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LOCAL NEWS - A6

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SUNDAY

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Weathering economic storm

Budget avoids layoffs, holds on to surplus

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Despite worsening economic problems, Westland Mayor William Wild has proposed a balanced budget that maintains a \$2 million surplus, avoids layoffs and protects city services.

"We're still holding our own," he said. "I feel like we're still in good shape — better shape than some surrounding communities."

Cost-cutting measures and an increase in investment revenues have helped offset rising expenses for fuel, utilities, employee health care and repairs to aging city buildings. Even so, city officials expect deepening losses in state-shared dollars, road funds, cable franchise fees and new building revenues.

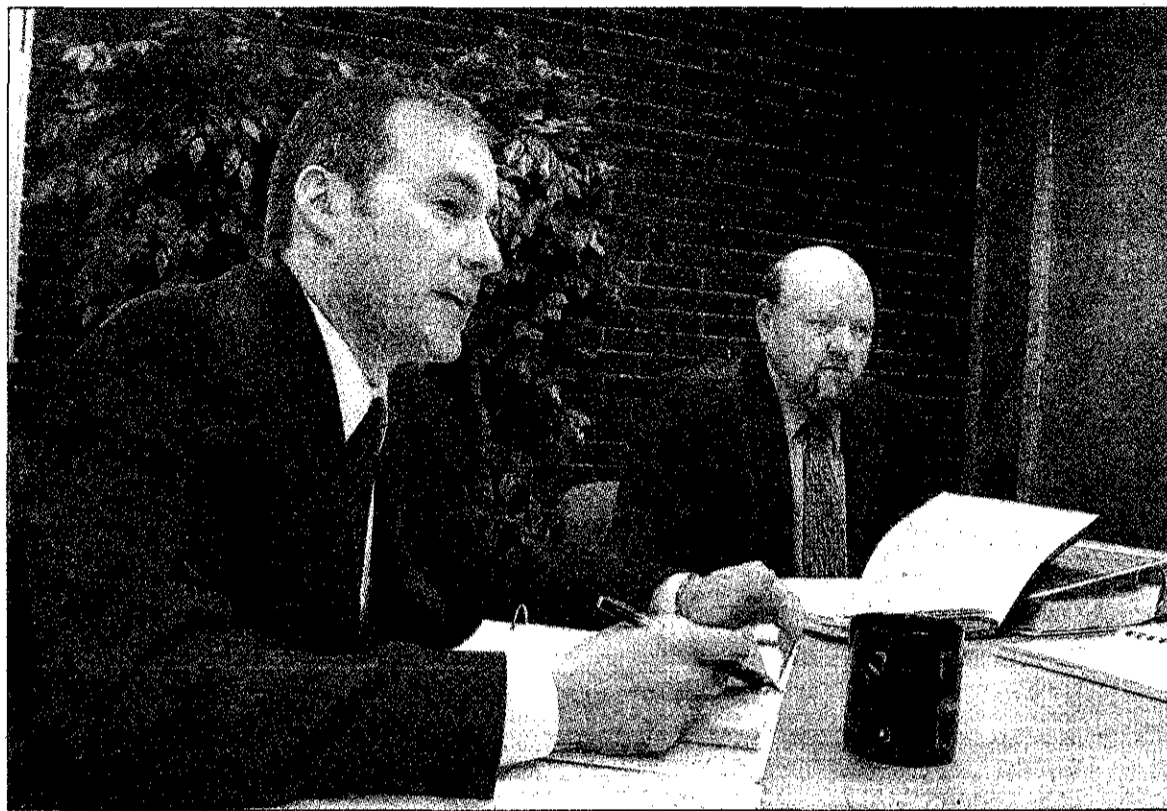
"Michigan's worsening economy has made balancing the budget a very challenging ordeal," city Finance Director Steven Smith wrote in a two-page budget summary to Wild.

Wild, Smith and Deputy Mayor Courtney Brown responded Wednesday to questions about the proposed \$60.8 million general fund budget during a meeting, requested by the *Observer*, in the mayor's office.

Wild has submitted his budget proposal to the seven-member Westland City Council, which will start a series of public discussions at 5:30 p.m. Monday at City Hall. The first round of talks will include a budget overview and then focus on 18th District Court and three city departments — fire, police and public service.

The council will consider any changes before voting on a spending plan in early June.

Michigan's woeful economy has prodded Lansing officials to



Westland Mayor William Wild (left) and Finance Director Steven Smith discuss the city's proposed budget, which is balanced despite economic problems.

trim revenues they share with local communities. During the last six years, that has meant about \$8 million less than what was once projected for Westland.

During the budget year that starts July 1, city officials are bracing for potential further cuts in state-shared revenue, possibly as much as \$275,000.

"We could absorb it," Wild said, but the \$2 million surplus would suffer.

Despite a bleak economy, the new spending plan isn't all gloom and doom for residents, who themselves are struggling to survive amid job losses, increasing expenses and rising foreclosures. Consider why:

- Wild has proposed reducing the garbage-disposal and drain-project taxes, saving the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$15 a year unless the council decides against it.

- Layoffs would be avoided,

meaning that police, fire and other services would be maintained.

- Although some businesses have closed their doors, new companies also have located in Westland. Brown viewed that as an indication that the city is weathering the economic storm as much as possible.

- Water-sewer rates would inch up just 2.7 percent, compared to substantially larger increases in some communities. A typical household that uses 22,000 gallons every two months would see costs increase \$20 a year, Smith said. Water-sewer rate hikes would reflect only those increases passed to the city from Detroit and Wayne County.

- Dorsey Street, between Venoy and Merriman in the mostly low-income Norwayne neighborhood, would benefit

PLEASE SEE BUDGET, A4

7 arrested in major home break-in ring

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

Livonia police nabbed four men and three women this week in a major home invasion ring that operated at least a half-dozen western Wayne County towns.

Police say the crew was responsible for 20-30 house break-ins in Canton, Westland, Redford, Garden City, Dearborn Heights and Livonia. They mainly stole jewelry and other valuables such as cell phones, cameras, computer equipment and guns.

On Friday, four of the suspects were facing possible weekend arraignments in Westland, police Sgt. Thad Nelson confirmed.

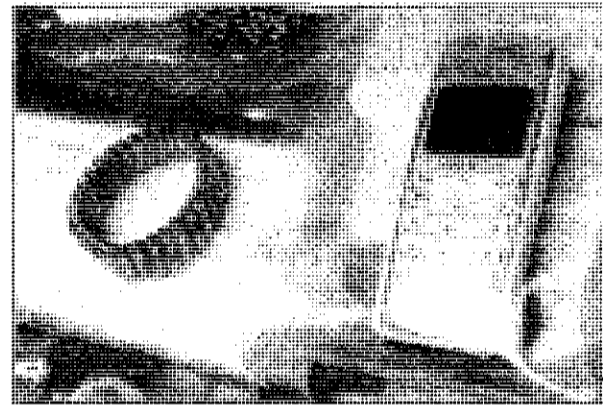
One or more suspects have been linked to seven home invasions from January to early April in Westland, including five in the Merriman-Ann Arbor Trail area and two in the city's south end, Nelson said.

Those on the south side occurred in an area bounded by Wildwood, Wayne, Palmer and Avondale, he said.

Their method of operation was viewed firsthand in Livonia Wednesday at a home on Harrison Street near Joy, thanks to a Livonia police surveillance team, according to Livonia Sgt. Cory Williams.

Those officers had followed the crew for two days after tracking them down due in large part to a woman who described a man with a crew cut and a

PLEASE SEE ARRESTS, A4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jewelry and cell phones were among the recovered items.

Eager for Easter

Luke and Kathryn, 2, pull along their mother Theresa Tumavitch to gather the marshmallows that were dropped Friday at the 23rd annual Wayne County Marshmallow Drop at Nankin Mills Park off Hines Drive in Westland. For more on the event, please see page A3.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Library week promises activities, fun for all

With the search for a new director over, the Westland public library is gearing up for some National Library Week activities that employees promise will offer fun for visitors of all ages.

"We're really excited," said Marilyn Kwik, head of reference/adult services and acting co-director until new Director Cheryl Napsha takes over May 1.

Library employees hope that new and longtime patrons, alike, will buy into this year's theme, Come Together at Your Library.

National Library Week will be April 15-21.

"We're really promoting all these programs to people of all ages. ... We're always interested in bringing more people into the library," Kwik said.

For more information and specific dates and times about the following programs, call the Westland

library at (734) 326-6123 or visit its Web site at www.westland.lib.mi.us.

On Sunday, April 15, the library will kick off a week of special programs with a visit from characters from the Rainforest Café.

Patrons are welcome to spend a lazy Sunday afternoon with Matt Watroba from the Detroit public radio program *Folks Like Us* as he performs an all-ages show of folk music and singing, illustrating this year's theme of Come Together at Your Library.

On the evening of Monday, April 16, library employees say it's time to step up the pace a notch and learn some smooth moves in salsa or hip-hop classes taught by dance instructor and freelance choreographer Lisa Davis-English.

On the evening of Tuesday, April 17, coffee and food will be available at Coffee House & Game Night.

Library employees welcome patrons for a game of Pictionary or some chocolate chip cookies, and patrons are urged to bring their friends and family.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, April 18, children are invited to an interactive story time and puzzle craft program.

Then, National Library Week will come to a close with Family Movie Night on Saturday, April 21, with a showing of the film *Eragon*, adapted from the hit young adult novel.

In addition to the many programs at the library, there will be a continuous stream of raffles, activities and contests, providing ample opportunity to win some great prizes.

The activities were planned by a committee that included Kwik, Amber Browne, Bernadette Dewyer, Mary Beth Fixler, Anne Prokopchak and Bridget Sturdy.

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INFORMATION CENTRAL

Alternative fuels

One of the hot topics these days is the use of alternative fuels, especially in the automotive industry. Alternative fuels, as defined by the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPA), include ethanol, natural gas, propane, hydrogen, biodiesel, electricity, methanol, and p-series fuels.

Using these alternative fuels in vehicles can generally reduce harmful pollutants and exhaust emissions. In addition, most of these fuels can be domestically produced and derived from renewable sources.

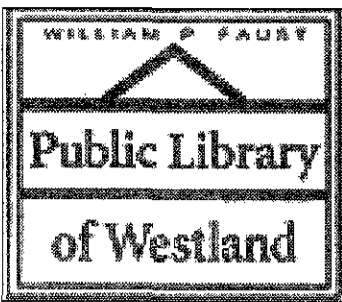
In his 2007 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush championed energy alternatives. Among his emphases was the potential of biomass - plant materials - to fulfill a greater share of our nation's transportation fuel needs.

One of Bush's latest initiatives is his 20-in-10 plan, which calls for reducing U.S. gasoline consumption by 20 percent in 10 years through boosting alternative-fuel consumption to 35 billion gallons a year from 7 billion gallons now, as well as raising fuel-economy standards.

Using alternative fuels is not a new idea. Electric vehicles have been around since the 1800s, but lost favor in the mid 1900s due to better road conditions, need to travel longer distances and a growing domestic oil/gas industry.

The 1960s and 1970s saw a need for alternative-fueled vehicles to reduce the problems of exhaust emissions from internal combustion engines and to reduce the dependency on imported foreign crude oil. These reasons haven't changed over time and the effect on global warming has become an added incentive to look once again at alternative fuels.

If you're interested in learning more about alternative fuels, the William P. Faust Public Library has resources that might be of interest to you. Some books that might help you sort out the reasons for using these types of fuel include *Energy Alternatives: Opposing Viewpoints*; Richard Heinberg's *The Party's Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies* and William Sweet's *Kicking the Carbon Habit: Global Warming and The Case for Renewable and Nuclear Energy*.



If electric and hybrid cars are of interest to you, check these out: *Who Killed the Electric Car?* (DVD); Curtis D. Anderson's *Electric and Hybrid Cars: A History*; Joe Sherman's *Charging Ahead* and Daniel Sperling's *Future Drive: Electric Vehicles and Sustainable Transportation*.

Two Web sites to check out for specific information on alternative fuels and the government's energy initiatives are www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/altfuel/altfuels.html and www.nrel.gov/.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

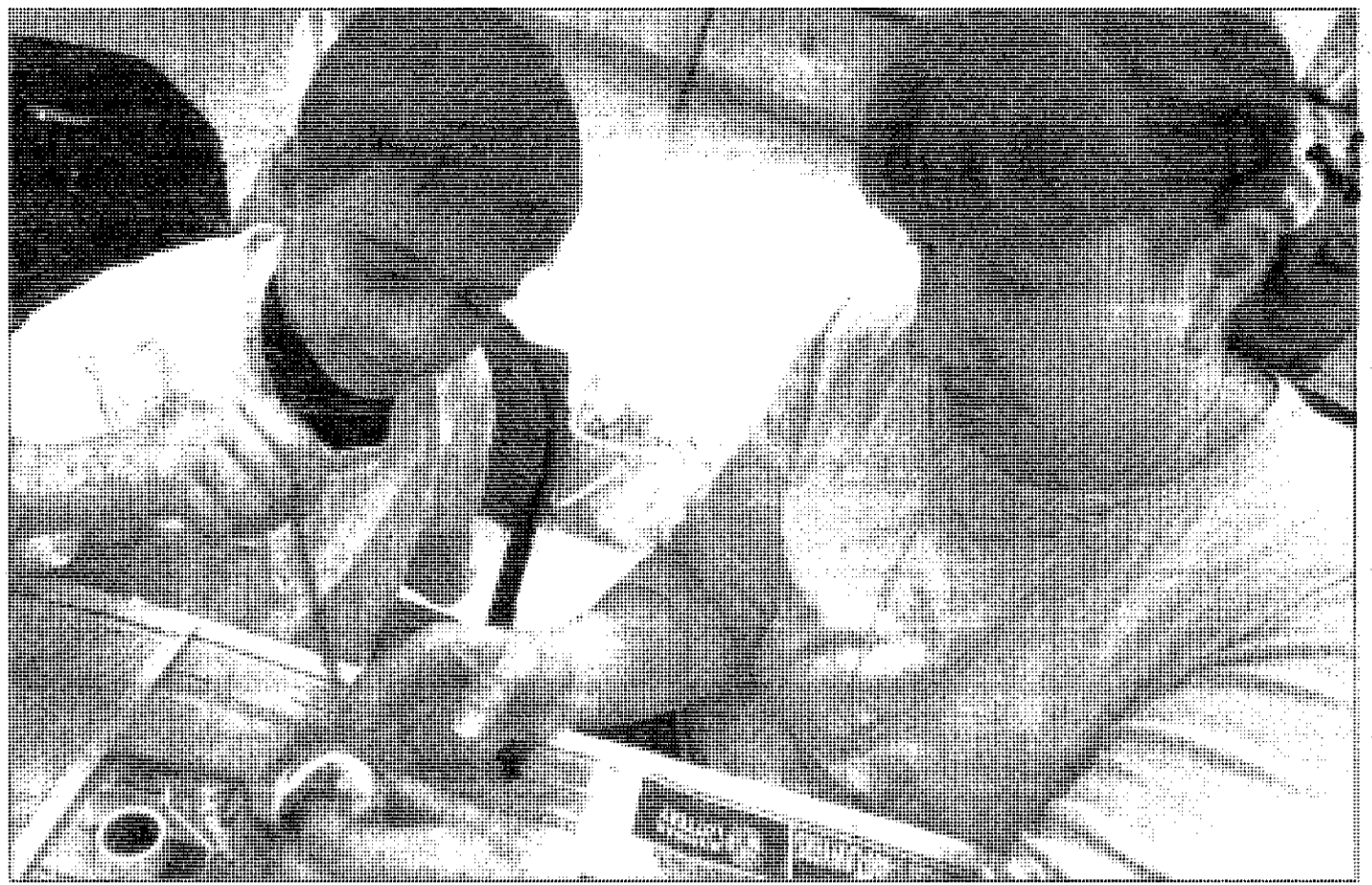
Highlighted activities

Spring Cleanup for Gardeners: 11 a.m. April 14. Join Michigan Nurserywoman Sandra Healey to learn about getting your garden ready for planting after the long winter. Register by calling (734) 326-6123.

Microsoft Word for Beginners: 2 p.m. April 14. Learn the basics of Microsoft Word - a word processing program that lets you create a variety of documents including letters and resumes. Learn how to set margins, change font style and size, check spelling and print. No registration is required.

National Library Week Kickoff: 2 p.m. April 15. Come together to celebrate National Library Week with Folks Like Us' Matt Watroba, the "voice of folk music in Michigan." An accomplished folk singer and songwriter, Watroba will give a free concert at the library. Space is limited, so reserve your seats at the Reference Desk or by calling (734) 326-6123.

Information Central is compiled by reference librarian Susan Hanson at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Egg-xtra special

Seven-year-old Jacob Kendrick and his mother Melissa work on decorating an Easter craft during a program Monday at the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland. Youngsters also decorated baskets as part of the pre-Easter activity.

LIVONIA SCHOOL ELECTION

Freeman stands by Legacy plan, wants more teacher development

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Robert Freeman, an engineer and father of two Livonia Public Schools graduates, is seeking a second term on the school board. Freeman, who volunteers by reading with first-graders and mentoring middle schoolers, said he serves on the board because he wants to give back to the community.

"I love being able to make an impact on kids' lives," said Freeman, 49. Big issues facing the board include finances and preparing to meet all requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act by 2014. To that end, Freeman proposes more professional development for teachers. In his first term, Freeman voted in favor of a plan to close seven schools and reconfigure grade levels. He and like-minded trustees were targeted for recall in August, but main-



Freeman

tained their seats. Freeman stands by the Legacy decision and said the support he received throughout the recall led him to decide to run again.

As for next year's budget, he said, "we're looking at anywhere between \$5 million and \$10 million in cuts."

But, he added that music and other upper elementary programs added as a result of the Legacy Initiative are safe. There were two reasons for the Legacy Initiative, fewer students and fewer finances, Freeman said. Academics was his No. 1 concern throughout the decision-making process, he said. "We knew that we needed to close schools," he said. "I think we have a better educational model as a result of what we did."

Futrell: Focus on enrollment, communication and finances

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Steve Futrell, a father of four who owns three Livonia businesses, is running for a four-year term on the Livonia Public Schools board.

He said he wants to improve communication, finances and district enrollment.

"The district is in a financial mess," he said, adding that board members have to take the lead in that regard. "I will be that person who asks those questions." Futrell, 41, formerly served as president of the group Citizens for Livonia's Future, which led a failed recall effort against school board members following their decision to close seven schools and reconfigure grade levels. Futrell said he doesn't like the new school grade configurations, citing busing and bullying concerns based on sizes of buildings. His children, ages 13, 11, 7 and 5, will all attend different LPS schools next year. However, he said he is not run-



Futrell

ning to undo the Legacy Initiative. "That's not even up for debate. It is what it is. My issue in getting on the board is, How do we bring children back to the district? How do we establish a plan going forward financially, and understanding what our parents and citizens want as a district?"

LPS should survey families to see if the district can lure private and home schools students, he said. "What is it that they're needing that they're not getting in Livonia Public Schools and why aren't we asking those questions?" The Legacy Initiative was a symptom of a problem, he said. "It did not solve any of our financial woes." Current school board members suggest lobbying the state legislature for funding, he said. "At what point do we take a level of responsibility and put together our own plan?" he asked.

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Personal property described below in the matter of:
1082 - Mayer Sherman - boxes, misc. items
1162 - Thomas Bonner - bags, totes, clothing
1248 - Shawn Perkins - dryer, boxes, totes
2100 - Cole Younger - Bags, Totes, Furniture
2190 - Charles Dean - clothing, bags, boxes
Publish: April 8 & 15, 2007

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Personal property described below in the matter of:
B023 - Geneva Joubert - A.C. Unit, Dresser, television
B035 - Stephen Koons - 25 bags, a.c. units, 25 boxes
B056 - Wendy Betz - bike, floor lamp, 15 bags
B104 - Shawn Dornoff - computer, mattress set, couch
B117 - Emgrid Gudger - couch, love seat, stove
B130 - Jana Funtukis - stereo, totes, boxes
B141 - Francis Ogini - stereo, couch,
B182 - Cecilia Anderson - television, microwave, kitchen chair
B361 - Daniel Page - vacuum, totes, old LP records
B374 - Celestine Young - washer, dryer, big screen television
B381 - Romare Redden - refrigerator, coffee table, stove
C011 - Debyl Ector - washer, dryer, stove
C015 - Alaina Silagy - dresser, boxes, washer
C018 - Bobby Melton - 10 refrigerators, 3 generators
C029 - Gloria Woods - sectional couch, big screen television, entertainment center
C039 - Ali Yassine - boxes, mattress set, coffee table
D009 - Cynthia Karl - computer, china cabinet, stove
E040 - Denise Hearn - 4 dressers, 2 mattress set, headboard
F043 - Denise Beard - television, washer, dryer
F047 - Brian Thiel - dresser, desk, boxes
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Kids bundle up for the big drop

You never know about the weather in Michigan in April.

And so parents had to bundle their youngsters well for the 23rd annual Marshmallow Drop Friday at Nankin Mills Park in Westland.

The event is sponsored by the Wayne County Parks department and gathers youngsters together to watch thousands of marshmallows be dropped from a helicopter. Then, the children - separated by age groups - can pick up one or more marshmallows in their baskets and later turn them in for a treat, with one treat per child.

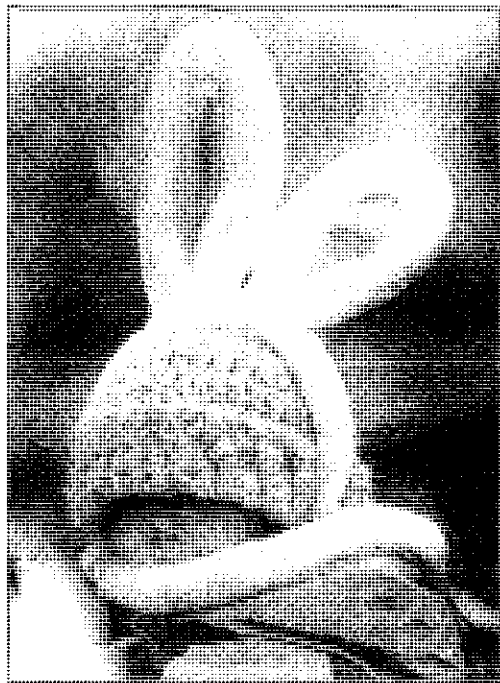
The event, along with another drop the same morning in Trenton, is put on in cooperation with the Westland Civitans and Trenton Parks & Recreation. Help is also provided by DTE Energy, ITCtransmission, WNIC radio and Morley Candy Makers.



Ready to high-five the Easter bunny is Matthew Wilson, 2, (right), in the arms of mother Ariana. They live in Livonia.



Nicholas Painter, 5, of Garden City picks up a marshmallow.



Bundled up, Abby Watt 3 1/2 of Dearborn waits for the helicopter to arrive.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A helicopter drops its soft and sweet cargo at the annual Wayne County Marshmallow drop.



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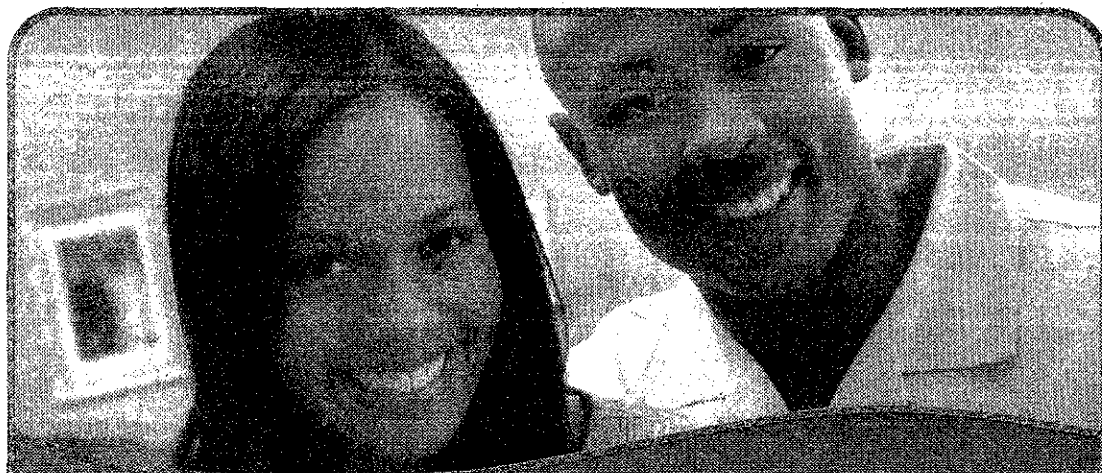
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- **Southwest Salad...**Bed of mixed greens, vegetables, our homemade tortillas, and your choice of crispy chicken, grilled chicken or shrimp with salsa and sour cream dressing or salsa and ranch.
- **Shrimp Scampi...**Shrimp sautéed with butter and garlic and topped with mozzarella, Monterey jack and cheddar cheeses then baked. Served with long grain wild rice and your choice of soup or salad.
- **Choice New York Strip Chibatta...**8oz. Choice New York Strip smothered with grilled onions and mushrooms, topped with your choice of cheese and served on a chibatta roll with steak or seasoned fries.
- **Chicken Club Wrap...**Crispy chicken, ham, bacon, Swiss cheese, American cheese, lettuce, tomato and our homemade ranch dressing. Served with coleslaw and steak or seasoned fries.
- **Salmon Alfredo...**Fettucine noodles with our homemade Alfredo sauce topped with grilled salmon. Served with your choice of soup or salad.
- **Albert's Cajun Mama...**8oz. Angus beef burger served Quesadilla style with two tortillas, pepper jack cheese, grilled onions and mixed peppers. Served with Cajun mayo on the side, homemade chips and salsa. WOW!
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STEVENSON HONOR ROLL

Named to the honor roll for the second marking period at Stevenson Middle School were:

- Ashley Abbott, Keith Agee, Arika Agnew, Sean Albaran, Shannon Alcodray, Sydney Alioto, Omar Alkatie, Samia Alkatie, Kail Aloisi, Marissa Alvarez, Nathan Alvord, Nacorea Antone Diamond, Josiah Ault, Michael Babler, Mary Bache, Megan Bache, Halie Baker, Kirstin Baker, Seth Baker, Julie Bancroft, Juliana Bangura, Justin Bean, Samantha Begdorian. Jack Begley, Amelia Bennett, Sidney Bennett, Andrew Benyo, Jessica Berg, Caylyn Best, Emily Best, Troy Beverley, Courtney Billings, Brandon Bleau, Hailey Blevins, Ryan Boczar, Casey Bone, Morgan Bone, Cody Borg, Zachary Bower, Morgan Boyd, Shelby Bray, Trudi Brothers, Alijah Brown, Allen Brown, Codie Buege, Jordan Buford, Jalyn Bulls, Chase Burford, John Burger, Courtney Burns, Erica Burzloff, Brenna Bush, Kameron Caldwell, Adrian Carey, Ashley Carey, Kendall Carter, Matthew Castaldini, Servina Ceno, Jacob Charron, Quintin Cheek, Sunroop Cheema, Ashley Christensen, Tasha Christensen, De'Janae Clark, Brittany Cobb, Marisa Colosimo, Ashley Compton, Jordyn Coniam, Dylan Cook. Brandon Coulter, Javon Crocker, Jacquelynn Czarniowski, Erin D'Arcy, Ian D'Arcy, Michael Dalton, Laura Darnell, Mona Darwish, Danielle Deck, Delani Derr, Charity Dillard, Zaklina Dimoska, Tyler Dingman, Alana Doe, Tyler Donbrock, Zachery Donbrock, Carolyn Doyle, Alexander Driessche, Nickolas Duncan, Anthony Dunn, Erica Dye, Savannah Eilers, Megan Emery, Alysia Escobar, Erica Escobar, Natalie Escobar, Rosalie Estrada, Brianna Everett, Emily Everett, Brooke Femat, Jacob Ferguson, Shelby Fitzgerald, Griffin Fleissner, Karl Fletcher, Audra Flores, Luis Flores, Jessica Fontana, Travis Fontana, Chelsey Foster,

- Zachary Franklin, Alex Fucik, Shaquila Fuller, Alexis Gaglead, Glen Garrett, Dylan Gartz. Tristan Gellert, Allyson Gibbs, Alec Gibson, Joseph Gierak, Katelyn Gierak, Alexa Girouard, Breann Graca, Brooke Graham, Meghan Grainger, William Gray, Joelle Green, Lauren Green, Sherry Green, Nolan Griffin, Ashley Guldner, Eric Haase, Alexandra Hamlett, Christopher Hammet, Matthew Hansen, Tiffany Harris, Austin Hartford, Meghan Hartman. Marissa Hay, Jessica Hensley, Megan Hernandez, Jamie Higgs, Jasmine Hitt, Madison Hodgkins, Natalie Hogue, Brandi Holbrook, Brooklyn Holbrook, Katie Horton, Keri Horton, Alannah Houston, Bryn Houston, Ediana Hoxhallari, Niklas Hubbard, Tyler Hubbard, Jennifer Humbach, Michelle Hunt, Brandon Hunter, Robert Hurst, Daniel Iacaban. Natanael Iacaban, Maria Idunate, Catherine Ionescu, David Isaacs, Alia Ismail, Inas Ismail, David Jackson, Christopher Janos, Andrew Jarema, Bailey Jarzamba, Chelsea Jenkins, Kavina Jhaveri, Samantha Jinkerson, Ashley Johnson, Kaylie Johnson, Matthew Johnson, Stephanie Johnson, Ursula Kallabat, Kory Kalnasy, Emma Karson, Jolie Kayden, Victoria Keelean. Crystal Kelly, Patrick Kemp, Rory Kemp, Kaila Kendrick, Bethany Kenyon, Nicholas Kiesznowski, Brandon Kilburn, Hailey King, Diamond Knight, Diamond Knight, Dylan Koch, Jordan Kovarik, Jeffrey Kuhary, Courtney Lambroff-Clawson, Justin Lazzari, Elise Lefebvre, Anthony Leija, Mitchell Leinbach, Michael Lentine, Ashley Lesnik, Colton Lipinski. Emily Luke, Megan Luke, Alicia Lustig, Miranda Lustig, Kayla Lyndrup, Jasmine Mabry, Pimai Macdonald, Courtney MacQuarrie, Bradley Mahoney, Brandon Martin, Kathryn Martin, Megan Mayers, Ryan McCarthy, Aaron McClendon,

- Brendan McIntyre, Molly McKenna, Shae McKenna, Karah McKinney, William Messics, Rachel Michelsen, Erica Mifsud. Nicholas Mifsud, Alexis Mikonczyk, Jasmine Milewski, Leanna Miller, Keonte Mitchell, Amanda Mominee-Curmi, Conner Monroe, Khadejah Moore, Katherine Moran, Timothy Moran, Jonathan Mullinix, Allison Murphy, Thorin Murphy-Fahlgren, Kayla Myers, Jude Naber, Jeremy Nabors, Stephen Nodge, Haley Novak, Steven Novotny, Caitlin Orsette, Alyssa Osenko. Mary Papanastasiou, Ashley Parsons, Sheel Patel, Urvi Patel, Viktor Pavlov, Marissa Pawlowski, Raquelle Peters, Dennis Picklo, Courtney Pietruszka, Ashley Plocharczyk, Kristine Price, Amyere Pullum, Nicole Quaine, Addison Queen, Nicole Quinn, Megan Quico, Rio Rajacic, Naja Rayford, Jenna Redden, Melanie Redfield, Ermal Rexhepi, Bryann Riblett. Shantil Richardson, Teresa Richardson, Samantha Richter, Jacob Rinaldi, Dakota Riopelle, Ryan Ritondale, Chelsea Roach, Amber Roberts, Arthur Roberts, Zachary Robinson, Kallie Roby, Emily Rockafellow, Kevin Roe, Rachel Romanek, Valerie Romanek, Abhishek Roy, Haley Rudnicki, Glen Rutledge, Angela Sager, Danielle Salter, Caleb Samborski. Matthew Sampson, Jessica Schultz, Nicholas Schurig, Robert Schurig, Taylor Senia, Dante Sinters, Allyson Shaker, Nicole Sherek, Victoria Sheridan, Edwin Silva, Navdeep Singh, Jacob Slesinski, Austin Smarsh, Kenneth Smith, Kylie Smith, Zachary Smith, Matthew Snyder, Jeremy Sparkman, Kellie Spehar, Victoria Spencer, Ashley Sportsman, Austin St. Peter. Keesa Stammer, Justin Staples, Austin Storm, Steven Storm, Jazzelle Straka Braxton, Jason Suarez, Emily Swope, Nicholas Sypher, Brittany Tabangura, Kaylee Taucher, Diamond Taylor, Kendall Taylor, Andrew Thorner, Kiara Thornton, Ashley Tinney, Jacob Toarmina, Sarah Toarmina, Bruno Trepshi, Claire Truskowski, John Tufnell, Sommer Tuttle. Kiera Tyson, Tyler Van Zandt, Jake Vasher, Yuzi Vazquez, Ian Villaroman, Jamison Vincent, Joseph Wakeford, Danielle Waldrop, Marie Walker, Alyssia Warren, Alston Weathers, Alexander Wells, Ashley White, Shane Wiechert, Amy Wilcock, Me'Chelle Wilder, Tammy Wilson, Melanie Winekoff, Kelsey Woodhall, Evan Woody, Halie Woody, Reynard Wright and Kelsie Yax.

Bill would let residents place security freeze on credit info

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, recently voted in support of a plan to fight identity theft by allowing residents to place a security freeze on their credit report. The plan also prohibits a credit-reporting agency from releasing or using information without proper authorization. "As identity theft grows, we must ensure that our laws are keeping pace," said LeBlanc, a reserve police officer with the Canton Police Department. "Identity theft is growing at an alarming pace. This plan gives our consumers the tools they need to keep their personal financial information in a lock-box." The legislation features security provisions, including a per-

sonal identification number (PIN) that gives users easy access to their personal and confidential credit information. According to the Identity Theft Resource Center, 10 million people are harmed by identity theft each year. That means about 19 individuals become identity theft victims every minute. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, identity theft has passed drug trafficking as the No. 1 crime in the nation and costs businesses and consumers billions of dollars each year. The bill combats this crime by locking down unsecured access to consumers' credit information, limiting security

breaches. The bill also lets consumers freeze all accounts, limiting access to those records through the sole use of the consumers' PIN. The freeze will remain in effect on all accounts through the three official credit reporting agencies until the consumer chooses to lift it. "Identity theft can happen in seconds, but it can take years to recover when your personal information has been stolen," LeBlanc said. "This plan will help our residents maintain control of their personal information, and will protect that information from being compromised by identity thieves. "This is the right thing to do for our consumers."

BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1 from a \$550,000 paving project. "I can't remember the last time the city did a road project in Norwayne," Wild said. Residents who use the Mike Modano Ice Arena and Jaycee Park would benefit — or at least their vehicles would — from parking lot repairs. Some services are expected to improve, such as the ability of residents to conduct more city business online, Smith said. In a minor cost-saving meas-

ure, council members last month rejected pay raises of 1 percent this year and next for themselves, overriding a decision by the Local Officers Compensation Commission. Moreover, Wild proposed no salary increases for his directors. Those decisions came as the city prepares this year to enter into contract talks with some employee groups. For years, one of the most troubling aspects of financial planning for city officials has been sudden changes in income, such as state-shared revenues. Smith, in his letter to the mayor, warned of poten-

tially deeper problems. "It is apparent the probability of cuts will continue for the foreseeable future," Smith wrote. "In addition to the yearly cut in state-shared revenues, the state is starting to cut other revenue streams the city receives." In conclusion, however, Smith wrote, "While Michigan's economy is still slow to recover, we were able to produce a budget that has met all of the challenges." The hope of city officials is that those challenges don't become substantially greater.

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON 2007-2008 PROPOSED BUDGET NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the public hearing on the proposed budget for the City of Westland for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008 will be held on Monday, May 7, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall; 36601 Ford Road; Westland, MI 48185. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. Eileen DeHart City Clerk

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property. Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Road, Taylor, 48180 (313) 292-9730 on 4/24/07 at 12:30 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of 2045 - Donna Bauer - mattress set, television, boxes 2077 - Chanda Stewart - boxes, dresser, totes 3082 - Michael Height - dressers, Yamaha 1986 Radian - Vein # JYA1J003HAQ31386 3098 - Debbie Ryan - boxes, toys, snow blower 4025 - Steven Arp - 2 bikes, 15 boxes, television 4057 - Barbara Koltuniak - 40 boxes, entertainment center, chairs 5020 - Sonya Martins - pictures, dressers, car parts 5043 - Yvonne Blanding - bikes, china cabinets, freezer 5055 - Robert Howell - 2 bags, boxes, sled 5079 - John Reardon - love seat, mattress, television 6034 - Kevin Davanzo - stove, desk, television 6059 - Judith Ryan - boxes, lawnmower, compressor 6109 - Scott Seppais - mattress, boxes, chairs 6119 - Sherre Roy - 30 boxes, chair, stereo 7027 - Gaye Shreve - china cabinet, boxes, end tables 7054 - Demark Bellman - bikes, lawn mower, 2 televisions 7057 - Kelli Hoifield - totes, boxes, headboard

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 15125 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA, MI 48154 The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Asbestos Abatement Western Wayne Skill Center Contract Documents may be examined at the Livonia Public Schools Maintenance Department Office at 15125 Farmington Road, from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday thru Friday. Bid forms, specifications and drawings are available at the Maintenance Department of the Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48154. A \$25.00 fee is required for the specifications and drawings. A mandatory site inspection is required and will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at Western Wayne Skill Center (Ford) 8075 Ritz, Westland, MI 48185 at 1:00 pm. Sealed bids will be received until 10:30 am on Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at the Board of Education Administrative Services Office, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan. The bids will be publicly opened and read at that time. Vendors are encouraged to attend. Bid security in the amount of 5% of the total proposal, in the form of Bid Bond or Certified Check must accompany each bid. Performance bond and payment bond may be required of the successful bidders. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part in the interests of uniformity, design, equipment, delivery time or preference, to waive any informalities and to award to other than the low bidder, with rationale to support such a decision. All questions regarding this bid should be directed to Jim McMuldroy, District Engineer at (734) 744-2500, ext. 42158. Sandra L. Pollack Supervisor of Finance Livonia Public Schools

13th Annual SPRING HOME & GARDEN SHOW April 13-15, 2007 Friday, April 13 | Noon - 9 pm Saturday, April 14 | 10 am - 9 pm Sunday, April 15 | 10 am - 6 pm Over 30,000 square feet of glorious landscaped gardens! Tour two full-sized modular homes with landscaped garden designs! Green Thumb Theater seminars with "The Rose Lady" Nancy Lindley. Register to Win GE Appliances from 94.7 WCSX & Wholesale Builder Supply...& more! Rock financial SHOWPLACE (on Grand River between Beck & Taft Roads) Bringing It All Home One Show At A Time... For more information log onto WWW.NOVIHOMESHOW.COM or call: 248/737-4477 ADMISSION: \$7; \$6 (seniors) Sponsored by DUNKIN' DONUTS, Little Valley, Radio Disney 970, James Hardie Siding Products, Wholesale Builder Supply, Kitchen Craft.

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pink EXPANDED for your Saturdays

Voter deadline

Monday, April 9, is the last day to register to vote in local school board elections. For more information, call the Westland City Clerk's Office at (734) 467-3185.

Chili cook-off

The Westland Democratic Club will have its second-annual chili cook-off Tuesday, April 24, at the Dorsey Community Center, on Dorsey south of Palmer and east of Veno.

Cooks will be there at 5:30 p.m.; tasters at 6 p.m. Cost is \$5 for tasters, who will vote for their favorite chili. Cooks also will pay a \$5 entry fee.

There will be two categories, one for candidates/elected officials and another for political activists.

Beverages and desserts will be included in the cost. Extra votes for the best chili may be cast for \$1.

All proceeds will benefit the Westland Democratic Club.

For more information call Mike at (734) 788-1550 or Nan at (734) 674-7327.

Spring break

Activities are blooming the week of Spring Break for local students. Activities planned by the Westland Parks & Recreation Department include a bowling party Monday at Westland Bowl; golfing Tuesday at the city's municipal golf course; a basketball clinic Wednesday at the Bailey Center; a Rockers soccer clinic Thursday; and a spring teen dance and skate park blast Friday.

Students from neighboring communities also are welcome. For exact times, additional information or to register for any of the events, call the Westland Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 722-7620.

Teen videos

The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour will present two teen violence videos, *Into the Light* and *It Could Happen to You*, 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, at the church, 29425 Annapolis Road, Westland. The program is free of charge and refreshments will be served. For more information, call (734) 728-3440.

Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. Thursday 12, of the month at the center on Newburgh south of Ford. The cost \$4 per person for butter-milk or multigrain pancakes, coffee, juice, low fat milk, sausage and bacon. Sugar-free syrup will be available. The center holds pancake breakfasts on the second Thursday of the month.

Also, the Friendship Center's travel club will meet at 1 p.m. Friday, April 13. For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

Texas Hold 'em

St. Theodore Parish, 8200 N. Wayne Road, will have a Texas Hold 'em tournament 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, May 4, with doors opening at 6 p.m. Cost is \$40 to get into the tournament.

Tickets are available only in advance; no tickets will be sold at the door. Call Ken at (734) 634-4898 or Mary at (734) 425-4421, voice mail No. 10, for tickets or information. Participants must be 18 to play and 21 to drink. There will be a 50/50 raffle and refreshments. Top prize will be \$500.

Recycling meeting

The Westland Recycling Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12, in the

Westland City Council conference room on the second floor of City Hall on Ford Road. The meeting is open to the public.

Skate park

Concrete Jungle, the Westland-based skate park, has opened for the season. Sessions are 3:30-7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon-3:30 p.m. and 4-7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$3 for children and \$5 for adults for a session, or \$5 for children and \$7 for adults for an all-day pass.

The park is featuring bike nights 4-7:30 p.m. every Sunday in April. No skateboarding is allowed during those times. Admission is \$5 per person.

The park is having 18 and older skate nights 8-10 p.m. every Friday in April. Admission is \$5.

A skate park blast will be featured Friday, April 13, with \$1 admission all day and special prizes.

Spring Break at the Concrete Jungle is scheduled for noon-3:30 p.m. and 4-7:30 p.m. through 15, with the park closed for Easter Sunday.

A season kickoff party is planned noon-8 p.m. Saturday, April 28, including food, prizes and live music. Admission is \$3.

Coffee Hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, April 9, at the Westland Big Boy, 6360 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland.

Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the third Monday of each month.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will hold local coffee hours in Westland and Redford on Monday, April 9.

He will be at the Westland Big Boy 9-10 a.m., then move to Redford for a 10:30-11:30 a.m. coffee hour at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48933; by phone at (517) 373-1707; or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Tax help

Senior citizens with low to moderate incomes can get help preparing their taxes through an AARP program offered at the Westland senior Friendship Center, on Newburgh Road south of Ford. Sessions will continue 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each Monday and Friday through April 13, but appointments are necessary. Call (734) 722-7628.

Food distribution

The City of Westland will distribute surplus federal food to eligible residents Thursday, April 19.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities on between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Dorsey Community Center at 32715 Dorsey, north of Michigan Avenue and south of Palmer.

For Westland residents south of Michigan Avenue, the pickup day is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the second Monday of each month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. Call (734) 729-1737 for information.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers can collect their food at the building. They should contact the building manager for the distribution date.

Greenwood Villa residents

must pick up their food items at their building.

Tuna, peanut butter and powdered milk are being offered for the month of April. The program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services.

For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Democratic Dinner

Presidential candidate John Edwards will be the keynote speaker at the Michigan Democratic Party's 2007 Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner Saturday, April 21, at Cobo Center in Detroit. For more information, call the Michigan Democratic Party at (517) 371-5410 or Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard at (313) 224-0902.

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Quilts still sought for Grange show

It's not too late to sign up for classes or to have a quilt displayed at the Plymouth/Westland Grange No. 389's fifth annual quilt show on Saturday, April 21.

The show will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh south of Ford in Westland.

The event will feature quilts, quilt classes, demonstrations, vendors and appraisals. This year's class will be a jigsaw

puzzle quilt taught by Jeannie Klay. The class starts at 8 a.m. and costs \$55 per person.

Seating is limited, and participants are asked to register in advance by sending an entry form to Grange 389, 5692 N. Globe, Westland, MI 48185.

For \$1, people can enter quilts to be judged in such categories as machine quilting, hand quilting, appliqué, art quilts, clothing, wall hangings and other. The quilts must be turned

in by no later than April 15. Quilts also can be display free of charge.

There also will be door prizes and thank you packages for those attending the show. Food and beverages also will be available.

In addition to quilts to display, the Grange also is need

for volunteers to help with the show as well as vendors. A 5-by-5-foot space costs \$10.

Admission is \$1 in advance and are available at the Friendship Center. Tickets will cost \$2 at the door.

For more information, call Sharon Strebbling at (734) 722-4857 after 6 p.m.

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Michigan at defining moment to get financial house in order

Any company facing disaster must do three things:

- 1) Cut costs to the bone in order to survive.
- 2) Stabilize its financial position to gain breathing room.
- 3) Invest heavily and systematically in whatever distinctive, proprietary and competitive assets it has. The goal has to be to drive sales up and gain market share.

Michigan is no different. We're facing financial disaster. And this state needs to right-size and stabilize itself fast — while figuring out how to become more competitive in the future.

Let's look first at where we stand: State government faces a general fund budget deficit that is now at least \$686 million, and which must be resolved in less than six months.

But then a new fiscal year starts — and the total projected shortfall for the 2007-08 fiscal year that will begin Oct. 1 is around \$900 million. That's assuming the Single Business Tax that the Legislature voted to repeal as of Dec. 31 is fully replaced. That tax produces around \$1.9 billion a year in money the state cannot afford to lose. Yet the Legislature still isn't close to agreeing on any replacement tax, and the clock is ticking.

There's more. For years, the state has been borrowing more than \$1 billion every year to paper over the chronic general fund deficit, a shortfall created by unrealistic economic assumptions.

Seven years ago, when we had a healthy "rainy day" fund, we were raking in nearly \$140 million from interest income.

Today, the cupboard is bare, and we're spending \$85 million a year in interest to finance the deficit. But the shell game is about over. Michigan is at its short-term borrowing limit, so we won't be able to finance our fiscal irresponsibility any longer, at least this year.

What all this means is that we need to launch — right now! — a far-reaching, broadly acceptable package of financial reforms modeled on what any company has to do in order to survive:

1) First, cut costs. Michigan is operating on a structure of government dating back to the 19th century that we simply cannot afford today. The buzz word is "restructure."

What that means is taking a hard look at how government is organized, what it does and how much it costs.

Thanks to the Home Rule Act, adopted in 1909, we have one of the most complex local government systems in the entire nation. We have 83 counties, 1,242 townships, 274 cities with less than 10,000 population, 259 villages and 553 school districts.

And each of those has its own overlapping and duplicating costs, bureaucracies and sources of funding. Do we really need that many school districts and townships? Of course we don't. We should require consolidation and cost sharing for any money the locals get from the state.

Our teachers do, by and large, an OK job. But they're among the highest-paid in the country. And their pension and health care benefits are gold-plated, a legacy of the good old days when we were the world's automaker. Health care alone costs more than \$1,200 per pupil, and best estimates are that one in every three dollars of school aid funds will go to pensions and health care by 2018.

The total unfunded liability for state workers' and school district employees' pension and retiree health care benefits is \$35 billion.

Workers in the private sector have had pension and health care benefits cut, so why shouldn't public employees share the pain?

2) Once we get serious about cutting costs, we then gain the

moral legitimacy to bring the tax system kicking and screaming into the 21st century. In advocating a 2-percent sales tax on services, Gov. Jennifer Granholm got the sequence wrong. She should have started with cutting government costs and only then looked to raise revenue.

Many people — including, very privately, many members of the Legislature — believe we cannot simply cut our way to prosperity. They expect that taxes are going to have to be raised. But it is not simply a question of turning a tap. It will take the Department of Treasury months to work out how to administer and collect whatever tax system the Legislature passes and the governor signs.

Lansing, which will need that money as soon as possible, needs to realize that time is rapidly running out.

3) If we fix the tax system, we have a chance to stabilize our financial position by curing — once and for all — the chronic, structural billion-dollar annual deficit in the general fund. For years, the Legislature and governor have papered over this deficit by a combination of one-time fixes, accounting gimmicks and mid-year budget cuts. Left unresolved, this chronic budget deficit will result in a "fiscal train wreck," according to Tom Clay, the highly respected and semi-retired research director of the Citizens Research Council.

4) If we stabilize our financial position, we can generate the funds required for a sustained investment program to beef up Michigan's durable, distinctive, competitive assets. Those include our colleges and universities; the brains and skills of our people; our environment and the admirable quality of life it brings. Without such an investment program, we'll lose the competition with other states and enjoy chasing Alabama and Mississippi in the race to the bottom.

None of this is rocket science. Indeed, conversations I've had with thousands of Michiganders over the past year leads me to believe this program taps into the core of an emerging consensus of far-reaching reform principles for our state.

But a complete fix will be a complex and long-term matter, and nobody I've talked with thinks it can be enacted thoughtfully or competently by Lansing in the next few months.

What's much more likely in the short-term is that the governor and the Legislature will cobble something together over the next month or two that just barely squeaks us past financial disaster.

But we can and should do some things right now, to start us on the longer-term road for reform. Granholm should re-summon the Emergency Financial Advisory Panel that was so disgracefully ignored after its first-seeing and intelligent report was released at the end of January. She might add to it a group of the state's most distinguished and powerful business leaders to add financial realism and just plain guts to the discussion.

The governor should also convene a panel of experts to examine the structure and costs of state and local government. One perfect vehicle for that already exists: The Center for Local, State and Urban Policy at the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy.

The hour is late. The full magnitude of the crisis is almost upon us. We're approaching Michigan's defining moment.

And we — all of us — better snap to it, before it's too late.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a regent of the University of Michigan from 1987-99. He is also president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank. These opinions and others expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Phil would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.



Phil Power

Who was that? Some names deserve to be remembered

Did you know that Mark Twain's daughter lived in Detroit?

Neither did I. But I stumbled across her name as I was perusing my copy of *The Official Who's Who in Michigan for 1936*. There she is, on page 74: "Clemens, Clara, (Mrs. Osip Gabrilowitsch). Singer; Actress. ADDRESS — 611 Boston Blvd. W., Detroit, Mich.; b. Elmira, N.Y.; (daughter) Samuel L. Clemens ("Mark Twain") ..."

It goes on to note that she played eight leading roles at the Civic Theatre in the 1928-29 season, and was the author of *Why be Nervous* and *My Father Mark Twain*.

Oh, and she was an adherent of the "Yoga Philosophy."

I like to rummage through old books on local history. You can find some fascinating facts, like the reference to Clara Clemens.

There are about 1,500 names listed in this *Who's Who*, each with a brief bio. Interestingly, Henry Ford's bio is three-and-a-half inches long. That's typical, but hardly compares to Dr. Virgil Raymond Drexel Kirkham's bio, which is a whopping nine inches long.

Who? He was an "economic geologist," whatever that is, with the Peters Trust Co., whatever that was. And he must have been pretty important.

In a way, this is a sad book. Of the 1,500 or so people listed in it, I counted out all the ones I recognized: 24, and one them, Mrs. Maurice Keyworth, I only knew of through her husband, who was a great educator. Others still notable, at least to me, were Carl Sandburg, of Harbert; Walter Briggs, Edgar Guest, William Scripps and Homer Ferguson of Detroit; and an assortment of other persons from around the state.

I recognized one of the 20 names from Birmingham — George Averill, editor and publisher of the *Birmingham Eccentric* — and two of the 12 from Bloomfield Hills, Henry Booth and Eliel Saarinen.

I despise clichés, but nevertheless will resort to one here: Fame is fleeting.

Granted, I'm sure other people going through the list would recognize names that I don't, but does anyone remember Elmer Osum, who was a physician, or Howard Spedding, a photographer in Detroit who was not only included in this volume, but also in *Who's Who in Portraiture in America*? Or how about Harry S. Toy? He is one who generated some long-lasting recognition somewhere, as he served briefly as a justice of the state Supreme Court. But how many people remember that name today?

As one interested in local history, I hate to see names lost to the past. Everyone who ever lived had an impact on someone else, and in that way, on the world as a whole. With the exception of those who turned on society, child killers perhaps, no one should be forgotten.

I'm in the process of creating biographical files of "significant" (I hate that term, but it will do for now) people from my home town. I have a few thousand already and add about 10 a week. I pore through old newspaper, magazines and books, like *The Official Who's Who in Michigan*, for new ones to add. In a way, I feel I am reaching into the past and pulling people from the darkness of forgotten obscurity into the light of today.

These people lived and made an important contribution to the world of our community and sometimes to the world as a whole. The above mentioned Mrs.

Keyworth's husband Maurice designed educational programs that were adopted by school districts across the country and even overseas. He was the state superintendent of schools in 1936, was considered a brilliant educator and was respected nationally. He certainly would have earned his own entry into *Who's Who*, but died in a car accident, probably just as the book was being edited. He deserves to be remembered.

Ever heard of him? You have now.

And that's the point. Greg Kowalski is editor of the *Birmingham Eccentric*. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowskik@hometownlife.com.



Greg Kowalski

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Shredder essential tool to destroy documents

I just got done completing my tax return. How long do I need to save my old tax returns and how long should I save financial papers in general?

- J.K.

With regards to your tax returns, the IRS can audit you up to three years after your return has been filed. For example, your 2003 tax return would have been filed by April 15, 2004, unless you filed for an extension. Therefore, the IRS can audit you on that return up until April 15, 2007.

You need to save your tax returns and underlying documentation for a minimum of three years after you file the return. In a great majority of situations, you can destroy your tax returns and supporting documents after three years. The one exception is the IRS can audit you up to seven years after the return has been filed if they suspect fraud.

Therefore, if you have taken any unusual deductions or if there was anything unusual about your tax return, then I would retain that tax information for seven years after the



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

return has been filed.

My general rule on financial statements is to destroy the old statement when new statement arrives. When I receive my March statements, I destroy my February statements. If there are any statements to save, it would be the year-end statement.

I generally destroy checks after I reconcile my bank account, except checks that I need for backup documentation for tax returns. In today's world where so much information is stored digitally on computers, there is very little reason to retain this type of documentation.

When I talk about destroying a document, whether it is a check or old tax returns, I do not mean just throwing it in the garbage. You need to shred

the document. A shredder, as far as I am concerned, is an essential appliance. Identity theft is one of the fastest growing white collar crimes in America and although there is nothing that you and I can do to eliminate the risk, we certainly can make it harder on crooks.

I have a large position in DaimlerChrysler stock. It represents approximately 90 percent of my portfolio. I read your column about diversification and I agree that I need to do something. Should I wait until Chrysler is divested from DaimlerChrysler to sell my stock or should I sell it now?

- N.M.

Although there has been much speculation over the last few weeks, it was confirmed at the recent DaimlerChrysler shareholder meeting in Germany that Chrysler is for sale. The problem is we have no idea when the sale will occur or the terms.

Lots of things can happen which can affect the value of the stock both positively and negatively. I believe keeping 90

percent of your portfolio in one stock is far too great of a risk. My recommendation is you begin to reduce your position in DaimlerChrysler stock now.

That doesn't mean you have to sell all the stock at once. You could begin a program of dollar-cost averaging out of DaimlerChrysler. In other words, you may decide to sell 10 percent of your DaimlerChrysler stock now and another 10 percent next month and so on. Just as dollar cost averaging makes sense for people purchasing an investment, it also makes sense when selling. The bottom line is you own too much of Chrysler stock and that you need to diversify. Good luck!

I am 66 years old and consider myself a very conservative investor. I do not need income and I have some cash to invest. I am concerned with taxes and I am considering a CD or an annuity. Which would you recommend?

- Pam

In your situation, I lean towards a fixed annuity. A fixed annuity will give you the

same protection as a CD. Fixed annuities in Michigan are guaranteed up to \$100,000 just like CDs but in addition, annuities give you the benefit of having money grow tax-deferred.

The fact this money grows tax-deferred will save taxes in two ways. First, since you do not need the income and you are letting it reinvest, that money will grow tax deferred unlike a CD which is subject to income tax. In addition, because you are 66 and are collecting Social Security, you may find because you are letting money in the annuity grow tax deferred, your Social Security is subject to less income taxes.

Unfortunately, not all annuities are the same. I would recommend a traditional-fixed annuity or an equity-indexed annuity. In a traditional-fixed annuity, you get a guaranteed rate of return. In an equity-indexed annuity, you also get a guaranteed rate of return, typically a little lower than the

fixed annuity, however, if the stock market does well, you get additional earnings based on the growth in a broad market index such as the S&P 500 Index. In the equity-indexed, just like the fixed annuity, you can't lose money. If you do not need the money for a number of years, the equity-indexed annuity is the way to go.

Not all equity-indexed annuities are the same. I like the no-load variety which just like in mutual funds, means more money ends up in your pocket where it belongs.

Annuities, unlike mutual funds, require you to use an agent. A local company that handles no-load annuities is Hutton Financial, (800) 870-4444.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. *Observer & Eccentric* readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

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ALTERNATIVES

The best treatment for a worn out knee or shoulder is joint replacement. However, this solution may not be appropriate if you suffer from advanced lung or heart disease, are under treatment for cancer with chemotherapy, or are experiencing a neurologic problem such as advancing Parkinson's Disease, to name a few of the conditions that would preclude joint replacement.

If joint surgery is out of the question, what are your alternatives? Medication to relieve pain helps. You could continue with Tylenol, ibuprofen, and possibly small amounts of codeine-like drugs. Another option is periodic joint aspiration and injection.

The common view is that you should undergo only a limited number of injections a year for the shoulder or knee. Some people say three injections a year, others say no more than five. The fact is that the medical profession has never established a single number that is good or bad. Any number you hear is without scientific basis.

What is important is that your knee or shoulder is as free from pain as is reasonable, and that you are able to care for yourself and exercise as needed for your health. Experience with injections will determine the number of injections appropriate for you; it may even mean one a month.

A schedule for joint injections that is best for you, is an example of the medical motto: If the standard is not practical, the practical becomes standard.

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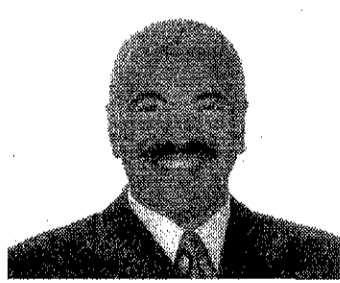
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SPORTS

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Huel Perkins

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CorPLUS Award Barbara Wojtas of Sterling Heights	Outstanding Business Award United Parcel Service in Livonia
Exemplary Group Service Award Disaster Action Team - American Red Cross Southeastern Michigan Chapter	Heart of Gold Awards Dan Ballnik of Dearborn Beverly Palise of Madison Heights Roberta Patt of Huntington Woods Robert Rosowski of Northville
Outstanding Youth Award Mikhail George of Novi	

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League merger plan between WLAA, KVC ready

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

A merger between the Western Lakes Activities Association and the Kensington Valley Conference appears all but a done deal for the 2008-09 school year.

The merger will also include two Waterford schools, Mott and Kettering, from the Oakland Activities Association.

The conference, yet to be named, will feature 24 schools

divided into four six-team divisions based on geographic locations.

"I'm confident in saying things are close," said Lakeland athletic director Greg Michaels, who has helped spearhead the merger effort. "Things are positive and we just have to tie up some loose ends as far as drafting a resolution, as well as putting a constitution and the by-laws together."

Michaels said that one major hurdle was cleared last week

when principals from the Western Lakes unanimously voted to accept being part of the merger.

The two leagues will have a follow-up meeting to discuss scheduling issues, by-laws and a constitution on April 26.

"The only reason we could not put it in writing is because it has to be approved by the boards in Pinckney and Howell, but it's my understanding both

PLEASE SEE **MERGER, B2**

WLAA-KVC MERGER PLAN

South Division: Livonia Franklin, Livonia Churchill, Canton, Plymouth, Westland John Glenn, Wayne Memorial.

Central Division: Livonia Stevenson, Salem, Northville, Novi, South Lyon, South Lyon East.

North Division: Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Western, Walled Lake Northern, White Lake Lakeland, Waterford Kettering, Waterford Mott.

West Division: Brighton, Hartland, Howell, Howell Parker, Pinckney, Milford.

Sidelines

EMU adds Madonna

With recent frigid weather playing havoc to outdoor events, Eastern Michigan University head baseball coach Roger Coryell announced the addition of Northwood University and Madonna University to the schedule of upcoming events.

The Eagles and Northwood square off in a single game at 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 9, at Oestrike Stadium.

Madonna and EMU will play a doubleheader beginning at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, also in Ypsilanti.

Officials lauded

Livonia's Martin Kennedy, Jr. will be among 24 registered officials with 50 years or more service honored at the Michigan High School Athletic Association's 28th annual Officials' Awards and Alumni banquet set for Saturday, May 12 at the Sheraton Hotel in Lansing.

A total of 389 officials with 20 or more years of service will be honored at the banquet, which starts at 7 p.m.

Also honored will be Livonia's Joseph Trachy, Jr., Westland's Terrence Madigan and Lutheran High Westland athletic director Mike Unger, all with 20 years of service to the MHSAA.

Tickets are available to the public and are priced at \$15 per person. (Tickets will not be sold at the door.) For more information, call Faye Verellen at (517) 332-5046.

Hawks hold clinic

The Michigan Hawks of the W-League will stage a free youth soccer clinic for players ages 5-13 beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 15 at Livonia Stevenson High School.

The clinic will give area youth players an opportunity to meet and train with many of the player from the 2006 Midwest Division champions.

Each youth participant will receive a free ticket good for any one of six home games. Season tickets and T-shirts will be available at the clinic for purchase. E-mail michigan-hawkswomen1-camp@yahoo.com; or visit www.michigan-hawkswomen.com.

Senior men's golf

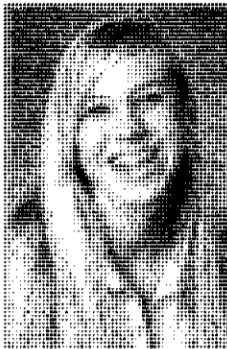
A general membership meeting for the Livonia Senior Men's Golf League will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 21 at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia.

The \$25 registration fee includes a \$15 ticket to the annual awards banquet. Membership is open to all male residents of Livonia who are 62 years of age and older.

League play begins Tuesday, May 1 and is scheduled through Tuesday, July 31. There are five handicapped flights. You must play at least 10 nine-hole rounds during the league year to establish a handicap. Call league president Tom Amadori at (734) 261-4718; or league secretary Don Hooper at (734) 464-6975.



Stevenson's Chelsea Bathurst returns as the Western Lakes Activities Association medalist.



Shannon Warner Churchill



Andrea Warzyniec Ladywood



Erica Mazur Ladywood



Chelsea Bathurst Stevenson

Tee times booked

Area girls golf teams focused on more success

See capsule outlook of area girls golf teams, B4.

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

With eight of the area's top 12 players returning this season, three area girls golf teams will have plenty to say this season at the statewide level.

Livonia Ladywood, Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Churchill should all make plenty of noise in 2007.

Ladywood returns four of its top six players off last year's team, which finished runner-up in the Catholic League, second in the regional and sixth in the Division II state finals. The Blazers are led by senior Andrea Warzyniec, the Catholic League runner-up and third-place finisher at the regional. She was 11th in the state tournament held at Grand Valley State's The Meadows.

First-team All-Observer picks Angela Jamrog and Erica Mazur also are back along with second-team All-Observer choice Kelly Thomas.

"Our young ladies have the talent to be state champions, but as we all know, it takes more than talent to win a state championship," said Ladywood coach Kellianna Nagy, whose team finished 6-1 in the Catholic League. "Our focus this year is to work hard and put together all of the elements that it takes to be a champion, one step at a time."

"We have our team goals as well as each player having their own goals and together, one day at a time. We will tackle all of them, and in the end, we hope to attain all of our goals."

Livonia Stevenson just missed making the Division I state tournament a year ago, finishing six stroke behind third-place finisher Saline en route to a fourth at the regional.

The Spartans, however, enjoyed a stellar regular season, going 11-1 overall and winning the Western Lakes Activities Association crown.

PREVIEW

The Spartans are led by senior Chelsea Bathurst, who earned WLAA medalist honors along with a seventh at the regional.

She is joined by a pair of second-team All-Area performers, Abbey Wolfe and Chrissy McHenry, both seniors.

"Our ultimate goal is to make it to states as a team and repeat as conference champion," Stevenson second-year coach Jason Delo said.

Nobody can underestimate Livonia Churchill, which finished 8-3 in dual meets and took third in the WLAA tourney. The Chargers, fifth in last year's regional, are led by Michigan's premier prep female golfer, junior Shannon Warner, who earned the state title as a sophomore shooting 67-69 last June at Forest Akers (East Course) in East Lansing. The Chargers, despite the loss of second-team All-Area pick Ashley Bint, hope to contend as well for postseason honors.

"Our team goals are to win the conference and make the state tournament," Churchill coach Gary Harper said. "We believe this team has the potential to compete hard and accomplish these goals."

"We have some new players on the team this year that have some great potential. I'm excited to see them develop throughout the season."

Improvement is the key word this spring for Livonia Franklin, Westland John Glenn and Wayne Memorial.

Franklin returns four starters for new coach Brian McCalister, led by All-Division honoree Mariel Meyers, a senior.

Westland John Glenn, 6-8 last year in dual meets, returns its entire cast.

Wayne Memorial, winless in the WLAA a year ago, already has a victory (over Taylor Truman) in 2007 for new coach Lee Van Valkenburgh, who takes over for Dennis Chall.

This haul catches walleye anglers by surprise

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

It was far from beginners luck.

That's because Greg Sultana, Ron Barry and Scott Delano are all experienced anglers when it comes to catching walleye.

But in the Downriver Walleye Federation's first tournament of 2007 season last Sunday, this big haul took the three by surprise.

In the waters off Great Lakes Steel Co. in the Wyandotte area on the Detroit River between the U.S. and Canadian side, the trio, along with Barry's 7-year-old son Andrew, won the tournament with impressive five-catch weight total of 39.08 pounds, 10 pounds better than the runner-up team.

What made the win even more special was that three of the five walleye all weighed in the 10-pound range.

"It's pretty rare to get that many 10-pound fish in the boat in one day, it's not that common," said Barry, a food service manager who lives in Livonia.

Barry should know a thing or two

because he works charters for Michigan Walleye Adventures as a guide for Tom Dennewith, who won the FLW League event the night before on the Detroit River.

Urged on by his son Andrew to enter, Ron Barry paid the \$15 tournament entry fee and hopped aboard Delano's Stratus watercraft, which was sold to him by pro guide Jim Barta.

Fishing started promptly at 7:30 a.m.

And it didn't take long for the foursome to hit quickly.

Using both five-eighths and three-quarter ounce jigs attached with a 4-inch rubber Wyandotte Wonder Worm called the Tattle Tale, the crew got hot on the Canadian side, as Sultana hooked 10.5-pounder followed by another that weighed 9.6.

"We had five bites in a flurry, we stayed in the spot for two hours," Barry said.

Sultana, a technologist for Ford Motor Co. who also lives in Livonia, couldn't believe it happened within the first hour despite a nasty wind

PLEASE SEE **WALLEYE, B2**



Scott Delano (upper left) displays the winning walleye catch along with Ron Barry and son Andrew, and Greg Sultana (upper right).

MERGER

FROM PAGE B1
school districts are on board and ready to go," Michaels said. The proposed set-up would include a division with all schools from the 12-school WLAA including Livonia Churchhill, Livonia Franklin, Canton, Plymouth, Westland, John Glenn and Wayne Memorial.

The next division would merge three schools each from the WLAA and KVC including Livonia Stevenson, Salem and Northville, along with Novi, South Lyon and South Lyon East (which opens in the fall of 2007).

Yet another division will consist of schools along the M-59 corridor - Walled Lake Western, Central and Northern, all from the WLAA; White Lake Lakeland of the KVC; and both Mott and Kettering from the OAA.

The fourth division will include all schools that are cur-

rent members of the KVC - Brighton, Hartland, Pinckney, Milford and Howell, along with Howell Parker (set to open next fall as well).

Concerns about rising transportation costs caused both leagues to look at ways to maximize scheduling concerns, as well as accommodating new sports such as lacrosse, bowling, figure skating, etc. . . .

"We don't have any fall schedules set yet (for 2008-09), but we now can certainly get more creative now," Michaels said.

The Lakeland A.D. said he also hopes the new league can address the gender equity issue following Monday's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld a lower federal court decision to switch girls basketball to the winter and girls volleyball to the fall. Also affected was both boys and girls golf and tennis, which is being flipped between the spring and fall.

"There's a lot ahead,"

Michaels said. "As far as scheduling girls basketball, we're looking at three different scenarios and seeking a consensus in 2008-09. But this (merger) was a natural because we both (the KVC and WLAA) share the same philosophies."

Michaels is pleased the way the divisions have been set up geographically.

"Those schools in our division are all 11 miles within each other and it benefits us the most distance-wise," he said. "The Waterford schools have been in the mix unofficially all along."

"After the three Farmington schools (Harrison, North and Farmington of the OAA) said no to our invitation last fall, we got a letter of inquiry about joining awhile back from Tim Domke when he was A.D. We've always had a close working relationship with Mike Butterfield (at Mott) because they're right in our back yard."

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Members of the Belle Tire 16-and-under USA Hockey National AAA Midget Minor team celebrate their recent championship.

Championship material

Belle Tire rules USA Hockey's 16-and-under Nationals

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Kyle Krug, who coached Hobey Baker Award winners Kip Miller (Michigan State) and Brian Holzinger (Bowling Green), knows a thing or two about hockey talent.

And the Livonia resident put it to good use last weekend as he guided Belle Tire's AAA Minor Midget team, which captured the USA Hockey 16-and-under National Championship Sunday at Great Lakes Sports City in Fraser.

Belle Tire, which finished 61-7-6 on the year and took third in the Midwest Elite Hockey League, reached the national tourney by defeating Little Caesars, 4-1, in the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association championship game played last month at the Taylor SportsPlex.

In the National Tournament, which opened March 28, Belle Tire earned a 3-2 overtime win over Shattuck St. Mary's (Minn.).

Krug's team capped a six-game tournament run by beat-

ing the same Shattuck St. Mary's team in the championship, 2-1, as Westland's Tyler Brown (Livonia Churchhill High) scored the game-winning goal in the second period, while Trenton's Jordan Miller added the other goal.

In between, Belle Tire defeated New Jersey (3-1), Team Wisconsin (4-3 in double-overtime), Little Caesars (3-1) and TPH Thunder Attack of Atlanta, Ga. (6-0).

"We played really consistent, we just keep coming at you with all four lines," Krug said. "This team has been together for two years. We added seven new guys this year."

Goaltender Joe Rogers of Port Huron, who started five of the six tourney games, was in the nets for the final. Rogers' story is unique and has been chronicled recently. He plays with just one hand due to a birth defect.

Belle Tire's defense is anchored by Krug's son Torey, who attends Churchhill; Micki Mihailovich, a student at Westland John Glenn High; Chris Leone, Dearborn Heights; Kevin Albers and P.J.

Klebba, both of Lake Orion; Beau Schmitz, Howell; and Kyle Verdino, Trenton (via Phoenix, Ariz.).

Schmitz was the second pick overall in the Ontario Hockey League Draft by the Windsor Spitfires, but Krug said he is expected to play next year for the USA Hockey's Under-17 National Development Team.

Verdino, meanwhile, was drafted by the Kelowna (B.C.) Rockets of the Western Hockey League.

Southgate's Matt Boley is Rogers' backup in goal.

Joining Brown and Miller on the forward lines are Trenton's Kevin Bechard and Brad Smith (committed to Ohio State); Zach Golembiewski, St. Clair; Doug Clifford, Woodhaven; Mac Olson, Grosse Pointe; Travis Lynch, Milford; Monroe's R.J. Mahalak and Blake Coleman (via Dallas, Tex.); Zach Rourke, Lake Orion; and Travis Lynch, Milford.

Krug is assisted on the bench by coaches Mike McLean, Rob Smith and Randy Sedlak.

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WALLEYE

FROM PAGE B1
and fog. "It was unreal, it was a great start to the year," he said. "I just entered the club. I fished a number of events in the Michigan-Ontario Muskie Club.

"This is tough competition. There are a lot of good fishermen down there." Things eventually quieted down and as the 3:30 p.m. tournament deadline approached, Delano's Stratus moved over to the U.S. side. They also switched earlier from a brown-colored worm to a

bright green one with a garlic scent (purchased at Cabela's).

And despite having 32 pounds already in the boat, the group figured it was already a productive day even though they didn't know where they stood overall.

"I said to myself, 'Let's head in and have a beer,' but they were real determined," Sultana, who four years ago hauled in a walleye that weighed 14 pounds, 5 ounces. "They wanted to fish like maniacs. It was awesome."

With just five minutes to spare from the cut-off in 13 feet of water, Delano (of Allen Park) reeled in another walleye

that weighed in 9.8 pounds.

"We had one heck of a time out there," Barry said. "I told my son, 'This is lot different than going out for just pleasure. Being in a tourney is a whole different ballgame.'"

The group's catch of 39.08 pounds was not a record compare with last year's 43-pound total, but it was nothing to sneeze at.

"Most people would be happy to put one of the three on the wall, Barry said. "It was one of the best days I've had on the water."

"It rates right up there."

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS TRACK
Wednesday, April 11
John Glenn at Dearborn, 10 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL
Tuesday, April 10
Madonna vs. Rochester College at Iltch Ballpark, 1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 11
Madonna vs. Concordia at Iltch Ballpark (2), 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 14
Madonna at Indiana Tech (2), 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 15
Madonna vs. Indiana Tech

at Iltch Ballpark (2), 1 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Tuesday, April 10
Madonna vs. Concordia at Ladywood H.S. (2), 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 12
Madonna vs. Northwood Univ. at Ladywood H.S. (2), 3 p.m.
Friday, April 13
Madonna at Cornerstone (2), 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 14
Madonna vs. Indiana Tech at Ladywood H.S. (2), 1 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYOFFS WESTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
Tuesday, April 10
Whalers vs. Kitchener Rangers at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
Wednesday, April 11
Whalers at Kitchener, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 13 (if necessary)
Whalers vs. Kitchener Rangers at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
Sunday, April 14 (if necessary)
Whalers at Kitchener, 7:30 p.m.

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Lousy weather puts MU schedule on hold

With snow, brutal cold and wind continuing through the Midwest, all weekend Madonna University baseball and softball games have been cancelled with no make-up dates announced.

The Crusaders baseball team edged Indiana Wesleyan 6-5 on Tuesday, to improve to 14-11 overall and 2-4 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

But Wednesday's doubleheader at Aquinas was rained out and games Thursday at Indiana Northwest and Friday-Saturday at St. Xavier were cancelled due to cold weather and a forecast of

snow. On the plus side, Madonna announced a doubleheader at Eastern Michigan University 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 25.

Although the Crusaders are scheduled to host Rochester at 1 p.m. Tuesday and Concordia at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Iltch Ballpark, there is no guarantee those games will be played, either.

The early forecast for mid-week calls for a mix of snow and rain.

As for the MU softball team, things weren't any better. Because of cold, wintery

weather in Grand Rapids and the Chicago area, Thursday's doubleheader at Aquinas was postponed and the weekend tourney at St. Francis cancelled.

The Crusaders (16-9, 3-1) will host Concordia at 4 p.m. Tuesday in a doubleheader, again, weather permitting.

Meanwhile, Madonna's golf team is competing Monday in the Siena Heights Invitational, rather than the originally scheduled Saturday date. The tournament also is being moved to Lenawee Country Club in Adrian.

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GIRLS GOLF CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
 Head coach: Gary Harper, fourth year.
 League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Western Division).
 Last year's dual-match record: 8-3 (WAAA).
 Last year's finish: third place (WAAA meet); fifth (Division I regional).
 Notable losses to graduation: Ashley Bint (second-team All-Area); Sarah Walls, Theresa Nutten, Tanaya Karnik, Sara Blaharski, Kim Reich, Katie Tierney.
 Leading returnees: Shannon Warner, Jr. (first-team All-Area; Division I regional and state medalist); Ashley Kuhn, Sr.; Lexi McFarlane, Soph.; Amanda Dobos, Jr.; Danielle Lesniak, Jr.; Sarah Linder, Soph.; Gina Jordan, Jr.; Katie Worley, Jr.; Kristina Kruppa, Soph.
 Promising newcomers: Jenna Bazzi, Jaimy Lucko, Jessica Burdette, Madison Van Britson.
 Harper's 2007 outlook: "We lost seven seniors from last year's team, turning us into a very young team. Although we're young, we do have experience. I have four returning players that played in almost every match last season. We have some other players that got some great experience playing JV and are ready to compete for spots in the varsity lineup.
 "Playing time on varsity is going to be a real competition in our practices that can only lead to good things."
LIVONIA FRANKLIN
 Head coach: Brian McCallister, first year.
 League affiliation: WAAA (Western Division).
 Last year's dual-match record: 4-7 (WAAA).
 Last year's finish: tied for sixth (WAAA meet); 10th (Division I regional).
 Notable losses to graduation: Keely Moq.
 Leading returnees: Mariel Meyers, Sr. (All-Division); Jessica Stchur, Sr.; Lauren Bailey, Sr.; Paige Scarpace, Jr.
 Promising newcomers: Heather Bacon, Jr.; Michelle Thompson, Jr.; Heather DeGuise, Fr.; Rebecca Geersen, Fr.; Chelsea Duffy, Fr.; Georgia Patrick, Fr.
 McCallister's 2007 outlook: "This team has worked hard and is excited to start the sea-



Chrissy McHenry Stevenson



Kelly Thomas Ladywood



Angela Jamrog Ladywood

son. The three seniors will provide leadership and stability at the top of the lineup. Our goal is to be competitive every match in a tough WAAA.
LIVONIA STEVENSON
 Head coach: Jason Delo, second year.
 League affiliation: WAAA (Lakes Division).
 Last year's dual-match record: 11-1 overall; 10-1 (WAAA).
 Last year's finish: WAAA champions; fourth (Division I regional).
 Notable losses to graduation: Priyanka Joshi.
 Leading returnees: Chelsea Bathurst, Sr. (first-team All-Area; WAAA medalist); Abbey Wolfe, Sr. (second-team All-Area); Chrissy McHenry, Sr. (second-team All-Area); Laura Sims, Jr. (All-Division); Elizabeth Grace, Jr.; Julie Francisco, Sr.
 Promising newcomers: Claire Massman, Soph.; Gabrielle Sabatini, Soph.
 Delo's 2007 outlook: "I think we have an excellent chance of competing for the WAAA title again. It has been an amazing run we have had with our core of players, and we hope that we can have them graduate and go out on top."
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
 Head coach: Steve Pilon, third year.

League affiliation: WAAA (Lakes Division).
 Last year's dual-match record: 6-8 overall; 3-8 (WAAA).
 Last year's finish: 10th (WAAA meet); 16th (Division I regional).
 Notable losses to graduation: None.
 Leading returnees: Jessie Veltri, Sr.; Jessica Riggs, Sr.; Taylor Morgan, Sr.; Courtney McKinney, Soph.; Carrie Kulkowski, Sr.; Jamie Young, Jr.
 Promising newcomers: Kim Murdoch, Jr.
 Pilon's 2007 outlook: "Our four seniors - Riggs, Morgan Veltri and Kulkowski - have helped improve our team every year and are ready to put John Glenn on the map.
 "We also have a solid base of younger players led by McKinney, Young and Murdoch. Our team is ready to have a fantastic season."
WAYNE MEMORIAL
 Head coach: Lee VanValkenburgh, first year.
 League affiliation: WAAA (Western Division).
 Last year's dual-match record: 0-11 (WAAA).
 Last year's finish: 12th (WAAA meet); 17th (Division I regional).
 Notable losses to graduation: Jenny Schmidt.
 Leading returnees: Samantha Cruise, Sr. (captain); Berlynn Beaver, Soph.; Taylor Tuttle,

Soph.; Robbie Tomlin, Soph.; Rayvonne Gilmore, Sr.; Tonia Overstreet, Jr.
 Promising newcomers: Rachel Roth-Fuller, Soph.; Crystle Peterson, Soph.
 VanValkenburgh's 2007 outlook: "This year we're going to be better. We're starting the year 1-0 with the victory last Tuesday over Taylor Truman.
 "We have realistic expectations. We want to have a good time and improve our scores."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD
 Head coach: Kellianne Nagy, eighth year.
 League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).
 Last year's dual-match record: 6-1 (Catholic League).
 Last year's finish: second (Catholic League and Division II regional); sixth (Division II state finals).
 Notable losses to graduation: Kara Efimetz (second-team All-Area); Lauren Doroghazi (second-team All-Area).
 Leading returnees: Andrea Warzyniec, Sr. tri-captain (first-team All-Area); Angela Jamrog, Sr. (first-team All-Area); Erica Mazur, Jr. tri-captain (first-team All-Area); Kelly Thomas, Sr. tri-captain (second-team All-Area); Alaina Vince, Jr.; Rachel Fuller, Soph.; Gabby Vessosi, Jr.
 Promising newcomers: Marissa Ley, Fr.; Katelyn Papler, Soph.; Marissa Briden, Fr.; Val Dirmila, Fr.
 Nagy's 2007 outlook: "Our look this year is promising. We have a young talent that has grown together for four years to become one.
 "We will be led by our trio of seniors - Kelly Thomas, Angela Jamrog and Andrea Warzyniec - and junior Erica Mazur. We're looking to them to be the backbone of the team and lead us through the season. They are very talented, some of the best in the state if you ask me. They have worked very hard on their game during the preseason as well as in the off-season. I'm hoping that their hard work and dedication pay off this season."

McQueen, Sillanpaa lift Trojans to another win

Livonia Clarenceville's softball team goes into spring break with a 2-3 record thanks to its second straight improbable come-from-behind victory.
 The Trojans, who rallied for eight runs in top of the ninth inning Monday after trailing 10-3 for an 11-10 triumph over Westland John Glenn, did it again on Wednesday against Inkster.

Clarenceville trailed 11-3 entering the bottom of the sixth against the Vikings, but rallied for eight runs to tie and added the game-winner in the seventh for a 12-11 victory.

"We could have lost this game by laying down, but our girls decided to play a little in the sixth," Clarenceville coach Joe DeCaire said. "Despite the snow and the (low) temperature, we go the win."

Sophomore Charmaine McQueen's 3-run triple keyed the eight-run comeback in the sixth. The Trojans took advantage of five Inkster walks and added three hits to deadlock the game at 11-11.

And after Inkster stranded a runner in the top of the seventh, the Trojans earn the vic-

GIRLS SOFTBALL

tory as McQueen had a lead-off single, stole second and took third on a passed ball. That set the stage for junior left fielder Samantha Sillanpaa, who collected her second hit of the game to bring McQueen home with the game-winner.

Abby Sochacki, the winning pitcher in relief, had two hits along with McQueen and Sillanpaa.

Junior Danielle Maples, the starting pitcher, lasted two innings before giving way to Sochacki, who earned her second win of the year. In five innings, Sochacki allowed four runs on two hits. She walked seven and struck out five.

"McQueen and Sillanpaa really stepped it up, and Abby kept us in it," DeCaire said. "Inkster really came to play and we had trouble matching their energy."

Clarenceville returns to action 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 16 at Lutheran High Westland in the Metro Conference opener for both teams.

Mazur bolsters C'ville to victory

Livonia Clarenceville earned its second baseball victory of the season Wednesday with a 10-3 triumph at home over Inkster.

The Trojans, who went winless in 19 games a year ago, are now 2-3 overall. The loss drops Inkster to 2-2.

PREP BASEBALL Allen Mazur was stellar both on the mound and

with the bat to lead Clarenceville. He pitched all seven innings, allowing just two hits and two walks, while fanning 15. Offensively, Mazur went 3-for-3 with a run batted in.

Other standouts for the Trojans included Nick Garant, 2-for-2, with two RBI and four stolen bases; Paul Wilcox, 2-for-4 with a double and two RBI; and Andrew Abbott, 1-for-3 with two RBI.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Baseball tryouts

Open tryouts for the 18-and-over Ann Arbor Baseball League will start with registration at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 15 at Ann Arbor's Veterans Park (No. 5) located at the corner of Maple and Dexter.

For more information about the wood bat league, call Sean Williams at (734) 994-2300, Ext. 53214; or e-mail the Michigan Tigers at players@michigantigers.com.

Komen Bowl-a-Thon

Livonia Clarenceville High School varsity girls and boys bowling coach Pam Jones will hold a fund-raiser as she participates in the Susan G. Komen for the Cure 3-day, 60-mile walk for breast cancer.

The bowling fund-raiser will be at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 12 at Country Lanes, 30250 W. Nine Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

The cost is \$20 per person (includes bowling, mystery games, pizza). Reservations are required.

For more information, call Jones at (248) 476-3201.

Drop in H.S. hockey

High school drop in hockey will be available from 3:30-5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Eddie Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon, Livonia.

The fee is \$8 per player. It is limited to 24 players and four goalies.

All players must show their high school I.D., read and sign a rules form, along with a liability waiver form.

Girls fastpitch

Registration for the 2007 Westland Lightning girls fastpitch softball program (ages 8-16) is being held from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays at the Westland Youth Athletic Association Compound, 6050 Farmington Road, Westland. Birth certificates are required. For more information, call (734) 421-0640; or visit www.wyaa.org.

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Focus on desires gets results

My brother and sisters were teenagers when I was born. There was no sibling rivalry with such a wide age gap, at least not on my part. I enjoyed their attention.

My sister, Nancy, who was the baby of the family until I showed up, surprised me on my 21st birthday when she said, "I finally forgive you for being born."

My oldest sister, reminiscing, gave me a compliment. She said, "Even when you were in elementary school, you were a centered person. It even showed in the poster you had hanging in your bedroom." She couldn't be talking about the David Cassidy and Bobby Sherman posters.



Marilyn Suttle

When those came down, I filled my walls with posters of chimpanzees, my favorite animal after seeing the movie, *Planet of the Apes*. That movie sparked a huge interest in communicating with real apes. It was the focus of my ninth-grade term paper. I learned about sign language being

taught to gorillas and clicking sounds being used to communicate with dolphins. I read everything the library had to offer, and everybody in the family knew it was my favorite topic of conversation.

The biggest poster in my room, was a chimpanzee sitting in a flower pot with a big flower hat on its head. My sister said, "You always seem to live by the caption on that poster." I didn't remember a caption. "Bloom where you are planted," she said.

Could it be that those words had somehow stuck with me? They didn't seem to be there when I was wilting after several years as an information systems consultant in the 1980s. I hated my job.

There were no blooms where I was planted, but there was a small bud of hope that held the potential for changing my path to follow my desires. Soon, I blossomed as a pregnant lady and in three years time, produced two little offshoots, and started following my passion the way I did as a kid.

This time, it was communication with humans — especially the way people communicate with themselves. It's what helped me cope when my kids reached that "you can't make me," stage. It's what helped me be supportive when my husband said, "I know I'm 40, but I want to start a rock and roll band, and practice in our basement."

Recently, I spent five powerful days with Jack Canfield, on the assisting staff, at his Advanced Success training in California. Much time was spent on visualizing successes, feeling the feelings you'd have if you had already achieved those successes, and getting your actions in alignment with desires. During an exercise, I kept thinking about Michigan.

Right now, our economy is ranked near the bottom. What used to work, is no longer working. The car companies are scrambling to figure out what to do. People are worrying about job security and whether their kids will have jobs here when they graduate. Business meetings are filled with people announcing, "I'm moving away," and others saying, "I'm so tired of going to going-away parties."

I started visualizing and asking myself, "How can Michigan transition into a successful thriving state?" And what about you? How can you transition from where you are to where you want to be? Success comes quickly when you focus on the opportunities that your current situation holds. I can be more productive by focusing on my desire for a thriving state, than focusing on my fears and losses. Inspired action comes from desire, not fear.

Yet, transition can ruffle your feathers. It's scary if you focus on what's bad about the change, but transition can be exciting and filled with the buds of possibility.

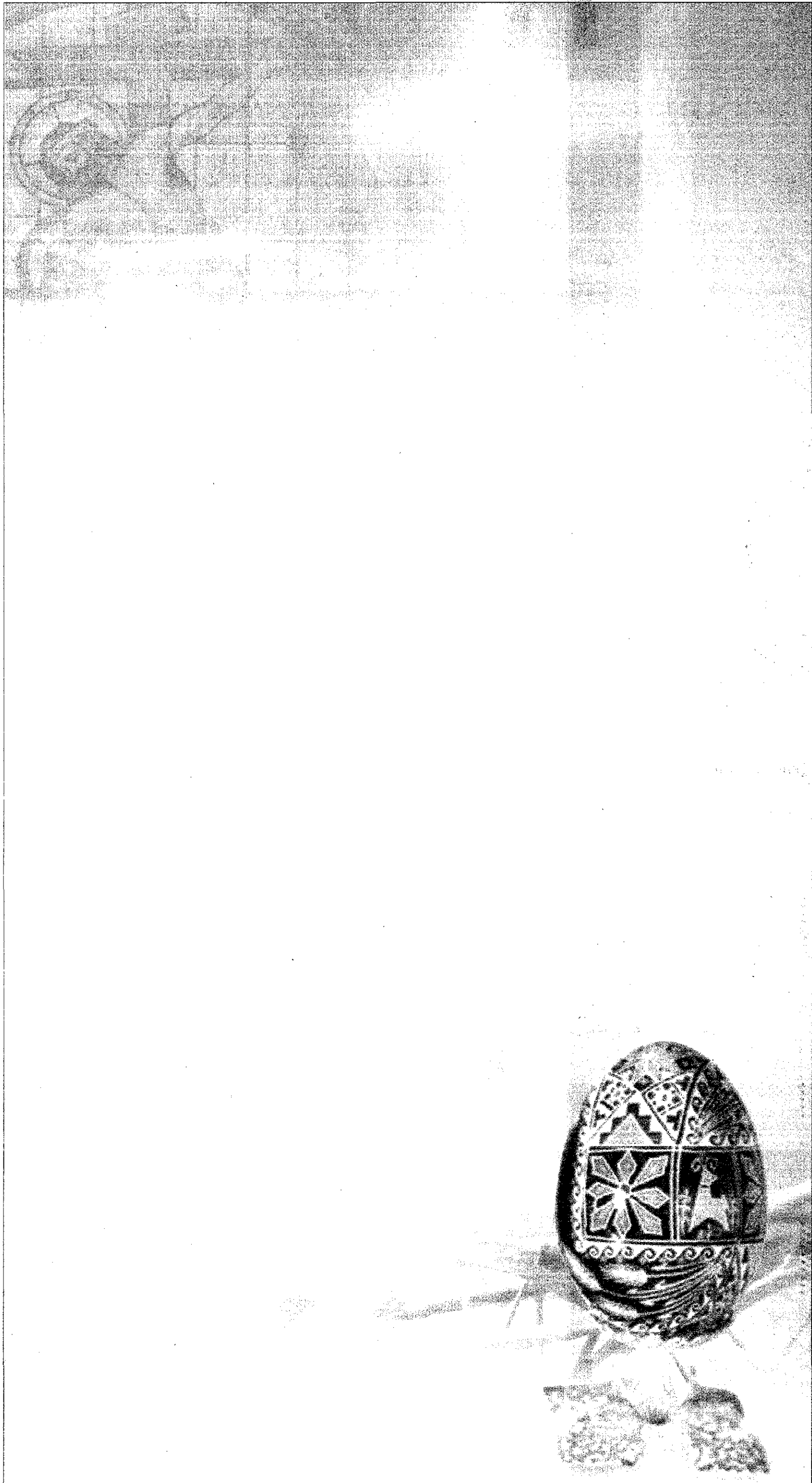
The leaders and residents who envision Michigan as it can become, and follow that desire, are the best champions for success. How can you be a champion for your successes?

Read the following questions to help you uncover the thoughts and actions you need to bloom where you are planted: If you knew for certain that you would succeed, what dream would you go after? What did you want to do when you were a kid that still lights you up now? What opportunities exist in one of your current difficulties? What action can you take now, so your desire can lead to future successes?

I met a woman at a party. She had a high power career before having kids and now is living her passion of being a full-time mom. She shared that someday, when her kids are older, she'd like to produce a show involving her love of exotic animals. "It's a dream I have to put on a shelf for now," she said.

I asked her, "What could you do now, that would help you be more prepared to achieve your dream when the time is right?" In a gush of excitement she realized that now would be a wonderful time to learn some of the things she might need to learn, read the books she might need to read, and develop relationships with the people who she might need to know. I wonder if, one of her future shows will feature apes.

Marilyn Suttle helps people create happier, more productive lives at work and at home with esteem-building skills. Visit her Web site at: WWW.SuttleOnline.NET or contact her at Marilyn@SuttleOnline.net.



Orchestra to perform lighter side of Shostakovich



West Bloomfield pianist Pauline Martin performs with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Volodymyr Shesiuik is always trying to come up with a signature sound so when the Livonia Symphony music committee was selecting programs for the 2006-07 season Dmitri Shostakovich came to mind.

Shades of Shostakovich introduces the audience to the lighter side of the Russian composer 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14, in the fifth concert of the Livonia Symphony

Orchestra series at Clarenceville High School in Livonia. Shostakovich's music is often referred to as dissonant. His Symphony No. 9, Ballet Suite No. 3, First Piano Concerto, Romance (from Gadfly), and Waltz II (Jazz Suite No. 2) demonstrate his witty, spirited nature.

Tickets are \$17, \$5 child/student, and available at Livonia libraries and at the door. For more information, visit www.livoniasymphony.com or call the hotline at (734) 421-1111. The

concert is sponsored by the Livonia Town Hall.

"It's a little different program with Symphony No. 9. Not many orchestras play this. It was written after World War II. It's so personal for me," said Shesiuik who like Shostakovich lived under Soviet rule — Shostakovich in St. Petersburg, Shesiuik in Ukraine.

"We also have nice surprises with Pauline Martin performing (Shostakovich's) concerto for

PLEASE SEE ORCHESTRA, C2



Matt Michaels of Southfield is one of the dueling pianists performing in a benefit concert for the Michigan Jazz Festival.

Dueling for dollars

Pianists to raise money for free jazz festival

Pianists Matt Michaels and Cliff Monear duel each other on Steinway Grand pianos 3 p.m. Sunday, April 15, in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. They will follow the format used on Public Radio's Marian McPartland Piano Jazz program.

The concert will be totally improvisational and unrehearsed. In between dueling, the pianists will discuss the tunes they play, the composers, and different ways jazz allows the freedom to never play a piece the same way twice. They will each solo and may play duets on the same or separate pianos.

Tickets are \$15 and available at the door or by calling (248) 474-2720.

Proceeds go toward producing the 13th annual Michigan Jazz Festival scheduled for Sunday, July 15, at Schoolcraft College.



Cliff Monear (above) along with Matt Michaels improvise on two Steinway grand pianos Sunday, April 15, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

ORCHESTRA

FROM PAGE C1

piano, strings and trumpet." Martin has been a guest artist with the Livonia

Symphony Orchestra a couple of times in the past. The West Bloomfield pianist earned a doctorate of musical arts at the University of Michigan School of Music.

In addition to appearing as a soloist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, New American Chamber Orchestra, Florida West Coast Symphony, and Orchestra London (Canada), Martin performs with Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings. In 1989 she founded the St. Clair Trio whose CD, *Hobson's Choice*, received a first round Grammy nomination in 1996. Martin currently teaches at Oakland University in Rochester. She

also serves as artistic director of the Pro Mozart Society of Greater Detroit.

"Shostakovich's First Concerto features prominently the trumpet so it's really interesting scoring," said Martin.

"People have a tendency to think of Shostakovich as less accessible. The more one hears his music you recognize, at least in my opinion, he's the most expressive composer we might have found in the 20th century. Shostakovich puts in his score a huge range of emotion with an economy of means. The slow movement is absolutely beautiful. There's a lot of humor in his work. His music is more and more gaining popularity."

Clarenceville High School is at 20155 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile.

lchomin@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2145

Reliefs by Redford sculptor inspires dance

The Detroit Dance Collective is premiering new works by Barbara Selinger and Paula Kramer which features the art of internationally recognized painters Jo Powers and Mel Rosas, and sculptor Sergio De Giusti of Redford.

The Michigan Trilogy II Concert takes place 8 p.m. Friday, April 20, at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn.

Tickets are \$22, \$18 students and seniors, \$15 for individuals in groups of 10 or more.

Call (313) 943-2354 or order online at www.dearbornfordcenter.com, or download a form at www.detroitdancecollective.org then mail in your ticket order.

Selinger, DDC's artistic director and a Farmington Hills resident, choreographed *Moments of Revelation* which was inspired by De Giusti's thought provoking bas reliefs

of shrouded figures.

The piece opens the program with breathtaking images of mysterious veiled figures that emerge from within, followed by a dynamic trio who are bonded together by long bands that stretch across the stage. A sensuous duet and mesmerizing finally complete the dance. The work is performed to the music of Christos Hatzis.

Selinger also presents *The Line Between* which was inspired by a painting of Rosas whose dreamlike landscape divides the real world from the imaginative. Through the use of video projections Rosas' painting is exposed layer by layer as the artist created it.

Choreography by Paula Kramer, DDC's founder and former co-artistic director, includes *Up for the Count* inspired by Powers' paintings. Kramer created this solo work for Selinger to music by Kenji Bunch.

<p>MISC. SINGLES</p> <p>Moon-dusters Ballroom Dancing to a live band every Saturday 8:30-11 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission: guest/\$6, associates/\$5.50, members/\$5. Dress: Ladies - date style clothes, gentlemen - jackets and ties. For more information, call Joe Castrodale (248) 968-5197.</p> <p>METROPOLITAN SINGLE PROFESSIONALS Join our E-mail list at www.mspsc.com for special events. Information (248) 544-6445. Office (248) 851-9919 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.</p> <p>Euchre Anytime 6:30-9:30 p.m. Meets at the Main Lounge at Drake's Lanes, 35000 Grand River Ave. just east of Drake Road in Farmington Hills. Cash bar and reasonable priced dinner is also available off the menu. \$5/members, \$6/non-members.</p> <p>Volleyball Anytime 6:45-9:45 p.m. Drop-in volleyball in the gym and field-house of the Bloomfield Hills Middle School, 4200 Quarton Road, west of Telegraph. Cost is \$6. In the park, Farmington Hills, anytime 6:30 p.m. to dusk. Heritage Park, Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. Cost \$2.</p>	<p>SINGLES</p> <p>BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST</p> <p>Chili Cook Off 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 13, at St. Patrick's Parish, 140 Superior, Wyandotte. Bring a spoon and \$5. Enter your chili and you could win \$100 prize. If interested in being a chili chef, call Marion at (734)324-8983 for details.</p> <p>Dance 8 p.m. Saturday, April 14, St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church, 6441 Pelham Road, Taylor. Admission \$10. Contact Marion at (734)324-8983 or Judy at (313)389-4730.</p> <p>Dinner & Movie 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21, T.V. Diner, 2441 Fort St., Trenton. Contact Al at (734)284-7595 or Judy at (313)389-4730.</p> <p>Mass 11 a.m. Sunday, April 29, St. Joseph's Church, 345 Elm St. Wyandotte. Brunch follows. Contact Jerry at (734)283-6887.</p> <p>SINGLE POINT MINISTRIES</p> <p>Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church is at 40000 Six Mile Road, the corner of Six Mile and Haggerty, in Northville.</p> <p>Sunday Fellowship Meet at 11:30 a.m. every Sunday in Knox Hall for fellowship and encouragement. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation and Christ are always present. Call the SPM office at (248) 374-5920.</p>
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Notice is hereby given that on Monday April 16, 2007 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process by public auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave, Wayne, MI 48184 - 734-728-8204.

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Observer & Eccentric
Novi News

EASTER

FROM PAGE C1

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Even before the birds start to sing on Easter Sunday morning, Volodymyr and Luba Shesiuk head for church to celebrate the Resurrection at Mass. It's a tradition the Garden City couple brought with them from Ukraine in 1991.

Afterwards, they'll gather their two adult daughters, son-in-law and friends around the kitchen table for a breakfast shared only on this festive Christian occasion. Over the years, different ethnic groups have observed Easter Sunday in a variety of ways, but church services and food remain at the heart of rejoicing over Jesus rising from the dead after his crucifixion.

"Luba is preparing very special bread. It smells so nice in the house. It's a very long preparation for this," said Volodymyr Shesiuk, conductor of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra. "Around 5 a.m. we go to church then have a very special breakfast with eggs, paska (sweet bread with raisins), kielbasa (sausage). At Easter time everything tastes so good."

POLISH EASTER

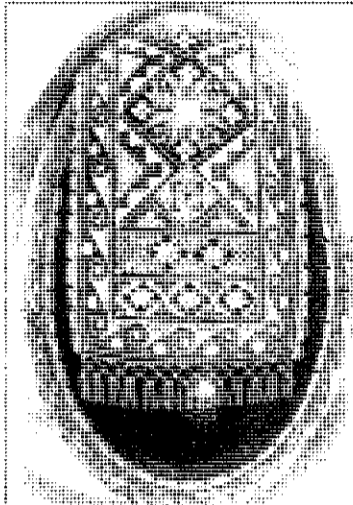
Sister Nancy Jamroz grew up in a Polish family who celebrated the entire week from Palm Sunday to Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter. Today as a Felician nun, Sister Jamroz follows similar observances.

"On Holy Thursday for Catholics the evening Mass is the Last Supper and celebration of the institution of the priesthood preceded by a supper or agape from Latin meaning love feast," said Sister Jamroz, vice president for student services at Madonna University in Livonia. "On Good Friday, many Polish people spend all three hours in church. Besides the Stations of the Cross, Polish people have special prayers called lamentations. If you talk to any Polish about Gorzkie Zale they will know."

Earlier in the week or on Good Friday afternoon, Sister Jamroz' family colored eggs in preparation for Swieconka, the Easter



Roman Seniuk combines traditional designs with his compositions in these Ukrainian pysanky. Seniuk demonstrates the art 1-5 p.m. Sunday, April 15, at the Scarab Club.



ITALIAN EASTER

Quinto Milito left Italy in 1959 but brought the tradition of the Easter feast with him to America. On Easter morning the Livonia man will go to church before gathering for a "huge family dinner."

Two weeks later, the artistic director of the Friends of the Opera of Michigan, presents the nonprofit's annual Easter concert 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at St. Priscilla Church, 19120 Purlingbrook, Livonia. For details about the concert featuring Theodore Dubois' The Seven Last Words of Christ, call (313) 582-0997, or (248) 476-4700.

feast. On Holy Saturday, Polish and Ukrainian families traditionally take their Easter baskets filled with paska bread, sausage, salt, butter, and eggs to church to be blessed. At the Felician Motherhouse, a priest comes to bless the food eaten by the nuns.

"We have eight tables with breads made into rabbits and Easter baskets, a table with meats including Polish sausage, dairy products with butter lams, another with desserts including candy and bunny cakes, another table with fruits," said Sister Jamroz. "There is a special blessing for each of the foods."

"On Sunday morning at 6 a.m. is a Polish tradition of the Resurrection Mass. Children wear new Easter clothes and carry lilies in procession, and either have a cross without the body of Jesus draped with white cloths, or the resurrected Jesus. Afterward all the food that was blessed on Saturday will be eaten during large family gatherings."



Five generations

Grandma Susan Kmet of Garden City (left background), age 47, Great grandma Mary Ann Jane Winters-Johr, 66; Great-great grandmother Rita Ruth Vescoso, 86; Gabriel Scott Winters, 3, and mom Rachel Nichole Winters (center), 25, recently gathered for this five generation photograph.

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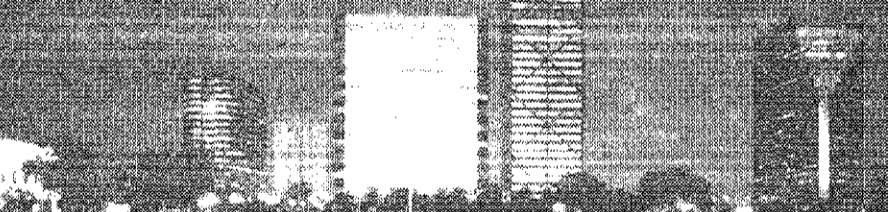
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Grandma Donna Kenske of Canton hunts Easter eggs with grandchildren Olivia, Anthony and Emily.

Home hunts a happy Easter happening

BY DONNA KENSKE
CORRESPONDENT

Grandmothers unite! Instead of the "big" Easter Egg Hunt put on by parks, have you ever given thought to having one at your house, condo or homeowners association? Think it's too much trouble? Wrong. A few simple steps and you'll find a new family tradition your grandchildren will await with glee.

This is your lucky day! Calling all kids, the hunt is on! Invest in a few bags of plastic eggs; the amount varies by the number of children attending (be sure to retrieve eggs at end of hunt for next year). Next, a bag or two of wrapped candy will do, or visit the bulk-food section at the grocery store for a greater variety.

Raid your change jar and the couch. I put either one or two pieces of candy or small change in each egg and secure with scotch tape.

Opportunities are endless, because the eggs can be filled with anything. Need some ideas? Girls love barrettes or hair bows while boys prefer matchbox cars or tattoos. All kids love stickers, bubbles and glow-in-the-dark bracelets or even a deck of cards.

This Easter I kicked it up a

notch by writing "Grandma Coupons" to put inside the eggs. My coupons say "You have won a trip to the movies, one-night stay at Grandma's house, a trip to the library, lunch with Grandpa", you get the idea.

Personalize your coupons to fit your children. Make a master list so you can record who won what.

Now: Hiding the eggs. Children actually love the hunting part more than the contents of the eggs! They feel like pirates going after buried treasure. Do not underestimate the ability of even the youngest child.

They can sniff out candy anywhere. They feel like pirates going after buried treasure. They will look high and low.

I hide my eggs in the bushes, in and under trees, the window ledge, on the landscape rocks or the park bench. Don't forget the hose cart, the front porch or window sills. Having a car in the driveway is a bonus. Place an egg in front of and behind a tire, on the hood or bumper; balance an egg on the door handle.

Here's the most important part: Get out your camera and have a ball, capturing the giggles and surprises as reflected in their faces.



Down the Beach

This pastel painting, *Down the Beach*, is one of the landscapes on exhibit by Jerry Power through April 29, at the Village Theater Gallery, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton. Meet the artist 2-5 p.m. Saturday, April 14. Exhibit hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday. For information, call (734) 394-5300.

Art exhibit features encaustic paintings

Artist Dee Ann Segula exhibits her unique, colorful and richly textured encaustic paintings through April 29, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council's Joann Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Visitors can meet the artist 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 14, during special exhibit viewing hours.

A self-supporting artist, Segula has been working in oil painting, print making, drawing, metals, calligraphy, and mixed media for more than 25 years. While this Milford-

based artist has always been known for her whimsical and thought-provoking work, she has recently learned the ancient technique of encaustic.

Encaustic is the method of painting molten beeswax and pigment on a surface. Historians date this practice back to ancient Greece and it has even adorned the statues at the Acropolis. Every century since, artists have utilized encaustic in one form or another including Diego Rivera and Jasper Johns.

Segula's take on the encaustic technique has found her experimenting with themes of

nature like animals, flora and fauna. She combines layers of lacquer between layers of oil paint which gives her paintings and drawings a distinctive depth and brilliance.

"It's the hands-on process that intrigues me, the tactile feeling of the medium and the myriad ways you can work with it," said Segula. "It's exploring unknown territory and unexpected results. It's the beauty and the richness that can be achieved that has held me."

For more information, call (734) 416-4278.

Lecturer looks at faith in Detroit history

Dr. Angela Dillard, associate professor at the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan, will discuss "True vs. False Religion: How Faith Mattered in Detroit's Radical History" at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 12, in the alumnae hall of Madame Cadillac building on the Marygrove College campus, corner of Wyoming and McNichols, in Detroit.

The lecture is based on Dillard's new book, *Faith in the City: Preaching Radical Social Change in Detroit*, due out this spring from University of Michigan Press. The book looks at religion's place in Detroit's protest communities from the 1930s-60s.

Angela Dillard joined U of M in 2006 in the Residential College and the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies. She holds a PhD and a Master of Arts in American Culture from U of M; an Master of Arts in Political Science from the New School for Social Research; and a Bachelor of Arts in Justice, Morality and Constitutional Democracy from Michigan State University.

She is the author of *James Meredith, The Conservative Turn and the Boundaries of the American Historical Imagination* and *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner Now?: Multicultural Conservatism in*



Dr. Angela Dillard

America (2002). Dillard's appearance is a "Defining Detroit" event of Marygrove's Institute for Detroit Studies, an interdisciplinary series of public exhibits, lectures, performances, readings and discussions that explore different aspects of Detroit life. Previous presenters include Detroit poet laureate Naomi Long Madgett, novelist Joyce Carol Oates, historian Thomas Sugrue, poet Philip Levine, musical conductor and choirmaster Brazeal Dennard and poet Lawrence Joseph.

The lecture also is an Inaugural Event commemorating the inauguration of Marygrove's eighth president, David Fike.

For more information call (866) 313-1927 or visit www.marygrove.edu.

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Advances in treatment

Cause for hope for people with multiple sclerosis

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Robert Lisak has seen more progress in treating multiple sclerosis in the last decade than the years since 1966 when he became involved with MS research. This is good news for patients suffering with the devastating autoimmune disease which attacks the central nervous system, in many cases crippling the body and mind.

In early March, the Michigan Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society held a series of events to let MS patients and their families know there is help for the nerve-damaging disease. Lisak presented the latest findings. He is considered the leading authority on MS and internationally known for his research work at Wayne State University.

Lisak emphasizes that while none of the six therapies approved by the Food and Drug Administration are a cure, the treatments do decrease the relapse rate and severity of attacks in general, and over a three- to five-year period reduce the amount of disability. About 85 percent of patients have relapsing multiple sclerosis with periods of remission. "We have several clinical trials at WSU including newer agents and our MS Center is involved in basic science in genetics. We're looking for genes to see who gets mild or horribly disabling MS, to see what genes get MS and who doesn't," said Lisak, professor and chair of neurology, and profes-

sor of immunology and microbiology at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Neurologist-in-Chief, Detroit Medical Center, and Chief of Neurology, Harper University Hospital.

The six FDA-approved therapies include three injectable interferon beta drugs; glatiramer acetate, which is not an interferon but works for relapsing MS; mitoxantrone, a chemotherapy drug used for T-cell leukemia and patients in secondary MS to stabilize the disease; and infusion natalizumab for relapsing-remitting MS which was approved then withdrawn from the market because some patients developed progressive multi-focal leukoencephalopathy, a brain virus usually only seen in AIDS patients. The FDA put it back on the market, but not for use in combination with other therapies. Lisak said most physicians would not use this as the first drug.

"I'm encouraged we'll have better and better therapies," said Lisak of Bloomfield Hills. "The first step is understanding the disease and getting better therapies and eventually if not have a cure, although we may."

Kevin Palmer says he's seen an improvement in his brother, Jason Bledso, since Palmer began giving him daily injections of the non-interferon Copaxone (glatiramer acetate) in January. Bledso came to live with his brother in West Bloomfield in December after their mother died in Kansas where Bledso had been staying.

"Prior to this he had episodes



Joyce Nelson and Jason Bledso recently took part in National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Michigan Chapter events to raise awareness about the disease. Nelson is president and CEO of the national organization based in Denver.

when MS would prohibit nerves from relaying messages to muscles," Kevin Palmer said. "He hasn't had any episodes since receiving injections."

Diagnosed with MS in 2000 at the age of 21, Bledso became unable to walk four years ago but can still feed himself and brush his teeth. He's especially grateful for the social activities and classes provided by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Michigan Chapter based in Southfield.

Bledso takes part in tai chi, yoga and computer classes once a week. Palmer says his brother is a "stickler on having his independence and insists on taking the SMART bus by himself" to classes.

"I look forward to yoga because I get to breathe in deep and relax," said Jason Bledso, 28.

Joyce Nelson says the National Multiple Sclerosis Society exists to make sure MS doesn't stop people

PLEASE SEE MS, C7

Weight is linked to cancer risk

Rich from Southfield e-mails for the latest research on the link between weight gain and cancer risk.

Rich, we all know that weight gain puts the heart at risk, but not much research has been done linking obesity and cancer. Now the largest study ever done shows a powerful link between being overweight and a variety of cancers, in fact nearly all of them.

Researchers tracked a million men for years. They found that excess weight accounts for 14 percent of cancer deaths in men and 20 percent in women. In the U.S., that adds up to around 90,000 extra cancer deaths per year. If you are overweight, these numbers should scare you. Talk to a doctor or nutritionist about a proper diet before you become a statistic.



Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

Jim e-mails from Southfield and asks for information on the dangers of osteoporosis in men.

Jim, osteoporosis is a male health hazard that often goes unnoticed. In fact, a male over the age of 50 has a greater chance of a bone break because of osteoporosis than of being diagnosed with prostate cancer. Here's another sobering statistic: one in five men will suffer a hip fracture by the age of 90; one-third of them will die during the healing process. But medical experts say that osteoporosis continues to be viewed as a woman's disease.

Men should know the warning signs. They include things like height loss, poor posture and sudden back pain. Treatments for men are getting better. There are new medicines and testosterone replacement therapy. Men, like women, can also help prevent the disease by not smoking, taking calcium supplements and exercising.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, e-mail Peter through his Web site www.peternielsen.com. Contact him at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

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