

WESTLAND Observer

75 cents

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2007

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Justice served

Westland District Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli, explains a case to the students taking part in this year's Law Day at Adams Middle School. For more photos and story about the annual activity, see Page A6.

Documents show township used park site as dump

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Newly found documents have revealed that the former Nankin Township - now Westland - dumped garbage in a landfill that became Central City Park, officials confirmed this week.

The township reached an agreement with Wayne County to dump garbage on the site beginning in 1956, county and city officials said.

"As of now, I believe it was from '56 to '58," Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp said Tuesday.

County officials discovered the agreement while researching the history of the site, now fenced off after soil tests found elevated levels of lead in the popular park near Ford and Carlson. The township and the Wayne County Road Commission signed the documents on March 8, 1956.

Westland Mayor William Wild publicly divulged the findings Monday during a Westland City Council meeting. Officials said it's too early to say what the latest developments could mean in terms of shared

PLEASE SEE DUMP, A7

Wild: City looks to rein in costs for pension board

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

With some taxpayers blasting the city's pension system as extravagant, Westland officials indicated they will try to rein in costs.

Mayor William Wild, saying he heard new complaints "loud and clear," confirmed that his administration's bargaining team will be mindful of taxpayer concerns during this year's contract negotiations with police and fire unions.

"We're taking a look at all these issues," he said Monday during a Westland City Council meeting.

Wild's remarks came in the aftermath of criticism of three officials from the five-member Westland Police and Fire Retirement Board, who plan to attend a weeklong pension conference this month in Hawaii.

The board members, who serve in unpaid positions, have defended the trip as necessary for teaching them to make wise investments of taxpayer-backed pension funds.

Resident Burke Rock warned Monday that spiraling pension costs could ultimately deplete city coffers and lead to layoffs.

"I don't want to see layoffs in the future," he said.

Rock referred to published reports indicating that former Police Chief Emery Price receives an annual pension of \$114,000.

"How could that happen?" he asked.

City officials confirmed that Price receives more than \$100,000, but they said he also invested some of his own money into his pension. They also said the amount he receives is an exception.

John McGuire, a retired Ford Motor Co. tool-and-die maker, said he and others are losing some retirement benefits while the city pension system appears "outrageous."

"It's greed as far as I'm concerned - just sheer greed, and I wish someone would put a stop to it," McGuire said.

Resident Shannon Moody reminded city officials that the Hawaii trip will come as she, her husband and their six children wait for a settlement after raw sewage flooded their home on the city's southeast side - due to no fault of their own.

Moody thanked city Finance Director Steve Smith, a pension board member, for not making the trip along with three other members.

Wild conceded that some private-sector employees also attend conferences in places like Hawaii. Still, he said the pension board might want to rethink its practices in coming years.

Robert Bianconi, pension board president, indicated that board members don't have an annual limit on what they can spend on conference costs, such as airfare and hotels.

"We follow the city's policy," he said.

Councilman Robert Stottiemyer chimed in earlier criticism from two of his colleagues, Charles Pickering and Cheryl Graunstadt, who said they considered the Hawaii trip excessive.

"I think it's a little big, especially when we're down," Stottiemyer said, referring to declining city revenues.

Graunstadt also said the city could save money by eliminating annual longevity bonuses that city employees receive. That pay amounts to \$100 for each year of service to the city, starting after four years. At a minimum, Graunstadt said, the practice should be ended for new hires.

Meanwhile, Graunstadt asked whether the pension board can legally send three of its five members - a majority - to the Hawaii conference.

Bianconi said the pension board's attorney "has no problem with that." City Attorney Angelo Plakas said a board majority can go to a conference as long as the members don't discuss how they might vote on an issue.

Pitsenbarger, Monit ready to tackle issues

For information on election results in the Livonia Public Schools and Schoolcraft College, see stories on Page A4.

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

As Martha Pitsenbarger sees it, her mission during her new four-year term on the Wayne-Westland school board is to keep the school district moving forward.

"I'm so grateful that people voted for me and that they had the faith to send me back for four more years," said Pitsenbarger. "I'll do what I can do to have the school district be the best it can be."

The Wayne resident cruised to a fourth term as the top vote-getter in Tuesday's school election. A clinical social worker, she received 2,114 votes in unofficial results.

Placing second was fellow trustee Skip



Pitsenbarger



Monit

Monit who received 1,798 votes. Also a Wayne resident, he's in project management with Sensormatic/ADT. He is in his eighth year on the board.

"It feels good," he said about the election night results. "It's a big relief to have the election over with. Now, we can move on and deal with the issues I think we're going to face right from the start."

Brian Mulligan of Westland had a strong showing in his first school election, finishing third with 1,359 votes. A distant fourth was T. Cortez Spann Jr. of Wayne

WAYNE-WESTLAND BOARD

(unofficial vote totals)

Martha Pitsenbarger	2,114
Skip Monit	1,798
Brian Mulligan	1,359
T. Cortez Spann Jr.	374
Bhagwan Dashairya	230

winners in bold

who received 374, while Bhagwan Dashairya of Westland was last with just 230 votes.

Both Monit and Pitsenbarger agree the school district faces challenges. For Pitsenbarger, the concern is the loss of state school aid.

"I think the board will have the same

PLEASE SEE ISSUES, A7

Board gives Baracy outstanding evaluation

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy has scored high marks when it comes to the goals set for him by the Board of Education.

That's the word from board President Frederick Weaver who announced that Baracy has received an outstanding evaluation for 2006-2007.

"He continues to outperform the standards set by the board," Weaver said. "He continues to excel above his peers and colleagues around the state."

The school board found that after 10 years at the helm of the district, Baracy "continues to exhibit a high energy level when dealing with all aspects of school district operations."

In a prepared statement, the trustees noted that "Baracy received an outstanding evaluation due to his deep commitment, strong work ethic and passion for the students and community."

"I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the students," Baracy said. "I pledge to do my best to present the best educational opportunity to our

students."

The board did the annual review on March 19 and looked at eight areas - professional leadership and personal qualities, curriculum and instruction, community relations, business and finance and employee, board, intergovernmental and student relations.

They found that he "continues to motivate the staff to address board of education goals set for the district."

"I've worked with him for 10 years and I feel like he's the life of the community," said board Secretary Martha Pitsenbarger. "He has lived in the area, gone to the

schools and is involved in the community. We're lucky to have found someone who does such an excellent job."

According to board Vice President Terrance McClain, the evaluation is well-deserved because of the "excellence" Baracy brings to the district.

"He is very highly respected among his peers and continues to work to provide an excellent education in this district," he said.

"I think we're all in agreement that we're lucky to have Greg Baracy as superintendent," added Pitsenbarger. "I don't want him to ever leave us."

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Volume 42
Number 100

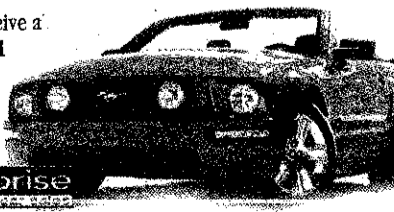


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Students learn from teacher's cancer and positive attitude Sale offers piece of Botsford Inn

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Sixth-grader Richie Wiczorek wore a pink polo shirt to school Friday. And he wasn't the only boy at Cooper Upper Elementary dressed in pink.

They do it to show support for physical education teacher Susan Schnettler. "Because she has breast cancer, every Friday we're supposed to wear pink," Wiczorek said.

Students also pay 25 cents for the privilege of wearing a hat in school Fridays to raise money for cancer research, and the school's leadership group raised \$650 selling pink ribbons at the school's art fair.

Snettler calls the students "outstanding" and the school's support "unbelievable."

"This is a wonderful school," she said. Schnettler has been open with students since she was diagnosed, saying: "I'm not going to die. ... This is something Mrs. Schnettler has to deal with."

"I wasn't planning on missing any school," she added.

Snettler, who has taught in the district for 26 years, told students she would lose her hair and, if they didn't like her hat, they could bring her a new one. She had enough hats to wear two at a time all winter.

"I do not think children will ever view cancer the same way," special education teacher Pam Pruet said. "She was doing pushups the other day."

Snettler, who also cares for 35 horses at her home in Metamora and takes on



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cooper Elementary School gym teacher Susan Schnettler stands alongside one of many posters throughout the school showing the Cooper Cares ribbons, sold at the school's art fair to help raise money for cancer research.

lunch duty every day, just finished eight rounds of chemotherapy the same week she turned 50.

"I feel fabulous," she said. "My prognosis is very good. I just have to go through the protocol." A recent CAT scan showed no signs of the disease.

She has a surgery scheduled for May 22, but plans to be back in school for field day later that week. She will receive six weeks of radiation therapy after that.

Snettler said she was shocked to be diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I haven't had a cold in 30 years," she said. She had regular mammograms and lives a healthy lifestyle.

"I learned a lot. (Students) learned a lot," she said. "It's a really good life lesson. It's a shame that somebody has to get sick."

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BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

It seems everyone has a fond memory or two from the historic Botsford Inn.

Whether it was a wedding, an anniversary or a summer jazz festival in the courtyard, the sprawling white inn on Grand River has served as a landmark for anyone who's ever raised a glass, enjoyed a meal or danced on the spring-loaded dance floor in the upstairs ballroom — and the memories live on.

"It was clearly a meeting place for the community," said Margo Gorchow, corporate vice president of community relations, marketing and development at Botsford Hospital. "The hospital feels the commitment to the inn and it, too, is part of the legacy of the Botsford Inn."

The public can grab a piece of that legacy at an estate sale as the hospital prepares to demolish the east and west wings, which were added in recent decades. Botsford Hospital plans to build a cancer treatment center on the site, but preserve and restore the central portion of the inn, which was built originally as a home in 1836.

"There are a lot of fond memories here — and this place is historically important because of who owned it, including Henry Ford," said Andrew Adelson, owner of the West Bloomfield-based Everything Goes Estate Liquidators Inc. "A lot of people are going to want to have a piece of the memory."

Everything Goes Estate Liquidators Inc. will conduct a public sale of the inn's contents from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, May 11; Saturday, May 12; and Sunday, May 13; Friday, May 18; Saturday, May 19; and Sunday, May 20.

Items for sale include cher-

'There are a lot of fond memories here — and this place is historically important because of who owned it, including Henry Ford. A lot of people are going to want to have a piece of the memory.'

Andrew Adelson, owner of the West Bloomfield-based Everything Goes Estate Liquidators Inc.

ry and mahogany bedroom sets, book cases, dining sets, chests, mattress sets, bedding, linens, some antiques, artwork, the 24-foot oak and cherry Coach House bar, lighting fixtures, hundreds of chairs, a wine cooler, windows, doors, awnings, shutters, air conditioner units, televisions, radios, paneling and commercial kitchen equipment, including coolers and freezers.

Items will be taken from 65 rooms, three apartments, two ballrooms and one commercial kitchen on the property.

All items will be priced, but Adelson said there will be room to deal.

"All prices are negotiable and very reasonable," he said. "We want to sell everything." Items that do not sell will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

The Botsford Inn is located on the north side of Grand River, between Middlebelt and Inkster in Farmington Hills. Gorchow said the antiques will be set aside and used in the restored portion of the inn.

"We want to use the antiques to create a sense of history and to maintain the legacy of the inn," she said.

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The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150
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Women's Health & Wellness Tour

Clear your calendars to make room for the Oakwood Women's Health & Wellness Tour from 2 until 7 p.m. on **May 15 and 16** at the Oakwood Dearborn Medical Park. Check out our latest women's health programs and participate in screenings that could save your life. You'll also be able to view interactive displays and participate in discussions with Oakwood doctors on topics including the latest in digital mammography, breast health, orthopedics, women's heart disease and more. For details, visit www.oakwood.org.



Texas Roadhouse restaurant trainer Ashley Prusik (left) works with new waitresses Holly Fransisco (center) of Plymouth and Maggie Mills (right) of Northville as they go through placing orders. Employees had Crazy Hat Day on Monday as part of their training in preparation for the grand opening.

Texas Roadhouse looks for niche

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland's newest steakhouse draws its inspiration from deep in the heart of Texas.

So what if it's based out of Louisville, Ky. Employees bustled this week inside the new Texas Roadhouse, darting past a cactus and ignoring a Willie Nelson poster as they prepared for the big day.

The 180-employee, 239-seat restaurant will open at 4 p.m. Monday on Ford Road east of Newburgh, in a prime spot on one of Westland's busiest strips.

Never mind that many Michigan residents are saddling up and moving to places like Texas to find jobs. Canton resident Eric Hughes, one of three managers, believes the new restaurant will thrive right here in the wild, wild Westland.

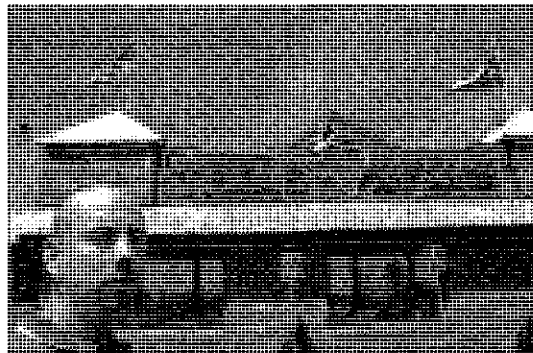
"We're not an overpriced steakhouse," he said. Popular items include the Killer Ribs from the appetizer menu, Hughes said.

"Our ribs are very popular," he said. "We have fall-off-the-bone tender ribs."

Even though Texas Roadhouse will be up against similar competition from established eateries like LongHorn Steakhouse and Famous Dave's - to name just two - Hughes predicts it will find its niche.

"We chose Ford Road because of the traffic count and the great central location," he said.

As workers trained this week, they found time to enjoy themselves. On Monday, they



Eric Hughes, one of three managers at the Texas Roadhouse, believes the restaurant will find its niche with a location in the city's civic center area.

took full advantage of Crazy Hat Day, donning everything from an alligator head to big pink bows.

This Friday, employees will test what they've learned during an invitation-only rehearsal dinner. All tips will go to the nonprofit Westland Community Foundation, which provides student scholarships and helps such organizations as The Salvation Army.

Texas Roadhouse will open at 4 p.m. weekdays, but it will serve lunch on weekends. For more information about the restaurant, visit the company Web site at www.texasroadhouse.com.

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Leaders: Fix Proposal A as part of reform effort

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Property taxes and what some call ill effects of Proposal A brought a crowd of elected officials and public policy makers to a round table discussion Monday in Farmington Hills.

The Harvard Club of Eastern Michigan assembled the forum, titled "The Accidental Crisis in Local Property Taxation," moderated by Tim Skubick, Michigan Public Television host and Lansing correspondent for WWJ-AM (950).

Mayors from Farmington Hills and Livonia asked House Speaker Rep. Andy Dillon (D-Redford) to consider fixing an aspect of Proposal A that is known as the pop-up tax on homeowners as part of the state's reforms.

Under Proposal A, a property's taxable value cannot increase more than 5 percent or the rate of inflation.

In Farmington Hills, the total taxable value would have been \$5 million more if the taxable value equaled the state equalized value, according to Farmington Hills Mayor Vicki Barnett.

When a property is sold, the SEV equals the taxable value. The buyer pays the higher rate after the property is uncapped, thus creating what is being called the pop-up.

"The general property tax act doesn't account for the pop-up," Barnett said.

The difference in taxes paid by the previous homeowner and the buyer is distributed among all property taxpayers in that community and a slight rollback occurs.

"It creates a phantom tax on people who move in and it subsidizes people who did not leave your community," Barnett said. "It doesn't go to the city or to the schools."

Barnett said the state Legislature has had 13 years

to "go back and fix it." Jack Engebretson, Livonia's mayor, said the effect of not being able to capture the difference has been drastic in his city. In 2006, the city's total state equalized value was \$5.9 billion, but its taxable value was \$4.9 billion.

"Over the course of 13 years, approximately \$1 billion worth of property was not taxable," Engebretson said, noting the city misses out on about \$12 million in taxes each year as a result of this provision of Proposal A.

"We would hope the Legislature would take up this very important matter," he said. "We need to fix it. It doesn't cost the state anything to fix it."

To meet the challenges of Proposal A, the city of Livonia has had to make significant adjustments in how it operates. Engebretson said 90 staff positions have been eliminated through attrition; the police department was reorganized; a hiring freeze and a capital improvement freeze was implemented; the library hours were cut; and trash collection, the city's three city-owned golf courses and three ice arenas were privatized.

"Livonia is in great shape, but we struggle every day to keep it that way," he said. "We have no choice."

Dillon framed the discussion around the current

budget crisis in Lansing and said he understands the concerns of the pop-up effect and wants to impose an 18-month freeze on it.

"I think our problems are so massive, we've got to take some chances," he said. "I do see the problem. But it's not a long-term fix. This will help us in '07 and I'm all for it."

Susan Grimes Munsell, chair of the Michigan Civil Service Commission and former 10-year legislator in Lansing who helped craft Proposal A, said she now sees the effect of the pop-up.

"We didn't spend a lot of time on it," she said. "We were dealing with funding schools."

Engebretson said the foresight was clearly not there.

"I seriously doubt any of them had the vision to comprehend what would happen 10 years down the road," he said.

Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) said the pop-up effect has caused homeowners to make some tough choices.

"People are stuck in their homes now," she said. "They can't afford to move out of their homes because of this pop-up."

Dillon said the Legislature is busy dealing with the budget crisis, but he said freezing the pop-up could provide some short-term relief.

Louis Schimmel, director of municipal affairs for the Mackinac Center, offered some other suggestions for reform, including the repeal of Act 312 binding arbitration law; repeal of all tax increment financing authorities; repeal of all tax abatement laws; and reform at the local level, including the "outrageous" salaries and benefits for state employees and lawmakers.

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Budget talks

The Westland City Council is expected to wrap up its discussion of Mayor William Wild's proposed budget during a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday at City Hall. The council will discuss the following departments - library; executive/mayor's office; legislative/city council; finance, including City Hall and grounds, general government; and police and fire retirement board. There also will be a final budget overview that evening. The council is expected to approve a budget at its June 4 meeting.

Contest winner

Fawna Cicotte, an 11th-grader at Wayne Memorial High School, has won a Law Day essay contest sponsored by the Westland City Attorney's Office. She received a plaque and a \$100 savings bond. The topic of this year's essay contest dealt with whether schools should be allowed to have policies against wearing items that show support for political candidates.

Cicotte received her award Monday during a Westland City Council meeting.

Card Party

Ss. Simon and Jude Parish will hold a Blossom Time luncheon and card party 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, May 11, at the church, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy in Westland. Bring a friend and play cards or games of your choice. Tickets are \$6. For reservations, call (734) 722-1343. Tickets also will be available at the door.

Cheer program

The Westland Stars will hold a cheer and dance summer program 6-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, beginning June 14, in the multipurpose room of the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. Come and join the Westland Stars and learn new dances and stunts with the team. The summer program runs four-six weeks, depending on camp. It's an opportunity for girls to get ready for try-outs for the fall team.

The Stars will be participating in the Westland Summer Festival, a youth cheerleading clinic and summer dance camp. The cost is \$35. Other fees include a \$20 uniform deposit and \$35 for the youth clinic. The cost of the dance camp has yet to be determined. Register at the Bailey Center. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Coffee Hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, May 14, 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 Monday, May 14. 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.

Poppy sales

American Legion Post 251 of Westland is holding its annual Poppy Sales now through Saturday. Members are at the intersection of Wayne and Ford roads as well as at various businesses in Westland and Canton. Proceeds from the annual sale are used for the rehabilitation and assistance for veterans and their families.

Members of Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 also will hold a poppy sale Thursday-Saturday. Look for members at various intersections throughout the city.

Board games

The Westland Jaycees will sponsor a board game competition Sunday, May 20, to benefit the Westland Relay for Life. The event will take place at 2 p.m. at the Bailey Recreation Center. People age 8 and older are welcome to compete. The cost to enter the competition is \$20. The winner will receive Board Game Champion bragging rights and a donation to the Westland Relay for Life team of their choice.

Call (734) 226-0400 and leave a message for more information or visit the Jaycees' Web site at www.westland-jaycees.org to preregister for the event.

Pancake breakfast

Enjoy all you can eat flapjacks prepared just the way you want them at the Friendship

Center 8:30-11 a.m. Thursday, May 10. Choose from buttermilk or multi-grain pancakes, regular syrup or sugar free. Breakfast includes bacon, sausage and choice of beverage, all for \$4. This event is open to all ages. The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh Road, just south of Ford.

Beer tasting event

The Westland Jaycees will host an International Beer Tasting night and a Mystery Card Party at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland. Among the beers being tasted are Zywiec from Poland and Xingu from Brazil. Domestic Beer and Wine Coolers will be offered for purchase. Admission for the tasting and the card party is \$10. For more information, call (734) 226-0400.

Garage sale

Browse an eclectic mix of items including clothing, books, knickknacks, and more at the community garage sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 12, in the parking lot of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford. The event is sponsored by

the Westland Parks and Recreation Department and the Westland Youth Assistance Program. For information on table availability, call the recreation department at (734) 722-7620.

Spaghetti dinner

The Dyer Senior Center will hold its monthly spaghetti dinner 4-7 p.m. Friday, May 18, at the center, 36745 Marquette east of Newburgh, Westland. The dinner includes spaghetti, salad and dessert for \$6.

Kites and music

Enjoy a day of kite making demonstrations at the High Flying Kite and Music Festival 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at Nankin Mills area of Hines Park on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail. There also will be stunt kites and crafts for children, moonwalks and music for the whole family to enjoy. An open field will also be available so that everyone can decorate the sky with their own kites. For more information, please call (734) 261-1990.

Travel club

Friendship Center Travel Club will meet at 1 p.m. Friday, May 11, at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh

Road, just south of Ford. Join local seniors as they learn of upcoming trips offered through the center. For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

Play time

The Plymouth Christian Academy High School Drama Department will present Little Women at 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, May 17-18, in the auditorium of Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Tickets cost \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens.

Annual fun run/walk

North Bros. Ford and the City of Westland will hold the eighth annual 5K fun run/walk 9 a.m. Saturday, May 19, to benefit the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

The event will start at the Bailey Recreation Center. There is a preregistration deadline of May 13 with a fee of \$15 for adults. After that date, the fee is \$18. T-shirts also are guaranteed for those who register by May 13. Day-of the event registration will start at 8 a.m.

There will be prizes and recognition for the top three males and females in all age groups - ages 1-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59

and 60 and older. The race is handicap accessible and there will be awards for the top three finishers in the handicap group.

For more information, call Jackie Marcacinni at North Bros. Ford at (734) 524-1236 or by e-mail at info@northbros.com.

Dining to Donate

People who eat at Applebee's can help a variety of Westland organizations through its Dining to Donate program.

Applebee's at 36475 Warren Road will donate 20 percent of the bill to Wild's Walkers for Relay for Life on May 24, Kicks 4 Kids on June 21, Westland Therapeutic Recreation program on July 26, Westland Historical Village Park on Aug. 23 and Motor City Harley Owners Group to benefit Toys for Tots on Sept. 27. Coupons are required to indicate which organization will receive the donation.

Bingo

The Dyer Senior Center invites residents to play bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the center, 36745 Marquette, Westland. For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

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It's the law: Judges bring court to kids

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland's district judges heard their cases last Friday in an unusual place - Adams Middle School.

It wasn't because the students had gotten into trouble.

Rather, Judges C. Charles Bokos and Sandra Ference Cicirelli held their court at the school during Law Day, giving students a firsthand look at how they handle cases involving drugs, alcohol, assault, retail fraud and driving violations.

"I think it provides a little shock and awe for our students," Wayne-Westland Community Schools Superintendent Greg Baracy said.

"It gives our students a firsthand look at some of the consequences for inappropriate behavior and violations of the law," he said. "It's really meaningful at the middle school age. At that point in their lives, they're so impressionable."

Eighth-graders Leigha Goodwin and Erika Boyington found Law Day interesting.

"It's stupid to steal and to do drugs," Goodwin said.

"It's dumb to drink and drive," Boyington said.

That's exactly the responses the judges and school officials want to hear as a result of the annual Law Day program.

District court officials handed out copies of the docket with an explanation of charges against defendants who appeared in front of the judges.

Eighth-grade students from two other Westland middle schools, Marshall and Stevenson, also went to Adams to see the special program.

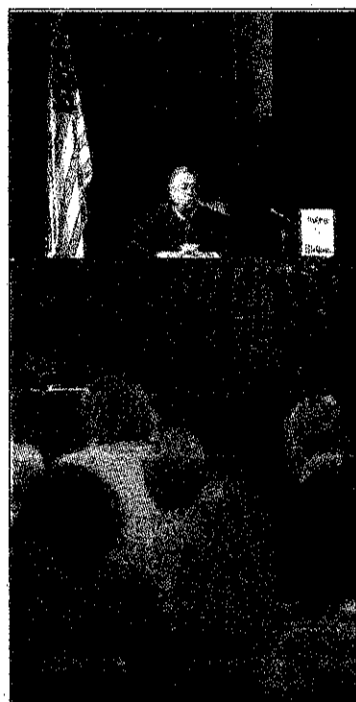
Franklin Middle School in Wayne had its own Law Day program involving Wayne District Judge Laura Mack, Baracy said.



Adams Middle School eighth-graders Jordan Jasinski (from left), Tawni Kenyon, Erika Boyington and Leigha Goodwin listen to the court proceedings at Law Day.



Franklin Middle School eighth-grader Michael Delhulf asks Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos what would happen if a defendant tried to flee the courtroom while on trial. Standing with Michael is Chief Probation Officer Chris Raymond.



Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos goes over a case with Adams Middle School students at Law Day.

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20,000 step up for heart health

BY WAYNE PEAL
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Southfield considers itself at the heart of southeast Michigan communities.

That's why sponsors say they couldn't find any more appropriate place for the American Heart Association's annual Detroit Area Heart Walk, set for Saturday, May 19, on the grounds of the Southfield Municipal complex.

"The city has been wonderful to us and for all the people we have coming, Southfield is a truly central location," AHA spokeswoman Katie Grode said.

More than 20,000 people are expected to arrive for the walk, with registration beginning at 8 a.m. at the municipal complex, 26000 Evergreen.

"We are delighted to be part of such a regional event," said Nimrod Rosenthal, city communications director. "They (the AHA) approached our parks and recreation department with the idea and we were very willing to help."

The walk, formally called the 2007 Start! Metro Detroit Heart Walk, is the AHA's biggest annual fund-raiser. An estimated 500 walks being held in other U.S. communities that day and throughout the year. The new name coincides with the AHA's new Start! campaign which calls on individuals and employers to create heart-healthy lifestyles and workplaces.

The local walk is the second to be held on the municipal center grounds. The first Southfield walk was held on a damp, rainy morning in fall 2005.

"We're obviously hoping for better weather this time around," Grode said.

Participants can sign up for a walk of one mile, five kilometers or 10 kilometers and are asked to raised pledges from friends, relatives and co-workers.

Money raised through the walk supports AHA research projects and local outreach programs such as the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and Power To End Stroke.

Heart disease is considered the nation's leading cause of death with stroke ranking third.

Southfield's own 100 Days to Health campaign, conducted in conjunction with Providence Hospital, will also kick off that day.

"We'll have a tent on site with information about 100 Days to Health," Rosenthal said.

The heart walk includes such national sponsors as the Subway restaurant chain and Healthy Choice foods, as well as local sponsors including the Henry Ford Health System, Fifth Third Bank and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

Additional information on the walk, as well as on other AHA programs, is available by visiting www.detroitheartwalk.kintera.org or calling (248) 827-4214.

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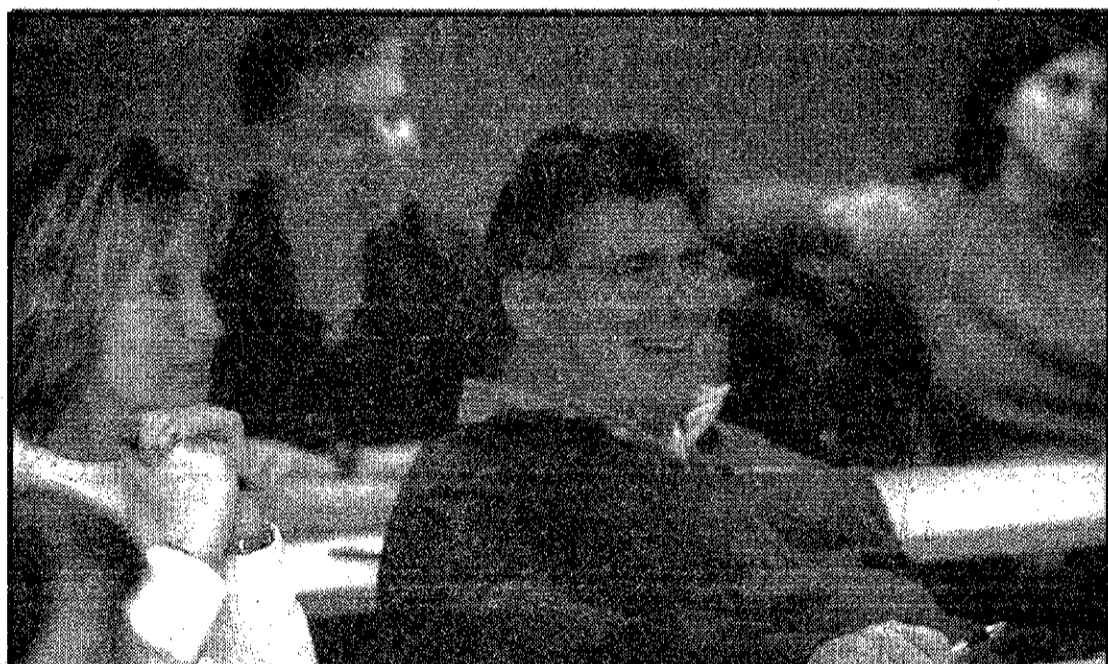
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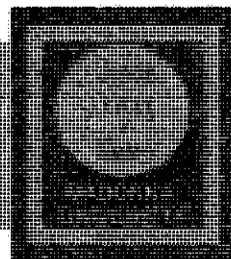
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or faxed to her attention at fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

Home buyer seminar

Want to own a new home? Learn how to prepare for your new purchase at a home buyer seminar 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 19, at 29126 Currier Ave., in Westshire Place Subdivision in Westland. Hear from industry professionals - lender, credit counselor and Realtor - at the seminar, sponsored by Peoples Community Hope for Homes and Detroit Commerce Bank. Reserve a spot by May 16 by calling Peoples Community Hope for Homes at (313) 561-1030 or Detroit Commerce Bank at (313) 967-5150.

Free seminars

Dr. William H. Karl will present a workshop on thyroid disorders at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 29, at Contours Express, 6558 Wayne Road (Hunter Plaza),

Westland. If you suffer from hair loss, cold hands or feet, stubborn weight gain or unwanted pain, there may be help. Learn the hidden reasons behind these health concerns and learn the safe, natural, effective alternatives to naturally help yourself.

Dr. Carol A. Fischer will present a seminar, Eating Your Way to Thin, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, also at Contours Express in Westland. Learn why diets do not work, ways to avoid weight gain and how to lose weight with diet/nutrition and exercise. When to eat, what to eat and how to eat will be discussed. Learn why eating the correct fat will not make you fat. There is no charge for classes, however, call (734) 525-8588 to reserve a seat.

Genealogy workshop

The Detroit Genealogical Society will present a beginning genealogy workshop 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12, in the Internet Training Lab of the Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Get started on your family research and learn to make use of the collection of resources of the Burton

Historical Collection. Special emphasis will be on helpful Internet resources. The workshop is free of charge and includes and opportunity to tour the Burton Historical Collection. For more information, call Mary Lou Duncan at (313) 884-0039 or Catherine Phillips at (248) 541-0403 or by e-mail at cprsch@aol.com.

Quilt-A-Fun Day event

The Western Wayne County Quilt Guild will hold a Quilt-A-Fun Day from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., May 12 at South Middle School, 45201 Owen St., Belleville. The guild's goal is seven quilts in one day to benefit Habitat for Humanity. The group needs all types of help, so if you're a quilter, have sewn garments or have never attempted to sew, they have a spot for you. The guild will have coaches that will walk participants through the process. Bring a team or just yourself. Reservations are required by May 5 for the free event. Call Terry at (734) 697-6162 or Roxann at (734) 485-4271. Prizes, surprises, fun and learning will be throughout the day with lunch being provided.

'Dateline' airs look at Livonia officer's film

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

A local filmmaker's documentary will be part of a nationally televised news feature that will explore three different theories on the unsolved murder of a South Carolina college student this Friday.

Livonia Police Sgt. Pat Moug's documentary, *Bold as a Lion - Conversations with a Murder Suspect*, will be the focus of a Friday, May 11, broadcast of NBC's *Dateline* NBC news feature program.

Moug's documentary examines the unsolved murder of Jennifer Morgan and centers around Morgan's brother, Thomas, who the filmmaker believes police and prosecutors should consider a suspect.

"They saw the documentary and interviewed me, Morgan and the sheriff," Moug said. "I'm anxious to see the segment. I don't know what kind of take they're going to have."

NBC Producer Carol Gable said this is a story that's been coming together for years. The extended nature of the story lends itself to *Dateline's* two-hour format.

"This is not a minute-30 (item)," she said. "A story has to have a lot of steps to be on the show."

She said the broadcast will

center around all three theories of the death of Jennifer Morgan: Her brother's theory, Moug's theory and the thinking of law enforcement in North Carolina.

"We're going to present all three in a linear way," Gable said. "Morgan has his movie, Pat has his suspicions and movie. Law enforcement has their own."

Moug was working on his last movie, *The Ugly One*, in 2002 when an actor on the set told him about a friend who had worked out his own screenplay for a movie about his sister who had been murdered in South Carolina.

He contacted the writer, Tom Morgan, and read a copy of the screenplay. He later met him and the filmmaker in Moug took a back seat to the policeman.

"There was something suspicious about him, items in the conversations we had and on his Web site lead me to believe he was involved in a crime," Moug said. "He said things like, 'I feel fortunate no one was ever arrested.' Who would feel that way?"

Moug put a video of Morgan before other Livonia police officers and they all came to the same conclusion - that Morgan's comments and the text of the screenplay excused the person who murdered his

sister rather than seeking to find him or her.

Moug said he had started the project as a way to direct South Carolina police officers to look critically at Tom Morgan's behavior. When they seemed uninterested, he turned the collected video into the new documentary.

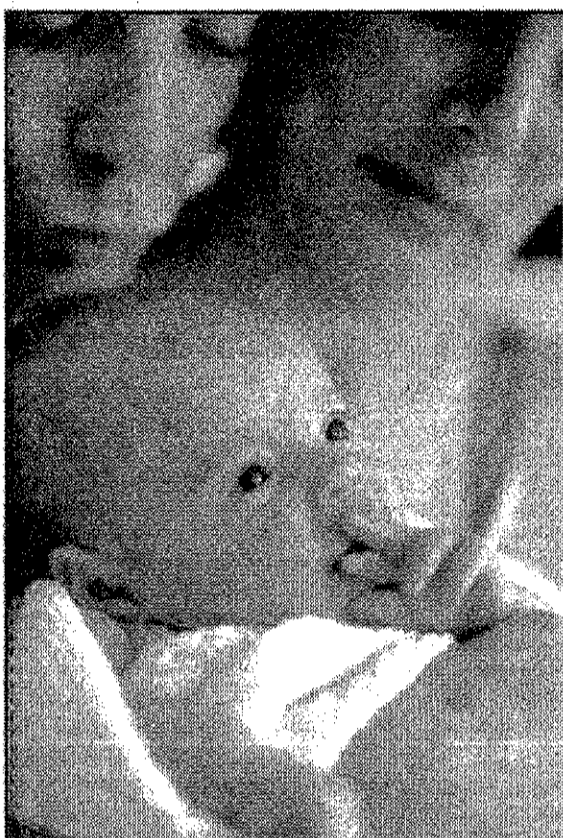
If any of this helps the investigation into the death of Jennifer, he's going to be happy. "I want to get justice for Jennifer," Moug said.

What he has made clear is that his movie does not say Morgan killed his sister, rather that he should be considered a suspect. He's not sure why investigators in the case haven't, or why the points brought up in his movie have fallen on deaf ears.

"I don't know," he said. "Maybe they don't want to listen to police from other states. Maybe it's because there's been no pressure from the family."

The movie, which will get a showing at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at the Canton Emagine theater as a benefit for First Step, has been under review by two production companies. If things go right, *Bold as a Lion* might be seen in theaters across the country.

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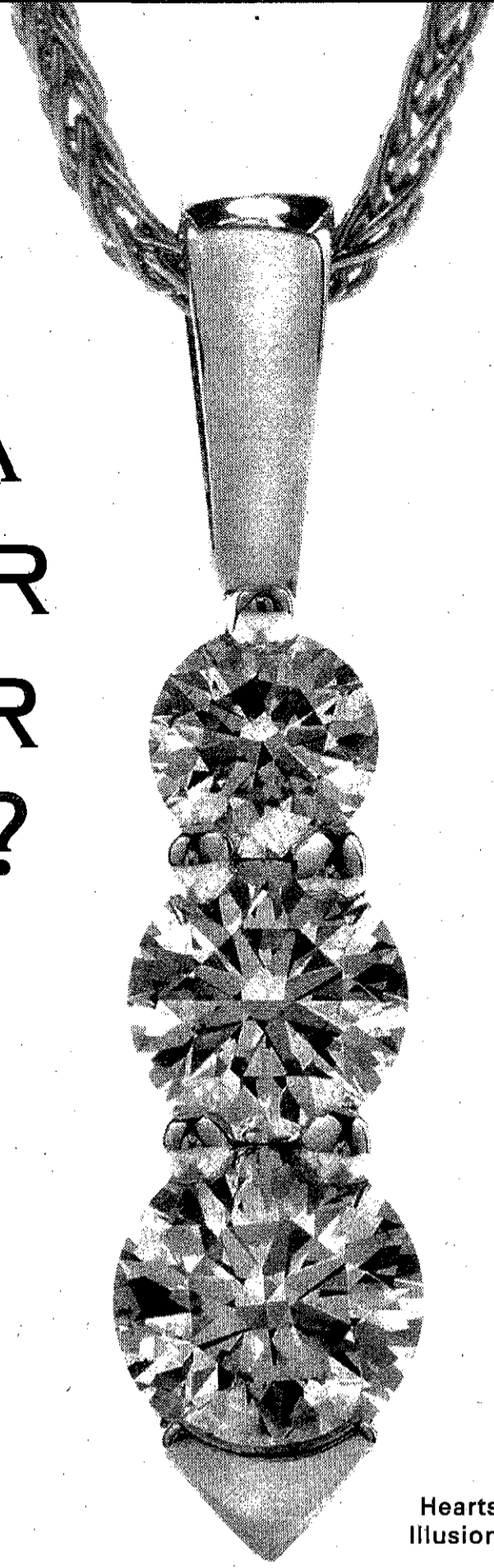
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OUR VIEWS

All-Stars give us reason to be proud

Congratulations to the 2007 *Observer Newspapers* Academic All-Star Team — 16 students from Farmington and western Wayne County who are among the brightest and best soon-to-be graduates of local schools.

The students are intelligent, hard-working, active, optimistic and focused on a future that gives back to society.

For 22 years, the *Observer* has honored outstanding young scholars and held them up for public recognition so the community can see first hand the tremendous talent and potential that exists here.

We're pleased to continue the tradition of recognizing academic excellence and even more pleased to be joined by our partners — the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, Huntington Bank and Madonna University — in honoring the brightest and best of the Class of 2007.

The 2007 All-Stars are outstanding scholars and musicians. They volunteer at schools, local hospitals, churches and synagogues. They strive for careers in medicine, science, education and law. They honor and applaud the teachers who have had an impact on their lives.

We have high expectations for all of these students.

Today, in a special section inside this newspaper, we salute the All-Stars and the runners-up. All of these students are smart, motivated and eager to expand their world. They are generous with their time and talent. They act locally, but think globally. They are eager to make their communities, the state, the nation and the world a better place. They are grateful to their teachers and parents who have nurtured them along their path to academic and personal success.

Congratulations to the 2007 Academic All-Star Team of (in order of ranking) Zhe (Julie) Xiang, Canton High School; Joshua Mann, Churchill High School; Sruthi Renati, Farmington High School; Lauren Jones, Harrison High School; Alexander Sapick, North Farmington High School; Breanna Miller, Canton High School; Jakob Poznanski, Plymouth High School; Shobha Narasimhan, Salem High School; Laura Oliver, Thurston High School; D.J. "Dorothy J." Heebner, North Farmington High School; Chelsea LeBlanc, Salem High School; Shulamite Chiu, Harrison High School; Anna Sheppard, Farmington High School; Katherine Lebiada, Plymouth High School; Kimberly Martinez, Stevenson High School; and Zhe Guan, Churchill High School.

The *Observer* salutes these outstanding young men and women and the more than 25 runners-up as they close the door on a successful high school career and move on to what promises to be an outstanding future.

Nursing is a growing and vital occupation

This is National Nurses Week, May 6-12. The week is scheduled to coincide with Florence Nightingale's birthday May 12.

Nightingale is considered the founder of modern nursing, famous for her efforts to care for British soldiers during the Crimean War.

Nursing has come a long way since Nightingale first raised public awareness of the profession. It is a demanding, rewarding and growing field.

According to the U.S. Census, nursing will grow by 623,000 jobs between 2002 and 2012, the largest job growth for any occupation.

These figures reflect the severe nursing shortage in the U.S. and particularly in Michigan. The Michigan Center for Nursing highlights several factors for what is expected to be a continuing problem over the next couple decades: a growing and aging population; fewer young people entering the nursing workforce; an aging workforce in a field that demands physical strength; a workforce that doesn't reflect the diversity of the general population; and more professional options for women, who represent 92 percent of registered nurses.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has proposed the Michigan Nursing Corps. to train 500 additional nursing instructors to graduate more than 3,000 additional nurses in the next three years.

Area nursing schools at Schoolcraft College, Madonna University, Oakland Community College and Oakland University are putting a new emphasis on health care professions, particularly nursing. Schoolcraft College President Conway Jeffress has proposed that the Legislature allow the college to offer a four-year nursing degree.

Currently, nurses are burdened by mandatory overtime and a heavy patient load.

For their sake and for the sake of the public health, we need to encourage a growth in nursing by offering better educational opportunities and better compensation for those men and women who take up the challenge to follow Florence Nightingale.



LETTERS

Trip is a free ride

The officials that want to go to Hawaii because it is so important for their jobs should pay for the trip themselves instead of taking a free ride. This state is in a financial crisis and they want to have the taxpayers pay for their vacation in paradise.

Please do not use my tax dollars to take a vacation — use your own money. What this trip will cost is more than some people on fixed incomes make in three months. Whomever goes on this trip needs to get into the real world not just have a because I can take a trip and have someone else foot the bill attitude.

Mary Moran
Westland

Why all the fuss?

I am a bit irked by the public fuss about members of governmental agencies' pension boards traveling to Hawaii for a national conference.

I understand the media's pandering to their readers on a subject everyone knows what the public reaction will be. But let's look at the issue from a rational and financial perspective.

Many pension boards make investment decisions on hundreds of millions of dollars and in some cases billions. If they can spend a few thousand dollars on a conference that will result in a suggestion that could result in millions of additional dollars to their respective pension funds, the trip is well worth it. On an individual level, I have subscribed to several financial newsletters or magazines that helped me in retirement generate thousands of additional dollars for my IRA accounts. The few dollars I spend has been an excellent investment.

The same principle goes for those managing large pension funds. I know that the persons who receive pensions from those funds appreciate the board members keeping up to date on what's happening in a global economy and investment community as well as current employees who would certainly want their pensions to be there when they retire in the next decade or two.

Leonard Pogor
Westland

PTA is growing

I am writing in response to a letter written by Cheryl Hudzik, which stated that the "biggest decline in membership the PTA has seen in years" has occurred this school year. As the Membership Chairperson for the Livonia PTSA Council, I can assure readers of this newspaper that this is simply not the case.

The Livonia PTSA Council, comprised of all local school PTA units in the Livonia Public Schools district, is in fact the largest PTA Council in the State of Michigan with nearly 11,000 members this school year to date. This represents an increase of more than 17 percent from our membership in the 2003-2004 school year.

PTA is a nonpartisan organization, which does not support or oppose any candidate for any elected office. Our membership is comprised of people from all sides of every issue, united by a desire to make a difference in the lives of children.

PTA exists to support the children of our district and it should not be disparaged, particularly with statements which are untrue, for political purposes.

Pamela Wheat
Membership Chairperson
Livonia PTSA Council

Eroding women's rights

The recent Supreme Court ruling regarding a woman's right to choose whether or not to become a mother or to continue a pregnancy if problems develop demeans women.

The ruling takes away the inherent right of a woman to make decisions about her body. The fetus has more rights than the female who carries it. It inserts a politician between patient and doctor. One recalls the Terry Schiavo case. The decision prohibits doctors from giving advice on the best health interests of both the woman and the fetus and from acting upon that advice. Thus, the medical profession loses influence and freedom also.

One main objective of the evangelical, fundamentalist Christian Right has been achieved: to defeat the 1974 ruling of *Roe v. Wade*. The intent is to destroy the '74 ruling in small steps, state by state. The Supreme Court made George W. Bush president in 2000 largely through efforts by this form of Christianity. He has appointed anti-choice persons to the Court. Such Christian Right persons as Dr. James Dobson, Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson continue to have power and set policies under the current administration.

Other objectives of Christian Right which has controlled the Republican party since 2000 have been realized and are being realized. Dissent is unpatriotic; issues of privacy and freedoms have eroded; the wall between the separation of church and state has been weakened; the unilateral invasion of Iraq continues to cause the deaths of thousands of persons; plans are being made to "spread democracy" elsewhere in the Middle East; America has lost the respect of other countries; the environment throughout the world is in danger; the NRA remains a top lobby in D.C.; the middle class is shrinking while the wealthy prosper. The list of detrimental effects by the intrusion of religion into politics is endless.

Many anti-choice persons use inflammatory language and emotion instead of precise facts and reason. In her dissent, Ruth Bader Ginsberg was passionate yet reasonable in her defense of a woman's right to choose. Some anti-feminist language appears in the ruling. Women can be thankful they do not have to wear a burka.

Hannah Provence Donigan
Commerce

Greatest generation

(Tom) Brokaw's book is based on the WW II exploits of what he identified as the "greatest generation." My generation of baby boomers also fought a war, the Vietnam war, where we won every battle and the country (the politicians) lost the war by failing to fund the efforts of the former Republic of South Vietnam.

We were actively engaged from 1965 to 1972, limited engagement from 1972-73 and the South Vietnamese fought alone from 1973-75. In 1975 Congress failed to fund the war and without monies the Republic of South Vietnam fell and the communists took over.

Furthermore, there was a "bloodbath" in Southeast Asia as a direct result of this activity. Unfortunately in Vietnam, much like the current war on terror, only the military fought the war. The country sat on the sidelines and didn't "demand" victory like they did in World War II!

My belief is that a true and accurate review of history would demand baby-boomers are truly the "greatest generation"

based on their impact on today's American society ... just for example the computer, the Internet, wireless phones and on and on!

Roger Kehrier
Plymouth

Tax outsourcing

Unfortunately, the auto industry, and therefore Michigan, has been hit hard with outsourcing of many jobs. I have experienced this myself at my place of work for an automotive supplier. What happens with these trade agreements and business models is that entire industries are pushed over a cliff and the region, families, and businesses all suffer until an alternative industry or service is found. Business models are stating that this happened when the steel industry went under — now supposedly, 30 years later, that region is prospering, even though it was greatly depressed for quite a while.

Instead of pushing Michigan over the cliff, why can't we go to these companies that are outsourcing in Michigan, charge a 4 percent fee for every head that is/has been outsourced. We could do this for a 15-year period. This would give Michigan time to slowly ramp down and ramp up other industries/businesses to meet our employment needs. Let's take an outsourced software engineer with a salary and benefits makes \$100K (it's actually a lot more) — if we took 4 percent of that at 20,000 jobs — that's yearly income of \$80 million dollars. The company that is being given that fee could pass that onto the country it is outsourcing to, since they are helping out that country — it could be the cost of doing business to India and China. We could use this money for training programs, new business startups, and alleviate the growing welfare rolls due to unemployment.

Three years ago, those of us with company-matched 401(k)s had company-matched funds suspended immediately due to the business climate. State employees (including legislators) currently get an automatic 4 percent placed into their accounts. If the state employee places another 3 percent in, the state will match that also — for a total of 7 percent.

I could not obtain how much the state pays in 401(k) benefits yearly through FOIA (they don't have that available, they wrote), but at 7 percent of all state employees salaries — that's huge in this climate.

We should immediately suspend all state money input to 401(k) until we get back on our feet.

Hadley Hudak
Canton

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QUOTABLE

"I think this is huge this year. With the way the economy is turning, you're seeing so many businesses downsize or close. It's hard enough to be on the dole, but with rising prices, it's needed."

Letter Carrier Ray Fox about the food drive postal employees will be conducting on Saturday throughout Westland.

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Observer

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Glimmer of hope from Lansing offers chance to move forward

Now here's a little good news for a change — a glimpse of what can happen when the political system works and politicians rise out of their ideological trenches to try to do what's right.

This came last week, after months of intense partisan squabbling about Michigan's business tax structure. Finally, we saw the beginnings of a breakthrough that could lead to an agreement.

Those with long memories will recall that last year, a petition drive launched by Oakland County Executive L. Books Patterson led to the repeal of the Single Business Tax, the state's main levy on business, a tax that brings in around \$2 billion annually.



Phil Power

But the Legislature abolished it without putting anything in its place, effective at the end of this year. In a state already facing billion-dollar deficits for both this fiscal year and the next, that threatened to add enormously to an already daunting financial crisis.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm's early ideas for replacing the SBT were declared dead upon arrival, and much of this year has been consumed by complicated arguments about what to do about it.

These arguments involved not only the political parties (Democrats generally wanted any new business tax to be revenue-neutral, while Republicans pushed for a \$500 million tax cut), but also various sectors of Michigan businesses (manufacturers wanted reduction of the personal property tax, while insurance companies wanted to maintain their favorable position in the tax code).

Those arguments became more intense as lawmakers discovered — duh! — that businesses were simply not going to consider moving to or expanding in Michigan without knowing what the tax environment was going to be like. Jim Epolito, CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., reported that up to \$5 billion in potential investment here was being held hostage until it was known just what Michigan's business tax structure would be.

Moreover, there is even less time left than might appear. Officials at the state treasury began noting that it would take at least six months to develop the forms and procedures needed to actually collect whatever tax the Legislature agreed on.

So as the calendar moved forward into May, everybody began to recognize that time was running out. Enter three groups not usually noted for working closely together: the powerful Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Michigan House of Representatives and the governor's office and her appointed state treasurer, Robert Kleine.

Under the leadership of Speaker Andy Dillon (D-Redford) and tax committee chairman Steve Bieda (D-Warren), House Democrats proposed a tax package that would fully replace SBT revenue. The money would come from taxing a combination of business

income and net worth, provide around \$900 million in personal property tax relief and offer some \$700 million in new tax credits for companies that invest in Michigan.

A lot of interested people said they liked the package. Capital intensive manufacturers, who dislike the personal property tax more than the SBT, were happy. Local government folks were relieved that reduction of the personal property tax wouldn't hurt their revenue stream. Major corporations, business groups like the Michigan Manufacturers Association, organized labor and universities, all had something nice to say.

Most important was the state Chamber of Commerce, which said it was "intrigued" with much of the plan. Tricia Kinley, the chamber's tax expert, praised features that would give businesses incentives to expand in Michigan. At that point, momentum for a bipartisan, broadly acceptable business tax plan began to build.

When I talked to Rich Studley, executive vice president of the chamber late last week, he was cautiously optimistic. "Of course, there will be some political maneuvering and posturing," he said, "but we want to play a constructive role in this. This is not a political issue, but a public policy issue."

The chamber has, Studley said, pulled together more than 100 business leaders from around the state, surveyed business tax conditions in other states and held meetings after meeting of its tax committee over the past year. "Having supported SBT repeal, we felt an ethical obligation to play a constructive role in the process," he said.

Studley also praised Kleine: "I talked with Kleine, who is a smart and sensible guy. He made it clear that we really had to have some time of detailed act passed in time for treasury to work out how to collect it. He was very responsive." Studley added: "If we miss the deadline for passing a business tax, Michigan will look like some kind of banana republic."

Of course, given a package as complicated as this, there will be no end of debates as the process moves forward; both the House and the Senate passed differing plans last week by largely straight party-line votes. The Senate plan gives businesses a \$600 million tax cut, and a lot of work will have to be done to mold the plans together. But the fact that there is, at long last, momentum to get something done is an important sign that lawmakers and interest groups can come together and do the right thing.

This was an example of how Michigan should work and a cautionary tale about what hasn't worked in times past. Now imagine what would happen if people actually got together and earnestly tried to find common ground on issues like prison spending, higher education and the current budget deficit.

We might even have a state that worked once again.

Phil Power is president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed in his column do not represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Power welcomes reader comment at ppower@hcnnet.com.

News media needs to win back the public trust they've lost

In the public's eyes, just about the only folks struggling with believability issues more than the Bush administration are journalists.

And journalists largely have themselves to thank for that.

This past week, newsrooms nationwide observed Ethics in Journalism Week, and they have a sorry state of affairs to consider.

Since the mid-1980s, Americans have been increasingly skeptical of the information they receive from the news media, and no major news outlet has escaped the trend, according to The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

Last year, only 19 percent of people surveyed by the Project for Excellence in Journalism said they believed "all or most" of what they read in their daily newspaper, a drop of 10 points in eight years. Another 40 percent believed only "a good deal" of what they read in the paper.

The loss of public trust should come as no surprise. Journalists have been caught making up stories (Jayson Blair, formerly of *The New York Times*, and others); rushing stories into the public domain ("Al Gore is our next president. No, make that George Bush. No, make that ..."); accepting payment from the government in exchange for news coverage (three journalists formerly at *El Nuevo Herald* in Miami, and others); plagiarizing (too many culprits to name here); and juicing their stories with loaded language and sensational imagery (again, we don't have enough space to start naming names).

Business agendas are also getting in the way of good journalism.

What else would explain an ABC reporter's "story" about a medical procedure that just happened to play a starring role in the episode of *Grey's Anatomy* that aired right before the newscast?

What happens to local news coverage when hundreds of reporting positions are cut to satisfy investors' expectations, or one corporation owns hundreds of news outlets?

Good journalism is at the heart of our democracy. Like it or not, a free press - warts and all - is what creates an informed citizenry that can hold business, government and the institutions that affect our lives accountable. This nation is great because it has a free - albeit noisy and messy - news media.

Good journalism is at the heart of our democracy. Like it or not, a free press - warts and all - is what creates an informed citizenry that can hold business, government and the institutions that affect our lives accountable. This nation is great because it has a free - albeit noisy and messy - news media.

The easy thing for a cynical public to do is watch passively as journalism reels from its self-inflicted wounds, or bash the news media until they deliver nothing of substance or value.

The media most certainly need to win back the public trust they've lost. That trust starts with a commitment to ethical news production, which is, above all, accurate, fair and independent of special interests.

Many news organizations, publicize their ethics policies online. The Society of Professional Journalists' code is widely considered the gold standard of the industry and can be found at spj.org. SPJ members routinely debate journalism ethics online and encourage the general public to join their conversations.

Rather than tune out, readers, listeners and viewers should hold news organizations and the companies that own them accountable for their news coverage and the business decisions that undermine responsible journalism. Write letters, send e-mail, make phone calls or blog.

We'll all be better for it.

Christine Tatum is national president of the Society of Professional Journalists, the nation's largest journalism advocacy organization, and an assistant business editor at *The Denver Post*.

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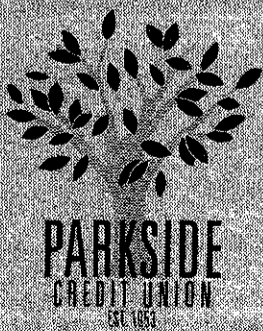
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Madonna holds 60th commencement

Madonna University awarded approximately 980 degrees at ceremonies Saturday at Calihan Hall at the University of Detroit Mercy. This year marked the university's 60th commencement.

The university awarded 700 undergraduate degrees and certificates and the remainder were master's degrees.

Honorary degrees were given to 1959 alumna Sister Mary Janice Ziolkowski and retired General Motors Vice President Edward P. Czapor. The Distinguished Alumna award was given to Joan Duggan, class of 1973.

The invocation was given by Bishop John M. Quinn, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit and Madonna University trustee. On Thursday, a graduation Mass was celebrated for all graduates and their families at the Presentation House at the Felician Sisters' Motherhouse.



Madonna University's Master's Degree candidates enter Calihan Hall.



Chairman of the Board of Trustees John Landis and Madonna University President Sister Rose Marie Kujawa confer an honorary doctoral degree to Sister Mary Janice Ziolkowski. She is the author of the 585-page "The Felician Sisters of Livonia: First Province in America."



Elodie Rogers uses her cell phone to find her family in the crowd at Calihan Hall.



Sheila Anne Bell earned an associate of science degree.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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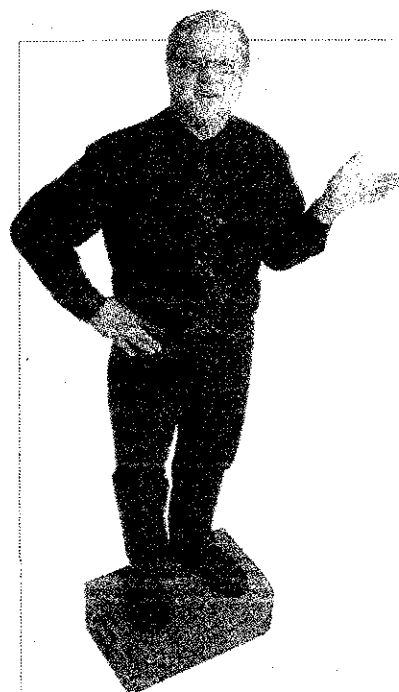
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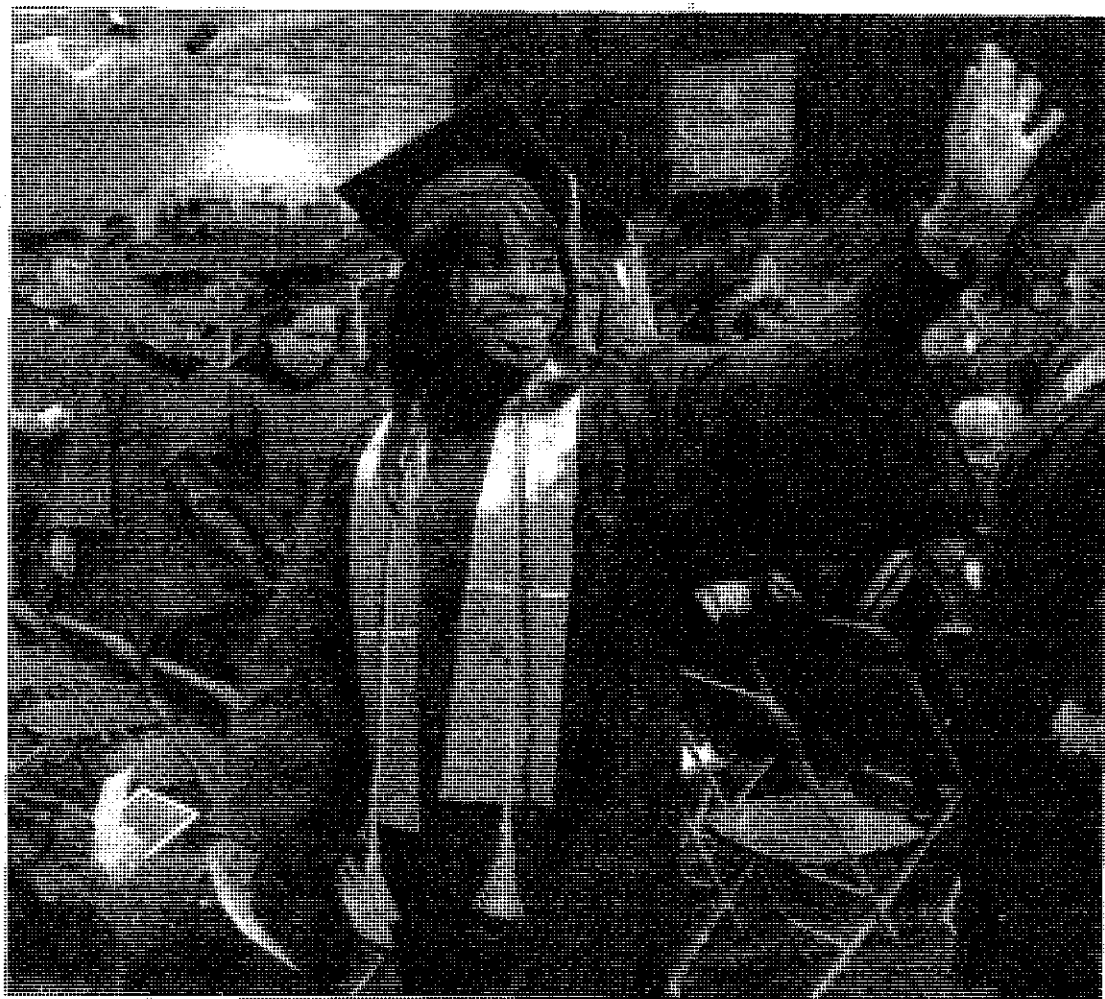
Schoolcraft holds two graduation ceremonies

Graduation ceremonies for Schoolcraft College were held Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, 110 Police Academy, Police Reserve Officer Training and Fire Technology graduates received their degrees and certificates at ceremonies at the Physical Education Building. Andrew Arena, special agent in charge of the Detroit division of the FBI, was the special speaker.

On Saturday about 425 of the 1,456 eligible students received their diplomas at a ceremony at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township. U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow addressed the graduates.

Stabenow received an honorary degree. Laura Carter Callow, a women's rights advocate and an original member of the Schoolcraft Women's Advisory Committee, also received an honorary degree.



Sophia Jean Nelms recognizes someone in the audience.



After picking up her diploma, Robin Boucha reacts when someone in the audience shouts "You did it!"



Michael Siegrist, Editor in Chief of the Schoolcraft College Connection Newspaper, addresses his classmates.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



To all the nurses of UMHS,

On behalf of the U-M Health System, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize you and your outstanding work during National Nurses Week.

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When making a loan to a family member, put it in writing

Have you ever been asked to loan money to a family member?

I was recently asked if it's a good idea to consider such a loan and what are the legal implications when dealing with family members.

I believe whenever family or friends get involved in a business transaction there is the potential for problems that can impact someone financially and cause rifts within a family.

However, there is one side of the equation and that is the good feeling you get from helping out a family member or friend. In addition, if a family member is starting a small



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

business it may be very difficult for them to obtain financing at a reasonable interest rate. Sometimes the only chance of success is to go to family and friends.

If you're thinking of getting involved in a transaction with family or friends, my advice is that there has to be a clear

understanding whether the money is a gift or a loan.

Both parties should know in advance what is expected. I know that these discussions with family members can be uncomfortable, however, keep in mind the transaction involves more than the parties involved. It can also impact the whole family.

If the transaction is a loan, then the terms should be discussed up front. Just like any other loan, the terms include payment schedule, interest rate, collateral, if any, and what happens in case of default. If the lender says "pay me when-

ever you can" this can cause problems because the terms are open ended. In this case, the lender has to recognize that they may never be repaid.

Even when terms are discussed up front, problems can develop if payments aren't made. Even though you may have the legal right to do something, your actions impact the family and that is something to consider. Everyone has to recognize there is more than a financial risk with these types of transactions.

If the money is a loan, I recommend terms be put in writ-

ing. It's a good idea to have an attorney draw up the document so it is a legally binding. Having an attorney involved lets the borrower know they are entering a legal transaction and that there are consequences if they fail to comply with terms of the loan. Even if the money is a gift, it's a good idea to also put that in writing.

What you charge in interest is always an issue. From an IRS point of view, in order for the loan not to be treated as a gift, thus causing gift tax consequences, you have to charge a fair rate of interest. However, the law does recognize that you

do not have to charge the same interest rate as a financial institution. The lender does have to report the interest received as taxable income while the borrower may or may not be able to deduct the interest.

Many people believe if they make a loan to a family member and he or she does not repay the loan that they can deduct the loan as a bad debt. According to the IRS, if you take a deduction for a bad debt, you have to prove that you used all reasonable efforts to collect on the debt. This action includes potentially bringing legal action against the borrower.

Lending money to a relative or a friend is a nice gesture, however, it can cause problems. The key to avoiding problems is to make sure everyone involved understands the agreement.

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

Come home to the Blues.

Wolver-Bents hold recumbent bike rally

The Wolver-Bents Recumbent Cyclists will sponsor its annual Michigan Recumbent and Tandem Bicycle Rally 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at the Willow Metropark pool shelter, located off exit 11 of I-275 in southwest Wayne County. For those not familiar with the bicycles, recumbents have the rider sit on a chair-like seat instead of a narrow saddle, providing a very high comfort level.

The event will consist of recumbent and tandem bicycle displays, test-rides, dealers, a noon group ride, as well as a "buying your first recumbent" talk at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The event is free and open to all bicyclists. For more information visit www.wolverbents.org or call 734/487-9058.

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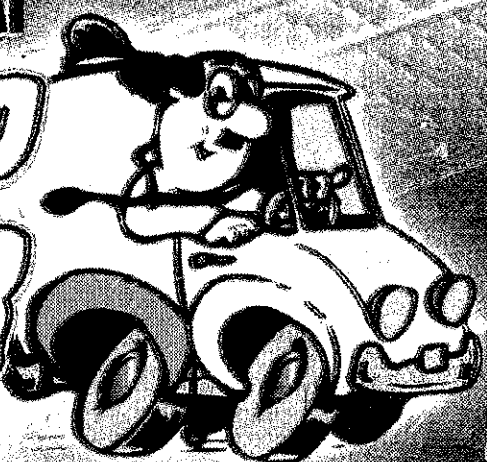
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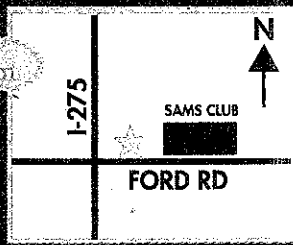
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County holds Transportation Education Expo

To help observe National Transportation Week (May 13-18), the first Wayne County Transportation Education Expo will take a look to the future and a nostalgic ride in the past from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, May 18, at Nankin Mills in Westland.

Exhibits will range from a plug-in hybrid automobile and electric cars to award-winning custom cars, robots, award-winning bridge displays and the latest technological advancements in the transportation industry. A classic car cruise along Hines Drive will begin at 4 p.m.

Exhibitors will include: Ford Motor Co., the Engineering Society of Detroit, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Washtenaw Community College, Grand Valley State University, Lawrence Technological University and Eastern Michigan University. Other exhibitors are the Golyghty Career and Technical Center, Davis Aerospace High School, Southeastern Technical High School and the Breithaupt Career and Technical Center.

In one exhibit from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, a robot will navigate through an obstacle course, staying within boundaries while avoiding construction barriers and potholes.

The Redford Rolling Thunder Club will feature more than 30 classic autos, dating as far back as the 1920s.

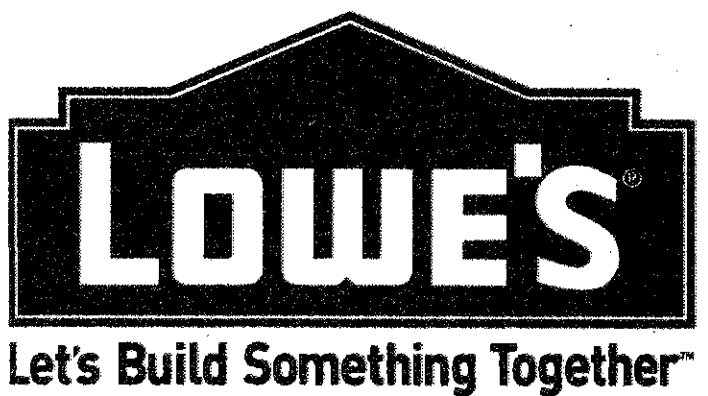
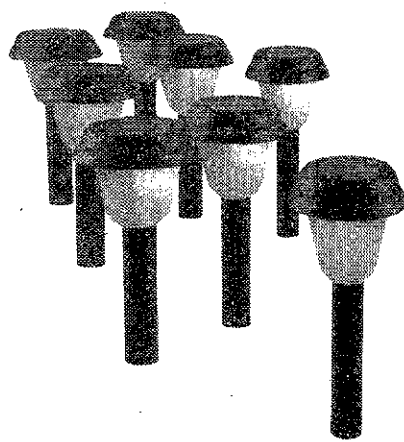
Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano's Vision Fund will award \$1,000 scholarships to each participating school and institution.

Nankin Mills is on Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

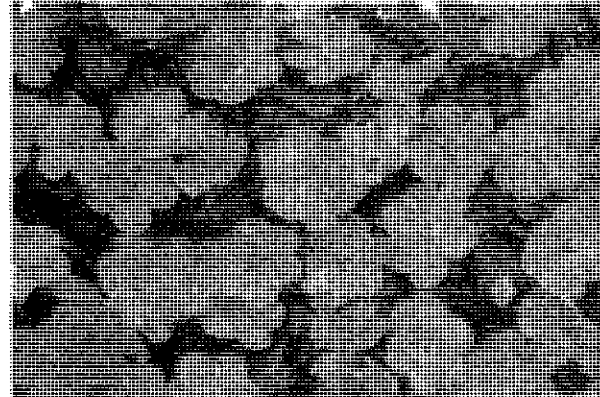


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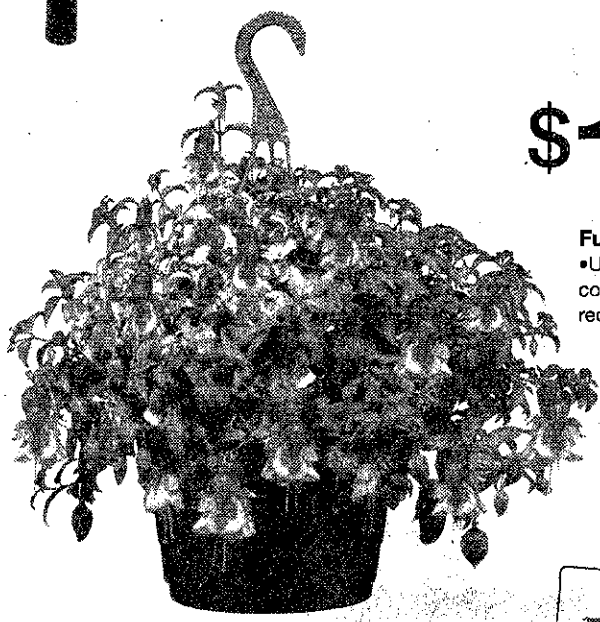
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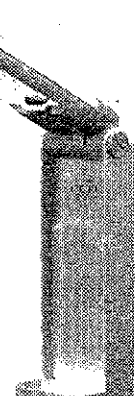


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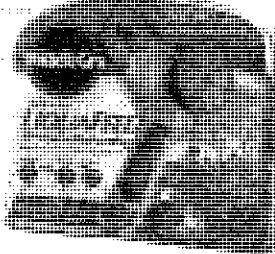
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This is to notify all Michigan health care providers that Blue Care Network of Michigan accepts applications for affiliation at all times from qualified providers. Applications are reviewed on the basis of access needs and provider qualifications. Providers wishing to apply for affiliation may obtain application materials and instructions by calling Provider Registration at 1-800-822-2761.



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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson's Myles White (middle) checks his position with Northville's Cavan Corcoran (left) and Salem's Baze Efremov (right) in the 110-meter hurdles final during Saturday's 37th Observerland Boys Track and Field Relays hosted by Farmington High School. White won the race and Stevenson earned its first Observerland crown since 1980.

Sidelines

Demolition 59-0

Running back Kiana Dennis rushed for over 200 yards and scored six touchdowns as the Detroit Demolition ran their record to 2-0 in the Independent Women's Football League's Midwest Division with a 59-0 win Saturday against the host Iowa Crush.

Linebacker Misty Findlay paced the defense with eight tackles and three sacks. She also made all of her extra point attempts.

The Demolition, winners of 41 straight regular season games, return to action at 7 p.m. Saturday at Livonia Stevenson High School to face the 1-0 Chicago Force, which opened its season with a 27-6 win over the Iowa Crush.

Tickets for home games are available by calling (248) 474-9176. Prices vary and special early purchase and group rates are available. For more information, visits www.demolition.com.

CC salutes Marmul

Jake Marmul, a senior from Livonia St. Michael's, was recently presented with Novi-Detroit Catholic Central High's Whelan Award, given annually to a senior who has excelled academically, is an outstanding athlete, and is looked upon by his peers as a Christian gentleman.

The award is in honor of Rev. James Whelan, CC's fourth principal. Marmul lettered in three sports at CC including football, basketball and lacrosse. This past fall he was captain of the football team and is also captain of the lacrosse squad. He earned Academic All-Catholic League honors for basketball and is ninth in his graduating class along with being Student Council vice-president.

Marmul will graduate from CC with a 4.4 grade-point average and will attend the University of Notre Dame this fall and will compete in lacrosse.

WHAC salutes MU 6

Six Madonna University baseball players earned first-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honors in a statement released last Thursday in a release by the league office.

First-team selections by the league coaches included Ryan Morrow, Gary VanAllen, Tony Luttmann, Kyle Fedorka, Mike Orshek and Will Kennedy (Westland John Glenn).

Woodman Dr. K

Livonia's Grant Woodman, an eighth-grader at St. Valentine's Grade School in Redford, recently pitched back-to-back no-hitters in the Catholic Youth Organization baseball league. On April 28, the right-hander struck out 15 in a 15-0 six-inning mercy-rule victory over St. Robert Bellarmine and followed up last week by striking out all 18 batters in a 10-0 six-inning win over Wayne St. Mary's.

Stevenson goes those extra Myles for win

First Observerland crown since 1980; Churchill second

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

After a near-miss, second-place finish a year ago, coach Scott Shaw and his Livonia Stevenson athletes left no doubt who was No. 1 in the Observerland Relays this year.

The Spartans won going away Saturday night, finishing with 89 points and 14 better than city rival Livonia Churchill in the 37th annual meet at Farmington High School.

It was the first Observerland championship since 1980 for Stevenson, which finished a point behind Canton last year. "Obviously, our kids ran really well," Shaw said. "We scored in 13 out of 16 events, and that's the key to being successful in this meet. Obviously, you have to have a number of kids running well to be able to do that. We're just pleased with the way everything went."

Stevenson had a better start this year, winning the three-man long jump and high jump relays.

The Spartans still trailed Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, which won both throwing events, by a few points in the early scoring, but they moved into the lead after six events following a victory by Myles White in the 110-meter high hurdles.

Complete Observerland results, B4.

"We came out of the field events in a lot better shape than we did last year," Shaw said, adding his team scored 20-plus points as compared to just one in 2006. "We felt, if we could come out of the field events with some points, we could contend on a lot of areas."

Shaw made all the right moves when he put together his lineup for the running events, too.

Stevenson also won the distance medley, 800-meter and sprint medley relays, and the Spartans were in the top three in three other events.

"You just don't know what's going to happen (on the track), where teams are going to put people," Shaw said. "You just hope you put a lineup together where you can compete. Some load up to win one event. We tried to spread it out, so we could compete in a lot of areas."

After winning the 800 and sprint medley relays, Stevenson maintained its lead, which grew to as much as 24 points, for the duration of the meet.

"We have a lot of kids back," Shaw said. "We lost some sprinters, but some younger sprinters have picked it up quite well. And we have a couple sophomore long jumpers who are doing real

well.

"Myles, obviously, had a great day, winning the 110 hurdles and being a part of the 800 and long jump teams. Matt Rzepka was second in the mile and ran two good relay legs. We have some depth, and our distance guys are coming around pretty well."

"Nobody ran poorly. There was no place we had a major disappointment. The pole vaulters (Brad Dow, Jon Gudeman, Osama Al-Hakimi) all PR'ed tonight. We took fifth place and we haven't been real strong in the pole vault. That was kind of an unexpected place in the field events."

After the Spartans established their lead, the battle was for second place with Churchill holding that position for the second half of the meet to finish 10 points ahead of Northville, 75-65.

The top eight included Farmington, Westland John Glenn, CC, Farmington Harrison and Canton, which had won five of the previous seven meets.

"I thought it was an outstanding Observerland Relays," Churchill coach Rick Austin said. "Stevenson was, obviously, the class of the field. They had a lot more first-place finishes than we did or Northville."

PLEASE SEE OBSERVERLAND, B4



Churchill's Brian Robertson leads the pack as he rounds the turn during the first leg of the 4 x 1,600-meter relay during Saturday's 37th Observerland Relays at Farmington High School.

Ex-Spartans put WMU tennis on NCAA map

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The NCAA-regional bound Western Michigan University men's and women's tennis programs have players from all over the world.

Call it outsourcing. But two key components for the Broncos' success this spring come only a two-hour drive away from Kalamazoo.

Livonia Stevenson High graduates Brady Crosby and Ashley Moccia are two of the reasons why WMU repeated as Mid-American Conference men's and women's champions.



Crosby



Moccia

The WMU men's squad, sporting an 18-7 record ranked No. 54 nationally, faces No. 10 Illinois (18-8) in a first-round matchup Friday in

Campaign with the winner taking on either No. 21 Michigan (19-6) or No. 52 Drake University (23-2) for the right to play in the NCAA team finals later this month in Athens, Ga.

The Bronco women, featuring players from Germany, India, Japan and Canada, is rated No. 63 and will take a 22-6 mark against No. 5-ranked Northwestern (21-4) Friday in Evanston. The winner meets either No. 24 Indiana (20-6) or No. 43 Boise State (17-4) for the right to play in Athens.

The 6-foot-1 Crosby, a co-captain, is

PLEASE SEE TENNIS, B6

Noder's on target in Crusaders' win

Senior left-hander Shannon Noder notched her sixth shutout of the season Tuesday as the Madonna University women's softball team downed Indiana Wesleyan, 7-0, in round two of the NAL Region VIII Tournament at Bailey Park in Battle Creek.

Noder, who hails from Lincoln Park, pitched a complete game, while scattering six hits and striking out four to earn the win.

Madonna (33-14) scored their first run in the seventh inning as sophomore Alison Grant hit a bloop single behind second base and sophomore Hannah Godfrey raced home to give MU a

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

1-0 lead.

Indiana Wesleyan's (30-14) Hillary Meals surrendered three runs in the sixth inning, including a two-run double by freshman Caitlyn Sidor (Livonia Churchill).

The Crusaders tacked on three more runs in the seventh inning off Wildcat reliever Jennifer Stansel.

Freshman Brittney Scero (Canton) doubled home a run and later scored on a sacrifice fly off the bat of junior Heather Richardson (Canton). MU tallied its final run on an RBI single by Sidor.

Sidor led the Crusaders offensive attack with a 2-for-4 performance with three RBI. Grant recorded three hits and two RBIs to help the MU cause.

Madonna advanced to Wednesday's winner's bracket game against Bethel College (Ind.), which defeated Aquinas, 8-2, earlier in the day.

The loser will play the winner of the Indiana Tech-Marian (Ind.) game with the winner awaiting the final team left in the loser's bracket in the championship round, which is scheduled to begin later in the day.

Eye popping

Livonia Churchill catcher Steve Jones (top) attempts to make a play as he blocks the plate from Westland John Glenn's Nathan Cover, who slides in safely into home plate on a safety squeeze bunt put down by Jerry Smith during the second inning. The Rockets went on to beat Churchill in a Lakes Division game in the Western Lakes Activities Association, 7-4. For a round up area high school baseball game, see page B9.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Thursday, May 10
 Allen Park at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Northville at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Friday, May 11
 Stevenson at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Northville at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at W.L. Northern, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Canton, 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 12
 N. Farmington at Churchill (2), 11 a.m.
 John Glenn at S. Lyon (2), 11 a.m.
 (Lutheran Westland Tourney)
 Huron Valley at Luth. Westland, 11 a.m.
 Ply. Christian vs. A.P. Inter-City at Huron Valley Lutheran, 11 a.m.
 Consolation and finals, 1:30 p.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL
Thursday, May 10
 Allen Park at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at Northville, 4 p.m.
 S.H. Parkway at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Taylor Baptist, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, May 11
 Churchill at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Northville, 4 p.m.
 W.L. Northern at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Canton at Wayne, 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 12
 N. Farmington Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Dearborn at Churchill (2), 11 a.m.
 John Glenn at S. Lyon (2), 11 a.m.
 Annapolis at Wayne (2), 11 a.m.
 Royal Oak Tournament, TBA.
 (Lutheran Westland Tournament)
 Huron Valley at Luth. Westland, 11 a.m.
 Ply. Christian vs. A.P. Inter-City at Huron Valley Lutheran, 11 a.m.
 Consolation and finals, 1:30 p.m.
BOYS & GIRLS TRACK
Thursday, May 10
 W.L. Northern at Churchill, 3:30 p.m.
 Northville at Franklin, 3:30 p.m.
 Stevenson at W.L. Central, 3:30 p.m.
 John Glenn at Salem (CEP), 3:30 p.m.
 Canton at Wayne, 3:30 p.m.
Friday, May 11
 South Lyon Relays, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson Twilight Invitational, 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 12
 River Rat Inv. at A.A. Huron, 9 a.m.
 Cougar Inv. at Annapolis, 9:30 a.m.
 Dakota Invitational, 10 a.m.
 Flint Coca-Cola Classic, TBA.
 Jackson Northwest Meet, TBA.
BOYS TENNIS
Thursday, May 10
 Garden City at Churchill, 4 p.m.

Old Spartans returning to form; tie Northville, sink Vikings, 2-0

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

After struggling during the first half of the girls soccer season, Livonia Stevenson is back to being the old Livonia Stevenson again.

After tying state-ranked Northville 1-1 on Friday, the Spartans handed another top-10 ranked team in Division I, Walled Lake Central, its first setback of the season Monday at home, 2-0, as Stephanie Gutkowski scored both goals.

Stevenson improves to 6-5-2 overall and 4-3 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association, while Central falls to 10-1-1 and 5-1-1 in the division, a full game behind first-place Livonia Churchill.

"I was proud of the girls tonight," Stevenson coach Chris Pinta said. "I thought we stayed disciplined defensively and created some good chances on the offensive end."

It was scoreless at intermission before Gutkowski scored on a header from Lauren O'Connor midway through the second half after Victoria Slavin served a ball across the Central box.

Gutkowski then notched her second of the night after Julia Schroeder got possession

GIRLS SOCCER

inside the Vikings' box and laid the ball off to Gutkowski, who one-timed it past Central keeper Taylor Comiskey (13 saves). Stevenson's defense was also able to hold Central's top scoring threat Sam Echols in check all game.

The defensive effort was spearheaded by Amber Sharp, Liz Tokarsky, Kayla Kimble, Jamie Chandler and Jenn Gately. Mandi Keedle, who faced just four shots, was the winning goalkeeper.

"I thought we really moved the ball around well in the first half, creating some of our best chances of the season ... we just couldn't convert," Pinta said.

Against 8-1-3 Northville, the Spartans converted their lone goal just five minutes into the match. Taleen Mergian played a ball through the Mustangs' back line to Kaitlyn O'Hara, who regained control of the ball after it was won back briefly against a Northville defender. O'Hara found herself open inside the 18-yard line and dumped a shot past Northville keeper Julie Blaszczak.

Stevenson had a chance to go up 2-0, but Molly McConnell's shot to the far

post off a set-up by Slavin was denied.

The Spartans controlled the first half and kept Northville standout Danielle Toney off the board by limiting her opportunities to shots from outside the box.

But the second half was a different story as the Mustangs carried a majority of the play creating five or six good chances, only to be denied by Keedle, who was outstanding in goal.

"Mandi was awesome in goal, making the big saves that she should have, and coming up big on a couple of others," Pinta said. "She came off her line really well tonight denying any would-be opportunities."

Northville, however, got the break it needed with 20 minutes remaining when Sarah Stern was awarded a penalty kick, which she converted to knot the game at 1-1.

Blaszczak then went airborne to deflect a hard shot over the crossbar taken by Slavin.

"I thought tonight was a great team effort," Pinta said. "We tired a bit in the second half and were able to withstand some high pressure by Northville's offense. Had we been able to play a full 80 minutes like our first half, the outcome may have been different."

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Lakes-leading Chargers roll, 8-0

The Livonia Churchill girls soccer team had a CBS moment that Ed Bradley, Lesley Stahl and Andy Rooney would all be proud of.

It took just 60 Minutes Monday as the state-ranked Chargers merited host Westland John Glenn, 8-0.

Churchill is now 10-0-2 overall and 6-0-1 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association. Glenn falls to 2-9-1 and 0-6.

Alisha Lussiez had two goals and two assists to pace the Chargers, who took over sole

SOCCER ROUNDUP

possession of first place in the Lakes following Walled Lake Central's 2-0 setback Monday to Livonia Stevenson.

Alyssa Mira chipped in with a pair of goals, while Bailey Brandon added a goal and one assist.

Lindsay McMullen, Callie Mack and Jessica Stroud also tallied goals for the Chargers.

Goalkeepers Stefanie Turner and Megan Bauman combined on the shutout, Churchill's fifth

straight. The Chargers have allowed only five goals all year.

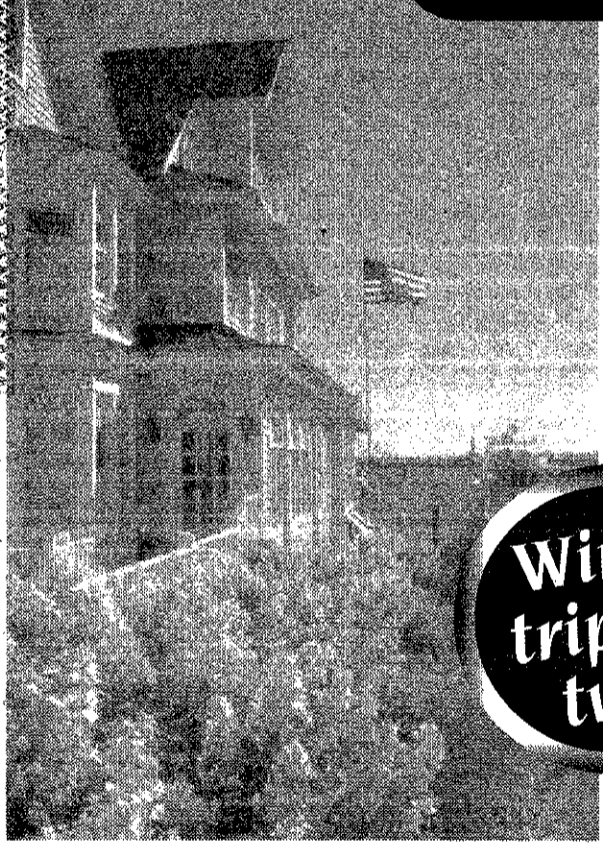
MERCY 3, LADYWOOD 0: On Saturday, Alyssa Risk scored twice and Paige Sheridan tallied the game-winner in the opening half as Farmington Hills Mercy (9-0-4, 7-0-3) blanked visiting Livonia Ladywood in a Catholic League Central Division game.

Ladywood goalkeeper Michele Ring made 17 saves, while counterpart Christine Campbell had six.

JOHN GLENN 1, CLARENCEVILLE 0: Justine Easter's first-half goal held up Friday as Westland John Glenn (2-8-1) earned the non-league at Livonia Clarenceville (4-5-2).



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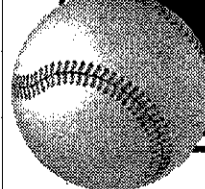
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BOYS TENNIS RESULTS

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 8, BERKLEY 0
May 8 at Churchill
No. 1 singles: Nick Payne (LC) defeated Sam Blake, 6-2, 6-1; No. 2: Aniket Patil (LC) def. Joel Goodman, 6-0, 6-0; No. 3: Alex Cios (LC) def. Noah Stahl, 7-5, 6-4; No. 4: Kyle Anderson (LC) def. Brian Schubiner, 6-0, 6-1. No. 1 doubles: Jay Cunningham-Taylor Frangie (LC) def. Jared Pickman-Max White, 6-2, 6-0; No. 2: Dan Martin-Kyle Peczynski (LC) def. Paul Braverman-Jacob Goodman, 6-0, 6-1; No. 3: Robert Fortney-Steve Mazur (LC) def. Raphie Kuper-Tim Kerby, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; No. 4: Paul Yandric-Andy Clairmont (LC) def. Brian Kirsch-Andrew Ackner, 6-1, 6-0. Churchill's dual meet record: 10-1 overall.

W.L. CENTRAL 7 WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 1
May 8 at John Glenn
No. 1 singles: Clay Bartelt (WLC) defeated Tim Smolen, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; No. 2: Alex Colosimo (WJG) def. Brad Yanalunas, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; No. 3: Ryan Halteen (WLC) def. Brad Noyes, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (B-6); No. 4: James Bittner (WLC) def. Gordie German, 4-6, 7-6 (7-4). No. 1 doubles: Brian Hurd-Mike Rivemonte (WLC) def. Lenny Manfre-Cliff Palac, 2-6, 6-1, 6-3; No. 2: Casey Johnson-Ryan Rivemonte (WLC) def. Frank Toarmina-Shawn Murphy, 6-0, 6-0; No. 3: Brian Indianer-Koji Niwa (WLC) def. Justin Samland-Brad Sheahan, 6-1, 6-2; No. 4: Ilya Kiseyina-Jovan Acuff (WLC) def. Nikhil Kalothia-D.J. Dillard, 6-3, 6-0. Glenn's dual meet record: 110-1 overall; 0-10-1 WLAA.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 8, LIVONIA FRANKLIN 0
May 7 at Churchill
No. 1 singles: Nick Payne (LC) defeated Joe Fenner, 6-1, 6-2; No. 2: Aniket Patil (LC) def. Tony Semonick, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3; No. 3: Alex Cios (LC) def. Steve Trapp, 6-3, 6-4; No. 4: Kyle Anderson (LC) def. Don Camilleri, 6-1, 6-0. No. 1 doubles: Jay Cunningham-Taylor Frangie (LC) def. Chad Dorton-Ryan Hudie, 6-0, 6-1; No. 2: Dan Martin-Kyle Peczynski (LC) def. Justin Adams-Galym Tusupov, 6-4, 6-0; No. 3: Robert Fortney-Steve Mazur (LC) def. Mike Geraci-Conner Leidat, 6-0, 6-2; No. 4: Paul Yandric-Josh Mann (LC) def. Ryan Henderson-Ron Perlan, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4. Dual meet records: Churchill, 9-1 overall, 9-1 WLAA; Franklin, 1-9-1 overall; 1-9 WLAA.

W.L. WESTERN 6, WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 2
May 7 at John Glenn
No. 1 singles: Tim Smolen (WJG) defeated Michael Chow, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; No. 2: Garek Ng (WLW) def. Alex Colosimo, 6-1, 6-1; No. 3: Zak Goldstein (WLW) def. Brad Noyes, 6-2, 6-2; No. 4: Blain Globerman (WLW) def. Gordie German, 6-1, 6-1. No. 1 doubles: Steve Wang-Brad Stone (WLW) def. Lenny Manfre-Cliff Palac, 7-5, 7-5; No. 2: Adam Goldman-Orew Haack (WLW) def. Frank Toarmina-Shawn Murphy, 6-4, 6-3; No. 3: Scott Goldstein-Auslan Mahajan (WLW) def. Justin Samland-Rob Jones, 4-3 (retired-injury); No. 4: Nikhil Kalothia-D.J. Dillard (WJG) def. Josh Freyberg-Justin Cykiert, 6-4, 6-0. Glenn's dual meet record: 1-9-1 overall; 0-9-1 WLAA.

LIVONIA STEVENSON 5, W.L. NOTHERN 3
May 7 at W.L. Northern
No. 1 singles: Gino McCathey (LS) defeated Sam Hall, 6-0, 6-0; No. 2: Greg Watson (WLN) def. Ian Petty, 7-5, 7-5; No. 3: Dave Cross (WLN) def. Chris Martin, 6-0, 6-2; No. 4: Erik Koch (LS) def. Nick Majje, 6-2, 6-2. No. 1 doubles: Mike Greco-Pat McHugh (LS) def. Matt Rohloff-Andy Sanders, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; No. 2: Justin Collins-Ben Bagazinski (LS) def. Steve Olsen-Parker Wood, 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-4; No. 3: Bob Bell-Dan Harris (WLN) def. Alex Cook-Brady Thom, 7-5, 6-2; No. 4: Chris Orlos-Clayton Northey (LS) def. John Anderson-Mitchell Kelley, 6-7 (5-7), 6-1, 7-6 (7-4). Stevenson's dual meet record: 8-2 overall, 3-2 WLAA.

W.L. CENTRAL 6, LIVONIA FRANKLIN 2
May 4 at Franklin
No. 1 singles: Clay Bartelt (WLC) defeated Joe Fenner, 6-0, 6-4; No. 2: Brad Yanalunas (WLC) def. Tony Semonick, 6-4, 6-3; No. 3: Steve Trapp (LF) def. Jovan Acuff, 6-0, 6-3; No. 4: Ryan Haiteen (WLC) def. Dan Camilleri, 6-3, 6-3. No. 1 doubles: Brian Hurd-Mike Rivemonte (WLC) def. Ryan Hudie-Chad Dorton, 6-2, 6-0; No. 2: Casey Johnson-Ryan Rivemonte (WLC) def. Ron Perlan-Justin Adams, 6-1, 6-0; No. 3: Brian Indianer-Koji Niwa (WLC) def. Conner Leidat-Mike Geraci, 6-3, 6-1; No. 4: Ryan Henderson-Galym Tusupov, 6-4, 7-5. Franklin's dual meet record: 1-8-1 overall, 1-8 WLAA.

LIV. STEVENSON 8, JOHN GLENN 0
May 4 at Stevenson
No. 1 singles: Gino McCathey (LS) defeated Tim Smolen, 6-1, 6-4; No. 2: Ian Petty (LS) def. Alex Colosimo, 6-0, 6-0; No. 3: Chris Martin (LS) def. Brad Noyes, 6-2, 6-1; No. 4: Erik Koch (LS) def. Gordie German, 6-0, 6-0. No. 1 doubles: Ben Bagazinski-Justin Collins (LS) def. Lenny Manfre-Cliff Palac, 7-5, 6-2; No. 2: Alex Cook-Brady Thom (LS) def. Shawn Murphy-Frank Toarmina, 6-2, 6-2; No. 3: Chris Orlos-Clayton Northey (LS) def. Justin Samland-Rob Jones, 6-1, 6-2; No. 4: Anthony Hage-Garrett Adams (LS) def. Nikhil Kalothia-D.J. Dillard, 6-2, 6-1. Dual meet records: Stevenson, 7-2 overall, 7-2 WLAA; John Glenn, 1-8-1 overall, 0-8-1 WLAA.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 5, CANTON 3
May 2 at Churchill
No. 1 singles: Gino McCathey (LS) defeated Nick Payne, 6-1, 7-5; No. 2: Aniket Patil (LC) def. Chris Martin, 6-2, 6-4; No. 3: Erik Koch (LS) def. Clayton Northey, 6-0, 6-1. No. 1 doubles: Jay Cunningham-Taylor Frangie (LC) def. Pat McHugh-Mike Greco, 6-2, 7-5; No. 2: Dan Martin-Kyle Peczynski (LC) def. Justin Collins-Ben Bagazinski, 6-1, 6-0; No. 3: Steve Mazur-Robert Fortney (LC) def. Brady Thom-Alex Cook, 6-3, 6-1; No. 4: Paul Yandric-Andy Clairmont (LC) def. Leon Voskov-Josh Bartosik, 6-2, 6-1. Dual meet records: Churchill, 6-1 overall, 6-1 WLAA, 5-0 Lakes Division (clinched title); Stevenson 6-2 overall, 6-2 WLAA.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 199
REDFORD THURSTON 227
May 8 at Beech Woods
Medalist: Paige Scarpace (Franklin), 40. Thurston's top scorer: Christine Murray, 52. Dual meet records: Franklin, 7-2 overall; Thurston, 8-1 overall.

LIVONIA STEVENSON 196
LIVONIA CHURCHILL 197
May 7 at Fox Creek
Stevenson scorers: Chelsea Bathurst, 45; Laura Sims, 49; Abbey Wolfe, 50; Chrissy McHenry and Lauren Geiger, 52 each. Churchhill scorers: Shannon Warner, 41 (medalist); Lexi McFarlane, 49; Amanda Dobos, 50; Danielle Lesniak, 57. Dual meet records: Stevenson, 8-0 overall, 8-0 WLAA; Churchhill, 3-2 overall, 3-2 WLAA.

LIVONIA LADYWOOD 190
DEARBORN DIVINE CHILD 197
May 7 at Dearborn Country Club
Ladywood scorers: Andrea Warzyniec, 43 (medalist); Kelly Thomas, 47; Erica Mazur and Angela Jamrog, 50 each. Divine Child's top scorer: Caitlin Steel, 46. Ladywood's dual meet record: 7-0 overall, 6-0 Catholic League.

SEAHOLM-MERCY TOURNAMENT
May 5 at Dearborn Country Club
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Dexter, 345 strokes; 2. Lake Orion, 351; 3. Rochester, 356; 4. Livonia Ladywood, 357; 5. Grand Blanc, 358; 6. Birmingham Seaholm, 362; 7. Flint Powers Catholic, 362; 8. Greenville, 366; 9. Troy Athens, 369; 10. East Lansing, 371; 11.

GIRLS GOLF RESULTS

Hartland, 380; 12. Farmington Hills Mercy, 386; 13. DeWitt, 386; 14. Grosse Ile, 394; 15. Rochester Adams, 400; 16. Temperance Bedford, 406; 17. Holt, 407; 18. Harper Woods Regina, 442. Medalist: Amy Meier (Rochester), 75. Ladywood scorers: Andrea Warzyniec, 86; Angela Jamrog and Kelly Thomas, 89 each; Erica Mazur, 93; Rachael Fuller, 113. Mercy scorers: Aialina Stefan, 88; Kristen White, 98; Marina Uhrin, 99; Megan Schubert, 101; Lindsay Mack, 110. LIVONIA STEVENSON 186 WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 207 May 4 at Edgewood CC Stevenson scorers: Abbey Wolfe, 40; Chrissy McHenry, 45; Chelsea Bathurst, 48; Laura Sims, 53. Walled Lake Central scorers: Sarah Johnson, 39 (medalist); Kelli Miller, 52; Danni Walker, 53; Riley Collins, 63. Dual meet records: Stevenson 7-0 overall, 7-0 WLAA.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 197
CANTON 262
May 4 at The Woodlands
Glenn scorers: Jessie Veltri, 44; Jessica

Riggs and Taylor Morgan, 50 each; Courtney McKinney and Carrie Kulkowski, 53 each; Jamie Young, 65. Canton scorers: Chelsea Osburn, 45; Kala Gregory, 49; Alex Wee, 76; Amy Provost, 92. Glenn's dual meet record: 3-5 overall, 2-3 WLAA.

LIVONIA LADYWOOD 182
PONTIAC NOTRE DAME PREP 232
May 4 at Twin Lakes
Ladywood scorers: Andrea Warzyniec, 44 (medalist); Angela Jamrog, 45; Rachael Fuller, 46; Erica Mazur, 47. Notre Dame Prep's top scorer: Allison LaRose. Ladywood's dual meet record: 6-0 overall, 5-0 Catholic League.

LIVONIA STEVENSON 200
LIVONIA FRANKLIN 234
May 3 at Fox Creek
Stevenson scorers: Chelsea Bathurst, 48 (medalist); Lauren Geiger, 49; Abbey Wolfe, 51; Chrissy McHenry, 52. Franklin scorers: Paige Scarpace, 50; Jessica Stchur, 59; Lauren Bailey, 62; Marlie Meyers, 63. Dual meet records: Stevenson, 6-0 overall, 6-0 WLAA; Franklin, 6-2, overall, 6-2 WLAA.

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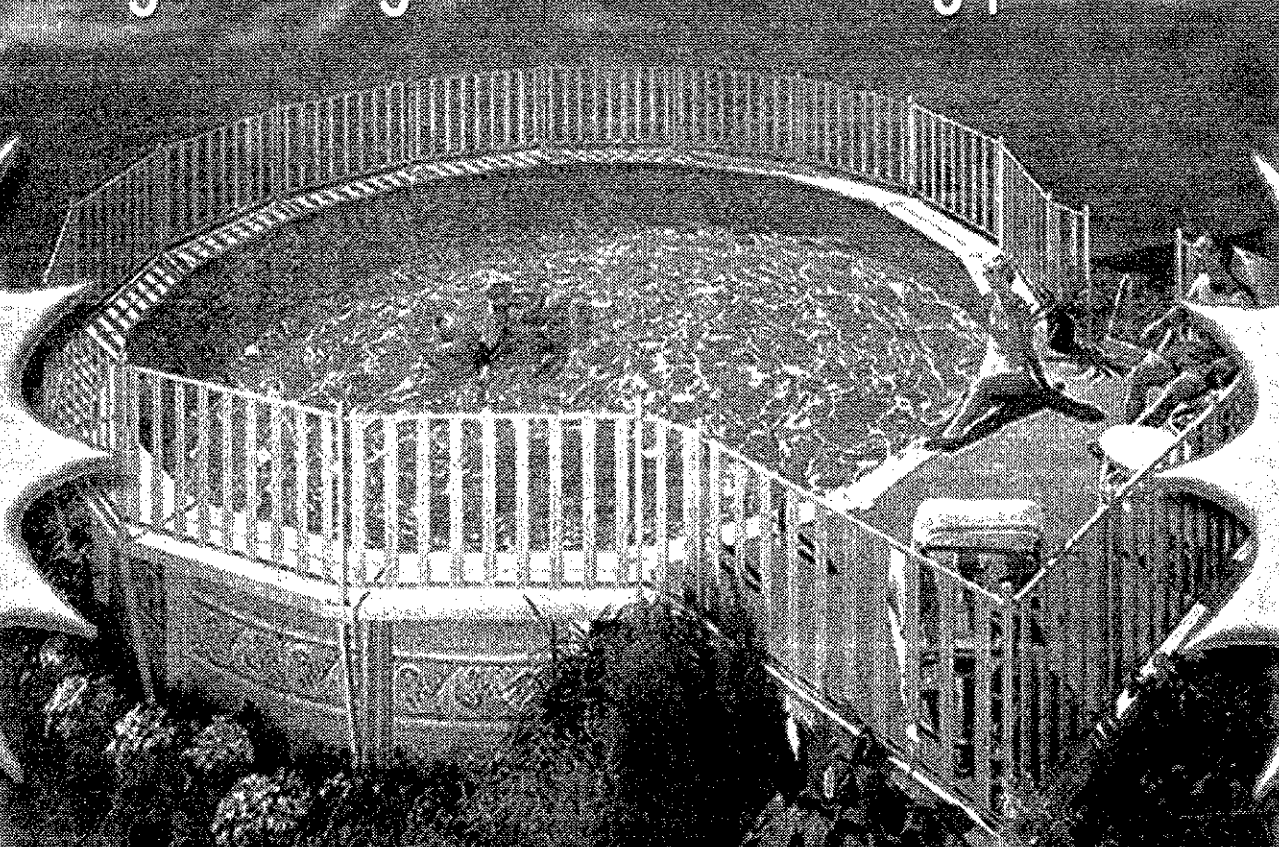
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Wolves' overtime win puts Whalers in hole

What's a sixth-seeded team doing in the Ontario Hockey League Championship Series? Very well, thank you. The Sudbury Wolves, who were seeded No. 6 in the OHL's Eastern Conference brackets, earned a 2-1 advantage over the No. 2 seed Plymouth Whalers with a 5-4 overtime victory in Sudbury Tuesday night.

The Wolves' Justin Donati scored the game-winner 3:15 into the extra session off assists from Jonathan D'Aversa and Marc Staal.

Plymouth forced the overtime with 2:36 remaining in regulation when Evan Brophrey secured a pass from Steve Ward and stuck it in the back of the net to make it 4-3. James Neal also assisted on the game-tying lamp-lighter.

Sudbury scored first 12:22 after the opening face-off when Nick Foligno scored from Andrew Self, who was named the game's No. 2 star. Twenty-six seconds later, the Whalers tied it on Ryan McGinnis's second playoff goal from A.J.

Jenks.

The Wolves led 2-1 after two periods thanks to Patrik Lusnak's goal from D'Aversa and Staal at the 6:15 mark. Plymouth evened things up at 2-2 on Jared Boll's power-play goal 6:17 into the third period.

Energized by a crowd of 5,737 at the Sudbury Community Arena, the Wolves surged ahead 4-2 with back-to-back goals from Self (his eighth of the playoffs) and Kevin Baker, his sixth.

Plymouth's Sean O'Connor (from McGinnis and Boll) narrowed the Whalers' deficit to 4-3 with 3:14 to go before Brophrey tied it 38 seconds later.

Michal Neuvirth registered 23 saves for the Whalers. Sebastian Dahm earned the win between the pipes by stopping 37 Plymouth shots.

In Sunday's Game 2 at Plymouth, the Wolves used a balanced attack and steady goaltending to defeat the Whalers, 7-3, before 3,331 fans at the Compuware Sports

Arena.

Six different Wolves scored at least two points each, including first star Self (two goals and an assist), second star Devin DiDionete (two goals), third star Matt Dias (one goal, three helpers), Baker (one and two), Nick Foligno (three assists) and Justin Donati (goal, two assists).

Dahm stopped 42-of-45 shots in goal for Sudbury. Neal (12th), Daniel Ryder (8th) and Dan Collins (7th) scored for Plymouth.

Sudbury broke open a 1-1 game after twenty minutes of play with four goals in the second period on goals by DiDionete (5:03), Dias (9:50) and two by Self (10:48 and 18:10, respectively) sandwiched around Plymouth goals by Ryder (11:08) and Collins (18:47).

The Wolves then closed out the scoring in the third period with two unanswered goals - DiDionete (11:35) and Donati (16:46).

Plymouth outshot Sudbury, 45-31.

TENNIS

FROM PAGE B1

winding down a stellar four-year career.

This season, the senior finance major is 24-17 overall in singles and has been rated as high as No. 52 in the country with three victories over nationally-ranked players. Crosby also has compiled a 32-11 record in doubles and has qualified with partner Tim Bradshaw, a native of Bromsgrove, England, for the NCAA Nationals in doubles.

Crosby is only the second player in school history to be a four-time All-MAC honoree joining Ravi Pathanjali (2001-04) after an undefeated 10-0 record in the MAC this season at No. 1 and 2 singles and No. 2 and 3 doubles (with partner John Pelton).

This marks the third year in a row that Crosby has been named first-team All-MAC. He wrapped up the MAC Tournament with 204 career victories making him only the fourth player in school history to win more than 200 matches.

Crosby, who starred in three sports at Stevenson (including soccer and basketball), also earned the MAC's Sportsmanship Award and was named Academic All-MAC.

"Brady's been a special player for us since he got here four years ago," WMU coach Dave Morin said. "He has the total

'Brady's been a special player for us since he got here four years ago.'

Dave Morin
WMU tennis coach

package. Brady's a great student, a phenomenal athlete and he has a tremendous work ethic and leadership skills to match.

"We've been very lucky to have him here and we'll never replace a guy of his caliber. I think he'll be in the WMU Hall of Fame in 10 years."

Moccia, a 5-6 sophomore, has elevated her game since joining the WMU women's team as a preferred walk-on. She has carved a 23-14 record in both singles and doubles. She normally plays the No. 5 flight in singles and has spent most of the year at No. 1 doubles with two primary partners including Noriko Saruta (Yamaguchi-Ken, Japan) and Kersten Pahl (Kiel, Germany).

Now on scholarship, Moccia has improved her first serve and along with her level of fitness.

"My first-serve percentage has definitely increased and now I can often win three points off my serve in a game at any time," said Moccia, who was 72-8 as a prep at Stevenson. "I also worked out a lot and starting eating right. Being fit makes a huge differ-

ence.

"Not playing last year made me realize that it takes hard work and determination. I didn't realize how tough it was to play college tennis. I've made strides and I think I've gained the respect of my teammates. I've come a long way and I'm proud of myself, but I'm even more proud of the whole team."

The WMU team is as diverse culturally as any in the country.

"It's been so fun and I've learned so much," said the special education major who carries a 3.59 GPA. "I love it and I wouldn't change a thing about this team."

And Moccia's solid contributions this season haven't gone unnoticed.

"Ashley has been great for us this year," WMU coach Betsy Kuhle said. "She went from being No. 9 in singles and No. 8 in doubles last season to No. 1 doubles and No. 5 singles this season. She worked really hard over the summer to improve her game and is clearly the most improved player on our team."

The WMU women, like the men, are big underdogs this weekend.

"We've had great success and all of us have worked so hard," Moccia said. "Our goal was to win the MAC regular season, the MAC championship and go to the NCAA's. Northwestern has a great team, but we definitely have a chance. We have nothing to lose and things to gain."



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Stevenson overcomes Burkhart's 17 strikeouts to post 2-1 victory

They refuse to be voted off the island.

WLAALakes Division girls softball leader Livonia Stevenson played survivor again Monday, withstanding the 17-strikeout performance of Walled Lake Central pitcher Brittany Burkhart to earn a 2-1 victory.

Stevenson, now 10-6 overall and 6-1 in the Lakes, won the first-place showdown thanks to Emily Hollandsworth's 2-run single in the second inning scored Amanda Paison and pinch runner Tara Sharpe.

Paison struck out, but reached first after the ball got by the Central catcher. Winning pitcher Jamie Johnson then followed with a single and the runners moved up, setting the stage for Hollandsworth.

Johnson allowed just three hits and struck out four. She did not allow a walk.

Burkhart gave up just two hits, both coming in the second inning.

The Vikings (13-4, 5-2) cut the deficit to 2-1 in the bottom of the seventh, but couldn't score the equalizer.

On Saturday, Stevenson captured two of three games in the Ortonville-Brandon Tournament.

PREP SOFTBALL

In the opener, Johnson pitched a four-hit complete game and struck out five as the Spartans downed Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day, 6-1.

Monica Piekarski's two-run triple keyed the win.

Stevenson then lost to the state's No. 2-ranked team in Division I, unbeaten White Lake Lakeland, 6-2.

Laura Deacon, the losing pitcher, had a two-run triple. She went six innings, allowing five earned runs on eight hits and a walk. Deacon fanned eight.

Pitchers Cayla Meek and Lauren Memmer combined for a two-hitter for the 15-0 Eagles, last year's Division I state finalist. They struck out four and walked four.

In the tourney finale for the Spartans, Johnson pitched a five-hit shutout in a 2-0 win over Essexville-Garber. She struck out four and did not walk anybody.

Deacon doubled and tripled in the victory, while Johnson went 1-for-1 with a single and sacrifice bunt.

Meanwhile, Salem's Melissa Leach was like the weather last Thursday afternoon: nearly

picture perfect.

Under cloudless skies with 68-degree temperatures, Leach yielded just one hit while fanning 11 in the host Rocks' 3-0 white-washing of Stevenson in a Lakes Division game played at Salem.

Leach issued just two free passes and retired the side in order in four of the seven innings.

The victory improved Salem's record to 4-10 overall and 3-3 in the division.

"It was a good win in that we started off this season losing to Stevenson in a 14-inning battle," said Salem coach Bonnie Southerland. "So going out there today and putting the win on the board helps show the girls we can go through the division a second time and do what we should have the first time.

The Rocks scored in the first when Abby Pairitz ripped a double up the gap, scoring Liz Thomas, who had reached on a fielder's choice.

Salem tacked on two more in the sixth when Mary Cox doubled in Kait McKinley, who had singled. Emily Pitcole then plated Cox with a run-scoring single.

Pitcole finished 2-for-3 for the winners, who compiled six hits.

C'ville crowns Kingswood, snaps skid

Livonia Clarenceville snapped a four-game losing skid Monday with a come-from-behind 7-6 Metro Conference girls softball win over visiting Bloomfield Hills Kingswood.

The Trojans, now 6-13 overall and 3-4 in the Metro, overcame a 4-0 deficit by scoring seven runs in the bottom of the second inning.

Winning pitcher Abby Sochacki and Charmaine McQueen each delivered two-run singles during the surge. Kellie Manis and Nicole Lexson also had RBI singles.

After getting blanked the next three innings, Clarenceville needed to hold on in the top of the seventh.

After two were out, Kingswood got an RBI double from Annie Marie Skylis and an RBI single from Lauren Stankovich followed by a Trojan error. Sochacki then ended the game on a ground-out as senior shortstop Jenna

Mrljak got the assist.

Sochacki worked all seven innings, allowing six earned runs on eight hits and four walks.

The Trojans, meanwhile, reached base eight different times on hit batsmen.

On Friday, Macomb Lutheran North improved to 6-2 in the Metro with a 9-3 win over the host Trojans.

Brittany Wange went 3-for-4 and Kari Wargelien added two hits and scored three runs for the victorious Mustangs.

Wargelien was the winning pitcher, limiting Clarenceville to three earned runs.

Manis, a senior, went 3-for-3 with a run scored, but the Trojans committed six errors, including four in the fifth inning to break a 2-all deadlock. Clarenceville also left 10 runners on base despite six hits.

HURON VALLEY 12, FRANKLIN ROAD 0: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference-Red Division leader Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (7-

3, 5-0) romped to a six-inning, mercy rule win Monday at Novi Franklin Road Christian.

Winning pitcher Amanda Gruenewald held the Warriors to just three hits. She struck out 12 and walked only three.

Gruenewald also went 2-for-3 with a double and four RBI. Teammate Nicole Smith went 3-for-4 with a double, RBI and two runs scored.

ANNAPOLIS 11-12, CLARENCEVILLE 0-10: Dearborn Heights Annapolis swept both ends of a twinbill Saturday against visiting Livonia Clarenceville (5-12).

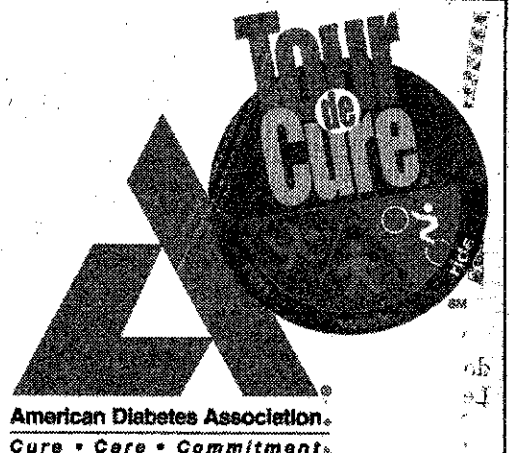
Heather Fabris allowed just one hit in the opener, an 11-0 Annapolis win in five innings. She walked five and hit three batters.

Kellie Manis had the lone Clarenceville hit.

Danielle Mapes (0-2) took the loss before giving way to Abby Sochacki in the third inning. The Trojans committed four errors.

In the nightcap, Clarenceville had nine miscues in a 12-10 setback.

Val Sochacki, in her first varsity start, gave up six earned runs on three hits and six walks over four innings. She needed relief help from Abby Sochacki in the fifth.



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LESSON ON GOLF

By Jeff Lesson

Tiger Woods took his 57th career PGA Tour victory on Sunday against one of the strongest fields of the season at the

57 and counting

Wachovia Championship. He beat Mickelson, Singh and all the others who seemingly almost always get crushed by Tiger with a tournament on the line. That's right they play soft whenever they get a sniff of Tiger.

Tiger did it this time while finishing 20th in driving distance (304 yard average) but second in putting. Meanwhile Lefty, with the help of new swing coach Butch Harmon, hit just 39% of fairways off the tee. Harmon was hired to improve Mickelson's driving accuracy. How's that working out?

Expect another strong field at The Players Championship (aka "the fifth major") this week at the TPC of Sawgrass outside of Jacksonville.

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links experience without spending the cash to go to Europe, look no further than the Gailes course at the Lakewood Shores Resort up in Oscoda. It is a fabulous Aldridge design that is the most unique course in Michigan.

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Lakewood Shores has two other courses that include The Blackshire and a family friendly resort course to round out the experience. The best thing about it are the very competitive rates for golf and lodging as everyone competes for your golfing dollar.

Jeff Lesson is a WWJ Sports Anchor/Reporter and host of the award winning feature "Lesson on Golf" on WWJ Newsradio 950 weekend mornings at 5:45, 6:45, 7:45 and 8:45 AND every Saturday morning 7-8 am on 1270 XYY The Sports Station. Don't forget to check out lessonongolf.com for half off golf at great courses!

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