established Swierenga Jewelers is relocating in Caledonia, and will hold its grand opening the week of Nov. 30-Dec. 4.

The 50-year-old jewelry business was located in Alger Heights, under the name of the former owner, Barney Swierenga. Tom VanderLugt's father, a regular employee at the previous establishment, bought it in 1965, and retained the well known name. Tom VanderLugt bought the business from his father in 1981.

Customers from all over the area have come to Swierenga's over the years, because of its reputation for quality. Some people make routine visits to the jeweler from places around the globe.

The establishment outgrew the available space 20 years ago, and the staff managed to continue without expanding. When the need for more space finally prompted a decision to move, Tom and Deb Vanderlugt chose Caledonia.

"Caledonia has a strong sense of community about it, while also being in a growing area," Tom VanderLugt said. "The previous location had a definite community feel to it. We want to continue to experience that."

Four of the 12 employees live in Caledonia, which is very convenient for them. All the people employed at Swierenga's have worked there for a long time, are knowledgeable and well trained and are highly regarded by the VanderLugts.

This location has a spacious layout, but a feeling of warmth and hospitality, with cherry display cabinets, and even a waiting area with a children's play room, so customers can wait in comfort while some custom requests are being handled.

Swierenga Jewelers specializes in goldsmithing and custom work on site, a rare approach in the present market. They do all stone setting, ring resizing and diamond remounting right there.

"We try to price as conservatively as we can, and honor stable jewelry prices to provide the best possible value for what the customer plans to spend," VanderLugt said.

"The quality we offer is a cut above the average," Deb VanderLugt stressed.

"You won't find our jewelry marked up to mark it down," Tom VanderLugt explained. "We're dedicated to offering quality, value and service. Our customers deserve integrity and honesty. We stand behind everything we sell."

The VanderLugts both remarked that business was already going well, after only being in operation for a short time. Local customers are aware of their move and have continued to patronize the store.

"Our customers are fiercely loyal," Deb VanderLugt said. "People say they can trust Tom. Our customers know the value of quality."

The reason this is so important is that people bring in family heirlooms, and valuable jewelry to be assessed and adjusted or to be remounted in other settings. They want to be sure their treasured and valuable item has been treated with care. There is more assurance of that when you can actually watch the craftsmen cleaning or working on the piece. Nothing is sent out and all repairs are done on location.

"People have to trust their jeweler. An established relationship is important," Deb VanderLugt said.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday they are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Swierenga Jewelers is located at 9369 Cherry Valley SE in Caledonia. The phone number is 891-5750.

Tom and Deb VanderLugt stand in front of Swierenga's new location in Caledonia.

Tom VanderLugt sets a stone in a piece of jewelry in the work area of the Jewelry establishment.

Levi Faber enjoys the children's area of the jewelry store while his mother waits for a service to be completed in a comfortable seating area.

Danielle Quisenberry is DAR award winner

Danielle Quisenberry has been selected as the 1999 DAR Good Citizen of Thornapple Kellogg High School.

This award was established by the National Daughters of the American Revolution to recognize and to encourage outstanding young people in the pursuit n ideas.

Quisenberry was chosen for her outstanding qualities of leadership, dependability, service, and patriotism.

As the Thornapple Kellogg DAR Good Citizen, she will be competing in the state of Michigan DAR Good Citizen competition. Michigan's finalists will be honored and awarded a scholarship.

Danielle Quisenberry

The Michigan DAR Good Citizen will compete with winners from other states to be selected as the National DAR Good Citizen and again will be awarded a scholarship.

State of Michigan
62-B Judicial District
Judicial Circuit
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION
Case No. 99-5500-GC

Court Address
4900 Brenton Ave. SE.
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Plaintiff name(s) and address(es)
Carole McDonald
4571 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
Kentwood, MI 49508
Plaintiffs attorney
Lawrence J. Zoet (P-40422)
40 Pearl St. NW/Suite 528
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
v
Defendant name(s) and address(es)
Terry & Gilda Patterson
Last Known Address
4573 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
Kentwood, MI 49508
IT IS ORDERED:

1) You are being sued by plaintiff in this court to pay for damages and unpaid rent. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before Jan. 12, 2000. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in Middleville Sun and News for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

4. A copy of this order and the complaint shall be sent to Terry Patterson c/o Bradford and White by First Class Mail, by registered mail, return receipt requested, before the date of the last publication, and the affidavit of mailing shall be filed with this court.

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William G. Kelly (P25380)
(11/30)

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Obituaries

Margaret E. Waldeck

CALEDONIA - Mrs. Margaret E. Waldeck, age 82, of Caledonia, passed away at Oak Crest Manor in Grand Rapids.

She is survived by four daughters, Nancy (Leonard) Nanzer of Caledonia, Laura (Lloyd Jr.) DeVormer of Alto, Norah (Lee) Rodgers of Three Rivers, Carla (James) Bunce of Caledonia; eight grandchildren; four great grandchildren; four brothers, Myron (Emma Juene) Burgess, Raymond (Ardis) Burgess, Ernest (Pauline) Burgess, Fred (Annie) Burgess; three sisters, Dorothy (Harry) Glupker, Gladys Bisbee, Geraldine Van Sweden; sisters-in-law, Jean Burgess, Marian Burgess, Kay Burgess, Greta Waldeck, and Wanda Waldeck; brothers-in-law, Herb Waldeck, and Roland (Jo) Strating; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, December 1, 1999 at 11:00 A.M. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Middleville.

Pastor Tony Sikora will officiate.

Interment will be at Holy Corners Cemetery in Caledonia.

Memorial contributions may be made to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Organ Fund.

Arrangements were made by the Beeler Funeral Home in Middleville.

George H. Noffke

CALEDONIA - Mr. George H. Noffke, age 98, of Caledonia, passed away Tuesday, November 23, 1999, at Clark Retirement Community in Grand Rapids.

He was born on March 23, 1901 in Caledonia Township, Kent County, the son of Herman and Mary (Finkbeiner) Noffke.

Mr. Noffke was raised in the Duncan Lake area and attended Middleville schools.

He was married to Josephine Martin on October 14, 1922.

Mr. Noffke was a life long farmer in the Thornapple Township area.

He was employed at Keeler Brass in Middleville as maintenance man, and retired in 1971.

Mr. Noffke kept himself busy doing odd jobs.

He enjoyed crossword puzzles, country music, and was an outdoor enthusiast with a special fondness for fishing and hunting small game.

Mr. Noffke was preceded in death by his wife, Josephine Noffke; two sons, Calvin, and Frederick Noffke; one daughter, Lois Ferner.

He is survived by two daughters, Betty (Stanley) Finkbeiner of Inverness, Florida, and Arlene (Charles) Visner of Lake Suzy, Florida; daughter-in-law, Kay (Jerry) Wellman of Westminister, Colorado; nine grandchildren; eighteen great grandchildren; four sisters-in-law, Kathryn Noffke, Tavie Noffke, Hazel Noffke, and Ruth Martin; brother-in-law, Frank (Mildred) Martin; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral and Committal services were held on Saturday, November 27, 1999 at the Beeler Funeral Chapel in Middleville. Reverend Charles Fullmer officiated.

Interment was at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Middleville.

Marie E. Thurkettle

MIDDLEVILLE - Mrs. Marie E. Thurkettle, age 95, passed away Tuesday, November 23, 1999 at Grand Valley Health Center in Grand Rapids.

She was born on January 22, 1904 in Traverse City, the daughter of Jake and Elizabeth Milbert.

Mrs. Thurkettle was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Caledonia.

She was a caring, loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, always doing kind deeds for her family.

Mrs. Thurkettle is survived by one son, William E. Thurkettle of Middleville; one daughter, Glenna (Ralph) Smith of Hastings; three grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was offered Friday morning, November 26, 1999 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Caledonia. Reverend Father David E. Le Blanc was celebrant.

Scripture services were held Thursday, November 25, 1999.

Interment was at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Middleville.

Arrangements were made by the Beeler Funeral Chapel in Middleville.

Soccer Scots honored for record breaking season

The following awards/honors have been earned by Caledonia High School varsity soccer players.

The Fighting Scots went 21-3-1 this past fall, won an O-K Gold Conference title, a district title, a regional title and played in the Division III soccer championship against Detroit Country Day.

All-O-K Gold: Chris Cox, Justin Johnson, Doug Jousma, Nick Zientarski and Lance VanHaitsma.

All-O-K Gold Honorable Mention: Jason Nagel.

All-District: Chis Cox, Dan Clark, Justin Johnson, Doug Jousma, Jason Nagel, Dave Schadler, Nick Zientarski.

All-District Honorable Mention: Joe Vaughn, Florian Vogelsang.

All-Region: Chris Cox, Doug Jousma, Justin Johnson, Lance VanHaitsma, Nick Zientarski.

All Region Honorable Mention: Dave Schadler, Jason Nagel.

All-State 1st Team: Chris Cox.

All-State Second Team: Justin Johnson.

The team's 21-3-1 record was a school record as were Caledonia's 90 goals and allowing their opponents just 16 goals.

Cox was the team's leading scorer. VanHaitsma was credited with 16 shutouts, had a goal against average of .5 and a saves percentage of .91.

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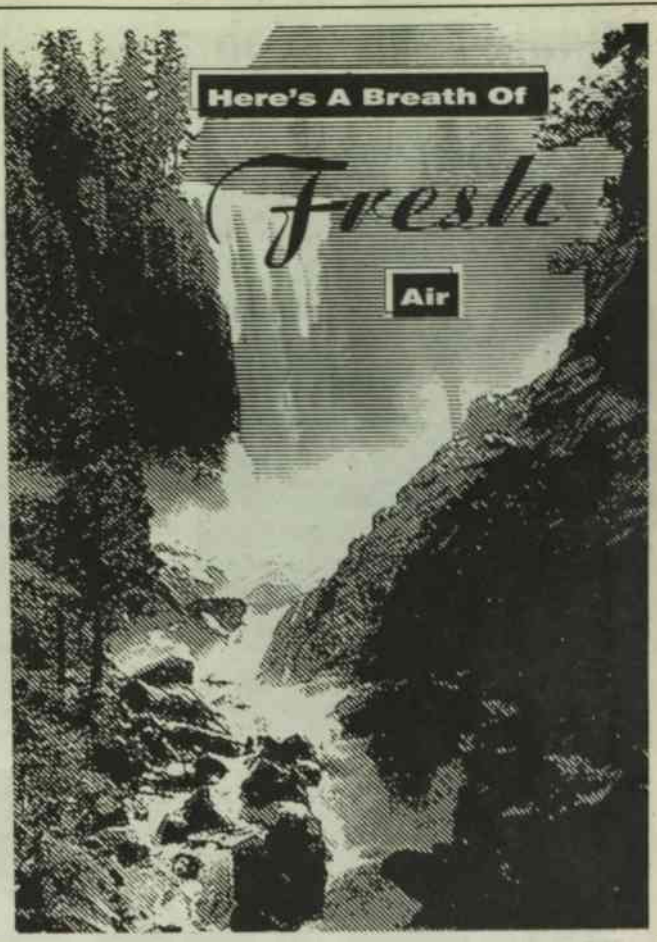

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Middle Villa celebrates 30th anniversary this year

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Steve Wiersum looks back on the last 30 years at the Middle Villa Inn and shakes his head in wonder. His dad, Robert, purchased the restaurant from Earl Cole in 1969.

The building was built in 1962. There have been some changes to the interior since one of the downstairs banquet rooms replaced an 18-hole miniature golf course and dirt floor. The size of the combination bowling alley and restaurant is just about the same.

Two generations of Wiersums have worked in the family business. There have now been three generations of employees.

Steve has been working for the past 18 years. Originally he thought he wanted to be a veterinarian, but after four years in the service he changed his major to business and marketing and focused his energy on the Middle Villa.

He has seen many changes since his parents bought the restaurant. At the beginning it was busy on Sundays with Kent County residents who would drive down to Middleville for a cocktail (Kent County was dry on Sundays).

Fights were almost guaranteed on Saturday nights. Now, much of the business is local from bowling leagues to banquets.

"It's not uncommon for us to be the wedding banquet location for several girls in one family. This summer one mother thanked me for making her daughter's wedding reception as nice as her own."

Steve and his five siblings have worked in the restaurant. His parents celebrated their 50th anniversary this summer, as well as his father's 70th birthday.

Surviving 18 years of banquets, meals and bowling leagues hasn't eliminated Steve's dreams of improving the restaurant. He would like to figure out a way not to have to work on weekends.

In the restaurant he is proud of using locally raised products like Otto Farm turkeys and pork from area farms butchered at Geukes Market.

He praised his staff for the many contributions and hard work and music they have brought to the business.

He said the Middle Villa's success over 30 years of Thanksgivings and lunches and dinners, menu changes comes from loyal customers who come for the camaraderie and cookies.

Char and Robert Wiersum who purchased the Middle Villa in 1969 recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. The Wiersums thank their children, employees and patrons for the continued success of their restaurant. The entire Wiersum family is looking forward to the continued growth of the Middleville area.

Employees are a big reason for the success of the Middle Villa Inn, owner Steve Wiersum says. Pictured (back row, from left) are Sue Toler, Larry Willis, JoHelen Marble, Ella Bluhm, JoAnn Law, (front row) Wilma Landon, Steve Wiersum and his wife, Susan. Not pictured is Fay Freeeman. Total years of these employees' service (not counting the Wiersums) is 162.

GEMS join Operation Christmas Child

The Peace Reformed Church GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior) filled shoe boxes with toys and toiletries for Operation Christmas Child. Shown here are (from left) GEMS Chloe Buxton, Karri Selleck and Lydia Scholtens, with approximately 80 shoe boxes.

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Holiday story time planned for Dec. 2 at TK Library

Students who belong to the Thornapple Kellogg High School Service Team have prepared a children's story hour with their favorite holiday stories.

Children are welcome to come in their pajamas to the Thornapple Kellogg School and Community Library Thursday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. for stories, songs and laughter.

This is the second in this year's series of story hours. The next is scheduled for Jan. 6.

For information about this program, call Nancy Iveson at 795-3394.

Members of the TK Service Team read stories about apples, fall and the harvest earlier this month. The talented readers were (from left) Amy Dykstra, Breanne Dutcher, Mandi Harcek, Candice Cree, Deann Weeks, Tasha Hoekstra, Jennifer Sherman, Tiffany Beuschel and Stacey Willemstein.

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DRIVER- additional CDL A drivers needed. Looking for dependable service oriented person with chauffeurs, CDL-B, or CDL-A license. Full-time, part-time, benefits (full-time), good working environment. Also hiring for night/weekends. 248-7729.

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CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOL is looking for people who are interested in a part-time position as a substitute bus driver. If interested contact Dianne at 616-891-0224.

In Memoriam

IN LOVING MEMORY OF Patrick V. Cavanaugh, May 13, 1938-December 4, 1998. A NOTE TO DAD: I asked you why you were leaving, you couldn't answer why. Instead you just explained to me, It ws your time to die. Sometimes people just get too sick, as it was in your case. As I listened to you explain, a tear rolled down my face. At first it was hard to accept, then you began to suffer. Your face would express so much pain, and each day just got rougher. We brought you to many doctors, but they all said the same. They could try the newest treatments, but you'd still lose the game. But for us kids, you still would try, you'd fight back the disease. We prayed for a miracle cure crying out please God, please. I spent the summer sitting with you, spending all the time I could. I couldn't imagine losing you, but I knew in time I would. Eventually you grew weaker, as the disease remained. All the doctor's could do from now was try to control your pain. One day you fell into deep sleep, you weren't the same dad. When I talked you didn't answer, my emotions were sad. After months of pain it was over, that Friday was your day. It was sad for us, good for you, your pain had gone away. Love from your daughter, Jennifer Cavanaugh

IN MEMORY OF BOB SIGLEY SR. 1 DECEMBER 1998 Throughout this past year, we've come to realize how much you've meant to each one of us, your family! Quote: AgnesBob Jr. & BobbieJan & AlanTom & PattyGene & Ellen & AshleyChad, EricDan & KimBret, Brock & Blake

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KALKASKA COUNTY: 6+ WOODED ROLLING ACRES: Ideal all seasons recreation location. Short drive to State Land and snowmobile trails. Includes driveway, cleared building/camping site. Electric. $25,900, $500 down, $320/mo., 11% Land Contract. Northern Land Company 1-800-968-3118, www.northerlandco.com

7 1/2 ACRE BUILDING SITE: $29,900. Walk-out site with excellent view. Land Contract Terms available. Approx. 5 miles North & 1 mile East of Hastings. Days, 616-891-8982. Evenings, 616-891-1693 or 616-891-8457.

1/2-1 1/2 ACRE BUILDING SITES: Pine Haven Estates. 4 1/2 miles SE of Middleville off M-37. $16,000-$29,000. Wooded walk-out sites, Middleville schools, Terms available. 616-891-8982 or 616-891-8457.

CALEDONIA: Main St. Commercial space for rent. Ideal for contractor, plumber, electrician. 1,350 sq. ft. warehouse/office w/ 12' overhead door. $350/mo. Days, 616-891-8982 or evenings, 616-891-8457.

SAVE ON MASS MAILING COSTS when you want to reach a large audience, insert your brochure in one of our local publications. Call 616-945-9554

Recreation

WINTER STORAGE: RV's, boats, etc., inside, locked. $1.00 per foot, per month. Call Barry Expo Center, 945-2224.

1996 SKI-DOO FORMULA STX 583 studded ski-skins, hi windshield, with matching Ski-Doo suit and HJC helmet. $2,850. 616-948-0502, after 5:00pm.

FORTUNE CHEF
RESTAURANT
Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner
American - Chinese - Steak
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Caledonia, MI 49316
616-891-1388

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3432 68th Street, SE, Dutton, MI
Phone: (616) 554-6277
OPEN YEAR-AROUND
New Specialty Sandwiches
(available Mon. thru Fri. 11:30 am-7:00 pm)

68th street GRILL & Pizzaria
3555 68th Street, Dutton Village Mill Mall
Phone 698-7920
"The Place Where Friends and Family Meet to Eat"
Hours: 6:30 am-8:00 pm Mon.-Fri.; Sat. 7:00 am-8:00 pm. Closed Sunday

Blue Dragon
CHINESE RESTAURANT
Good Food • Good Times • Good Service
8980 Rodgers, Caledonia, MI • 891-6961
(Conveniently located in the Crossings Plaza)
Authentic Chinese Cooking
- Lunch
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- Appetizers
Take Out Available
Parties of 6 or more please call ahead to reserve seating.
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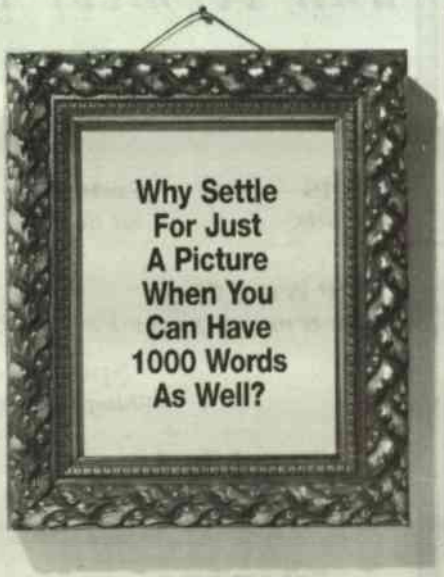
NO M.S.G.
SUNDAY SPECIAL:
Order any entree of $7 or more and receive FREE egg roll/egg drop soup.
Valid on dine-in only, please.



Words on paper. They will always be the most powerful tools human beings use to communicate. They place no limits on how much we can say, and the furthest reaches of the imagination are the only limits on what we can show. They have the power to make complex ideas simple, and simple ideas powerful. We do more than read them, we hold them. And, from the advertising we see in publications to the letters we receive in the mail, the things we hold in our hands have the quickest routes to our hearts.
Say It In Print.

Look What We Have Planned For Your Holiday Season...

Sunday Celebrations at 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 2 "The Miracle of Christmas" - for women by reservation only
Dec. 5 "The Miracle of Christmas" Drama - All invited - 6:00 p.m.
Dec. 12 Youth and Children's Christmas Program - 6:00 p.m.
Children's choirs and clases bring joy to the spirit of Christmas
Dec. 19 Christmas Concert - 6:00 p.m.
Musical groups lead us in a seasonal celebration
Our Choir - Pure Joy - Trumpet Trio - HeartSong
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 11:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service - 9:00 a.m.

and to meet your needs in 2000...

Sunday Celebrations
Meaningful messages and music
8:30 am · 11:00 am · 6:00 pm

Children and Worship
Fun and Learning

Choirs and Instruments
Using talents for praise

GEMS
for girls

Cadets
for boys

Sunday School
All ages with electives for high school and up

Caraway Street
Puppets for kids

P B'n J Choir
Music & drama grades 1-8

Nursery
TLC for infants - age 2

Couples
Retreats/class

Alpha
for seekers

Sports Teams
Biking trips & ski club

Weigh To Be Fit
Fitness goup

Top of the Liners
Growth & fellowship activities for age 50 or better

"Little Church"
Groups for growth & fellowsip

Men
Promise Keepers class

Becoming a Contagious Christian
Evangelism training

Women's Ministry
Classes/Bible Studies/Retreats

Youth Groups
Jr. and Sr. High
www.go.to/peaceyouthgroup

Prayer Groups
Bible Studies

New Groups
Formed to help others in the community

Navigator 2:7 Series
Discipleship group

"What if it's true?"
Evangelism series

Our mission is simple: To lead people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ and help them become fully devoted followers of Him. Call Peace Church for information on these and other programs designed to help accomplish our mission.

PEACE CHURCH

Your Community Center for Ministry

On M-37 between Caledonia and Middleville