

**EATON RAPIDS
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS - 2006**

Update: New duplex nearly built at VFW site

Children's home will offer ranch to 2 families

EATON RAPIDS — A new home at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids is close to being completed, spokesman Barry Walter said.

The ranch-style duplex, the VFW's first new house in 40 years, will house two single-parent families connected to the military.

"Things have been going well and steady," Walter said. "The biggest problem we've encountered is bringing in a gas line."

Construction crews had to dig under a nearby street to bring gas to the house, a process they had not anticipated. The shell of the house has been constructed, and the sheeting is in place.

The installation of electricity and plumbing will be completed in the next two weeks, Walter said.

The duplex sits on a 70-acre campus that includes 36 additional homes, a community center, day care, guest lodge, chapel



Courtesy photo

Future homes: Later this year, this duplex will be home to two single-parent families. It's at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home for Children.

and administration buildings.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place May 19 and will feature James Mueller, the VFW national commander in chief.

Ron Gettelfinger, president of the United Auto Workers, also will be in attendance.

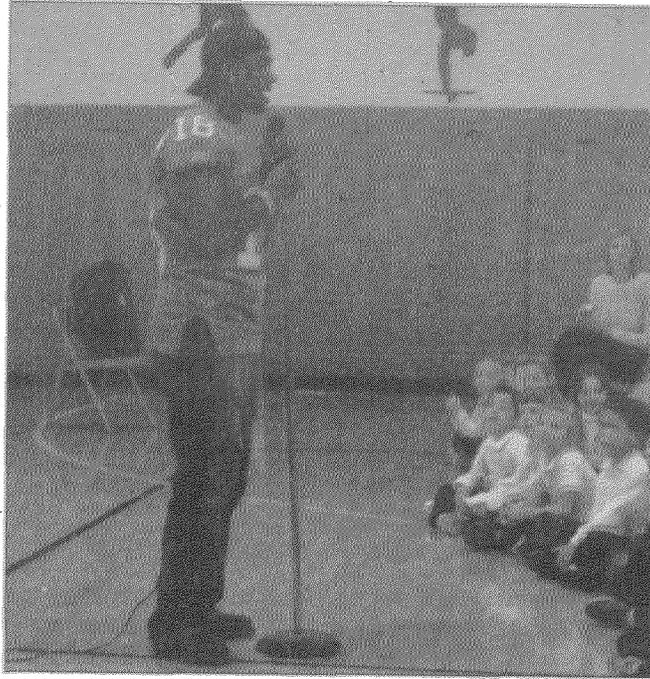
The United Auto Workers National Veterans Affairs De-

partment provided almost \$370,000 in building costs by fundraising and finding volunteer labor and materials.

Staff writers Mike Hughes and Hannah Northey contributed to this report. Is there a local story you'd like to see revisited in Monday Update? E-mail metro@lsj.com, or call 267-1300.

LSJ 1-9-00

NFL All Pro Lion Visits Island City Academy



Students at Island City Academy were treated on December 20th to a visit from All-Pro kick returner for the Detroit Lions, Eddie Drummond. The event, sponsored by ABC 53's television program "Hondo's House" and the 4th grade class, was a great success. Drummond's obvious magnetic personality shown from the very beginning as he ran into the gymnasium while the children were loudly chanting his name, "Eddie, Eddie,..." "I like the kids to see me in person. It is one thing when you see an athlete on tv say stay in school and do the right things and it's another when you get to hear them say it in person," said Drummond.

The students, kindergarten through 8th grade, were obviously moved by having the football star at school and listened wide-eyed as Drummond talked passionately about not giving up, working hard to reach your goals, and the importance of an education. "Most people don't realize that Tuesdays in the NFL is a day off for the players. I'm fortunate to be in the position that I am and I want people to see that for every player you hear about that is not a good role model there are a hundred who are. Eddie is definitely one of the good ones," said Hondo Carpenter from "Hondo's House".

If possible the excitement further peaked when Drummond awarded game-used wristbands, gloves, and autographed hundreds of pictures for the students of Island City Academy. "We took the kids to Ford Field, we obviously had Eddie come in today, and we have another superstar athlete coming in January. Sports is obviously a medium that reaches kids and we are using every avenue we can to reach our students," said Thomas Ackerson, principal of Island City Academy. "Good or bad, the fans are always there for us. I love our fans, and I really appreciate the opportunity to spend the time with them today," said Drummond.

One thing for sure, the Lions may have struggled this season, but Eddie Drummond is not only an All-Pro kick returner, he is also an All-Pro human being.

Flashes 1-10-06

BASKETBALL WIZARD WOWS STUDENTS IN AREA VISIT

Never to be forgotten

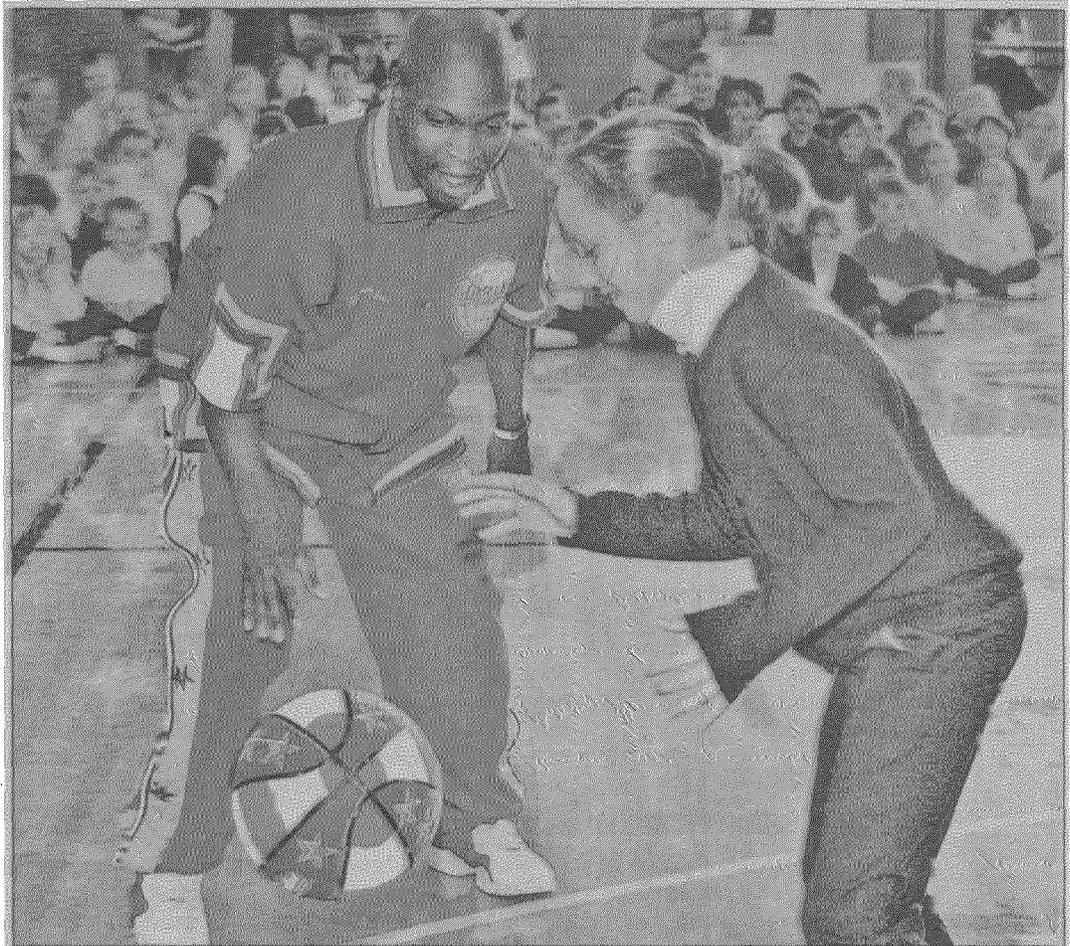
Eathan O'Bryant had fourth-grader Courtney VanKoevering laughing in the Island City Academy gymnasium in Eaton Rapids.

The 5-foot-11-inch guard for the Harlem Globetrotters had challenged her to duplicate his moves. So Courtney tried her best.

She grabbed the ball, moved it around her waist, under her leg, attempted a fake pass and then tried to spin it on her fingertip before shooting it down one arm to the next.

She's gonna practice, she says. If she never masters the moves, that's OK. She'll still have something to treasure.

"A memory," she said. "A really good memory."



ROD SANFORD/Lansing State Journal

Do it like this: Courtney VanKoevering, 9, tries to steal the ball from Harlem Globetrotter Eathan O'Bryant

on Thursday as he visits Island City Academy in Eaton Rapids. The Globetrotters play on Tuesday at MSU.

Globetrotter brings skills, good advice

As the Harlem Globetrotters' ambassador, Eathan O'Bryant dashed about mid-Michigan on Thursday, greeting fans with a smile, a handshake or a flip of the basketball.

He tossed the ball around at Okemos' Central Elementary School and Island City Academy in Eaton Rapids before taking his smooth moves to an Old Town restaurant and a Lake Lansing Road grocery store. "I had a great time. Make good decisions. Make good choices in your life," said O'Bryant as he left Island City. His athletic tour de force was to promote the Globetrotters' game on Tuesday at MSU.

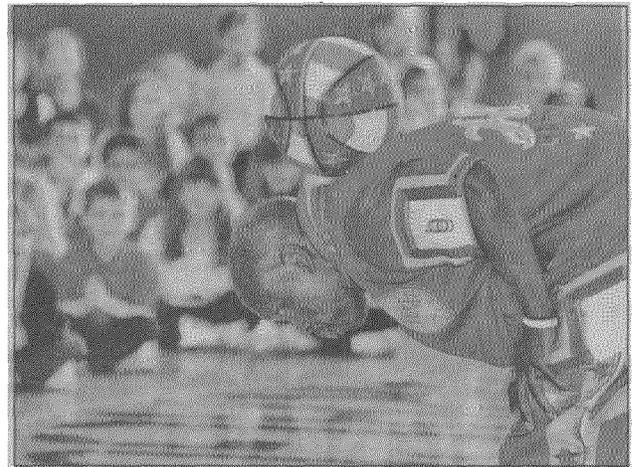
Lansing resident Shelton Tyson escorted his 4-year-old grandson, Ezykiel Moore, to O'Bryant's table at Sir Pizza in Old Town.

"It's history," said Tyson, who has taken Ezykiel to two Globetrotter events already. "The organization has been around for so long. Just the history of the group (and) the influence that they've had."

— Staff writer Susan Vela

Check it out Harlem Globetrotters vs. New York Nationals

► **When:** 7 p.m. Tuesday ► **Where:** MSU's Breslin Center
 ► **Tickets:** \$15, \$19, \$24, \$32, \$65 ► **Info:** (800) 968-2737 or 432-5000



Where's the ball? Eathan O'Bryant shows some of his amazing ball-handling tricks during his visit to Island City Academy.



Jessica

Give all you've got

Jessica Jimenez plays a mean game of basketball. Yet the fifth-grader at Okemos' Central

Elementary realized how much better she could become when she saw Eathan O'Bryant dribble and spin a basketball Thursday.

"I wish I could do those tricks," she said.

Jessica said she'll always remember O'Bryant and his emphasis on an education and giving all you've got in both school and sports.

Harlem Globetrotters

► **Turned pro:** 1927

► **Some former Globetrotters:** Wilt Chamberlain
 Reece "Goose" Tatum
 George "Meadowlark" Lemon

Did you know?

► **1970-72:** Hanna-Barbera produced "The Harlem Globetrotters," a Saturday morning cartoon.

► **2002:** Team inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

► **Theme song:** "Sweet Georgia Brown" was adopted as the team's theme song in 1952.

E. Rapids board OKs bus garage near schools

LSJ 2/10/06

By NICOLE GEARY

Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — After a year of debate, the city's school district finally chose a new bus garage location.

Eaton Rapids school board members recently approved constructing a \$2 million facility near four schools, despite parents' concerns about unhealthy diesel fumes and student distractions.

Officials reached the decision Wednesday — a return to original plans — after weighing public input, finances and logistics.

"There's no doubt in anyone's mind that exhaust isn't the best thing for kids," board President Steve Benkovsky said.

"But overall, I think it's the best choice, and we can move forward."

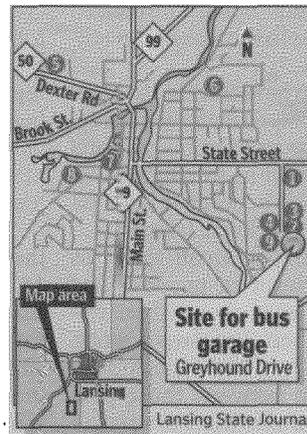
Leaders also considered

SEE GARAGE | Page 2B

Bus garage site

Eaton Rapids Public Schools decided Wednesday to build a new bus garage and maintenance facility at the south end of Greyhound Drive, near four schools and a new multi-purpose building.

- ① Eaton Rapids High School
- ② Eaton Rapids Middle School
- ③ Greyhound Intermediate School
- ④ Lockwood Elementary School
- ⑤ Northwestern Elementary School
- ⑥ Union Street Elementary School
- ⑦ Community Education
- ⑧ Central Office
- ⑨ New multi-purpose building



Garage: Opponents worry site for buses poses risks

LSJ 2/10/06

CONTINUED FROM IB

buying a commercial bus facility on M-99, about three or four miles away. Having already bought property south of the main schools complex, the purchase and extra distance move would have created additional costs.

The bus garage project — among \$33.5 million in bond-issue improvements voters approved in March 2004 — was delayed while a committee studied options and heard opinions for health and environmental experts.

Committee member Shari Dudley is among those opposing the decision. She helped obtain letters from area doctors who recommended keeping bus emissions away from children.

"It brings all the bus traffic right through the campus," she said of the site, located at the south end of Greyhound Drive. "We need to take every opportunity to eliminate exposure."

"This would have been the opportune time."

Superintendent Bill DeFrance said the school district will take steps to minimize risks, such as reducing bus warm-up time.

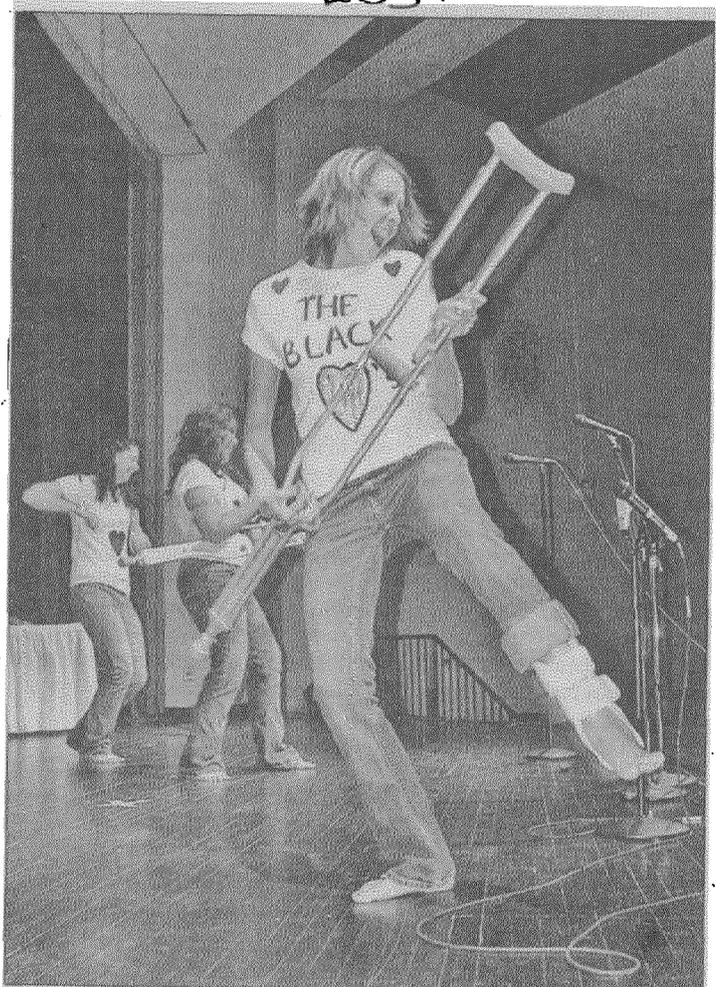
Eaton Rapids is overdue for a replacement to its small, outdated bus facility on King Street, he said.

"We'll do everything we can to create the safest environment for the children as well as the employees."

Contact Nicole Geary at 377-1066 or ngeary@lsj.com.

ID-MICHIGAN

LSJ 2/15/06



CARLA BUMSTEAD/Lansing Community Newspapers

EATON RAPIDS

Rock 'n' roll divas: Chelsea Robertson uses a crutch as a prop in her dance team's rendition of "I Love Rock and Roll" at the Strut Your Stuff talent show earlier this month at Eaton Rapids High School. Other team members shown include Erin Allison (left) and Kami McKenna.

LSJ 3/4/06
ESJ

Teacher sues state for ID mistake

An Eaton Rapids elementary school teacher filed a class-action lawsuit Thursday against the Michigan Department of Education over records that mistakenly showed he had three felony and four misdemeanor convictions.

Eric Frohriep is seeking an "unequivocal retraction" and monetary damages.

Education department spokesman Martin Ackley said his office received the lawsuit Friday and forwarded it to the state attorney general.

As part of a new law aimed at keeping sex offenders out of schools, school employees statewide underwent background screenings. But the lists have been so inaccurate that the education department recalled them, and state police are creating a more accurate list.

A class-action lawsuit is one filed by one or more people on behalf of themselves and a larger group facing the same issues. The Lansing firm of Hubbard, Fox, Thomas, White & Bengtson, which filed the Michigan Court of Claims suit, said the class could include more than 150 school employees.

EATON RAPIDS

Historical society to meet over buying Red Ribbon Hall

The Eaton Rapids Area Historical Society will host a community meeting at 7 p.m. March 23 at the Red Ribbon Hall, 314 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids.

The Historical Society is considering purchasing the Red Ribbon Hall and needs to put together a committee to investigate the opportunity and build a plan.

The meeting is open to the entire community, and anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Larry Holley at 663-4712 or Kim Byerly at 719-0294.

3-16-06 LSJ
— Eaton Rapids Community News

EATON RAPIDS

\$500 scholarship available to high school's male seniors

Family and friends of Damon Klinger,

LSJ 3-24-06

LSJ 3-23-06

EATON RAPIDS

Four Eaton Rapids pianists get 'superior' ratings at fest

Eaton Rapids residents Payton Benton, Brooke Benton, Courtney Wood and Seth Burk received "superior" ratings in the piano solo division during a recent music festival.

The National Federation of Music Clubs Southwest District held its festival March 4-5 in East Lansing. The federation, organized in 1898 as a nonprofit organization, today is the world's largest organization dedicated solely to the promotion of musical arts. Its main purposes are to develop and maintain high musical standards in performing and creative arts, to aid and encourage musical education, and to promote the music and artists of the United States.

— Eaton Rapids Community News

who died in 1998, invite graduating male seniors from Eaton Rapids High School to apply for a \$500 scholarship toward further education in Klinger's memory.

The scholarship committee is seeking athletes who strive for the team; who have worked with youth in church or the community; who have respect for God, self and others; and are a role model for other students. Applications are available in the high school guidance office.

3-24-06
LSJ — Eaton Rapids Community News

E. Rapids dentist cleared of fraud

EATON RAPIDS — A jury found Eaton Rapids dentist Thomas J. Cuda not guilty of Medicaid fraud earlier this month. State Attorney General Mike Cox had charged Cuda with 23 felonies, alleging he filed false Medicaid claims. All but five of the charges were eventually dismissed and, after a three-day trial, Cuda was found not guilty on all remaining counts.

3-29-06 LSJ

EATON RAPIDS

State Farm's Steve Bartshe donates \$4,000 to MADD

Eaton Rapids State Farm Agent Steve Bartshe last month presented the Michigan State Office of Mothers Against Drunk Driving with a check for \$4,000.

Bartshe served as a police officer for nearly eight years before becoming an insurance agent and stated that it is an honor to be able to assist MADD in its efforts to help save innocent lives.

MADD's Executive Director Homer Smith said that this was an exceptionally large donation.

The Michigan State Office of MADD was established in 1982 to stop drunken driving, support victims and to prevent underage drinking. To make contributions, call 487-6233.

LSJ 3-30-06 — Lansing State Journal

FLASHES . . .

First Female Eaton County Judge



Shown above is Julie Reincke.

On February 16, 2006, Eaton Rapids attorney, Julie H. Reincke, was sworn in at the Eaton County Courthouse by Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly. Reincke was appointed to fill the position vacated by retiring District Court Judge Paul Berger.

Justice Kelly said, "It isn't very often that we have a district judge take office who brings summa cum laude credentials from law school and over 20 years of practice in the law and who is roundly applauded and appreciated by those with whom she's worked and served over the years and in many community affairs. Clearly, Governor Granholm made an excellent choice. And we are all looking forward to her distinguished service on the bench."

The ceremony was presided over by the Honorable Thomas S. Eveland, chief judge of the Eaton County Circuit Court who stated that Julie Reincke is known for her personal and intellectual integrity. "Judge Paul Berger has a left an impressive legacy of compassion, consideration and competency. I believe Judge Reincke will carry on this legacy and years from now, will leave her own, which will inspire and enlighten future generations." He also noted the historical significance of the event as Reincke is the first woman appointed to a judicial position in Eaton County.

Leonard Peters, chair of the Eaton County Board of Commissioners, Mike DeGrow of DeGrow Consultants, and Anne Lange of Grand River Counseling also spoke at the investiture.

Reincke graduated from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, Thomas J. Cooley Law School, taught high school English at Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky and worked in a private law practice in Eaton Rapids for 25 years prior to taking the bench. She is the mother of three children.

LSJ 4-11-06
EATON RAPIDS
Artist's painted egg shown at White House display

Nationally known decorative artist Deb Malewski of Eaton Rapids traveled to Washington, D.C., last week to be recognized for her contribution to the annual White House Easter Egg Display.



Malewski

Each year, one egg decorated by an artist from each state in the nation is displayed

EATON RAPIDS
Developer to buy King school in Eaton Rapids for \$300,000

The Eaton Rapids Board of Education has approved the sale of its King Street School building.

The brick building will be sold to Skyline Development Group for \$300,000.

Skyline owns an apartment complex adjacent to the school. The district has been told the new owners plan to convert most of the old school into residential units.

Programs now housed in King Street will be moved to a new facility this summer that was funded by the district's most recent millage issue.

LSJ 4-17-06

— Carla Bumstead

LSJ 4-27-06
IN BRIEF

Eaton Rapids teacher a finalist for top honor

An Eaton Rapids teacher is one of four finalists selected by the Michigan Department of Education to become the 2006-07 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Judith Nixon, who teaches foreign language at the high school, was nominated by students, parents, colleagues, administrators and her district.

"All four of the finalists possess both an incredible breadth of experience and a wide perspective on issues that directly impact children," state Superintendent Mike Flanagan said. "Any one of them easily could serve as Michigan's next Teacher of the Year."

An announcement is expected at the end of the school year. Kimberly Kyff of Detroit, James "Ben" Roeder of Royal Oak and Karen Stuard of Northville are the other finalists.

LSJ 4-30-06

IN BRIEF

Eaton Rapids will get traffic signal at M-99

EATON RAPIDS — The Eaton Rapids City Council was paid a surprise visit by 65th District State Rep. Leslie Mortimer, R-Horton, at its April 24 meeting.

Mortimer told the council that Gov. Jennifer Granholm had ap-

proved a spending package that includes putting a traffic signal at the intersection of M-99 and Spicerville Highway. Community leaders have worked to persuade the state to put in such a signal for more than 10 years.

LSJ May 2 '06
EATON RAPIDS
Fifth-graders take third at state-level contest at CMU

A team of seven Eaton Rapids fifth-graders took third place in the state-level Destination Imagination competition recently held at Central Michigan University. The team, coached by Greyhound Intermediate School teacher Joni Clarke, competed in the "Improvisation" division against 21 teams. The students were judged, in large part, on their ability to work together to creatively solve a challenge.

— Eaton Rapids Community News

LSJ May 5 '06

EATON RAPIDS
Island City Academy to mark 10th anniversary Wednesday

Island City Academy will host a 10th anniversary celebration Wednesday.

The event will include the rededication of the school bell, award presentations and a concert by students in kindergarten through fourth grade.

All past students and parents are invited to attend and share in the reminiscing. The celebration will start at 5:30 p.m.; the concert is at 6 p.m. The school is at 6421 S. Clinton Trail.

For more information, call 663-0111.

— Eaton Rapids Community News

Eaton Rapids High School

Erin Allison

- ▶ Parents: Sandra and Jeffrey Allison of Eaton Rapids
- ▶ Honors/activities: National Honor Society, student council, basketball, softball, basketball coach, tutor, Special Olympics
- ▶ Future plans: Erin will attend Alma College and study music education.



Ted Doukakos

- ▶ Parents: Paula and Keith Cupp of Eaton Rapids and Ted Doukakos of Eaton Rapids
- ▶ Honors/activities: NHS president, band council rep, chemistry and social studies awards, hospital volunteer, blood drive donor, math tutor
- ▶ Future plans: Ted will attend Michigan State University and study nursing.



Jessica Elizabeth Fluegeman

- ▶ Parents: Debbie and Ray Fluegeman of Eaton Rapids
- ▶ Honors/activities: NHS, drama, choir, debate, Bible Discovery Zone, Vacation Bible School, Heart and Hands
- ▶ Future plans: Jessica will attend Grand Valley State University and study education or nutrition.



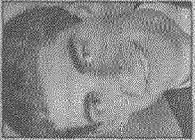
Jenna Hedglen

- ▶ Parents: Kathie and Jim Hedglen of Dimondale
- ▶ Honors/activities: NHS, CAAC Scholar Athlete Award, basketball, Relay for Life, Salvation Army, Special Olympics
- ▶ Future plans: Jenna will attend University of Michigan and study architecture.



Joseph Holberg

- ▶ Parents: Lynda Holberg of Eaton Rapids and James Holberg of Grand Ledge
- ▶ Honors/activities: NHS, student government, Michigan Industrial Technological Education Society, baseball, soccer, American Red Cross blood drives, American Cancer Society, Relay For Life
- ▶ Future plans: Joseph will attend the University of Michigan and study engineering.



David McWilliams

- ▶ Parents: Kathy and Mark McWilliams of Eaton Rapids
- ▶ Honors/activities: NHS, National Merit Scholar, Telluride Association summer program, band, Civic Jazz Orchestra
- ▶ Future plans: David will attend Michigan State University and study jazz.



Kevin Moore

- ▶ Parents: Christine and Brent Moore of Eaton Rapids
- ▶ Honors/activities: NHS, basketball, golf, Relay For Life, Red Cross blood drive
- ▶ Future plans: Kevin will attend the University of Michigan to study engineering.



Taylor Pettit

- ▶ Parents: Judith and Michael Pettit of Eaton Rapids
- ▶ Honors/activities: NHS, student council, tennis, dance, volleyball, Relay for Life, kindergarten round-up, 7th grade winter camp counselor
- ▶ Future plans: Taylor will attend Hope College to study exercise and health science.



Lindsay Stevenson

- ▶ Parents: Terri and Brian Stevenson of Eaton Rapids
- ▶ Honors/activities: NHS, Ferris State University Honors Program, Junior Social Studies Scholar, band, golf, Meals on Wheels, drumline, solo/ensemble bands
- ▶ Future plans: Lindsay will attend Ferris State University to study business administration.



Bryanna Warriner

- ▶ Parents: Karen and Scott Warriner of Eaton Rapids
- ▶ Honors/activities: NHS, CACC Scholar Athlete Award, Greyhound of the month, basketball, softball, YMCA camp counselor, Special Olympics volunteer, American Red Cross blood drive
- ▶ Future plans: Bryanna will attend Hope College to study kinology.



1.55 5/17/06

IN BRIEF

LSJ 5/24/06

Greyhound students to compete in Tenn.

EATON RAPIDS — Greyhound Intermediate School's Destination Imagination team leaves today for a global competition at the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville, Tenn.

Team members are: Jamie Hawkins, Kelsey Spencer, Travis Spitzley, Ryan Verstraete, Lukas Weston, Nicholas Mead and Christa Scheck. Team members work together to apply creativity and critical thinking to challenges.

The elementary-level team placed third in a state competition and was asked to fill a spot when another top Michigan team said they wouldn't go to the global competition.

EATON RAPIDS Arts council stages ceremony for newly donated sculpture

LSJ 6/13/06

The Eaton Rapids Area Art Council held a dedication ceremony May 27 for the sculpture donated to the city of Eaton Rapids. The sculpture is in Memorial Park on the west side of South Main Street. It was donated by Studio Z and designed by Steven Sayles. Mayor Jamie Davidson was on hand to accept the sculpture on behalf of the city.

— Eaton Rapids Community News

EATON RAPIDS Historical Society acquires Red Ribbon Hall building

The Red Ribbon Hall, a historical building on Eaton Rapids' Main Street, recently was acquired by the Eaton Rapids Area Historical Society.

A committee has been established to work on restoration efforts and planning issues. Price estimates have come in for painting, replacing the front door, building a handicap-accessible entrance ramp and expanding the restrooms.

The committee is now actively seeking volunteers to help with these projects.

A meeting on the projects at hand will take place at 7 p.m. Aug. 17 in the hall.

LSJ 8/9/06

EATON RAPIDS

DDA will sponsor MSU Small Town Design program

The Eaton Rapids Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is sponsoring the Michigan State University Small Town Design program at 6:30 p.m. June 1 at City Hall.

The goal of the program is to help small towns visualize improvements by working through a group brainstorming

process and then preparing pictures, sketches and images that illustrate what those improvements would look like.

The program uses MSU students. DDA officials said they hope to see participation from business owners and the public.

The project will focus on downtown's Main Street; alleyways and rear entrances to parking lots; street lighting; signs; parking and historical character.

For more information, call Doug Stevenson at 663-8118, ext. 8101.

— Eaton Rapids Community News
LSJ 5/22/06

E. Rapids admin staff moves into new location

EATON RAPIDS — Central administration staff for the Eaton Rapids Public Schools have moved into their new home on Greyhound Drive.

The central offices had been located on King Street.

Thanks to passage of a bond proposal in 2004, the district has constructed a new building, now named Greyhound Central.

The building will house the district central offices, the daycare and childcare programs and the alternative high school.

For more information about the school district, visit www.erps.k12.mi.us.

From staff reports

LSJ 8/17/06

IN BRIEF

LSJ 6/11/06

E. Rapids to get M-99 traffic signal

EATON RAPIDS — A budget bill that includes money for a traffic signal along M-99 in Eaton Rapids has been signed into law by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

State Rep. Leslie Mortimer, R-Horton, said in a statement that growth in the Eaton Rapids community around the intersection of M-99 and Spicerville Highway has increased traffic and congestion, creating the need for a traffic light to curtail an increase in accidents.

"This much-needed traffic light is a simple solution to a dangerous public safety issue, and I'm pleased that installation of the light can now move forward — and help save lives," Mortimer said in her press release. "I was happy to offer the necessary amendment to get the project done."

For more information, contact Kim Byerly at (517) 663-4907.

— Eaton Rapids Community News

Eaton Rapids High student gets look at law enforcement

Eaton Rapids High School student Andrea Gallaway recently attended a Michigan District of Kiwanis/Michigan State Police Law Enforcement Career Academy.

Michigan Kiwanis, along with the assistance of the Michigan Department of State Police, has conducted the academy since 1975.

It is designed for high school students who are interested in a law enforcement-related career.

Gallaway shared her experience at the academy with the ER Kiwanis Club at recent meeting.

LSJ 8/9/06 Eaton Rapids Community News

Wednesday

May 31, 2006

Lansing State Journal



50¢

THE POWER OF KNOWING SINCE 1855

E. Rapids mourns boy killed on ATV

Teenager's humor delighted teacher, principal, family

By SUSAN VELA

Lansing State Journal

The all-terrain vehicle Dusty Howe was riding when he struck a tree and died Saturday sits in the garage of his family's summer cottage.

It may remain unused. The family may never return to their Upper Peninsula second home.

Pain from losing 14-year-old Dusty, the youngest of their four children, has overwhelmed them.

"I don't know what we're going to do," father Doug Howe said. "I don't know."

Dustin "Dusty" Howe was a good-hearted jokester who lived to make people smile and laugh. His family and

friends have been relying on one another, their faith and memories of the Eaton Rapids boy to cope with their loss.

"He was a very nice kid," said Rachel Clark, a teacher at Dusty's former school, Island City Academy in Eaton Rapids.



Dusty

SERVICES

Funeral services for Dustin "Dusty" Nicholas Howe will be at 11 a.m. Thursday from the Skinner Funeral Home, 315 S. River St., in Eaton Rapids. His family will receive friends at the funeral home today from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

She recalled that Dusty liked to hide under her desk. He wouldn't pop out until she realized a student was

missing.

The young boy was jocular in almost every situation.

"He had a great sense of humor (and he always had) a great smile on his face," Clark said.

After attending Island City for second- through sixth-grade, Dusty transferred to Eaton Rapids Middle School. He was an

SEE ATV | Page 4A

ATV: Kids seek counseling at school

CONTINUED FROM 1A

eighth-grader there this year.

Principal Stephen Dembowski e-mailed parents Sunday about the loss and said students could find counseling at the middle school on Memorial Day.

About 20 kids put aside plans for family barbecues and get-togethers to mourn their friend's fatal crash. Counseling continued Tuesday.

"He was a funny kid. He just flat out was," Dembowski said of Dusty. The principal once saw Dusty do an irreverent, "borderline inappropriate" character sketch.

"It was so hilarious, all I could do was sit back and laugh with

the kids," the principal said.

Such stories are heart-breaking to Dusty's family. The teen had been developing into a confident, outgoing young man at the time of his death.

And "three or four years ago, when we had our first quad, he didn't even want to ride it," Doug Howe said. "We had to coax him, encourage him, to get on it. He was so cautious by nature."

Eventually, time on the ATV was almost a spiritual experience for Dusty.

Doug Howe said the family left for their cottage Thursday, after a banquet for Dusty's school track team. They prepared for the summer and relaxed a bit.

On Saturday, Dusty and his older brother, Dan, took a ride

"He had a great sense of humor (and he always had) a great smile on his face."

Rachel Clark

a teacher at Dusty's former school, Island City Academy

on their ATVs. Dan has told his father, when a trail split, Dan took the south trail and Dusty traveled the north.

But Dusty never met up with his brother when the trails remerged. Dan rode back and discovered Dusty had struck a tree.

Dan rushed home to get his father. When they returned to Dusty's side, the teen was unconscious and didn't have a pulse.

He had been wearing a helmet and goggles.

Dusty was declared dead at a nearby hospital. Doctors told the Howes that Dusty's neck probably broke in the crash and cut off his air passage.

"It was terrible," the father said.

He doesn't know what caused the crash. Dusty wasn't a daredevil, he said. Perhaps a thicket of jack pine trees or a hill caused Dusty to lose control.

"I don't suppose I'll ever know," the father said.

Contact Susan Vela at 702-4248 or svela@lsj.com.

IN BRIEF

E. Rapids teen dies after ATV crash

NEWBERRY — A 14-year-old Eaton Rapids boy died Saturday evening after the all-terrain vehicle he was riding struck a tree in the Upper Peninsula.

Dustin Nicholas Howe was on vacation with his family for the Memorial Day weekend near Newberry, according to Max Skinner of Skinner Funeral Home, which is handling services for the teen.

About 8 p.m. Saturday, the Eaton Rapids Public Schools eighth-grader was taken to Helen Newberry Joy Hospital after striking a tree while riding an ATV, medical examiner James Terrian said. Dustin died about an hour later of massive head and neck injuries.

The medical examiner did not know whether the teen was wearing a safety helmet.

Michigan State Police, who are investigating the accident, did not return phone calls for comment Sunday night.

Services for Dustin will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Skinner Funeral Home in Eaton Rapids.

IN BRIEF



BECKY SHINK/Lansing State Journal

Funeral procession: Eaton Rapids Middle School students Shelby Reed (left) and Ashleigh West, both eighth-graders, walk with other students to the funeral of Dusty Howe.

Hundreds mourn E. Rapids student

EATON RAPIDS — More than 200 family members, friends and classmates said goodbye Thursday to 14-year-old Dustin "Dusty" Nicholas Howe, an Eaton Rapids Public Schools eighth-grader.

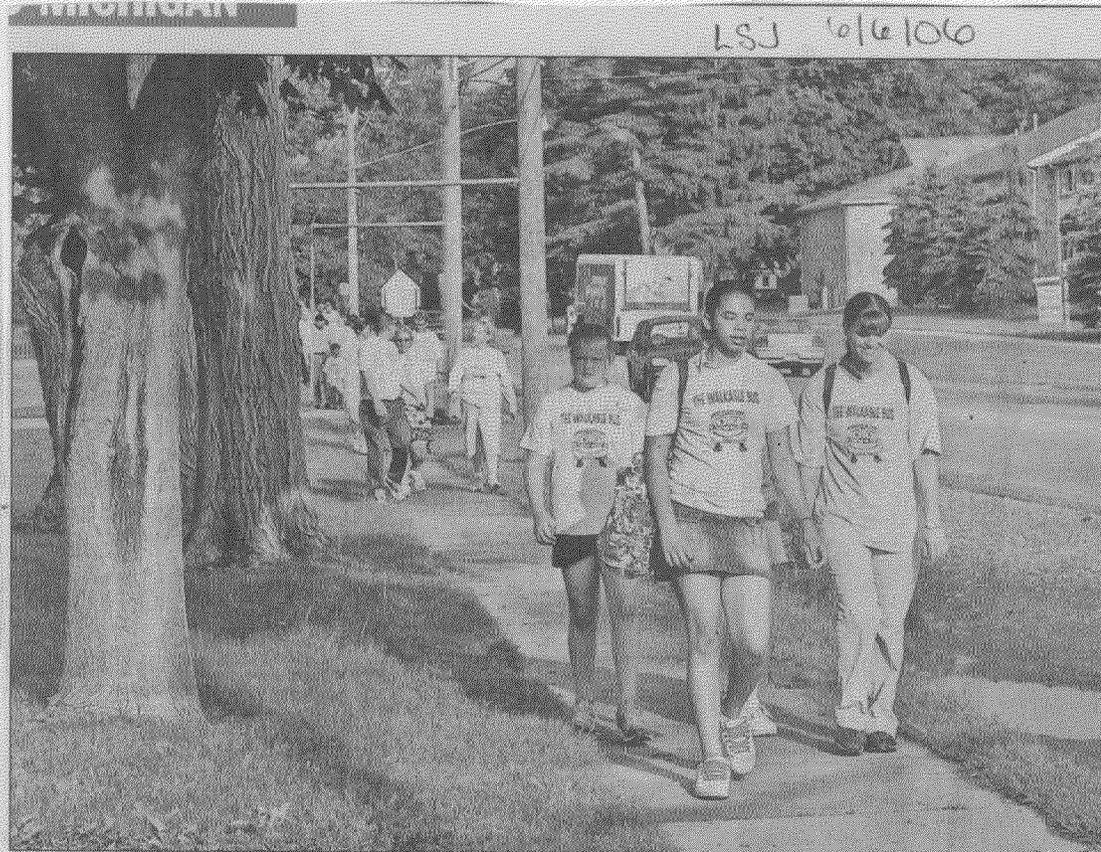
Dusty was killed in an all-terrain vehicle crash over the Memorial Day weekend in the Upper Peninsula.

Many of the students walked from Eaton Rapids Middle School to Skinner Funeral Home, which handled the services.



Dusty

"He was a very nice kid," Rachel Clark, a teacher at Dusty's former school, Island City Academy in Eaton Rapids, said earlier this week. "He had a great sense of humor (and he always had) a great smile on his face."



CARLA BUMSTEAD/Lansing Community Newspapers

EATON RAPIDS

'Walkable bus' promotes safe routes to schools

Eaton Rapids Public Schools students, parents, community volunteers and officials gathered last week for a walk to school to kick off the city's Safe Routes to School campaign. The program has been dubbed the "Walkable Bus." Shown here in front of a line of walkers are (from left) Darielle Rock, Alesia Dassance and Greyhound Intermediate School Assistant Principal Julie Powers.

Tough rocks; truck owner says spill never happened

LSJ 8/31/06

EATON RAPIDS — We found the truck — the one that was spewing either gravel or mere figments of the imagination, depending upon whom you talk to.

Karl Grant, owner of B&T Contracting of Eaton Rapids, acknowledged that the mystery rig — the one hauling gravel on Interstate 69, near Airport Road, around 8:30 a.m. Aug. 21 — belongs to him.

That was, as you may recall, where and when Linda Bissell and some other unfortunate motorists came under bombardment during the morning rush hour.

As Bissell and the others described it, gravel was streaming from a tailgate that was either malfunctioning or not closed properly.

Whatever its source, the mobile rock slide caused \$4,200 worth of damage to



JOHN SCHNEIDER

jschneid@lsj.com
377-1175

Bissell's BMW. I heard from five or six other drivers caught in the same shower, at least one of whom ended up with a cracked windshield.

No dumping

Grant came forward Tuesday to acknowledge that his company owned the truck in question.

However, he denied that it dumped any gravel on the highway.

"We had a truck up there hauling material," Grant said, "but the driver tells me the load was secure, and the truck

was full when he got to the job site."

As for those half-dozen or so people who reported being pelted by gravel flying from the truck ...

"I'm not disagreeing with them," Grant said. "All I can tell you is what our investigation found — that the whole load was there when the truck got to the job site."

In my columns on the incident, published Aug. 24 and Aug. 26, the truck was described as black with white lettering on the side. Bissell thought it said "B&T Excavating," but, in fact, it says "B&T Contracting," according to Grant.

There is no phone-directory listing for either name, but several readers pointed me in the direction of a company called TCI Inc. of Michigan, in Eaton Rapids. The recep-

tionist at TCI told me repeatedly that she wasn't aware of any connection between TCI and B&T.

On the case

Then something strange happened. On Tuesday, I got a call from Sgt. Susan Fries of the State Police Motor Carrier Division. She wondered if I had made any progress in tracking down the truck.

I told Sgt. Fries about the TCI connection — or non-connection — and gave her the phone number I had. She dialed it and soon was talking to Karl Grant.

Fries called me back to say that Grant acknowledged that he was the owner of B&T and that one of his drivers may have been involved in the I-69 incident.

Fries said Grant told her that the people whose cars

sustained damage should contact his insurance company, Mourer-Foster Inc. of Lansing.

But roughly 30 minutes later, I had Grant on the phone, and he was telling me the spill never happened. Also, Grant was adamant in disavowing any connection between TCI and B&T.

"They're totally separate," he said, ultimately conceding that he owns one company, while his wife, Kim Grant, owns the other one.

Sgt. Fries said the driver of a truck spilling its contents is guilty of a moving violation. But, as with other traffic offenses, an officer must witness the infraction.

What do you think? Call John Schneider at 377-1175, send a fax to 377-1298 or e-mail jschneid@lsj.com.

Include your name, phone number, city, town or township.



CARLA BLUMS/EAD/Lensing Community Newspapers

Business enters 120th year: Marilyn Pettit stands next to a 1916 antique cash register that graces Pettit's Hardware, a fourth generation, family-owned business now in its 120th year. The store is located in downtown Eaton Rapids. Marilyn's great-grandfather, George Pettit, opened the business in 1886. *LSJ 9/2/10*

LSJ 9/24/08

IN BRIEF

E. Rapids district chief not seeking Ohio job

EATON RAPIDS — Eaton Rapids Public Schools Superintendent Bill DeFrance said he has decided to take his name out of consideration for the position of superintendent of the Mansfield City Schools in Mansfield, Ohio.

DeFrance was one of six candidates selected for a first round of interviews for the position.

He said that he did visit the Mansfield school district but "that was the extent of the exploration."



DeFrance

Church in Sri Lanka rises from local giving

LSJ
9/4/06

Construction begins after effort generates \$200K

LANSING STATE JOURNAL

EATON RAPIDS — Construction of the new St. Peter Catholic Church in Mullaitivu, Sri Lanka, is under way — thanks to an Eaton Rapids priest and donations from people all over mid-Michigan.

"It took some time for the government to give them a deed to the land, but they have 2 acres, and they have started building," said the Rev. Bennett Constantine, pastor of St. Peter Catholic Church in Eaton Rapids.

Constantine, who is from Sri Lanka, raised \$37,000 in less than a month after the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami, which killed an estimated 230,000 people and wiped entire villages off the map.

He took that money with him to Sri Lanka on a January 2005 visit, where he was shocked at the devastation in Mullaitivu, where he once was church pastor.

He then set a goal of raising \$100,000 to rebuild the church, while an Eaton Rapids Mothers of Preschoolers group raised additional money to build a school. The yearlong effort raised \$200,000.

Monday UPDATE

Here are some local stories from the past several months that we're revisiting.

INSIDE

► Holt bypass takes another step toward reality.

Page 2B

Green Door benefit aids MDA

By MELISSA DOMSIC

Lansing State Journal

While Jerry Lewis and others hosted telethons across the country Sunday to raise money for muscular dystrophy, local bands pitched in and played the blues.

Ten bands performed at the Green Door Blues Bar & Grill's 17th annual Blues for Dystrophy event Sunday to help the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

"Music is a great way to open up the community and raise money," Lansing resident Lisa Webking said.

The bar has contributed more than \$68,000 to the association, not including what was raised Sunday.

People gave money through Muscular Dystrophy Association donation cards, cover charges and a silent auction of donated items.

How to donate

► For information on how to donate locally to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, call (517) 706-0348 or visit mda.org.

run the silent auction and collect entry fees, General Manager Jennifer Coetigan said.

Will Rideout, guitarist and lead singer for the band Big Willy, has performed at the event for the past couple of years.

"I like to do charity stuff whenever I can," he said.

The money will go toward research, as well as wheelchairs, braces and therapy for local people with muscular dystrophy, said Tina Peabody, who works at the association's Okemos office.

"Not many people are willing to take their Labor Day holiday to do



is Peabody, of Grand



Courtesy photo

At work: Workers prepare the foundation of the new St. Peter Catholic Church in the Sri Lankan village of Mullaitivu. A 2004 tsunami destroyed the church and much of the village.

Jody Scavarda

6/24/67 ~ 12/19/05

On behalf of Jody's mom (Samantha), sister (Shannon), children: John, Jacob and Justin, I would like to thank all of you for your different contributions. We have received so much help in so many different ways. This has been a very difficult situation at a very difficult time. All of your thoughts, prayers, food, cards and phone calls have been so appreciated.

Through our years of marriage, I have gotten the chance to meet so many nice people. In Jody's death, I continue to meet and interact with wonderful people -- all because of Jody.

Jody is being missed by all of us who knew and loved her.

We thank this entire community for all you have done for us.

Pete Scavarda

2000 ZRT 800. 1,687 miles, studded. Best offer. Call between 12:00 - 10:00 p.m. 663-8498.

FIREWOOD: Mixed seasoned hardwoods, \$40 face cord, delivered. 663-8540, 282-8317.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom duplex, \$525 month plus \$525 security deposit. No pets. No smokers. 206 Brook. Ross & Associates. 663-4500.

Private Rooms Experienced Staff
Music & Exercise Classes
Generator for Power Outages

TAKE A TOUR OF
Maplewood
Assisted Living for Seniors
11300 Columbia Hwy., Eaton Rapids

Betty J. Breakey Administrator
Bus. 663-4203
Cell 290-5717

DUPLEX FOR RENT: 10350 1/2 Plains Rd., Large 2 bedroom, A/C, new dishwasher, carpet/vinyl, stove & refrigerator included, laundry room inside unit, water softener, deck, 1 car garage, near schools, 30-day lease. No pets. Deposit & references. \$700 + utilities. Early payment credit available. 517-393-4394.

FOR RENT: Excellent area, 2 bedroom duplex, central air, covered parking, full basement. We plow snow and cut grass. \$650 per month plus utilities. No pets. Deposit required. TEEL REALTY, 663-2222, mornings or 663-8401 after 6 p.m.

MASON: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, payments under \$650/month, includes site. Bruised credit builder program. No app. fees. 517-676-7183.

WANTED: Old snowmobiles, ATV's & off road vehicles, call 517-204-3231.

WILLOW TREE APARTMENTS
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Water, sewage and trash removal included.
Gas, heat, central air.
Rent based on income \$410 - \$535 for one bedroom
\$440 - \$585 for two bedroom. Apply at:
300 S. Miller Drive, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
•517-663-4003 •T.D.D. Phone: 1-800-649-3777
Equal Housing Opportunity

SHERRELL'S EXCAVATING trucking, sand, gravel, drain-stone, limestone, bulldozing, septic tanks and drainfields installed. 4335 Byrum Road, Onondaga. Call 517-589-8041.

FOR RENT: Large deluxe 1 bedroom apartment. Refrigerator, stove, dishwasher furnished, carport and trash removal. Security locks, in house mail delivery. \$500/month. References. Call 663-4740.

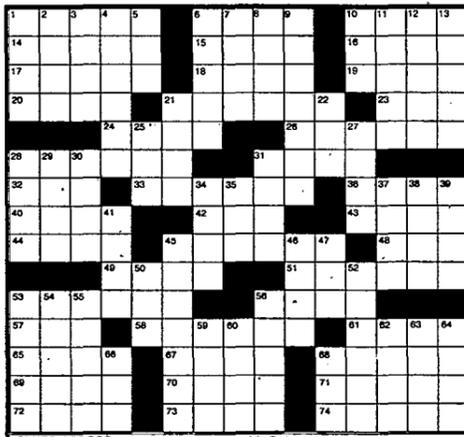
ROSS & Associates
REALTORS, L.L.C.

EATON RAPIDS - \$99,900
REAL APPEAL! Charming 3 bedroom, 2 story with numerous updates including furnace; windows, insulation, electric, plumbing, newer appliances and exterior doors. Great corner lot, 24x26 detached garage and fenced yard. Call Dale at 663-4500.

1211 WATER STREET

147 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids
PHONE 663-4500

Duane Ross 663-8731 • Brian Ross 663-1660 • Kim Cooper 663-8150
Linda Goodnoe 663-3318 • Kim Lerch 881-8700 • Neil Lacasse 663-1764
Dale McNabb 663-1273 • Barb Gruesbeck 663-8934 • Brian Hankey 676-2463
Shawn Fields 663-4500 • Tammy Mullins 663-7062 • Barbara Rogers • 663-4500 Eleanor Lacasse 663-4500 • Daniel Cupp 663-4500



CLUES ACROSS
1. Search for water
6. Runners used for gliding over snow
10. Feign
14. Copyreads
15. A cardinal compass point
16. Adventure story
17. With no brim or bill
18. Lake, one of the Great
19. Morally base
20. Wood source
21. Copyread
23. Spanish cheer
24. Greek harp
26. Puzzle bits
28. More argent
31. Manpowers
32. Snake-like fish
33. Receptacle for fire debris
36. Atmospheric white flakes
40. Aftershock
42. State or say further
43. Swearing to the truth of a statement

CLUES DOWN
44. Got up
45. Three-part arthropods
48. School organization
49. The self of any person
51. Free from guile, cunning, or deceit
53. Heighten
56. Call out over a P.A. system
57. American shade tree
58. Commercial instrument
61. Free from danger
65. Winter outer garment
67. Jerusalem temple site
68. Map collection
69. Samoan seaport or capital
70. Sicilian volcano
71. Start a business
72. A fabric
73. Distribute playing cards
74. Acting as substitute

CLUES DOWN
1. Something that is owed
2. A European river
3. Metal that carries electricity

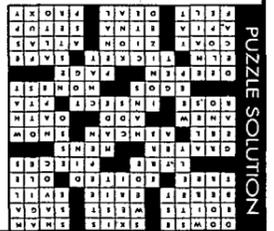
PUZZLED ABOUT YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS? ASK US!

SEAKS INSURANCE

219 S. Main,
Eaton Rapids
663-2051



- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4. Tempered | 50. Obtain |
| 5. Eastern Standard Time | 52. Empty |
| 6. Rutabaga | 53. Low lead coffee |
| 7. Brand of lotion | 54. Run away with lover |
| 8. "___" tape or memorex?" | 55. Electronic communication |
| 9. Increase the slope | 56. Punitive |
| 10. Between south and southeast | 59. Advance evidence for |
| 11. Disturbance | 60. Hawaiian coffee |
| 12. Quick and resourceful | 62. Lowest female singing voice |
| 13. Masculine persons | 63. Not genuine |
| 21. Strays | 64. Catch sight of |
| 22. Clamor | 66. Tit for |
| 25. Affirmative | 68. Egyptian cobra |
| 27. Exp. coffee | |
| 28. Toothed wheel | |
| 29. Gambling town | |
| 30. Brews | |
| 31. Produced | |
| 34. Christian Anderson | |
| 35. Digital music receptacles | |
| 37. The back side of the neck | |
| 38. M. applesauce | |
| 39. Which kind? | |
| 41. Shed tears | |
| 45. Bug | |
| 46. Chew the fat | |
| 47. Cloth | |



NOBACH PLUMBING: New construction, water heaters, disposals. Phone 206-0467.

NEED SLEEP? We have many beds to choose from including the new "Natural Essence" Foamex Memory foam sleep system. See OLD MILL FURNITURE AND FLOOR CENTER, downtown Eaton Rapids.

S.O.K - Save our Kids. Say No to drugs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

FOR RENT: 3 bedroom 14x70 mobile home in country. Stove, refrigerator, A/C, garage, \$750/mo., plus utilities, deposit, references. 663-7581.

ENGINE REPAIR and rebuilding, quality work, reasonable prices. O'NEILS AUTOMOTIVE, 817 Hall St., Eaton Rapids. 517-490-4403.

Moving Sale
Jan. 28, 2006 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Moving! Must sell! 300 S. Miller Dr., Apt. 23, Eaton Rapids. New Furniture In Excellent Condition. Early Sales Welcome! Table w/4 chairs-\$500; Queen bdrm. set, complete-\$2,500; Glass end tables & coffee tables w/matching lamps-\$375; Glass front corner hutch-\$450; Recliner sage green-\$375; Flat screen 24" TV-\$100; TV/VCR combo 13"-\$45; New Dell computer Dimension 5150-\$720; Household items, dishes, stereo, clothing and much more!! Call 517-719-9903

RUBBISH: Affordable hauling. We clean basements, yards, garages, etc. 917-1142.

ROSE COTTAGE ADULT CARE HOME: Licensed home has openings for residents. Private rooms, quiet country setting, physical therapy available, 15 minutes from Eaton Rapids. 517-857-3180.

J'S RENT ALL: New tools just in! Tile saw, finishing nailer, generator and more. Call 663-6151.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
First Congregational Church
All you can eat pancakes, sausage, eggs & applesauce.
Saturday, January 28 - 8 to 11 a.m.
Adults: \$6 Age 12 to 3: \$3 2 & Under: Free

FOR RENT: Eaton Rapids. Nice 2 bedroom home. Great neighborhood, close to town and schools, 2 1/2 car garage, all appliances, central air, dishwasher, garbage disposal, lots of storage. No pets. \$775 plus utilities. BABBITT PROPERTIES, 517-202-9818.

PIERCE AUTO: Disabled, running cars & trucks bought. 1995 and newer, paying up to \$1,000. 517-623-6277.

COUNTRY LIVING:
Great schools, great community, lease to own. Negotiable down payment.
CALL TODAY
517-857-4040
Spring Harbor Park

SAVE GAS: Move closer to work. Many 3 bedroom, 2 baths available in Eaton, Ingham, Jackson counties. Payments under \$650/month, includes site. 517-676-7183.

HELP WANTED:
Nutrition Company seeking ten machine operators, 8 advertising agents, 4 supervisor positions. Full and part-time positions available. Great pay, vacations, retirement and insurance available.
Call Mr. Kurt
663-7811

REPAIRMAN: I repair all soft water equipment. Please call Randy Kaminski, Charlotte, 517-543-0895.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF EATON RAPIDS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Notice is hereby given for a Public Hearing to be held by the City of Eaton Rapids on February 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eaton Rapids City Hall, 200 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

Said Hearing will be to receive written and oral comments regarding the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Community Development Block Grant for Meridian Magnesium Products of America, Inc. Infrastructure Project Final Report.

All interested parties will be given the opportunity to be heard.

Questions may be directed to Kim Byerly at 200 S. Main St., email kbyerly@ci.eaton-rapids.mi.us or by phone at 517-663-8118, ext. #8109

Kristy Reinecke
City Clerk
January 24, 2006

~Thank You~

The family of Carolyn Hope Brantley would like to thank the Skinner Funeral Home for their compassion and helpfulness, Hastay's Greenhouse for the beautiful flower arrangements, Rev. Marty Debow for the lovely service, Pastor Scott Boles for blessing the meal after the service and for opening the arms of the First Baptist Church for our family during our time of need. A very special thanks to the Reinecke family for organizing and serving the meal, and to the Eaton Rapids Boys Varsity Basketball team for their support. To the ERHS faculty, Athletic Department, and Science Staff, words can't express our gratitude for all you did for us.

To all our family, friends and co-workers, please know we appreciated your many acts of kindness and warm expressions of sympathy.

LOW COST, LOTS OF ROOM: Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath with payments under \$650/month, includes site. Available in Eaton, Ingham, & Jackson counties. Free info, 888-767-0600.

FOR RENT: 3 bedroom ranch, 1 1/2 bath, attached garage, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher included. New carpet, deposit and references, \$900.00 month. Taking applications, call 663-4982.

EATON FARM BUREAU CO-OP INC.
~ Serving Eaton County Since 1947 ~

NOTICE

We will be closed February 2nd from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for our annual meeting.

(517) 543-1160
2166 E. Clinton Trail
Charlotte, MI 48813



City Newsletter

~ City Hall 517-663-8118 ~

200 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 www.ci.eaton-rapids.mi.us Fax 517-663-1116

Library Renovations

The library has recently undergone significant renovations.



There have been two new unisex bathrooms installed. Both bathrooms are accessible for people with disabilities and one is equipped with a baby changing station as requested by many patrons. New carpeting was installed throughout the library.

The renovations and moving of all the bookshelves enabled the library to change its layout. The new floor plan is a modification of the floor plan completed by Library



Design Associates in 2002 just before the city purchased the building. Patrons will notice a recessed circulation desk and more open space throughout the library. Library Director Nancy Murray is excited about having more space. "We realize the inconvenience created for our patrons by closing down the library, but we hope they will be happy with all of the changes." The new layout and changes in how materials are shelved will better utilize the space throughout the library.

In addition to the new layout, the library will continue to have two high speed internet workstations for patrons and have a new larger patron workstation with two computers to access the public online catalog. The library has also added limited backdoor access to the library. Patrons may ring a bell at the backdoor and library staff will open the door as soon as possible.

The library renovations were funded both by the city and through donations and fundraising efforts by the library. The Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, Scott Poyer oversaw the entire renovation. Nearly all of the work was completed by the city's Department of Public Works staff and library staff-members. The library is scheduled to reopen the week of January 23rd or shortly thereafter.

City To Enforce Snow Removal Ordinance

The City Council adopted a change in the snow removal ordinance in the early fall and will now begin enforcing it. The change is designed to ensure that snow is removed in a timely manner from public sidewalks and walkways. The following is the new ordinance.

The City of Eaton Rapids Ordains: Chapter 19, Streets, Sidewalks and Public Grounds, Article II, Sidewalks, Section 25, Owners to Clear Snow and Ice; Removal; Costs, is hereby amended to read:

(a) The occupant of every lot or premises adjoining any street, or the owner of the lot or premises, if not occupied, shall clear all ice and snow from sidewalks adjoining the lot or premises by 12:00 noon of the following day.

(b) If any owner or occupant of any house, building, or lot shall fail to remove or cause to be removed snow as provided in subsection (a), the City may cause the snow to be removed at the expense of such occupant or owner and the cost, as determined by the City Council, if not paid within 30 days after billing, shall become a lien in favor of the

City against the house, building, or lot. The cost shall be assessed against the house, building or lot or, in the case of business property occupied by other than the owner, against the personal property contained thereon, the same as real and personal property taxes are assessed and levied.

(c) Property owners and occupants will be given notice of Section 19-25 once a year through utility direct mailing and a public posting in a public newspaper. These will be the only public notice given for Section 19-25.

CITY OF EATON RAPIDS TAX DUE NOTICE

This is just a reminder that your 2005 Winter Taxes are due and payable at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on Tuesday, February 14, 2006. City Hall Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

CITY OF EATON RAPIDS RESIDENTS DOG LICENSES

This is just a reminder that the last day to purchase Dog Licenses in the City is Tuesday, February 28, 2006. City Hall Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

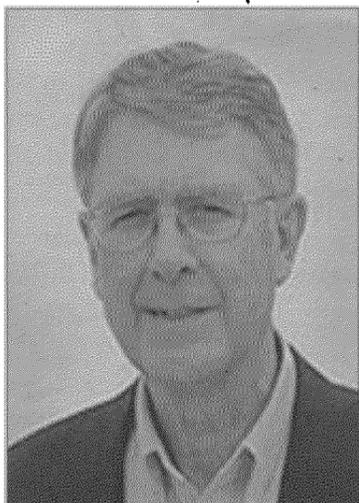
City of Eaton Rapids Hardship Poverty Exemption

For individual taxpayers that qualify, a program that can reduce the Property Tax Burden on the "Homestead Property" of City of Eaton Rapids residents. The applicant must meet the yearly Federal Poverty Income Standards and the City of Eaton Rapids Assets Level Test.

Applications are available at the Assessor's Office and MUST be filed after January 1, but prior to the last day of the March Tax Board of Review, or the Tax Year in question. For more information call Mike Baker, City Assessor at 663-8118 extension 8102.

New Mayor, Councilmember sworn-in

New Mayor Jamie Davidson was sworn-in along with Councilman Roger Greenhoe on January 3rd.



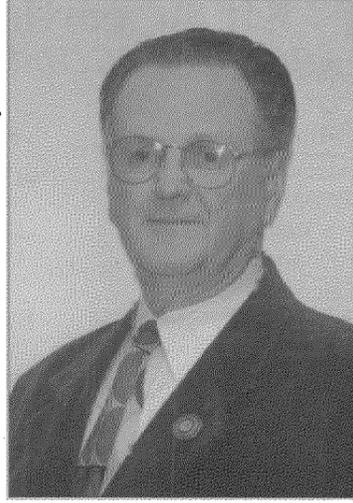
Jamie Davidson
Mayor



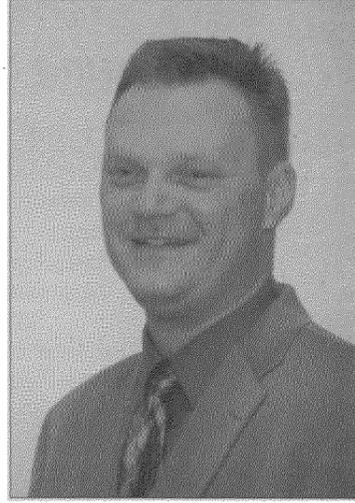
Claudia Brown
Councilwoman



Lisa Letarte
Mayor Pro-tem Councilwoman



Roger Greenhoe
Councilman



Thom Norris
Councilman

Councilman Greenhoe will be serving his first full term, elected as Councilman at large. Greenhoe has served on council for the previous two years after being appointed by Council to complete the unexpired term of former Councilmember Donald Grimes in 2004.

Mayor Jamie Davidson, 62, was born and raised in Eaton Rapids, graduating from Eaton Rapids High School in 1961. He has been an Eaton Rapids resident for a total of

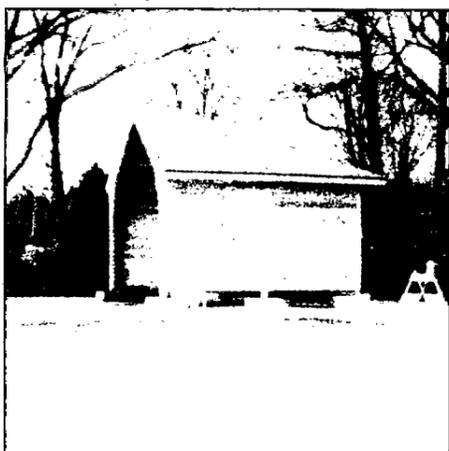
27 years, having moved back to his hometown two years ago.

Davidson spent more than 23 years serving in the military primarily in the U.S. Navy. He retired from the Navy with the rank of commander. He holds a bachelor's degree from Hillsdale College and a Master's degree from New York Institute of Technology. In addition to his military experience, Davidson spent more than 10 years working in higher education both as an administrator and a teacher.

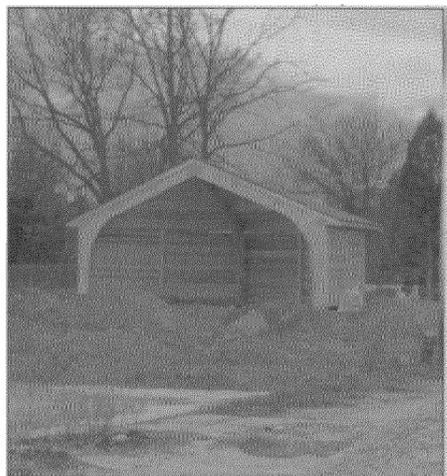
He currently works part-time as an adjunct professor at Lansing Community College and teaches college courses online for Indiana University. He is married to Janet (Hyatt) Davidson and the couple has one daughter and three grandchildren.

Davidson chose Councilwoman Lisa Letarte as the Mayor Pro-Tem at the first Council Session on January 9th. (Special thanks to Carla Bumstead for reprint of this profile).

Amphitheatre



five weekends, totaling 194 man hours. A special thanks to all of you who gave your time & money. The next step will be to build the electrical system and berm for the seating area. Watch for the dedication and inaugural performance sometime this fall.



A Big Thanks to Eaton Rapids Rotary Club for raising the money and building the new Amphitheater, located on W. Knight Street adjacent to Spring Brook. The 45' structure was built with help from many community members who gave up

Citizens Academy

The City of Eaton Rapids is once again offering its Citizens Academy. Classes start Tuesday January 29th at 7pm. The class is free of charge and will last for eight weeks (all on Tuesday nights at Eaton Rapids City Hall). For the first time, classes are open to those from outside the City as well.

The classes offer members of the community to learn first hand about the workings of municipal government, offering a range of

topics from assessing to zoning. Each week the class will cover a different subject matter instructed by City Department heads who are responsible for the specific area. Topics will include utilities and taxes, planning, zoning, police and fire operations, streets, electric, water, and wastewater. Space is limited and you must sign up by January 27th. If you have any questions about the class or enrolling, please contact Brian Reed at 663-8118.

Michigan State Housing Development Authority Grant

The City of Eaton Rapids applied for and won a grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to assist downtown business owners with loft rehabilitation. The grant was for nearly \$250,000 and will be

administered as a grant program from the city. Landlords will need to apply for the program and provide approximately 25% matching funds. More information on this program will be available in the near future.

Police

The Eaton Rapids Police Department will be sponsoring "coffee with a cop" the last Friday of each month at Evelyn Bay Coffee on S. Main Street. The hours will be from 9:00a.m. until 10:00a.m. We invite citizens to

come down and meet an officer and bring your questions and concerns. The ERPD will do its best to supply answers to your questions or solutions to your concerns.

Thefts

We are once again experiencing thefts from vehicles. These are occurring both over night and during the day in our residential neighborhoods and our shopping areas. ERPD wishes to remind you to lock your vehicle and not

to leave valuables in your car that are visible. Most of the cars that have been targeted have been unlocked and many had the keys left in the ignition. The best advice that we can offer is "Lock it and pocket."

City of Eaton Rapids

Mission Statement:

Eaton Rapids, the Island City, is committed to maintaining a rural setting while offering citizens access to nearby urban educational, cultural and recreational activities. It is a safe, clean community, bridging small town values and progressive ideas.

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1920 - 1 - 25 2003 - 1 - 29

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NOTICE
Onondaga Township is taking bids to dismantle and dispose of a wood frame residential structure. Clean up and leveling off will also be required. For more information call Diane at 517-628-2654 or 517-628-2655, or stop by the office during our regular business hours.
All bids will need to be in the Township Office by 5:00 p.m. February 8th, 2006

Sunday

NOVEMBER 5, 2006

Lansing State Journal

\$1.50

POWER OF KNOWING SINCE 1855

LIFE

Au naturel

Organic foods are growing in popularity

Page 1D



SPORTS

Purdue 17 MSU

SPARTANS COME UP SHORT

Late field goal gives Boilermake

Green & White IN

Marine's mom remembers her fallen son with pride

E. Rapids family touched by community support

By CARLA BUMSTEAD

Lansing Community Newspapers

EATON RAPIDS — Annette Nealey said talking about her son Troy helps bring some comfort.

She smiles as she recalls his generosity and sense of humor. But the fact of his loss is still so fresh in her mind, she pauses often, tears in her eyes as she remembers.

Marine Lance Cpl. Troy Nealey, a 2001 Eaton Rapids High School graduate, died Oct. 29

while conducting combat operations in Fal-lujah, Iraq. His death came about a month after he arrived in Iraq with the 24th Marine Regiment.

Troy, 24, was killed when the vehicle in which he was traveling was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, according to information provided to the family by the Marine Corps. Of the four Ma-

rines in the vehicle, Troy was killed and another was seriously wounded.

Annette Nealey said it's her understanding the attack came as part of the Iraqi insurgency.

Since news of his death became public, the family has been "overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support from this community," she said.

"Troy had a very big heart. He was so generous, fun loving and had a wild sense of humor," she said. "He found humor in everything in life. And he had lots of very close friends."

Troy was a Marine reservist, part of Company C out of Lansing. He joined the Marine Corps in January 2004. Before leaving for Iraq in September, he had trained in California for four months. That training included six weeks of intense preparation at Twenty-nine Palms, where, Annette said, all Marines headed for Iraq spend time before deployment.

Troy last saw his family — mother Annette, father Norm and his two brothers, Todd and Michael — in early August, when he was home on leave for about

Services

Visitation will be held at Shelly Odell Funeral Home, 518 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids, from

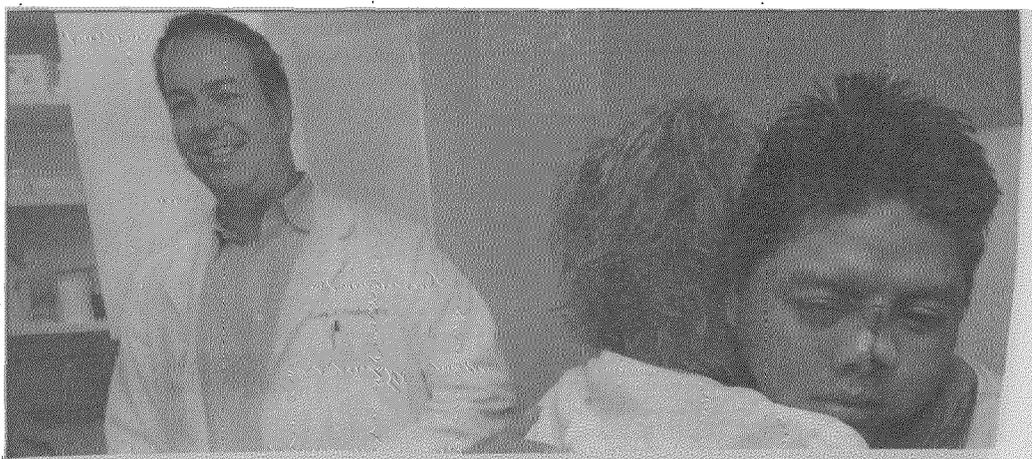
7-9 p.m. Thursday and from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Friday.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at Eaton Rapids High School.



T. Nealey

A Miracle for Moises



Marine: Family supported his enlistment

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Nealey was assigned to the Marine Forces Reserve's 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, out of Lansing.

"We all knew him and really liked him," said Johnson, who announced the loss to the school Monday morning. "I can literally close my eyes and still see him walking down the hall.

"Sometimes I would be leaning against the wall in the hallway as classes changed and he would always make me smile if he walked by.

"If he was with a group of people, there would be laughter. He was such a great kid."

Boles got to know the Nealey family — parents Norman and Annette and their sons Troy, Todd, a sophomore at Michigan State University; and Michael, who is in the eighth grade — when he moved

Mid-Michigan death toll

Marine Lance Cpl. Troy Nealey is the first casualty of the war on terror from Eaton Rapids. He's also the 12th member of the armed forces with known ties to mid-Michigan to have died in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Here are the others:

► **Senior Airman Jason Plite**, 21, of Grand Ledge, died March 23, 2003, in Afghanistan when his helicopter crashed during a flight to evacuate two children with life-threatening head injuries.

► **Army Pfc. Jason Meyer**, 23, was killed April 7, 2003, when his personnel carrier took fire. He graduated from Howell High School in 1999.

► **Army Sgt. Sean Reynolds**, 25, was killed May 3, 2003, in an apparent accident involving his own weapon in northern Iraq. He grew up in Detroit and graduated from East Lansing High School in 1995.

► **Army Capt. Paul J. Cassidy**, 36, of

Laingsburg died in Camp Babylon as a result of noncombat injuries on July 13, 2003.

► **Army Pfc. Richard H. Rosas**, 21, of St. Louis was one of two soldiers killed May 25, 2004, when their patrol was hit by an improvised explosive device in Fallujah, Iraq.

► **Marine Lance Cpl. Justin M. Ellsworth**, 20, of Mount Pleasant died Nov. 13, 2004, while on reconnaissance during the U.S. assault on Fallujah.

► **Michigan Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Ricky Kieffer**, 36, of Ovid was killed March 15, 2005, when his unit was attacked by insurgents using small

arms fire in Baghdad.

► **Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew Kilpela**, 22, of Fowlerville, died June 10, 2005, when a roadside bomb exploded in Iraq.

► **Army 1st Lt. Justin S. Smith**, 28, of Lansing, was killed Nov. 7, 2005, when a bomb in a vehicle exploded near his dismounted patrol in Baghdad.

► **Marine Lance Cpl. David Huhn**, 24, of Portland, was among 10 Marines killed in a roadside bomb explosion Dec. 1, 2005, in Fallujah.

► **Army Cpl. Nyle Yates III**, a native of Lake Odessa, was killed March 16 when he came under small-arms fire in Bayji, Iraq.

Source: State Journal research

into the house next door in 2000.

Boles said Troy Nealey was a "respectful kid with a positive outlook" who loved his country.

"He was always so approach-

able," Boles said. "I have never met any kid so respectful of adults."

Nealey was involved in 4-H throughout his childhood. Boles said, and played soccer all four

years of high school. He helped his dad, a builder, on construction projects and helped his wood-working teacher run electrical wiring in a pole barn.

In his senior year, the wing defender received the coaches' award.

"Kids like him made coaching very enjoyable," said Joe Honsowitz, the Greyhounds' former soccer coach.

"He was always positive. I never heard him once be negative about anything. He was a model player."

Friends said Nealey's parents supported his decision to enlist, a decision he made knowing he might not make it home, Boles said.

"He knew the dangers, and he was willing to do whatever it took to serve his country," Boles said. "He was just proud to wear that uniform."

Shelly-Odell Funeral Home of Eaton Rapids will be handling the services. No date had been set as of Tuesday evening.

Contact Stacey Range at 377-1157 or srange@lsj.com.

LSS 11/106

E. Rapids Marine left mark on many

24-year-old killed in Iraq called 'all-American boy'

By STACEY RANGE
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — The war in Iraq is hitting home for many in this small community where Marine Lance Cpl. Troy Nealey is being remembered as the "all-American boy."

Nealey, a 2001 graduate of Eaton Rapids High School, died in combat Sunday in Iraq's Al Anbar province, the Department of Defense announced Tuesday.

"He was good-looking, polite, kind and well-regarded by everyone that knew him," Eaton Rapids High School Principal Dave Johnson said.

Nealey, 24, is the first member of the armed forces from this city of 5,330 to be killed in the war. He's the 12th with known ties to mid-Michigan to have died in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"It's always so tragic listening as the numbers go up," said family friend Rick Smith. "But it didn't really sink in until yesterday. Now, it's really hit home."

Scott Boles, pastor of First Baptist Church of Eaton Rapids, said Nealey's par-

"If he was with a group of people, there would be laughter. He was such a great kid."

Dave Johnson
Eaton Rapids High School principal

I IRAQ DEATH TOLL

As of Tuesday, at least 2,816 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Inside
Mid-Michigan military members killed in Iraq or Afghanistan. Page 4A

ents and two younger brothers were notified of his death Sunday evening.

"They're so proud of what he's done, but they are deeply grieved," Boles said on the family's behalf. "There's been a great outpouring of support from the community. The family has appreciated that, but now they just need a few days alone."

SEE MARINE | Page 4A

IN BRIEF

LSS 11/2/06

Service set for Marine killed in Iraq

EATON RAPIDS — A memorial service has been planned for 1 p.m. Nov. 11 — Veteran's Day — to honor Marine Lance Cpl. Troy Nealey of Eaton Rapids, who was killed Sunday in Iraq.

The service will be at Eaton Rapids High School, where Nealey, 24, graduated in 2001.

Visitation for Nealey will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 9 and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Shelly-Odell Funeral Home.

Nealey will be buried at Rosehill Cemetery in Eaton Rapids next to his grandfather, a veteran who was laid to rest on Memorial Day. A reception will follow at the high school cafeteria.

The family has requested donations be sent to the Troy D. Nealey Memorial Fund, Ingham County 4-H, 121 E. Maple St., Mason, 48854. The fund will be used to help children with large livestock showmanship, a project Nealey participated in for 10 years.

"He told his mom before he left last month that he wanted this in case he died," family spokesman Pastor Scott Boles said.



Nealey

Indicators of school performance

(out of 36 possible)	GRADE		GRADE
Curriculum Alignment	36	Advanced Coursework	36
Continuous Improvement	36	Family Involvement	36
Performance Mgmt. Systems	36	Student Attendance/Dropout Rate	36
Teacher Qual./Prof. Development	36	4-year Education/Employment Plan	23
Arts Education and Humanities	36	School Facilities	36
Extended Learning Opportunities	36		
Possible score			396
Total Score			97 percent
Performance Indicators Composite Grade			A

Comments from Principal Tony Forsthoefel

High points: As a data-driven school, Lyons Elementary is proud to have attained a B rating on Michigan's report card for the past three years, while consistently meeting the state's AYP standards as well. Through the continuous analysis and disaggregation of Michigan Educational Assessment Program test, Iowa Test of Basic Skills and Dynamic Indicators of Early Basic Literacy Skills data, we are able to differentiate the learning for all students, allowing for the academic success of every child. As the only elementary school in the area to receive an "Education Excellence" award from the state in 2005, we take great pride in knowing we are assisting each child in reaching his or her full potential.

Areas to improve: As a "Reading First" building in the school district, the acquisition of literacy skills remains the focal point of the school. A daily two-hour literacy block has been implemented in all kindergarten through fifth-grade classrooms, along with an additional 50-minute writing block. Our strategic plan includes our literacy coach and literacy facilitator, along with classroom teachers,

scholarships for students in need. The one-on-one tutoring sessions are available for local middle- and high-school students at the Hannah Community Center. For more information or to register, call 333-2580.

Herbison Woods choir to perform free concert

Herbison Woods School sixth-grade choir will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Herbison Woods School gymnasium. The concert is free and the public is invited.

DeWitt asks veterans to share stories Friday

DeWITT — DeWitt Public Schools invites all veterans to be part of the district's Veterans Day Celebration on Friday. The goal is to have veterans visit the classrooms that day and share their experiences and what it means to them to be a veteran. Classroom visits will be held at Herbison Woods, DeWitt Junior High and DeWitt High schools, with an 11:45 a.m. ap-

LSJ 11/9/00



Courtesy photo

Local artist: The Eaton Art League is featuring work by Eaton Rapids resident Norma Cole at the Charlotte Community Library. She paints with acrylic and oils, and does portraits, wildlife, landscapes, florals and still life. Cole's exhibition will be on display at the Charlotte library through Jan. 26.

LSJ 11/21/00

EATON RAPIDS \$500 to establish trees next to Eaton Rapids rain garden

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Community Forestry Grant program has approved \$500 to establish trees adjacent to the Eaton Rapids' new rain gardens and porous parking lots being built this spring.

The program is administered by the state Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division's Urban and Community Forestry Program, with federal funding from the Forest Service, State and Private Forestry.

— Eaton Rapids Community News

Students design banners for Eaton Rapids Main Street

The newest batch of hand-painted banners for Eaton Rapids' Main Street is done. Forty banners were created for the Winter 2006-07 Banner Art Exhibit.

The designs came almost entirely from students.

Organizers expect the banners to be hung on lampposts as soon as weather permits.

— Eaton Rapids Community News

LSJ 11/29/06

About this report

The State Journal is running state report cards, plus analysis, of area schools. This daily series starts at the elementary level and will progress to area high schools.

School Report Card

Eaton Rapids Middle School

Address: 815 Greyhound Drive Enrollment: 495

Summary: Math and science scores for Eaton Rapids Middle School are solid. Lower scores in English Language Arts and social studies were generally the result of average writing responses. The Indicators of School Performance show the highest scores possible across the board.

About the scores:
The state determines overall performance figures; indicators of school performance reflect the school's self-assessment.
Source: www.michigan.gov/mde

Overall performance	GRADE
Student Achievement	
English Language Arts	C
Mathematics	A
Achievement Subtotal	B
Indicators of School Performance	A
Preliminary Grade	B
AYP Status	Met AYP

Composite Grade

B

Indicators of school performance

(out of 36 possible)	GRADE		GRADE
Curriculum Alignment	36	Advanced Coursework	36
Continuous Improvement	36	Family Involvement	36
Performance Mgmt. Systems	36	Student Attendance/Dropout Rate	36
Teacher Qual./Prof. Development	36	4-year Education/Employment Plan	36
Arts Education and Humanities	36	School Facilities	36
Extended Learning Opportunities	36		

Possible score 396

Total Score 100 percent

Performance Indicators Composite Grade **A**

Comments from Principal Stephen Dembowski

High points: The focus on problem-solving skills and interpreting graphs and charts proved to be a significant factor in achieving strong scores in Math and Science.

Areas to improve: Along with further developing the writing process in English Language Arts and Social Studies, a new emphasis on vocabulary will take place.

Plan of action: There will be a continued focus on reading and writing in all core and elective classes. Writing prompts have been created and staff development continues in this area.

Seniors show true determination



Courtesy photo

Leaders: Eaton Rapids seniors Caitlin Thilo (second from left) and Andrea Reinecke, flanked by head coach Willis Whitmyer (left) and assistant coach Richard Stoker, are shown with the team's 2006 District Championship trophy.

Eaton Rapids girls use personal pain to persevere, win

By CARLA BUMSTEAD

Special to the State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Certainly, all the members of the Greyhounds girls basketball team faced plenty of pressure on the way to a second consecutive district championship.

But the pressure faced by Caitlin Thilo and Andrea Reinecke was much more personal.

The team's only seniors, Caitlin and Andrea were expected to provide leadership through ex-

perience. But, for the girls, the pressure was much more personal. "He would have wanted me to play like nothing had happened."

Waiting for results

Andrea was also dealing with family concerns throughout the playoffs. Her mother, Kristy Reinecke, had missed Andrea's last two regular-season games because she was in the hospital having a double mastectomy.

A week before the state tournament began, Andrea spent the whole

owning the build-
ing, and MDA
officials have
yet to reach an
agreement. The
property taxes the MDA
could generate over
12 years.
\$2.2 million: City income
tax revenue over 12 years
if MDA remains downtown
Source: City of Lansing

therapist Genia Smith.
see-catching fame walks on
D SANFORD/Lansing/State Journal

E. Rapids man eager to circulate pot petitions

By CHRIS ANDREWS
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — A local man who sells peace goods and apparel wants to make smoking marijuana for medical or recreational purposes legal on private property.

Jason Hankins, 32, says he plans to begin circulating petitions for the proposed change in Michigan law in January.

If he can collect 304,000 valid petition signatures over a six-month period, he will get his proposal on the November 2008 ballot.

"As long as a responsible adult is making the choice to smoke for their benefit and to make them feel better or relaxed, I think they should have that choice," Hankins said. "I would like to have the option to be able to grow (marijuana) on private property."

Pot petition

For information about the petition drive to legalize use and possession of marijuana by adults on private property, write to Medical and Recreational Peace Proposal, P.O. Box 102, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

The Board of State Canvasser approved the form of the petition last week. The proposed law would apply to adults 18 and older.

Last year, supporters of a drive to legalize marijuana for those 21 and older failed to get a sufficient number of signatures. Similar drives were unsuccessful in previous years.

"If the proposal were limited to medical purposes, it would probably pass," said Ed Sarpolus, vice president of the Lansing polling firm EPIC-MRA.

Polls over the past several years show voters don't support legalizing marijuana for recreational use, he said. Even well-organized groups have difficulty gathering sufficient signatures. It is even more difficult for an individual.

Hankins said he planned to put an ad in the Lansing State Journal to kick off his drive. If enough volunteers respond, he was confident he could collect enough signatures.

Contact Chris Andrews at 377-1054 or candrews@lsj.com

285 12/4/06



Courtesy photo

Young chefs: Students at Union Street Elementary in Eaton Rapids recently learned a little bit about Hanukkah through reading stories and making latkes or potato pancakes. The students, including Sydney Clymer (left) and Madison Azelton, grated carrots and potatoes for the traditional Hanukkah treats. LSS 12/28/06

'Candy Girls' secret ingredient for rock candy is friendship

Annual get-together, candy-making unite Eaton Rapids women

By CARLA BUMSTEAD

Lansing Community Newspapers

EATON RAPIDS — Water, sugar, corn syrup, food coloring and flavoring. That's the "Candy Girls" basic recipe for rock candy.

But spend a little time in the warmth of their company, and you will discover their secret ingredient: a friendship that grows sweeter with each passing year.

For the past 28 years, Carol Williams, Gene Ingraham, Nadien Conarton and Betty Miller have gathered in late November or early December to make rock candy for the holidays. The candy is for family and friends, but the time spent making it is their own.

Each has own job.

"We start off around dinner time, and each bring a salad," Carol said. "And we talk ... about everything that's been going on around town. It's a time to catch up on all the latest news."

The oldest Candy Girl, Betty, agrees. "We just talk all night — and make candy," said Betty, who has lived in Eaton Rapids for 56 years. She hosts the candy-making in her kitchen.

Each girl has her own "job." Carol and Nadien work the stove — stirring, checking the temperature, and adding coloring and flavoring.

"It's my job to get burned!" joked Nadien, saying it's unusual to have a year go by that she doesn't end up with a small burn



Carla Bumstead/Lansing Community Newspapers

Add a touch of love: Carol Williams (left) and Nadien Conarton have the "hot" job of manning the stove. The "Candy Girls," a group of friends in Eaton Rapids, get together every year around the holidays to make rock candy.

from the hot mixture.

Gene is responsible for the powdered sugar which lines the pans the candy is poured into and coats the top to keep it from sticking. Betty treats it up after the candy hardens and prides herself on finding the most unusual shapes in the hardened pieces.

Weather is a factor

The biggest determinant of how long the girls get to hang together is the weather. Warm weather slows things down, as the candy needs to cool and harden before it can be broken into chunks. This year was unseasonably warm and muggy, and the candy was taking

about twice as long to harden as it should. The girls were prepared for a long night.

"We've never missed a year," Carol said. "We been through snow storms, ice storms and rain storms."

In good times and bad

The candy — red, yellow, green, purple, light blue and brown and with such flavors as cinnamon, lemon and spearmint — is split evenly among the four women, who pass it out to lucky ones. The idea for the joint candy-making was Gene's, as she had done it with a group of friends before she moved to Eaton Rapids.

When the Eaton Rapids girls

started, they all worked at Northwestern Elementary. In good times and bad, the girls are there for each other. When someone has a death in the family, or a time to celebrate, a Candy Girl often will find a bouquet of flowers with a card that simply says "From the Candy Girls."

All four said they have seen many changes in their 28 years of candy-making — both in the community and personally. But this one, reliable holiday gathering has always been there: a sweet end to every year.

"I've learned friendship is a very important ingredient in our lives," Carol said.

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VFW breaking ground on new duplex

Funds from GM spur building at National Home

LANSING STATE JOURNAL

EATON RAPIDS — GM officials and leaders of the VFW National Home for Children broke ground Friday on the future site of a two-family home.

The 2,400-square-foot duplex on the home's 629-acre campus should be finished by spring.

The building was made possible by a \$3.5 million donation from General Motors Corp. The company earmarked a portion of proceeds for each Buick, Pontiac or GMC car sold over Memorial Day weekend for the VFW National Home.

The home was established in 1925. It offers programs that serve single-parent families, families of deployed service members and families of veterans with disabilities who are participating in vocational rehabilitation.

It also offers long-term

residential care to children in a family-like setting.

More than 20 families are on the waiting list for housing at the VFW National Home, officials said.

The home will invest the remaining \$3 million of GM's gift in program growth and development.

Teddy Bear Project collects 10,000 toys

Donations to the Unity of Greater Lansing Church's Teddy Bear Project this year far exceeded even the most optimistic

Monday UPDATE

Here are some local stories from the past several months that we're revisiting.

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Michigan Works adds IT area to its Web site.

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expectations.

Todd Heywood, media coordinator for the project,

said 413 teddy bears and other stuffed animals were donated last year. This year's goal was 1,000.

When the drive ended Dec. 3, however, more than 10,000 of them filled the church's sanctuary and nursery, a house next door that is used as a church office and a couple of closets.

The animals are donated to agencies that use them to comfort children affected by domestic abuse and other crises, such as home fires or crime.



BECKY SHINK/Lansing State Journal file photo

Lots of love: Stuffed animals surround Anna Rolph, project coordinator of The Teddy Bear Project, last month at Unity of Greater Lansing Church. This year's effort surpassed all expectations.

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Update: Donations arrive from Midland, Chelsea Girl Scouts

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The response went beyond Lansing. One woman drove from Midland to drop off 300 stuffed animals. Girl Scouts from Chelsea contributed 2,000. The Michigan State University Pompon Squad collected more than 1,100.

"It was amazing," said Anna Rolph, project coordinator. "This is not just a gift. This is something that really comes from the hearts of everybody who donated."

"I heard so many stories about how the stuffed animals helped children in crisis and what happened with other children who did not receive them."

Michigan Works starts IT area on Web site

The positive fallout from a successful information technol-

ogy job fair has led Capital Area Michigan Works to launch a new area on its Web site for technology jobs.

More than 200 job seekers wove through the Lansing Center on Thursday to vie for jobs in software and Web development and other IT fields.

The work force development agency added an area to its site, www.camw.org, under the heading of "Latest News."

The addition is meant to help job seekers connect with 11 companies looking for computer workers.

The job fair was sponsored by Capital Area Michigan Works and the IT development association LINC.

From staff writers Kathleen Lavey, Hugh Leach and Jeremy W. Steele. Is there a local story you'd like to see revisited? Please call (517) 267-1300 or e-mail metro@lsj.com.

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