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WESTLAND Observer

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Victim tells court: Defendant 'tried to kill me'

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man gave a chilling account in court of how three intruders kicked in his door, demanded money belonging to a roommate who wasn't at home and then shot him even though he gave up the only \$7 he had.

Michael Neibert, 26, testified Thursday in Westland District Court that he was upstairs with his roommate's 9-month-old son when the suspects barged in, after being told during an

earlier visit that Jason David Shuford wasn't at home.

"I heard a big bang downstairs and the front door was kicked in," Neibert said during a preliminary hearing for one of the accused intruders, 24-year-old Jason William Hicks. Two other suspects remain at large.

Neibert identified Hicks as the gunman who wanted money that Shuford had received by selling a Chevrolet Suburban.

"He asked me where the money was at," Neibert testified, accusing Hicks of beating

him on the head with a handgun, knocking him down and ordering him to find a jacket where Shuford supposedly had stashed the money.

Neibert found the jacket, but the money wasn't there. He said Hicks "kept asking for the money. I told him I didn't know where it was. He tried to kill me."

Neibert was shot in the left neck/shoulder area before the intruders fled. He later identified Hicks in a photo.

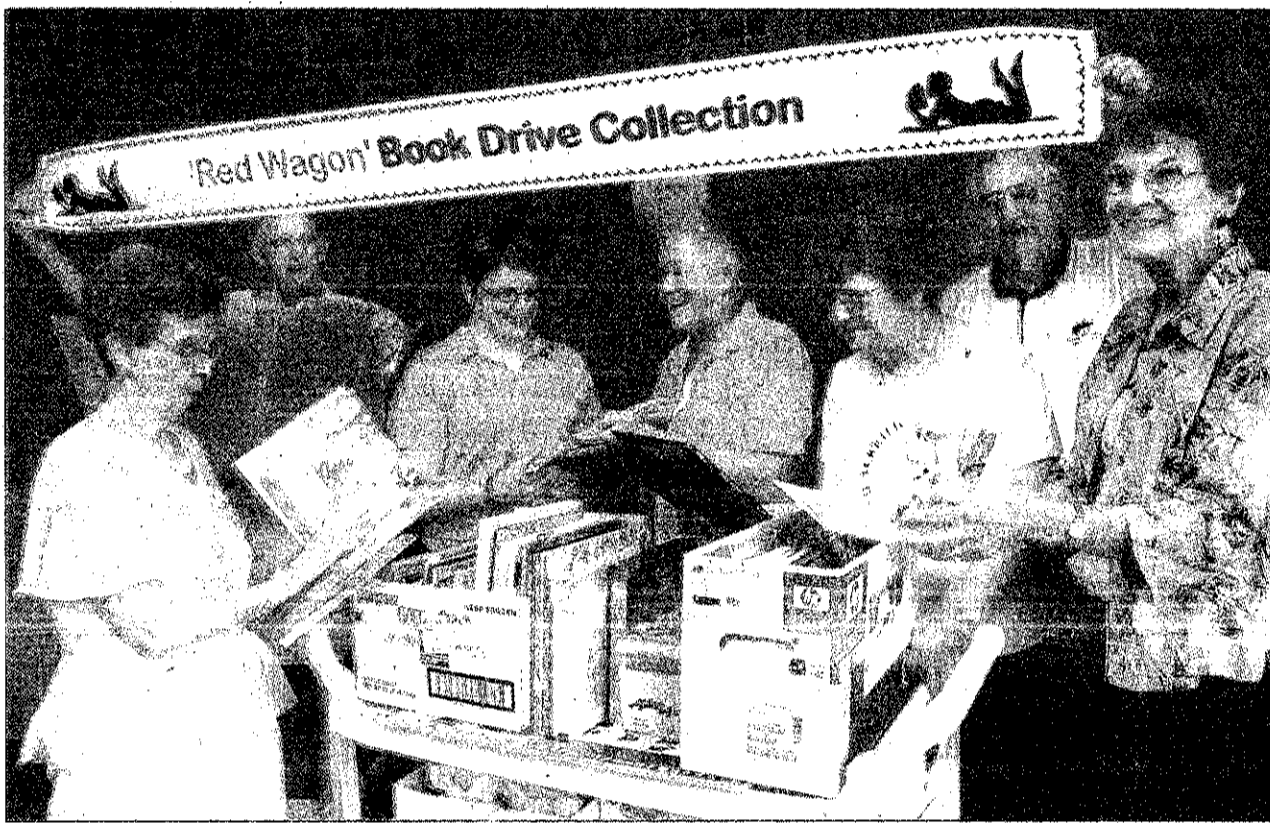
The intruders didn't injure the 9-month-old boy or a woman who also was in the house

when they showed up.

Neibert accused Hicks of forcing him to lie face down on the bed during the ordeal on South Hubbard near Palmer.

His testimony prompted 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos to order Hicks to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges of assault with intent to murder, armed robbery, first-degree home invasion, felony firearms, being a felon in possession of a firearm and

Please see COURT, A2



Maria Mitter, director of Wayne-Westland's Family Resource Center (third from left) takes delivery of books from Dyer Senior Center members, Gloria Pluta (from left), Arthur Balint, Jan Mason, Pat Miller, Ed Turner and Laura Balint. The books will be used by the Red Wagon summer literacy program.

Seniors fill wagons with donated books

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Gloria Pluta had the count at 530 books. But in a blink of an eye it jumped to well over 550 books bound for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Red Wagon literacy program.

For two months, seniors who frequent the Dyer Senior Center in Westland scoured their homes, garage sales and local libraries to collect new and gently used children's books. They presented them to Maria Mitter of Wayne-Westland's Family Resource Center last Tuesday just in time for kickoff of the summer reading program.

"Some of them are so new, they're still in plastic wrap," said Pluta, a Canton resident, who helped organize the book drive. "We got one box of old books that are probably antiques. Some are with cassettes."

The summer literacy program started more than six years ago, when Joan Carr collected books and used wagons to deliver them to children in the Norwayne Subdivision.

The program has grown since then and this year, volunteers pulling wagons will deliver books and bottled water to youngsters in the Lincoln, Jefferson-Barns, Taft-Galloway and Vandenburg attendance areas.

Like the ice cream truck, they let the kids know they're coming, by ringing a cow bell.

"We'll give out 1,000 books this year to children," said Mitter. "It's a huge collaboration with teens through seniors helping out."

Laura and Arthur Balint of Westland hit the jackpot in book collecting at the Wayne Public Library where Laura at one time was treasurer of the Friends of the Library.

"I asked the librarian if she had a few she could donate and she opened this cupboard and started pulling out books," Laura Balint said. "They were from a grant and she couldn't sell them. It was like Christmas. I think we got about 60 books."

"I was elated, I thought we'd get three or four books," added Arthur Balint.

Dyer center Director Mary Browe

got the idea to collect the books after talking to Mitter about something seniors could do. She suggested a book drive and Browe brought it back to the seniors.

"They thought it would be wonderful," Browe said, crediting Pluta with organizing and collecting the books. "She's my best organizer."

While the books are very much needed to keep the wagons filled, Mitter said volunteers also are needed to pull the wagons.

"We need teams to help cover the streets," she said. "We ask them to commit to one hour every other week - the same day, the same time - four times over the course of the summer."

School board Trustee Ed Turner, who pulled a red wagon for three years, recalls the day he gave a little girl a book from his red wagon.

"She asked, 'Is it mine?' and I said yes," he said. "She was so excited. Her family was there and was so pleased. They were making hamburgers and asked us to stay and have one. We did."

Red Wagon will deliver books through Aug. 14 when youngsters will be invited to a picnic celebration full of hot dogs, ice cream and prizes.

"They trust in there, they know us," said Mitter. "And they hear the cow bell."

People interested in volunteering to help pull wagons can call Mitter at (734) 419-2709.

siamason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

Weaver sets record as longest serving board president

Frederick Weaver may not be the longest serving school board member, but it appears he is the first to serve three consecutive terms as president.

The record surfaced when he was honored at this month's school board meeting. Superintendent Greg Baracy presented Weaver with a gavel and plaque in recognition of his service as president and to the children of the school district.

"We've gone back over 35 years and haven't seen any where in archives president who has ever served three years," Baracy said. "That's quite a legacy to leave."

Weaver, who is serving his second four-year term on the board, was first elected president by his fellow board members in 2004, and re-elected to the position in 2005 and 2006. During his first year, he came up with the idea of Project 180 Can Do!, an outdoor event



Weaver

designed to show families in the Norwayne area they can turn their lives around. It has evolved into a morning of informative workshops for all parents in

the district.

"We appreciate your passion and your commitment to children, to the Wayne-Westland school district and to being president, and the leadership you have provided," said Baracy. "It has been a real pleasure working with you not only this year but in previous years."

The school will elect new officers at its organizational meeting in July.

"I'd like to express my thanks and say that it has been a wonderful privilege to serve you," Weaver said.

Teen wounded by police faces forensic examination

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland teen, shot amid accusations he tried to attack a city police officer with a 12-inch knife, has made the move from hospital bed to jail cell.

But 17-year-old Phillip Jay Taylor will have to wait to learn whether he will face trial in Wayne County Circuit Court for the June 8 incident.

Taylor appeared Thursday in front of Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos for a preliminary hearing on charges of felonious assault; carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent; and assaulting, resisting and obstructing a police officer.

However, his hearing was postponed until Sept. 6 after a defense attorney asked that Taylor be allowed to undergo a

forensic evaluation to determine whether he is competent for the court proceedings.

Taylor is accused of calling police on the afternoon of June 8 and telling them that a man had a gun at Westwood Village Apartments at Joy and Hix roads, where he lives with his father. Taylor was found talking on a cordless phone near a swimming pool, and he is accused of going toward a police officer with a 12-inch kitchen knife before he was shot in the abdomen, police Sgt. Thad Nelson has said. Authorities said the motive was unclear. As Taylor awaits his forensic examination, he remains jailed with a \$250,000 cash bond set by Westland 18th District Magistrate Donald Vandersloot. The charges against Taylor carry penalties up to five years in prison upon conviction.

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Coming Thursday in Filter

COMERICA CITYFEST: Once called TasteFest, it's bringing Cheap Trick, The Wallers and Weird Al to the New Center Area.

AROUND WESTLAND

Charity Car show

Race cars, hot rods, classics, even motorcycles and police vehicles will be on display at Don Nicholson's Charity Car Show 6-9 p.m. Monday, June 25, at the

Western Wayne Skill Center, 8075 Ritz and Ann Arbor Trail, west of Merriman, in Westland.

All classes will be judged by spectators with the top car receiving Best of Show bronze trophy, designed by artist Sergio DeGiusti.

Proceeds from the show will benefit the Western Wayne Skill Center. For more information, call (734) 658-5296 and go online to CarShow@DonNicholson.net.

School tours

Restored to its 1890s appearance, Perrinsville School is opens for tours 1-4 p.m. today (June 24). A treasured local landmark, the school is at 31755 Cowan Road, just west of Merriman.

Holiday closings

City offices and 18th District Court will be closed for the holiday on Wednesday, on July 4. The Bailey Recreation Center also will experience schedule changes during the holiday. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Thursday, June 28, through Tuesday, July 3. The Bailey pool will be open on July 4, the building, however, will be closed.

There also will be no rubbish pickup that day, and service will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.

Summer concert
Waco Country Band hits stage at 6 p.m. Sunday, June

24, for Westland's Summer Concert Series. The country western group will perform at the performance pavilion located behind the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Concert-goers are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets to the free concert that will be rescheduled in the event of rain. This marks the 22nd season of the Westland Cultural Society's Summer Concert Series which will feature local bands of a variety of genres throughout the summer.

For seniors

Spend an afternoon at the Village of Westland on Saturday, June 30. Experience a Drums Alive demonstration, browse homemade jewelry, create a garden tile all while listening to music and enjoying an ice cream sundae. The Village of Westland is at 32001 Cherry Hill, west of Merriman in Westland. For more information, call (734) 762-8928 or (734) 762-8896.

No coffee hour

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, won't be holding a monthly coffee hour in July, but will be back meeting with constituents 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13, at the Westland Big Boy, 6360 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland.

Constituents who have questions or concerns can contact LeBlanc toll-free at (888) 737-5325.

Cast your votes

Entries are still being sought for three Westland Festival contests sponsored by the

Westland Civitans.

Parents have until 4 p.m. Monday, June 25, to turn in applications for the Baby of the Year, Toddler of the Year and Tot of the Year at the Westland Chamber of Commerce office, 36900 Ford, or the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

The baby contest is for infants who have not turned one-year-old by July 1, 2007. Toddlers can't have turned age 2 by July 1, 2007, and tots can't have turned age 3 by July 1, 2007.

Parents must submit a photograph no larger than a 4 by 6 inches with the child's name and telephone number of the back. The photos will be mounted on cans that will serve as ballot boxes. Votes are 1 cent each.

The "polling places" will be open 4-10 p.m. Friday, June 29, noon-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 30 and July 1, 4-10 p.m. Monday, July 2, and 4-6 p.m. July 3.

For more information about the baby and toddler contests, call Barbara Polich at (734) 729-4941.

'Riddle-De-Dee'

Youngsters are invited to the Public Library of Westland at 7 p.m. Monday, June 25, for an evening of stories presented by award-winning storyteller, Judy Sima. This program combines folk, traditional and modern tales with humor, songs, props and lots of audience participation.

The program is for children ages 4 and older. Parent must be present. Pick up free tickets at the Children's Desk.

For more information, call

the library at (734) 326-6123. The library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford.

Dining to Donate

People can help a variety of Westland organizations by dining at Applebee's at 36475 Warren Road in Westland. Through its Dining to Donate, the restaurant will donate 20 percent of the bill to 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.

It's the Jungle!

Westland's Concrete Jungle Skate Park is open and ready for all skaters. Admission for adult Wayne County residents is \$5 per session and \$8 for a day pass. For children who live in Wayne County, the cost is \$3 per session and \$5 for a day pass. The Concrete Jungle is located at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road, behind Westland City Hall. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Craft shows

Crafters are needed for a craft show 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Garden City Knights of Columbus Hall, 30759 Ford. For information, call Linda at (734) 422-0373.

Tables are available for the fall craft show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, at St. Theodore Church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Table rental is \$25. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 or Eunice at (734) 261-8357.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

June is National Candy Month

While many people suffer through having a sweet tooth with guilt, now is the time to drop the remorse and enjoy everything about candy. June is National Candy Month and confectioners are celebrating the pleasures of sweets throughout the country. Candy can still be included in a healthy diet, not just a source of tooth decay, so come to the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland to learn more about all the fun and interesting aspects of candy.

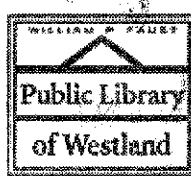
History shows that sweet treats have been enjoyed since the time of cavemen digging honey out of beehives and candy can be traced back 3,500 years ago to the Egyptians.

It wasn't until the early 19th century that the candy-making industry took off resulting in the debut of the first packaged box of Whitman's chocolates in 1854. Take a look at "The Emperors of Chocolate: Inside the Secret History of Hershey and Mars" by Joel Glenn Brenner and "The True History of Chocolate" by Sophie D. Coe for more facts on the history of the chocolate industry.

Making candy at home is another way to take part in National Candy Month. While it is made simply by dissolving sugar in water, different temperatures determine the type of candy made. Specific recipes for various candies can be found in books, such as "The Candy Cookbook: Recipes for Spectacular Truffles, Britties, Toffees, Chocolates, and More" by Carole Bloom and "Candy Making Basics" by Evelyn Howe Fryatt.

Candy is often one of the biggest triggers of childhood nostalgia. "Candy and Me: A Love Story" by Hilary Liftin tells the author's story of growing up interwoven with memories of excessive candy consumption. "Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America" by Steve Almond illustrates the author's lifelong obsession with candy along with a tour of regional candy manufacturers.

Collecting also has become a highly profitable outcome of the love of sweets. "Collecting Pez" by David Welch and "Collectors' Guide to Pez:



Identification and Price/Guide are great resources for figuring out the value of all those old Pez dispensers.

To find out more about candy, the Public Library of Westland is a great place to start. Stop by at the reference desk, call us at (734) 326-6123, or remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day at www.westland.lib.mi.us. For more information on National Candy Month and more, go to the National Confectioners Association Web site at www.candyusa.org.

Highlighted Activities

Independent Movie Night: 7 p.m. June 26.

Join us for a showing of the 2006 Spanish film, "The Great Match (La Gran Final)," official selection of the Berlin, Seattle and Sydney International Film Festivals, approximately 88 minutes. Not Rated. In Spanish with subtitles. All are welcome (children age 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult).

Science Fiction and Fantasy Discussion Group: 7 p.m. June 27.

This month, we're reading one of the "big ones," one of the books ANYONE who is the least bit serious about SciFi MUST read - the work of a grand master, the work that has spun two movie interpretations and quotations in many others. Guard your water, we're reading "Dune" by Frank Herbert. Giant worms, sand planets, interstellar expeditions fueled by hallucinogens (among other things). Then come talk about it at the meeting or online at the blog, sfwestlandlibmius.blogspot.com.

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

COURT

FROM PAGE A1

being a fourth-degree habitual offender.

Hicks remains jailed with a \$750,000 bond as he awaits trial. If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

Although Shuford was free on bond at the time Neibert was shot, he is now jailed and facing seven to 20

years in prison for an unrelated robbery that occurred in February on Belding Court, on Westland's south side.

Shuford also faces additional charges after authorities said he switched identities with another Wayne County jail inmate and was mistakenly released June 10, only to be captured a week later in a motel 50 miles north of Dayton, Ohio.

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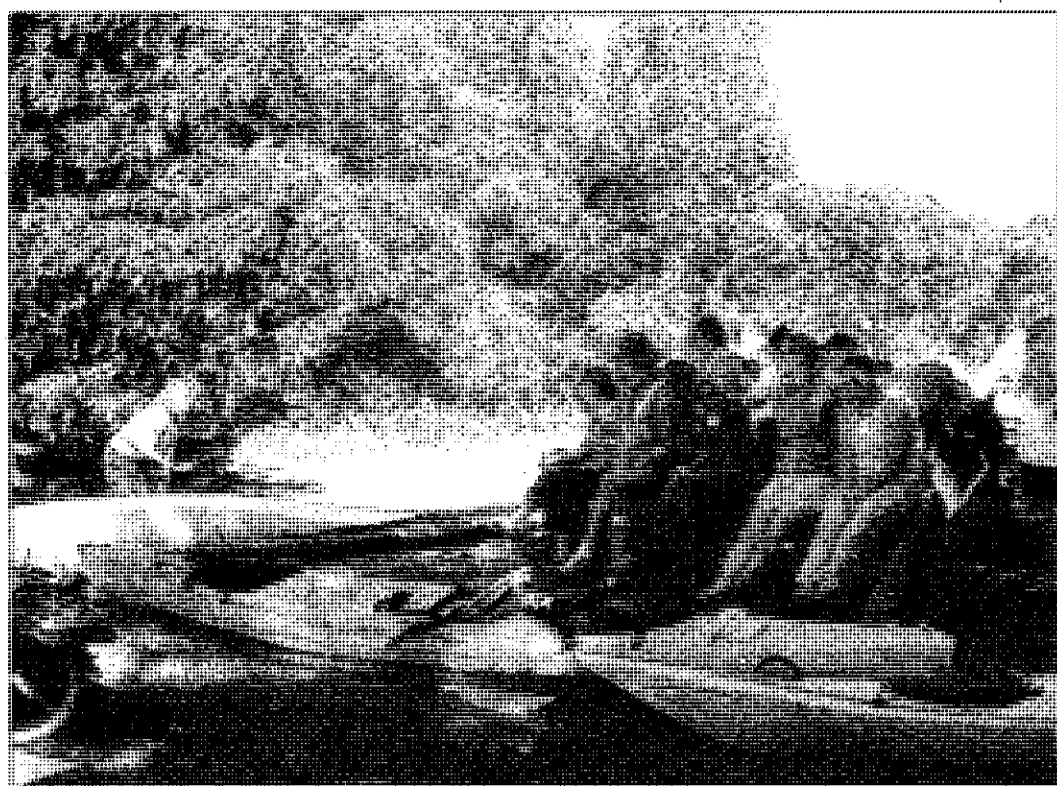
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Women gather around for instruction before heading out in kayaks on the Huron River during last year's BOW program.

For women only - BOW program returns to Kensington for more adventure

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Call it a different twist on a spa day.

But, instead of bubbling foot baths and hot stone massage treatments, senses will be enlightened through adventure, camaraderie and all the beauty Mother Nature has to offer at the Eighth Annual Women Outdoors: Kensington Adventure, a Becoming an Outdoors Woman program by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"No malls, no kids, no traffic, no errands. This is a day to revel in the joyful beauty of newfound outdoor skills," said Carol Fink, Kensington Metropark Farm Learning Center interpreter who helped coordinate the event. "BOW is like a spa for the body and soul."

The daylong workshop for women age 16 and up is

set for Saturday, June 30, at Kensington Metropark and will include beginner-level instruction in kayaking, archery and geocaching. All activities take place at the Farm Center and on the Huron River.

"The BOW program gives women an opportunity to experience adventure, new skills, and fun while being in a safe environment," said Fink, of West Bloomfield.

Each year, different workshops are offered. New this year is the geocaching segment, which will teach participants how to use a Global Positioning Satellite unit to find a hidden cache.

The kayaking workshop is a popular mainstay at the event, in which women learn the basics of paddling and safety on a scenic trek down the Huron River.

Fink said the goal of the program is to introduce outdoor sports and recreation to

women who may not otherwise give such activities a try. Past participants have ranged in age from late teens to 65 and up.

"This is a time for women to bond and find new courage, strengths and confidence in themselves," said Fink. "Many times, we need to step outside our comfort zones to find our true selves."

Registration is still open and the cost for the day is \$60, which includes instruction, program materials and lunch. Enrollment is limited to 40 women.

Moosejaw, Heavner's Canoe Rental, Safari Club International, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Huron-Clinton Metroparks are sponsoring the event, which will include cool giveaways from Moosejaw, an outdoor outfitter.

Call Kensington Metropark at (248) 685-1561.

Mother faces trial on charges she tried to kill newborn son

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland mother will face trial on charges of trying to kill her newborn son by delivering him at home, placing him in a trash bag and putting him in her parents' garage.

Valeeka Noelle Gartrell, 27, could face penalties ranging up to life in prison, if she's convicted in Wayne County Circuit Court on attempted murder and first-degree child abuse charges.

Gartrell was ordered to stand trial after she gave up her right Thursday to a preliminary hearing in front of

Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos.

Gartrell has been released after her family posted \$5,000 toward a \$50,000/10 percent bond.

Now-retired Judge Gail McKnight had reduced the amount from \$100,000 cash after one of Gartrell's cousins offered to watch over her and give her a place to stay while the case is pending.

Police have said that Gartrell's infant son and her 3-year-old daughter are in the care of their grandparents.

Gartrell is accused of putting her baby in a trash bag after giving birth on the morn-

ing of April 23.

Authorities said she then woke her mother to tell her that she was bleeding.

The parents, who live near Joy and Hix, took Gartrell to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

Doctors told them that Gartrell's baby already had been born, police Sgt. Chris Benson said.

Relatives then returned to the Gartrell house and found the baby after hearing cries coming from the garage, Benson said.

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Westland man faces trial in bank holdup

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A 51-year-old Westland man will face trial in Wayne County Circuit Court for charges he robbed the Comerica Bank branch on Wayne Road south of Warren.

Daniel Girard Abbott faces trial after a bank teller identified him Thursday in Westland District Court as the lone bandit who warned he had a gun and demanded money on the afternoon of June 4.

"He passed me a note. He said, 'I have a gun. Give me

\$50s and \$100s,'" teller Sarah Mchone testified during Abbott's preliminary hearing.

Mchone said she followed bank procedure and gave money to Abbott, who then fled the bank. Authorities said he escaped with several hundred dollars.

Abbott turned himself over to Livonia police five days later after calling them from a public telephone near Five Mile and Middlebelt, authorities said. Police had released a photo of the suspect that was captured on a surveillance video camera.

Before he was jailed on a \$500,000 cash bond, Abbott was living at Forest Lane Apartments in Westland, less than a mile from the Comerica branch he is accused of robbing.

Following Mchone's testimony in court, Judge C. Charles Bokos ordered Abbott to stand trial on charges of bank robbery and armed robbery.

If convicted, the defendant could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

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Hospital sponsors wellness programs

Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, offers a weekly schedule of health and wellness programs for residents. The lineup this week includes:

Monday, June 25

Smoke Free, Your Choice (fourth of four classes) at 11 a.m. (tentative). The four-week series will help the smoker identify the triggers and addictions associated with cigarettes/nicotine. The one-hour sessions are held on Thursdays at the Garden City Health and Education Center, Classroom 7, 6701 Harrison, north of Maplewood. There is a \$45 fee. For more information or to register, call (734) 458-4330.

Tuesday, June 26

Yoga (third of four classes) at 4 p.m. Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind. The four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab. Call (734) 458-3242 for details and to register.

Smoke Free, Your Choice (third of four classes) at 6 p.m. (tentative). The four-week series will help the smoker identify the triggers and addictions associated with cigarettes/nicotine. For more information or to register, call (734) 458-4330.

Bariatric Surgery Seminar, Reshaping Lives at 6 p.m. Garden City Hospital's Bariatric Care Center of Michigan will host free information sessions on the benefits and risks of bariatric surgery. Attend one of the hour-long educational sessions to learn the types of bariatric surgery and who is considered a surgical candidate. Sessions are held at 6 p.m. every first and third Tuesday of the month at Garden City Hospital's Allan Breakie Medical Office Building, Lower Level Classroom No. 1. For information or to make a reservation, call (734) 458-4568.

Gastric Lap-Band Support Group at 7:30 p.m. Garden City Hospital is sponsoring a support group for those individuals that have undergone the Gastric Lap-Band procedure. Meetings are open to patients and their family members who are experiencing this process, regardless of where the surgery was provided. The group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Lower Level Classrooms of the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building on the Garden City Hospital campus, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. For more information, call (866) 458-7204.

Wednesday, June 27

CPAP and BIPAP Mask Fitting Clinic at 5 p.m. Attention, CPAP and BIPAP users: Did you know that most insurances cover new supplies every year? Have you been wanting to try a new style of mask, but don't know how to get one? Garden City Hospital's Sleep Disorders Center can help. Visit the Sleep Disorders Center in Room 329 at Garden City Hospital, 5-6 p.m. any Wednesday for a free mask fitting clinic. No appointment is needed. Call (734) 458-3330 with questions or for more information.

Diabetes "Summer School" at 6 p.m. During the summer months, Garden City Hospital will be offering its annual Diabetes Summer School as an alternative to the Diabetes Support Group. This group meets at Garden City Hospital's Allan Breakie Medical Office Building, Lower Level Classrooms, 6-8 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month during the summer months. There is no fee. For more information or to register, call the Community Education Department at (734) 458-4330 or the Diabetes Educator at 734-458-4334.

Eating Disorders Support Group at 7 p.m. The support group is for those individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Both males and females are invited to attend. This meeting is held in the Garden City Hospital Auditorium. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Thursday, June 31

Yoga (third of four classes) at 7 p.m. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab. Call (734) 458-3242 for details and to register.

Constan: Business tax is 'huge victory'

The agreement reached by the state House and Senate on the Michigan Business Tax is a huge victory for Michigan's business community, according to State Rep. Bob Constan, D-Dearborn Heights.

The House and the Senate reached an agreement on the Michigan Business Tax, a comprehensive solution to replacing the Single Business Tax that rewards investment, protects Michigan-based companies, and safeguards funding for education, health care, and police and fire protection.

"The Michigan Business Tax does two essential things - it rewards companies that invest in Michigan and it rewards companies that create jobs for our workers," Constan said. "This plan will make

Michigan a magnet for investment and 21st century job providers. This is just what we need to jump-start our economy and get Michigan back on track."

Under the agreement reached last week, about 75 percent of businesses in Michigan would pay less in taxes under the Michigan Business Tax (MBT). It is the only plan of its kind to address both the Personal Property Tax and the Single Business Tax (SBT) in such a far-reaching manner.

The House Democrats' MBT plan will:

- Provide over \$600 million in new tax credits that reward Michigan businesses for investment, compensation, and research and development.
- Reward capital investment by cutting the

Personal Property Tax by an average of 67 percent for manufacturers and 23 percent for commercial businesses, while also protecting funding for local units of government.

- Boost job creation by providing credits for investment in Michigan and for Michigan payroll.

- Help small businesses by exempting companies with less than \$350,000 in gross receipts from taxation. Businesses with up to \$20 million in gross receipts will pay reduced rates. The plan also enhances existing small-business tax credits.

- Protect education, health care, police and fire protection, and other essential services by ensuring revenue-neutrality.

Officials probe cause of house fire

A Garden City firefighter was treated Wednesday at Garden City Hospital for smoke inhalation he sustained while fighting a house fire on Elmwood earlier that day.

A neighbor noticed smoke coming from the home at 29969 Elmwood and called one of the homeowners at work, Fire Chief Bill Forbush said.

The homeowner then reported the fire at 4:38 p.m. "We didn't know for sure

that no one was in the house, so we did a search," Forbush said. "There were two dogs in the back yard that were secured by neighbors. They (the dogs) inhibited our access to the home initially."

The fire began in the basement of the home.

The cause is being investigated, but is likely to have been electrical, Forbush said. Damage to the structure was estimated at \$50,000, with \$30,000 damage to contents.

"That's not severe damage. There was a lot of smoke damage. I think it was cooking for awhile before the fire really got going," Forbush said.

Firefighters from Inkster, Wayne and Westland assisted in fighting the fire under Mutual Aid.

The Westland Fire Department also sent a rescue unit, which ended up transporting the Garden City firefighter to Garden City Hospital.

Plan would reform state redistricting

State Sen. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, has introduced a resolution that would amend the state constitution and reform the way the state redistricts and apportions congressional and legislative districts.

The resolution seeks to restore confidence in the redistricting and apportionment process by removing the power to draw district lines from the partisan legislature and placing it with an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC).

Under the proposed scenario, members of the IRC shall not have served as an elected

or appointed public official or been a candidate for public office within three years prior to their appointment to the independent commission.

The same restriction also would apply to political party officials and registered lobbyists.

"It's a sad fact, voters no longer pick their elected officials, elected officials pick their voters," said Anderson. "The need for reform is clear, and the time to do it is now, before the next census in 2010."

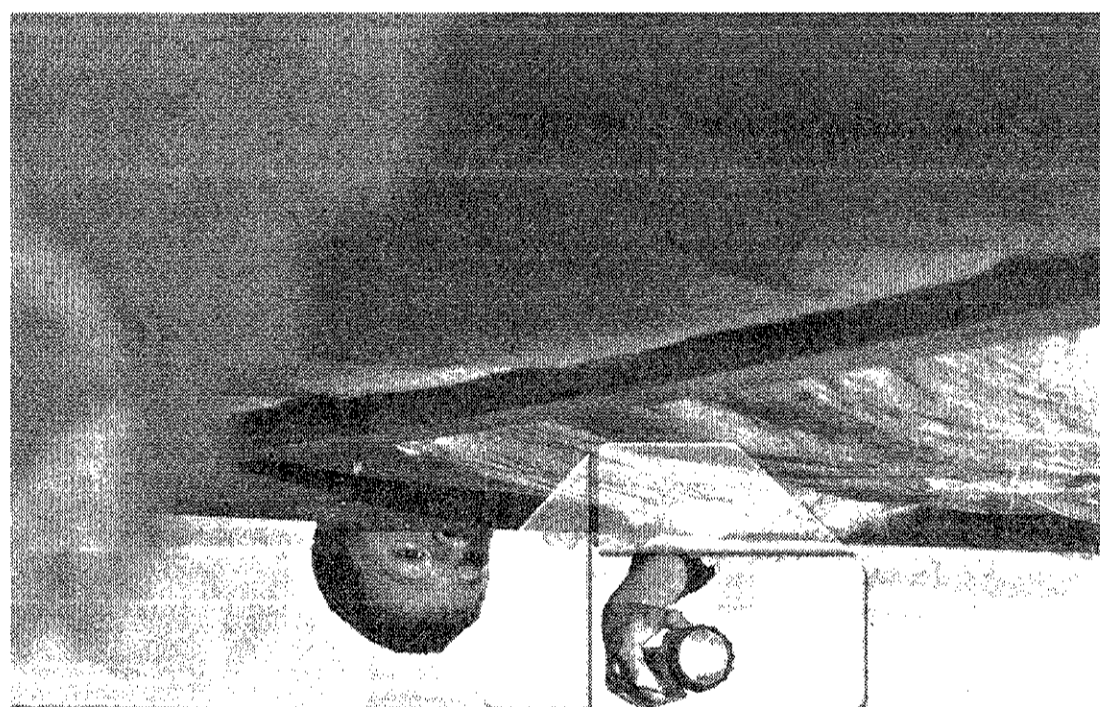
Anderson's resolution also prohibits the use of voting history data, past election results and incumbent addresses from

the district mapping process. The final plan adopted by the IRC must be agreed upon by a two-thirds majority vote.

So far, 12 states - Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington - have already adopted an independent commission approach for redistricting state legislatures.

Anderson's resolution has the support of Common Cause of Michigan, the Public Interest Research Group in Michigan (PIRGM) and the Michigan Campaign Finance Network.

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William R. Wild, Mayor
Department of Public Service
Water and Sewer Division
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 (734) 728-1770

2006 Report to Consumers on Water Quality

Westland is proud of the fine drinking water it receives from the City of Detroit and furnishes to the residents. This report will list the source of our water, the results of the tests performed on the water, and additional information about water and health questions. State and federal requirements mandate that an annual report be sent to Westland customers before July 1 each year. This is our tenth report.

Water Source

Westland is supplied by the City of Detroit from its Springwells Water Treatment Plant in Dearborn. The water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, and Ecorse River, in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment to determine the susceptibility of potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a six-tiered scale, from very low to high, based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our Detroit River source water intakes was determined to be highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, all four Detroit water treatment plants that use source water from the Detroit River have historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards.

Public Notice Sewage Disposal System Event

Any person or claimant who experiences an overflow or back up of a sewage disposal system or storm water system that is under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Westland should immediately contact the City of Westland Department of Public Service Director, Kevin Buford, at the following address and telephone number:

City of Westland
 Department of Public Service
 37137 Marquette
 Westland, MI 48185
 (734) 728-1770

Important Health Information

Overview

The City of Westland maintains over 325 miles of water main, over 2900 hydrants and over 6000 valves in our system. We have flushed the water mains in one section of the city this year, covering the neighborhoods in the area of Palmer to Glenwood and Venoy to Wildwood. This is done to remove buildup from the water main and improve pressure and quality of the water you receive. We will be doing other sections of the City of Westland in 2007 as the weather permits, working through the city on a continual basis. We are also operating and repairing the valves for isolating the water throughout the city to insure proper operation of the valves in an emergency.

Lead

Since 1992, with the cooperation of many Westland residents, the City has been testing homes with plumbing systems that may contribute lead to the household water supply. Our latest round of testing showed none of the fifteen homes tested has lead levels above the action level. If your home has a lead service line or piping that has lead soldered joints, you can take the following precautions to minimize your exposure to lead that may have leached into your drinking water from your pipes.

- Run your water for 30 to 60 seconds, or until it feels cold. This practice should be followed any time your water has not been used for more than six hours.
- Always use cold water for drinking, cooking or making baby formula.
- Use faucets and plumbing material that are either lead free or will not leach unsafe levels of lead into your water.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If

you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a disease-causing parasite that lives in the intestinal tract of many animals, including dogs and cats. Symptoms of infection include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, headaches, nausea and vomiting. The disease is typically spread through contact with feces of an infected animal or person or consuming contaminated food or water. Cryptosporidium can be introduced into bodies of water by way of surface water runoff containing animal waste and sewage discharge. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department has been testing for cryptosporidium since 1994 and has not detected it in any of our source water supplies.

People with Special Health Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

In 2006, the City of Westland had no monitoring violations. A monitoring violation is not an exceedance of a MCL or health standard.

The Department of Public Service Water and Sewer Superintendent prepared this report for the City of Westland. Data was supplied by the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. If there are any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact the City of Westland Department of Public Service at 734-728-1770. This report is supplied to our customers to ensure compliance with the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act (1976, PA 399, as amended) by 1998 PA 56. This Act was passed to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act and the rules promulgated by the United States EPA dealing with this law. Water quality data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at www.waterdata.com.

Additional Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or by the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Springwells Water Treatment Plant 2006 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables

Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Inorganic Chemicals - Annual Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap								
Fluoride	8/15/2006	ppm	4	4	0.951	n/a	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	8/15/2006	ppm	10	10	0.172	n/a	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection By-Products - Monitoring in Distribution System								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	Feb-Nov 2006	ppb	n/a	80	22.0	8.9-42.7	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Halacetic Acids (HAA5)	Feb-Nov 2006	ppb	n/a	80	13.9	5.5-24.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectant Chlorine	Jan-Dec 2006	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	0.67	0.62-0.71	No	Water additive used to control microbes

2006 Turbidity - Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap			
Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.28 NTU	100 %	No	Soil Runoff
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.			

2006 Microbiological Contaminants - Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System					
Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Number Detected	Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria > 5% of monthly samples	in one month - 0	No	Naturally present in the environment.
E.coli or fecal coliform bacteria	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or E.coli positive.	entire year - 0	No	Human waste and animal fecal waste.

2005 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers Tap								
Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90th Percentile Value*	Number of Samples Over AL	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2005	Ppb	0	15	0 ppb	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2005	Ppb	1300	1300	54 ppb	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.								

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Running annual average	Monthly Ratio Range	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each month and because the level was low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.				Erosion of natural deposits

2006 Special Monitoring					
Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Source of Contamination	
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	4.21	Erosion of natural deposits	
Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.					

WRITTEN NOTICE REQUIREMENT: Furthermore, compliance with Public Act 222 of 2001, an amendment to Michigan's Governmental Immunity Statute 1964 PA 170, as amended MCL 691.1401 to 691.1419, requires that a claimant who wishes to seek compensation for property damage or physical injury resulting from a sewage disposal system event notify the City of Westland, Water and Sewer Superintendent, **in writing, within 45 days after the date the damage or physical injury was discovered, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have been discovered.** The written notice shall contain the claimant's name, address and telephone number, the address of the affected property, the date of discovery of any property damages or physical injuries, and a brief description of the claim. Failure to comply with the notice requirements may prevent the recovery of damages and bar any claim that a claimant may have.



Westland Convalescent & Rehab Center residents and veterans Donald Laughlin, Samuel Beney, Arthur (Lee) Slaughter, Herbert Ramage and Russell Priest are joined by Young Marines - platoon Sgt. Austin Mach (from left), Lieutenant Corporal Phillip Butler, Lt. Cpl. Isaac Butler, Pfc. Sean Miller, Pfc. Damon Ahlgren and Canton Young Marines commanding officer Charles Volker.

Young Marines salute veterans at center

The Young Marines of Canton helped make Flag Day a special event for residents at the Westland Convalescent & Rehab Center.

Residents, staff and family members gathered in the Garden Café to observe a ceremony officiated by the commanding officer, Charles Volker who began by saying that the Young Marines enjoy making the public aware of what they are doing and appreciate the recognition they receive when they perform or when they do community service work.

The members visit the Veterans Hospitals, as well as the veterans in the community, to thank them for all they have done to preserve freedom.

The Flag Day program included questions from the audience, a poem about the flag and what it stands for and a tribute, performed by bugler and platoon Sgt. Austin Mach to the lyrics of *Taps*.

The Young Marines also marched through the halls to the sound of the bugle.

The Young Marines is a youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through completion of high school.

The program focuses on character building, leadership and promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle and teaches the

value of truthfulness, fairness, respect, courage, attention to duty and love of God and Country.

The youth learn general subjects such as history, customs and courtesies, close order drill, physical fitness and military rank structure. After graduating from Young Marine boot camp, the youth have the opportunity to learn more new skills, earn rank, wear the Young Marine uniform and work toward ribbon awards for achievement in areas such as leadership, community service, swimming, academic excellence, first aid and drug resistance education.

The Young Marines is the official youth program of the U.S. Marine Corps and the focal point for the Marine Corps' Youth Drug Demand Reduction efforts.

Westland Convalescent & Rehab Center provides a rehabilitation program that offers patients the opportunity to maintain their present abilities; to live within the framework of their limitation; to increase their strength, endurance and tolerance and to regain needed skills and mobility before returning to their homes and communities.

For further information about Westland Convalescent & Rehab Center, call (734) 728-6100.

MILITARY NEWS

Pfc. Alyssa Berthelsen of Westland, a member of the Michigan Army National Guard's 1775th Military Police Company based in Pontiac, was awarded the Army Achievement Medal on June 10 June for service in the Ford State funeral mission.

Berthelsen is a graduate of Thurston High School and currently serves as a military police officer with the 1775th Military Police Company.

She completed basic training at Ft. Leonardwood, Mo., in 2006. The daughter of Maureen and James Zerrelli of Redford,

she is employed by the Northland Police as a police officer.

Pvt. Anna M. Clark of Westland has been assigned to the 210th Military Police Battalion in Taylor after enlisting in the Michigan Army National Guard.

Clark, a 2006 graduate of John Glenn High School, completed basic training at Fort Lee, Va., in May. The daughter of Tamara Clark of Westland, she is a student at Eastern Michigan University. She also is employed as a To-Go server at Applebee's Bar & Grill.

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CITY OF WESTLAND
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
 The City of Westland Economic Development Corporation is seeking proposals from qualified Economic Development Consultants, Real Estate Consultants and Commercial Developers to assist the Westland Economic Development Corporation Board in its efforts to redevelop a 20 acre parcel for mixed-use or stand alone commercial development.
 The project area is located on Central City Parkway and consists of three parcels totaling approximately 20 acres. Parcel A is a vacant Sam's Club, Parcel B is a vacant Best Buy facility, and Parcel C is vacant.
 The Westland Economic Development Corporation has issued this RFQ, 37095 Marquette, Westland, Michigan 48185. Phone 734.467.3264, E-mail econdev@ci.westland.mi.us.
 The deadline for submissions of the RFQ is 3:00 p.m. Friday, June 29, 2007.
 To obtain a copy of RFQ contact William Caya, Economic Development Director at 734.467.3264 or email econdev@ci.westland.mi.us
 Publish: June 24, 2007

Michigan truly a great destination for a vacation

Do you need to re-mortgage the house to pay the gas tab for your recent trip Up North? With gas prices over \$3.50 a gallon during these uncertain and tough economic times, spending upwards of \$200 for a weekend getaway is tough on the pocketbook. Yet, the Michigan summer beckons you to kick off the safety boots, trade the tie for a rod and reel and head "Up North" where nature can refresh your soul — without going broke. What-ya-gonna-do?



Tom Watkins

If You Seek A Pleasant Peninsula, Look About You. We have "Up North" surrounding us in the Metro Detroit Region. Here are some of my favorite Michigan destinations close by:

Kensington Metro Park www.metroparks.com
On the western edge of Oakland County is one of the jewels of the Metropark system, Kensington, a slice of "Up North" in our backyard. The lakes are dotted with canoes and sailboats, a par-3 golf course is speckled with duffers and over 4,000 acres of woods with paved bike trails and hiking paths this park has something to offer everyone. A trip to Kensington, or any of the many Metro parks adds substance to the old refrain: "Simple pleasures are the best!"

Hines Park www.waynecounty.com/parks
The Wayne County Parks slogan captures the essence of Hines Park with its slogan: "The Benefits Are Endless." I am fortunate to live in Northville, a starting point for Hines Park, a slice of beauty that meanders through western Wayne County following the Rouge River.

The Friends of Rouge Park (www.therouge.org) together with leadership from the County Executive and County Commission have done a wonderful job of educating people about the importance of this watershed and helping to clean up the park and the river. Have fun the old fashion way in the park with a hiking bike riding, throw a line in the river, toss horse shoes and bring friends and grill a few steaks with all the gas money you saved by enjoying the beauty only a few miles away for any neighborhood in the metro area.

Belle Isle www.ci.detroit.mi.us
"The Jewel of the City of Detroit!" No matter what direction you look the beauty of the Island is truly breathtaking. It is the Central Park of Detroit, a diamond glistening with Windsor Canada or the Detroit Skyline as the backdrop. Bring your fishing pole, your bike, your cooler, freebie, a canoe or just a lounge chair — it is going to be a beautiful day of fun. Enjoy the five mile of shoreline and the views of the huge freighter traffic that is a reminder of the economic might of our region framed by the towers of the Ambassador Bridge off in the distance.

A favorite activity of mine is to follow the bike trails that meander along the edges of the Huron River. Gallop on over to the Gallup Park Canoe Livery and take in this 65-acre park on the Huron River.

Ann Arbor — It's more than just U-M Cross a County line and take in the beauty of Ann Arbor in Washtenaw County (www.a2gov.org).

A favorite activity of mine is to follow the bike trails that meander along the edges of the Huron River. Gallop on over to the Gallup Park Canoe Livery and take in this 65-acre park on the Huron River. Enjoy nature real close to home.

Other activities nearby:
Take in: The Henry Ford, (www.thehenryford.org) America's Greatest History Attractions is four distinct attractions in one: Greenfield Village, The Ford Rouge Plant Tour, the Henry Ford Museum and the ImaX Theater. The New Detroit Science Center, (www.detroitssciencecenter.org), The Detroit Zoo (www.detroitzoo.org), The Detroit Historical Museum (www.detroithistorical.org/) and the Detroit Institute of the Arts (www.dia.org). Clearly there is nothing better than going to the ballpark to catch a Detroit Tigers game (www.detroit.tigers.mlb.com) and have a ballpark hot-dog smothered in mustard to make you appreciate your hometown.

OK, splurge!
There is no need to feel guilty from time to time to load up the car and leave the metro region and take in all the beauty our state has to offer. Go to www.michigan.org/travel to discover the many nooks and crannies that you can find all across the two beauty peninsulas that we call home. Michigan is surrounded by Great Lakes and rich in natural beauty. Michigan's two peninsulas are dotted with 97 state parks, four national and numerous, metro and municipal parks. We have more shoreline than any state in the nation with the exception of Alaska. In addition, six state forests plus nature preserves and refuges, gardens and arboretums provide plenty of opportunity for fun in the sun, snow and everything in-between. Recreation and relaxation, the good ole R+R is Michigan's middle name.

This is pure Michigan, get out and enjoy it in spite of the high gas prices!

Tom Watkins is president and CEO of TDW and Associates. He served as Michigan's state superintendent of schools 2001-05 and president and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Fla., 1996 to 2001. He welcomes reader comments at tdwatkins@aol.com.

State development debate has no easy answer

There is a place in the Sleeping Bear park at the foot of Esch Road in Benzie County called Otter Creek Beach.

The pristine creek winds down to the beach where it then cuts a meandering trough through the sand toward Lake Michigan. The water is refreshingly chilly on a summer's day. The sand beach is soft, a washed yellow against the green dune grass and evergreen trees. It seems to go on forever and usually there are only a handful of people at any given time of day.



Hugh Gallagher

This is one of the many beautiful spots in northern Michigan that make Up North such a special place for those of us who toil most of the year in southeast Michigan. Sometime in the middle of April just as a warm weekend tricks us into thinking that summer may be just around the corner, my wife and I begin to yearn for those woods, creeks, lakes and beaches.

Often we are lulled into thinking of northern Michigan as our playground. We forget that people live there year round and have to deal with its problems as well as enjoy its beauty. But visitors and residents alike are constantly torn about what this wonderful place is supposed to be — home, recreation center, wilderness area.

This year, the National Park Service is struggling with these issues in trying to define the future of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and the decision they make will help all of us who love our great North to set a direction that makes some sense for the state's economy, its wildlife, its natural resources and the people who make a living and a home there.

The National Park Service recently took public commentary on three alternative general management plans and a no-action alternative. Each plan presents a different philosophical approach to managing the park and allowing park access. Alternative A: The Lakeshore is valued primarily for conservation of its natural resources. Alternative B: The Lakeshore is valued primarily for its recreational opportunities in scenic outdoor settings. The middle way is Alternative C: The Lakeshore is managed in such a way that most visitor use is concentrated in selected areas, with more natural, primitive conditions promoted in the rest of the Lakeshore.

These positions all have their advocates. Some want a strict control over human access to preserve the beauty and the wildlife that bring visitors to the area in the first

place. Others argue that overly restricting access is counter to the idea of a park where people can go to experience nature. A story in the *Leelanau Enterprise* reports that after public commentaries there is no consensus on these plans by the public or by local governments.

This debate over management of the National Lakeshore is part of a broader debate over land use in this prime and much loved section of the state. Developers have been building brick mini-mansions with fertilized lawns around lakes that were once home to simple cottages surrounded by natural growth. Forests have been replaced by manicured golf courses. Lakeshore owners resist government restrictions on use that are intended to preserve the shores they value. A proposed tax that would have helped preserve farmland in Leelanau County was defeated last year.

In many cases, we seem to be barging headlong into destroying the very thing we go North to enjoy.

But there are no easy answers. The area depends on tourism to survive. It needs golf courses, it needs manicured beaches, it needs snowmobile trails through wilderness areas, it needs lakes where speedboats can zip across the water, it needs houses that will attract people with money who will spend some of it at local stores and restaurants as well as pay big taxes for part-time residence. It apparently needs casinos where people can gamble away their money, while avoiding the great outdoors.

But at what cost?
Are we destroying the magic that draws us there as residents and visitors?

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 953-2149.

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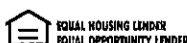
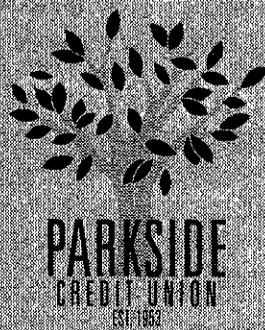
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Buddy's dishes up pizzazz for 'Dining With Stars' winners

It was a star-studded night at Buddy's Pizza in Farmington Hills when Virginia and John Koch of Canton Township dined with WXYZ-TV mother-daughter anchors and metro area stars Diana and Glenda Lewis.

Koch was the winner in the Buddy's Pizza and *Observer & Eccentric/Mirror Newspapers* "Dining With the Stars" contest for June.

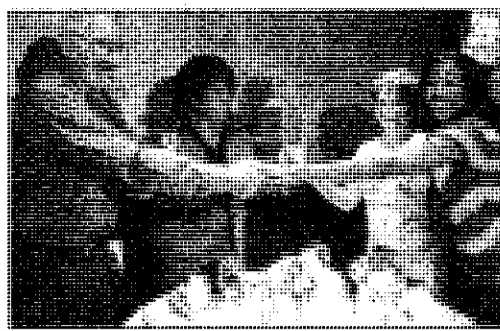
"We had a totally awesome experience," said Virginia Koch, adding "both Diana Lewis and Glenda Lewis were so warm and gracious."

"We enjoyed good food, good conversation and good people -- it doesn't get any better than this."

Tuesday's event was hosted by Buddy's Pizza owner Robert Jacobs.

Koch, a labor and delivery nurse at Oakwood Hospital, was selected by Glenda and Diana Lewis from among five finalists.

"Being the mother of five grown daughters I appreciate the elation Diana Lewis must feel knowing her daughter has succeeded in her chosen field," wrote Koch. "Glenda



Dining With the Stars contest winner Virginia Koch of Canton and husband John gather with Channel 7 News anchors Diana and Glenda Lewis.

Lewis has undoubtedly needed to work very hard simply because her mother has been such a commanding force on Detroit television for so many years. Together they display

an excellent mother/daughter role model for all. It would be a pleasure to share a meal of pizza (everything but anchovies and could you throw in an anti-pasto salad too?) with them."

Well, Koch got her antipasto and pizza (minus the anchovies) and dessert. Koch and her husband were treated to a limo ride with Diana and Glenda Lewis to and from Buddy's courtesy of Protran Transportation. They walked the red carpet into the restaurant where Virginia was treated to a special makeover (including styling by Sebastian and makeup by Marina Milfeh), courtesy of Ruby Blu Salon & Spa of Farmington Hills. The couple also received a special gift basket from Diana and Glenda Lewis.

The foursome watched a dance exhibition courtesy of Rhythm N Shoes of Bloomfield Hills. Other diners at Buddy's and fans also got a chance to meet and talk with Diana and Glenda Lewis.

"They were so gracious," said one fan. "They are the most real-deal people in Detroit. It was great."

"My husband and I want to thank Buddy's, Diana and Glenda Lewis and Marcy of Buddy's for a wonderful evening," said Virginia.

Buddy's Pizza donated \$500 to the Boys and Girls Republic in Farmington on behalf of Diana and Glenda Lewis.

Next month's Dining With the Stars features Jay Towers, Shila and Bill McAllister's host of Motor City Middays, on Live 97.1 FREE FM.

In 100 words or less, tell us why you're a fan and would like to have lunch or dinner at Buddy's Pizza in July with the trio from 97.1 FREE FM.

Send your fan letter to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com and be sure to include your name, address, daytime phone number and e-mail address. Deadline to enter the July contest is 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 17.

A photograph of you and your favorite stars will be published in the *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* and online at www.hometownlife.com.

"We want our winners to dine with their favorite stars and feel like a star, too," says Marcy Brontman of Buddy's Pizza.

July winners will be treated to a limo ride, makeover and dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

Other upcoming dining with stars includes; August: CoCo of WJLB-FM (97.9) and September: Chuck Gaidica of WDIV-TV (Channel 4).

No purchase is necessary to enter. Buddy's Pizza will review all entries and select the top four "fan" letters. The star's featured for the month will make the final selection. Lunch and/or dinner date are to be determined with the winner and star by Buddy's representatives.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Winner of the Dining with the Stars contest Canton resident Virginia Koch is joined by Channel 7 News anchors Diana and Glenda Lewis as they exit their limousine at Buddy's Pizza in Farmington Hills to have dinner.

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Hot as grid-dle at camp

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to football in June, they had a pretty hot time at Redford Union.

The annual Panther Football Camp, held June 14-15, drew 75 youngsters entering grades 5-12 in 2007-08.

With special instruction on stretching, speed and agility from Eric Newton of Xceleration Speed Training (also an RU assistant coach), campers received a pretty well-rounded learning experience.

All of that went against the backdrop of 80-degree heat and plenty of humidity.

"Camp went well again this year," said Redford Union varsity head football coach Miles Tomasaitis. "Although my uncanny ability to schedule things on the hottest days of the year held true yet again."

Tomasaitis said the camp was attended by "a mix of kids," with Colin Rankin taking part for a fifth consecutive year - the longest string among 2007 participants. Colin is entering seventh grade at Hilbert.

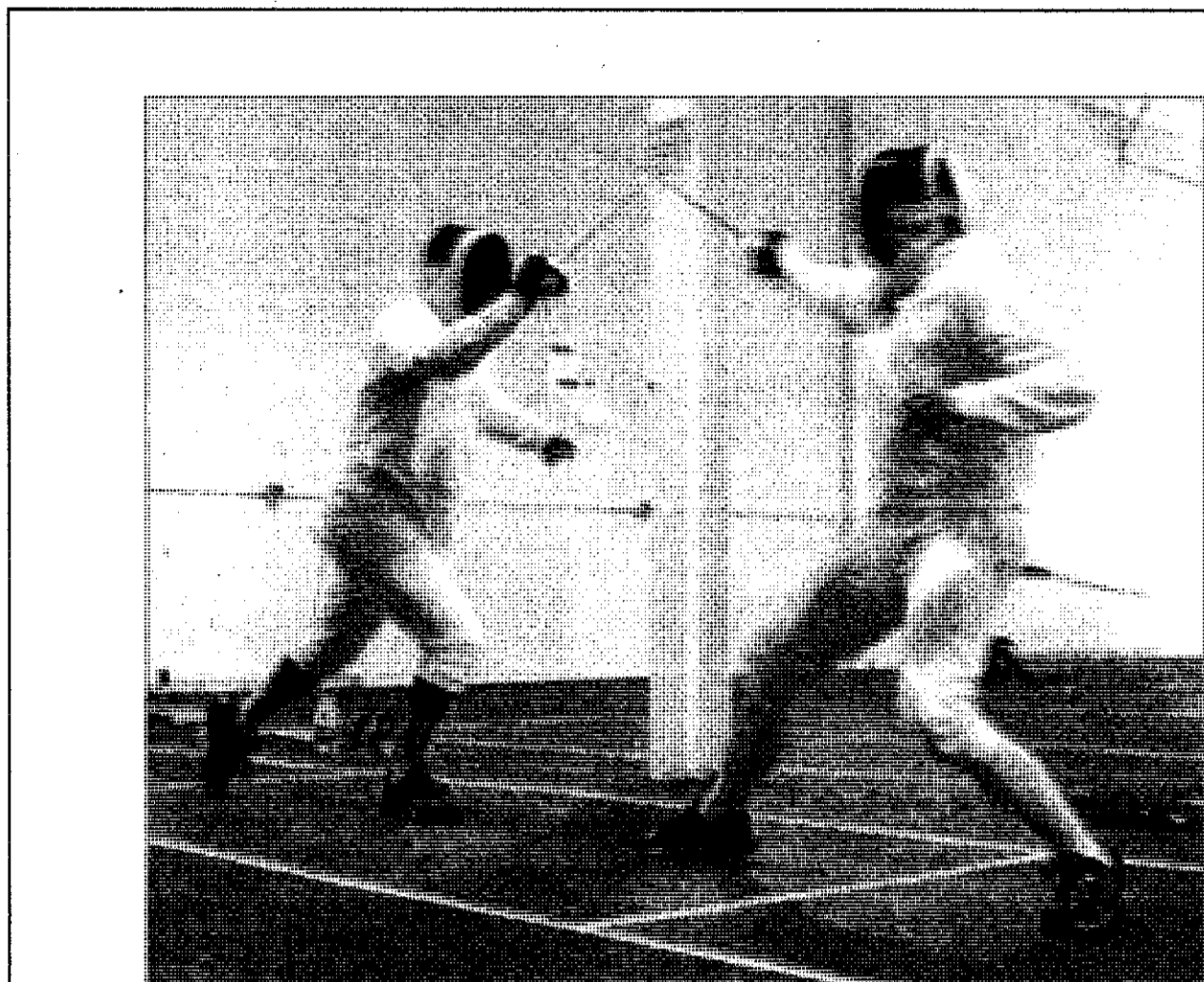
"The kids worked on new stretching techniques, learned new drills to enhance their speed and worked with resistance equipment," added Tomasaitis.

He emphasized that campers got quite a bargain for their fee of \$20 per day (or \$35 for two). "This (kind of) training usually is in the \$50 an hour range, so the kids got a good deal."

Meanwhile, Garden City's summer youth football camp took place Friday and Saturday.

'Camp went well again this year. Although my uncanny ability to schedule things on the hottest days of the year held true yet again.'

MILES TOMASAITIS, Redford Union varsity head football coach



Fencers square off in a duel recently at the Salle d'Etroit, a fencing facility located in the Amrhein Commerce Center in Livonia. The 6,600-square-foot building features a raised floor, pro shop and well-outfitted weight room.

Epee center Fencers find oasis at Salle d'Etroit

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

There's been an ongoing fencing operation for over a year in an industrial corridor in Livonia.

But not to worry, it's all legal. Salle d'Etroit, southeast full-time sport fencing facility recently marked its one-year anniversary on June 6.

It's located in the Amrhein Commerce Center, located at 36745 Amrhein Road (between Newburgh and Levan). The 6,600 square foot facility features a raised floor, pro shop and a well outfitted weight room.

Salle d'Etroit is also home of the Underground Fencing

Organization (UFO), a U.S. Fencing Association member club which has been operating in the western Wayne County area since 2001.

If you've every wondered about the sport of fencing, it's most often described as chess at high speed. Fencing requires both physical and mental skills and can be undertaken at any age. One of the oldest sports practiced in the U.S., fencing is rooted in the art of dueling, though its blood-drawing days are long over. Modern fencing is one of the safest sports you can compete in.

There are three weapons used in fencing - foil, epee and sabre.

Fencers traditionally start

with foil and either stay with it, or progress into one of the other weapons. Foil is the most popular and a point weapon where opponents try to make contact against each other on the torso area to score a touch.

Epee differs in that the entire body is a valid target, making for a slower and more thoughtful bout.

Sabre is the fastest of the three, where the entire weapon can be used to score and the entire body is targeted.

If you are looking for something new to try and to get into shape, fencing may be the sport for you. It does not require a team or any prior experience.

Please see **FENCERS, B6**

Canton youth gains strength from adversity

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

When life threw aspiring young pitcher Drew Cobb a curveball three years ago, he didn't bail out or back down one inch.

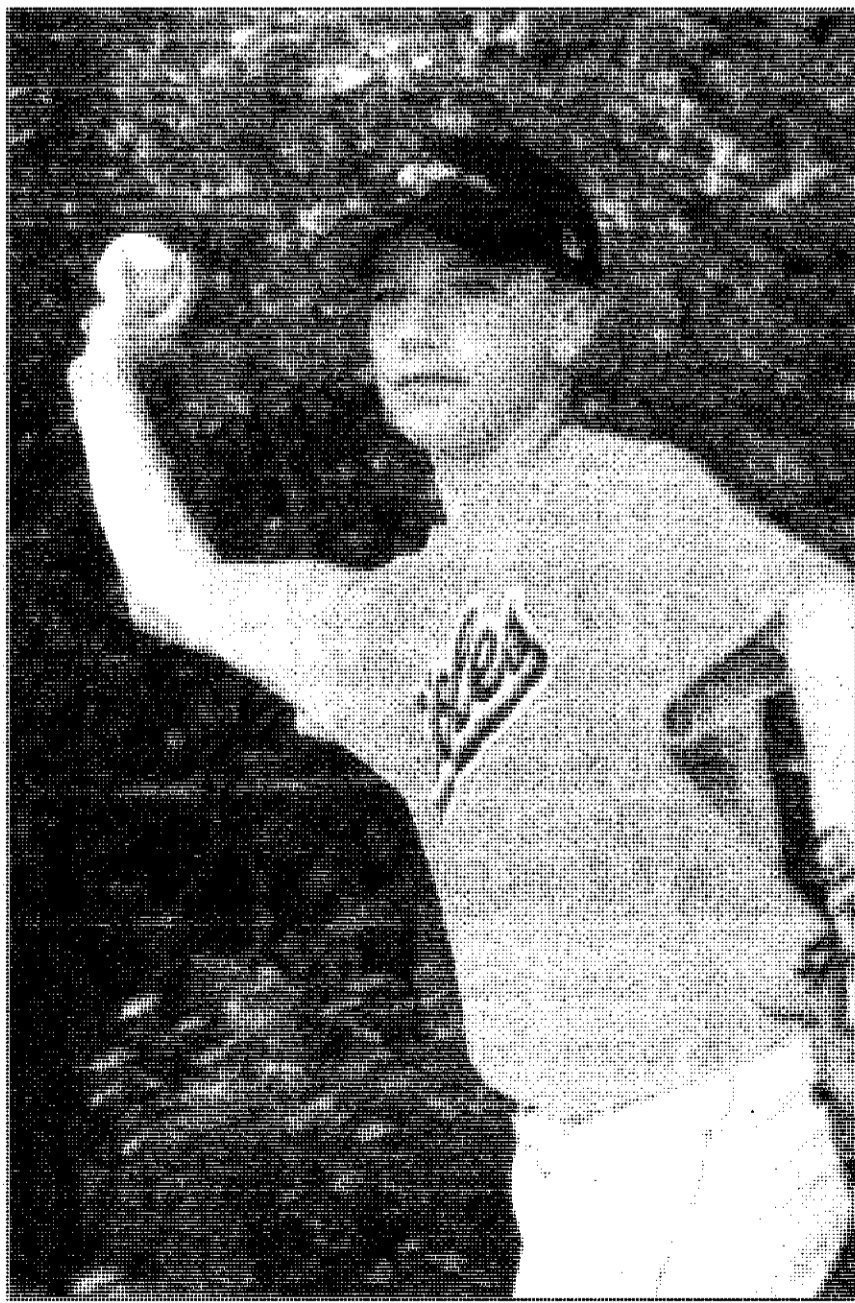
Instead, Cobb dug in, remained positive and displayed a level of perseverance that is seldom seen in a person so young.

On April 30, 2004, the then 9-year-old Canton resident slipped and fell close to 10 feet while playing on a piece of playground equipment at Griffin Park in Canton. The violent collision with the ground left the Canton Agape fourth-grader's right arm so severely injured that it was touch and go whether doctors would be able to save it.

"Right before I got hurt, I had started working on pitching with my dad because I wanted to try it that season (in the Greater Canton Youth Baseball & Softball Association)," Cobb said. "Then, after I got hurt, I thought, 'Well, this stinks.'"

"His right arm was like a trainwreck of broken bones," remembered Cobb's mom, Cassie. "Drew suffered from compartment syndrome, which occurs when someone has severe trauma in one location. When the arm swells from the injury, the muscles swell up and there's no place for them to go. It cuts off oxygen and blood, and causes nerve damage."

Please see **COBB, B6**



After nearly losing his right arm following a serious injury in 2004, Drew Cobb is back playing baseball, basketball and playing the piano. The 12-year-old endured several painful surgeries and physical therapy sessions to regain most of his pre-injury abilities.

Redford Junior Olympics on tap

Wednesday, July 11, is the date for the 49th Annual Junior Olympics, hosted by Redford Parks and Recreation and slated for Hilbert Middle School.

Hilbert is located at 26440 Puritan, a half-mile north of Five Mile and a half-mile west of Beech Daly in Redford Township.

Ages for the competition include Bantams (ages 6-U), Squirts (7-8), Pee Wees (9-10) and Midgets (11-12). Registration will begin 9 a.m. July 11, with events to start promptly at 10 a.m.

Field events (starting between 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.) include long jump, softball throw and high jump while dashes and relays will take place starting at noon and continuing until past 2:15 p.m. (when the final race is scheduled to begin). Ribbons will be awarded to those finishing in places 1-6 in each heat, in each running event.

Rules include the following: no starting blocks, no spikes, no organized clubs/teams, children must compete in their age group, parents must be present at all times.

New this year, there will be a live DJ on hand to entertain participants and spectators. Additional "fun" events are planned for during the day.

Redford residents can participate free of charge, but non-residents are also welcome (\$5, along with proper identification).

Families are urged to attend and cheer on the participants.

For more information, call Theresa Burgess of Redford Parks and Recreation, at (313) 387-2650.

Sidelines

Warner Miss Golf

Livonia Churchill junior Shannon Warner, two-time Division 1 state medalist, was named Miss Golf as well as being selected to the All-State Super Team by the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association.

Livonia Ladywood's Andrea Warzyniec, who tied for seventh in the Division 2 state tourney, also earned All-State honors as well. Teammate Kelly Thomas was named honorable mention All-State and All-Academic.

Ladywood coach Kellianna Nagy was named Division 2 Coach of the Year.

The Blazers' quintet of Warzyniec, Thomas, Erica Mazur, Rachael Fuller and Angela Jamrog were also Team All-State All-Academic.

Flames re-sign Livonia's Moss

Livonia native David Moss (University of Michigan) signed a new contract Wednesday with the Calgary Flames of the National Hockey League.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The 6-foot-3, 203-pound forward, scored 10 goals and added eight assists in 41 games with the Flames. The former Detroit Catholic Central High grad appeared in all six playoff games against the Detroit Red Wings, recording one assist.

Velocity football conditioning camp

Youth football players between the ages of 8 and 13 years old are invited to participate in a junior football conditioning camp at Velocity Sports Performance in Canton. The camp will run July 23-Aug. 3 (Mondays through Fridays) from 10-11 a.m. The cost of the camp is \$100 for a 10-session package or \$15 per single sessions (drop-in basis).

The goal of the camp is to prepare young players for their upcoming gridiron seasons. For more information, call (734) 485-2561 or visit www.velocitysp.com/canton.

All-Star Showcase

High school baseball players (in the 2007-2010 classes) are invited to sign up for the "Michigan All-Star Showcase," slated for Monday, July 2 and Tuesday, July 3 near Grand Rapids at Fifth Third Ballpark, home of the Class A West Michigan Whitecaps.

For more information, call (616) 635-0010 or go to gvsulakers.com and go to baseball camps. There will be 12 Michigan colleges in attendance.

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Hahne, Sr. Lutheran North: Megan Gentile, Jr.; Nicole Howard, Sr. Clawson: Melanie Mittelstaedt, Sr.; Kim Mangliers, Sr. University-Liggett: Catherin Vatsis, Soph.; Megan Amicucci, Soph. Kingswood: Julie Schubiner, Jr.; Lauren Stankovich, Jr. Harper Woods: Kelly Duquette, Soph.; Jorday Schmidt, Sr. Clarenceville: Kellee Manis, Sr.; Charmaine McQueen, Soph. Lutheran Westland: Amanda DeVries, Jr. AT-LARGE Lutheran Northwest: Bridgette Balon, Jr. Clawson: Casey Harmon, Jr. COACH OF THE YEAR Northwest: Jeff Ludwig.

Local golfers fare well at Michigan Amateur

BY MARTY BUDNER STAFF WRITER

High school golf coach Harry Lomason turned tournament participant this past week at historic Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak.

The 31-year-old Orchard Lake resident was one of 156 golfers who teed it up Tuesday in the first round of the 96th Michigan Amateur Championship held at the challenging par-72, 6,773-yard course located on Rochester Road.

Lomason successfully scaled the stroke play field to land one of the 64 available match-play positions. Although he dropped his first-round match in an extended 21-hole marathon, Lomason could relate to many of the trials and tribulations his male and female golfers at Bloomfield Hills Lahser endure during the high school season.

"What I try and tell my boys and girls is try to think about strategy and where to leave yourself on the course, especially at a place like this and on these types of greens where you want to be below the hole and putting up hill," said Lomason, who will just coach the Knight boys next season.

"It can get tough, so you can kind of relate if they played poorly or if they played good," he said. "You can get a feeling of what it's like for them to be out there playing in tournaments."

Lomason had a bittersweet feeling after banging around the Red Run course for three days in his second Michigan Amateur.

The 1994 Detroit Country Day graduate reached match play after firing consecutive four-over rounds of 76-76 for a 152 total after 36 holes of stroke play. He qualified into match play with the 54th-best score and was paired against veteran Lake Orion linker Brian Miller.

Lomason managed an early 2-up lead after six holes in



LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia resident Paul Kolton found his first trip into Michigan Amateur match play a memorable one Thursday as he faced good friend Greg Davies of West Bloomfield. Kolton came up short in his bid to knock off the defending Michigan Amateur champion, losing 1-up.

their match that started late Thursday morning, but Miller caught up and the players traded leads throughout the remaining 12 holes of regulation. Trailing by one, Miller won the par-4, 16th hole to even the match.

Each player parred the final two holes to force a playoff. They played even through the first two playoff holes, then

Miller managed the 21-hole triumph by paring the par-4, No. 3 hole while Lomason missed a potentially-tying par putt. It was Miller's first match play win in three attempts while Lomason's tournament run concluded after three days and 54 holes.

"I would like to have played better than the first match-play match, but I just couldn't

finish it off," said Lomason, who did not reach match play in his first Amateur last summer at Boyne Resorts.

"I had a couple of three-putts at 13 and 14 that cost me, but other than that I played well," he said. "I was really looking forward to this and I just had a couple hiccups there in the middle rounds. But, it was a lot of fun and I enjoyed the course."

OTHER LOCAL PLAYERS: All totaled, 14 golfers from the Observer & Eccentric's Oakland County coverage area qualified for match play.

Rochester's Dan Doyle, a Stoney Creek graduate who registered an Amateur highlight with a hole-in-one on Wednesday, was the lone area player to reach the semifinals. He was scheduled to play Steve Cuzzort of Grosse Ile on Saturday.

West Bloomfield's Greg Davies, the defending Amateur champion, won three matches and advanced to the quarterfinal round before being eliminated by Cuzzort in 20 holes. Anthony Sorentino and Jeff Champine - both of Rochester Hills - and Steve McKalko of Troy won their two opening rounds of match play before elimination.

Brian Miller (Lake Orion) and Matt Malloure (Farmington Hills) were first-round match play winners, while Eberley Stonestreet (Auburn Hills), Justin Hull (Birmingham), Gene Gizzarelli (Bloomfield Hills), Stephen DeMare (West Bloomfield), Ken Hudson (Bloomfield Hills) and Chris Vozza (Bloomfield Hills) joined Lomason on the sidelines after the first round of match play.

Orchard Lake St. Mary's graduate Mike Ignasiak (1984) won two matches, defeating Vozza (1-up) and Miller (2 and 1). Ignasiak, a six-time match play participant who once advanced to the Elite Eight, lost in the third round to Tobin Dunigan (3 and 2) of Jackson.

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's SPORTS section

So much fun I can "bearly" stand it. Kewadin CASINOS HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER. COME ON UP TO SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN! OVERNIGHT FUN TRIPS PREMIER PACKAGES

Rams put Hurtt on Detroit Eagles, 9-2

The Michigan Rams laid out the heavy lumber Wednesday with an 11-hit attack en route to a 9-2 Livonia Collegiate Baseball League victory over the Detroit Eagles at Ford Field.

Kyle Hurtt led the way going 2-for-4 with three RBI and a run scored as the 20-and-under Rams evened their LCBL record at 6-6-1.

Max Kelmigian added two hits and two

RBI, while Frank Persichino and Drew Churchward each added two hits and knocked in a run. Nick Urban went 2-for-2 in scored twice as the Rams tallied three runs in the second, two in the third and put it away with four in the seventh.

Winning pitcher Shane McCatty pitched six strong innings, allowing just one run on three hits and four walks. He fanned six.

Losing pitcher Keith Archer lasted 2.1 innings for the 22-under Eagles, who slipped to 0-12-1 overall in the LCBL. Archer gave up five runs on five hits. He walked three, hit two batters and struck out two.

Plymouth High grad Alex Harvey went 2-for-3 and scored a run for the Eagles. Livonia Franklin High grad Otis Young added a hit and scored a run.

Bucks deadlock Edge to keep streak intact

The 2006 North American champion Michigan Bucks matched their 12-year history unbeaten streak at 17 games with a 1-1 men's soccer tie Wednesday night with the host West Michigan Edge at Crestwood Middle School in Kentwood.

The Bucks are now 6-0-3 in the Central Conference's Great Lakes Division of the Premier Development League, while the Edge is 4-4-3.

The Edge jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the 37th minute on

Tom Oatley's goal off a nice feed from Jake Stacey.

Speedy Bucks winger Ty Shipalane (Lindsey Wilson, Ky.) was then taken down the penalty box and captain Mike Holody (Michigan) was awarded a penalty kick, which he buried in the 47th minute to knot the count at 1-1.

Both teams continued to battle throughout the second half with the Bucks nearly pulling off their usual late heroics. Kenny Uzoigwe, who has made a living by scoring

second-half goals the past two seasons, was thwarted in stoppage time when his shot rang off the post. The Bucks' leading scorer, Khelli Dube, then broke in on goal, but his high drive tipped over the bar as time expired.

Edge goalkeeper Chris Austin, a Livonia Franklin High grad, made four saves, while Bucks counterpart Steve Clark (Oakland University) had two stops.

The Bucks went after their team record 18 matches

without a loss Saturday night against the visiting Indiana Invaders as part of the 14th annual Saginaw 7-11 Soccer Classic.

Former Bucks coach Steve Burns, now the men's coach at the University of Michigan, along with ex-player Benji Djeukeng and former general manager and co-owner Jim Duggan (Livonia) were inducted in the Bucks Hall of Fame joining former Bucks players Paul Snape and Redford native Tino Sciculuna.

Advertisement for Belle Tire and Palacenet.com featuring movie listings and promotional offers.

Advertisement for 'WIN 2 TIGERS TICKETS!' featuring a weekly contest to win tickets to Emagine Theaters.

Advertisement for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital featuring contact information and a logo.

A vacation closer to home might be in order this year

As prices have been hovering around \$3 lately and some of my friends are almost excited. I still think \$3 a gallon stinks. And the word on the water is that these high prices, coupled with all the economic woes that are pounding us here in Michigan, are cutting into some people's vacation plans. If Michigan's floundering economy and sky-high gas prices have you second-guessing your plans, maybe a day or a weekend getaway here locally is in order. You know, just to clear your head.

Outdoor Insights

Bill Parker

Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in Waterford is just minutes from home and features a modern campground with 176 sites. Each campsite has 20 amp. and 30 amp. hookups and a fire ring. The campground also features modern showers and restrooms.

"While you're here, you can take a swim at the beach, play basketball or softball, take a hike or ride a mountain bike on our trails, or go fishing in Pontiac Lake," said Karis Floyd, the supervisor at Pontiac Lake. "We have a two-mile hiking trail and an 11-mile mountain biking trail. Some of the more experienced hikers take the long trail."

Floyd said hikers and bikers can expect to encounter hilly terrain while on the trails.

For water enthusiasts, Pontiac Lake offers a boat launch, along with two fishing piers — one on the east end and one on the west end — that provide lots of shore fishing opportunities.

On Saturday, June 30, anyone visiting the recreation area will get an added bonus as Pontiac Lake is sponsoring an outdoor recreation show. The program runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the beach off Williams Lake Road.

"This is part of our (DNR's) Go Get Outdoors Program," Floyd said. "This is the third year we've had it at Pontiac Lake and each year we've tried to make it a little bit different. We want to encourage families to get outdoors and enjoy camping, hiking, swimming and fishing."

Floyd said representatives from REI of Troy

will be on hand offering kayaking demonstrations. Visitors will have the opportunity to actually try out a kayak if they wish. The folks from KD Outdoors, a sporting goods store in Waterford, will be on hand with the latest outdoor gear, and Cycle Therapy, a mountain biking specialty store in Waterford will have representatives on hand with all the latest gear and equipment.

"They will also be offering free bike repair," Floyd said.

The long-range weather forecast calls for good weather next weekend. Consider taking a day-trip or a weekend jaunt to Pontiac Lake Recreation Area (248-666-1020) where you can enjoy the outdoors, close to home.

All vehicles entering Pontiac Lake, or any other state park or recreation area, must have a Motor Vehicle Permit sticker on the windshield. Stickers are available at the park entrance. Cost is \$24 for a resident annual (\$29 for a non-resident) and \$6 for a resident daily (\$8 for a non-resident).

HUNTER SAFETY FOR WOMEN

Becoming an Outdoors Women (BOW) is offering a unique hunter safety class geared specifically for women age 18 and older.

The class will be held Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Ingham County Conservation District, 1031 W. Dexter Trail, in Mason (south of Lansing).

"These classes are a good way for women to familiarize themselves with guns and how to handle them safely, even if they don't intend to hunt," Lynn Marla, DNR BOW coordinator said. "This is important information for single mothers, for example, who may not be interested in hunting, but whose children may be going out to shoot with relatives or for women with guns in their homes."

To register, or for more information, visit the DNR web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr. Click on the "Education and Outreach" link on the left side of the home page.

Bill Parker covers the outdoors for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Anglers and hunters are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Bill Parker, c/o Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

LIVONIA COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE
Sunday, June 24 (at Bicentennial Park): Detroit Eagles vs. Michigan Rams (2:00 p.m.); Oakland Cubs vs. Michigan Bulls (2:00 p.m.);
Wednesday, June 27 (at Ford Field): Detroit Eagles vs. Oakland Cubs, 5:45 p.m.; Michigan Rams vs. Michigan Bulls, 8:15 p.m.;
Friday, June 29 (at Ford Field): Michigan Bulls vs. Michigan Rams, 5:45 p.m.; Oakland Cubs vs. Detroit Eagles, 8:15 p.m.

(at MU's Ilich Ballpark): Michigan Bulls vs. Michigan Rams (2), noon.
Friday, June 6 (at Ford Field): Detroit Eagles vs. Michigan Bulls, 5:45 p.m.; Michigan Rams vs. Oakland Cubs, 8:15 p.m.;
Sunday, July 8 (at Ford Field): Oakland Cubs vs. Michigan Rams (2), noon; Michigan Bulls vs. Detroit Eagles, 5 p.m.

PREMIER DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE
Thursday, July 5: Michigan Bucks at Chicago Fire Premier, 6 p.m. (CST).

Saturday, July 7: Michigan Bucks at Cleveland Internationals, 7 p.m.

W-LEAGUE
Thursday, June 28: Michigan Hawks Women vs. London (Ontario) Gryphons, 7 p.m. at Michigan State University.

Thursday, July 5: Michigan Hawks Women at Cleveland Internationals, 8 p.m.

INDEPENDENT WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Saturday, June 30: Detroit Demolition at Chicago Force.

GC parks and rec playoff winners crowned

Alberts on the Alley June 20 routed the Boondock Saints, 22-8, capturing the Wednesday Men's D playoffs in the Garden City Parks & Recreation Adult Softball League.

Meanwhile, in the June 15 championship game of the Friday's Men's D playoffs, Healthy Living knocked off Still Loaded, 18-13.

■ In the Wednesday Men's D playoffs, the finalists won two

earlier games to make it to the pinnacle. Alberts tripped up Loc Stars, 15-4, before advancing to the final thanks to an 18-15 triumph over Co-Pilot Printing.

Boondock's path to the final began with an 11-7 win over Tri-County, and continued with a 16-15 victory over Kime.

First-round wins were scored by Kime (36-10 over Lower Your Standards) and Co-Pilot Printing (15-7 over Westland Car Care).

■ Friday's playoffs followed a similar pattern, with both finalists going 2-0 earlier in the tournament.

Healthy Living earned a 22-6 win over Warren Salvage before edging Sports Venue, 19-15. Still Loaded took care of Siding World, 16-4, and The Steamers, 15-14.

First-round wins were scored by The Steamers (23-14 over Scappers) and Sports Venue (18-14 over Drake's Lounge).

GARDEN CITY ADULT SOFTBALL

GARDEN CITY PARKS & RECREATION
 2007 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS
 (As of June 20)

TUESDAY WOMEN'S D

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points
1. Beechwood	11	1	0	22
2. Chatters	6	6	0	12
3. Chick Channel	5	7	0	10
4. Vision Lanes	3	9	0	6

WEDNESDAY MEN'S D (Final Standings)

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points
1. Kime	13	0	1	26
2. Alberts on the Alley	12	2	0	24
3. Co-Pilot Printing	8	4	1	17
4. Boondock Saints	8	5	1	17
5. Tri-County	8	6	0	16
6. Westland Car Care	4	10	0	8
7. Loc Stars	1	13	0	2
8. Lower Your Standards	1	13	0	2

THURSDAY MEN'S D

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points
1. Copper Door	12	0	0	24
2. Bad News Beers	6	4	1	13
3. Behr Walls	4	6	0	8
4. Papa Joe's	2	8	1	5

FRIDAY MEN'S D (Final Standings)

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points
1. Still Loaded	11	2	1	23
2. Healthy Living	10	3	1	21
3. Drake's Lounge	10	3	1	21
4. The Steamers	10	4	0	14
5. Scappers	9	5	0	18
6. Sports Venue	7	6	1	15
7. Brinks North	7	7	0	14
8. Warren Salvage	1	12	1	3
9. Siding World	1	12	1	3
10. Brinks South	1	13	0	2

* Healthy Living owns tie-breaker vs. Drake's Lounge for second place in final league standings based on head-to-head results.

Field is set for Randy Wise Junior Open

BRASELTON, Ga. — The tournament field has been set for the Randy Wise Junior Open, the American Junior Golf Association announced Friday. Ninety-nine of the country's top junior golfers, ages 12-18, will tee it up at Flint Elks Lodge 222 Golf Club in Grand Blanc, Mich., July 10-13. The field features players from 20 states and Canada.

Twenty-seven golfers in the tournament reside in Michigan. These include Bloomfield Hills residents Christopher Mathews (Lahser), Nathan Pitters (Cranbrook Kingswood), and Joan Dulieu (Detroit Country Day), who will all tee it up at Flint Elks Lodge 222 Golf Club. Michael Lewis (West Bloomfield) and Louisa Shu (Seaholm), both of West Bloomfield, are also in the tournament. Shu has signed a National Letter of Intent to play for Michigan in the fall.

Other notable local players

include Justin Bobolts (Walled Lake Western) of Wixom, David Driver (De La Salle Collegiate) of Macomb, Matt Fuller (Clarkston), Alexander Lyall (Novi), Shannon Warner (Livonia Churchill) and Joshua Wylie (Brighton).

2006 Girls Division champion Katie Sylvan of San Diego will be back to defend her title. Matthew Thompson of Battle Creek, who placed second in this event last year and won the 2006 Coca-Cola Junior Championship at Boyne Highlands, is also in the field.

The first and second rounds will take place Wednesday and Thursday, July 11 and 12. The final round will take place Friday, July 13. Tee times all three days will run off the No. 1 tee from 7 - 11:57 a.m. The awards ceremony will be held at the tournament scoreboard immediately following the final round.

The Randy Wise Junior Open

is one of 80 events the AJGA will conduct in 2007. This year, AJGA tournaments will take place in more than 25 states.

The American Junior Golf Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the overall growth and development of young men and women who aspire to earn college golf scholarships through competitive junior golf.

The largest Association of its kind, the AJGA has an annual junior membership (boys and girls ages 12-18) of more than 5,000 junior golfers from 49 states and more than 25 foreign countries.

Titleist, the AJGA's National Sponsor, has been the catalyst and driving force behind the Association's success since 1989. Rolex Watch USA became the inaugural AJGA Premier Partner in 2004. In 2007, after 12 years of support, Polo Ralph Lauren became the AJGA's second Premier Partner.

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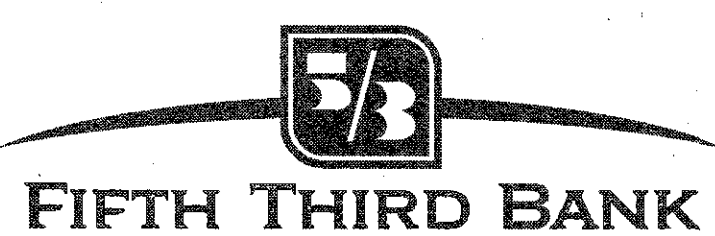
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Ages 15+ Camp (S120): June 4-Aug. 3 (Mon., Wed., Fri.) 2:00-3:30 pm

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Youth Triathlon

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage its fourth annual youth triathlon Saturday, Aug. 18 at Clements Circle Park.

The bike, run and swim is offered to boys and girls, who will compete separately. Those eligible are Livonia residents or those who reside in the Livonia Public School district.

Early registration is \$10. Race day registration is \$15. All participants will receive a specially designed T-shirt.

Age divisions, race times and registration will be: 8-and-under, 8:30 a.m. start (8 a.m. check-in); 9-10, 9:45 a.m. start (9:15 a.m. check-in); 11-12, 11 a.m. start (10:30 a.m. check-in); and 13-14, noon start (11:30 a.m. check-in).

All participants need a swim suit, bike, bike helmet and running shoes.

Distances include 2-mile bike, three-quarter mile run and 150-yard swim (ages 13-14); 1.5-mile bike, half-mile run and 100-yard swim (ages 11-12); 1-mile bike, half-mile run and 50-yard swim (ages 9-10); half-mile bike, quarter-mile run and 25-yard swim (ages 8-and-under).

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Archery league

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage an outdoor archery league beginning at 6 p.m. Mondays, Aug. 6 through Sept. 24, at the City of Livonia Archery Range, located on Glendale Avenue, east of Farmington Road (between Plymouth Road and I-96).

The fee is \$40 per person and registration begins Monday, June 25 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center's Parks and Recreation Office, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

The league is open to all archers of all ages, beginners to expert. You must be able to shoot 20-30 yards and provide your own equipment. Prior to the start of the league, a mandatory meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, July 30 at the LCRC.

For more information, call (734) 466-2414.

Livonia Y leagues

The following leagues are now underway for registration at the Livonia Family YMCA including:

Co-ed T-Ball, coach-pitch and kid pitch league (ages 4-10) and pee wee soccer (ages 3-6), July 7-Aug. 11; fall soccer (starts early Sept.) instructional (ages 3-8) and recreational (boys

and girls under-9 through under-14).

New sports camps and off-season sports training are also offered. Prices vary.

For more information, call (734) 261-2161.

Golf for hockey

The Redford Unified hockey team is hosting its annual Golf Outing Fund-raiser, slated for 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25 at Brae Burn Golf Course in Plymouth.

"The annual golf outing is our largest fund-raiser every year," said Mark Scicluna, event organizer. "The players from both Redford Union and Thurston benefit greatly throughout the season because they can focus on their game, not the ice bill."

The team is looking for teams of four to play at the golf outing, as well as seeking sponsors. The fee is \$100 per player (\$90 for current and alum hockey players). Each package includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, steak dinner and golfer gift bag.

Dinner tickets also are available, at \$25 each. Sponsorship levels vary leading up to the Board of Education Sponsorship (\$300). All sponsors will be recognized at the event; hole sponsorships also are available, but are limited.

For more information, to register or for sponsorship opportunities, contact Scicluna at (313) 492-8232.

RU coaches sought

Redford Union athletic director Brett Steele is accepting applications for the vacated positions of boys varsity head hockey, varsity boys tennis, freshman volleyball, assistant wrestling and junior varsity baseball coaches.

Meanwhile, the hockey coaching vacancy is for the combined Redford Unified team, which includes players from RU and Thurston, although administrative duties for the squad are taken care of by Steele.

Those interested in applying for any of the above positions should contact Steele at (313) 242-4270.

Summer bowling

All summer long at Garden City Lanes, it only costs a buck to roll a game of bowling. Hours include 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 3-10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Garden City Lanes is located on the south side of Warren, one block east of Middlebelt.

GC adult softball info

For more information about signing up for

any of the Garden City Parks & Recreation adult softball leagues, contact Daniel Plamondon, recreation/arena supervisor for the parks and rec department, at (734) 793-1886 or e-mail him at dplamondon@gardencitymi.org.

There are several men's leagues (Class D and Class Super D) as well as women's and coed leagues, with doubleheaders slated now through June both at Garden City Park and the lighted softball field at Garden City High School.

Plamondon said the leagues, affiliated for the first time with United States Sports Specialty Association (USSSA), will play a pair of seven-week sessions, with games continuing until mid-September.

Soccer openings

Open positions remain for the Livonia Meteors high school open boys team (ages 14-18).

For more information, call Scott Millman at (248) 914-0138.

Archery introduction

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage an introduction to target archery class from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18 and Sept. 22, at the Archery Range, located on Glendale Avenue off Farmington Road between I-96 and Plymouth Road.

The fee is \$12 (residents) and \$14 (non-residents). Children 9-and-under must be accompanied by an adults.

Registration is at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 12100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Participants are welcome to bring their own equipment.

A limited number of instructional bow, arrows and other supplies are available to use at no additional cost. Class participants may also bring a lunch if desired. A half-hour break is scheduled during the workshop.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

WYAA football signup

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association football will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford road).

The WYAA has two units.

The Westland Meteors practices at Voss Park (Henry Ruff and Palmer) and play their home games at Wayne Memorial High School. The Westland Comets practice at Marshall Middle

School and play their home games at John Glenn High School.

Age groups for both units include freshman (8-10), JV (11-12) and varsity (11-14). Players are subject to weight restrictions. All players who register must produce a copy of their birth certificate (not hospital certificate) and a recent school photo.

For more information, call the WYAA during normal business hours at (734) 421-0640.

Instructional football

Registration is under way for the WYAA's new instructional football program for ages 7-8 at the Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

No scores will be tabulated and coaches will be allowed on the field for instructional purposes. Games will be played prior to Meteors and Comets on their respective game dates.

Participants must have a maximum weight restriction of 115 pounds and must supply a copy of their birth certificate to the league.

For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640 during normal business hours or visit www.wyaa.org.

WYAA cheerleading

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association cheerleading will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Registration for the Westland Comets and Meteors cheerleading squads is open to all girls ages 6-14 (as of Sept. 1).

Both units will cheer for the Meteors and Comets freshman, JV and varsity football squads during the season and also participate in the Western Suburban Junior Football League cheerleading rally.

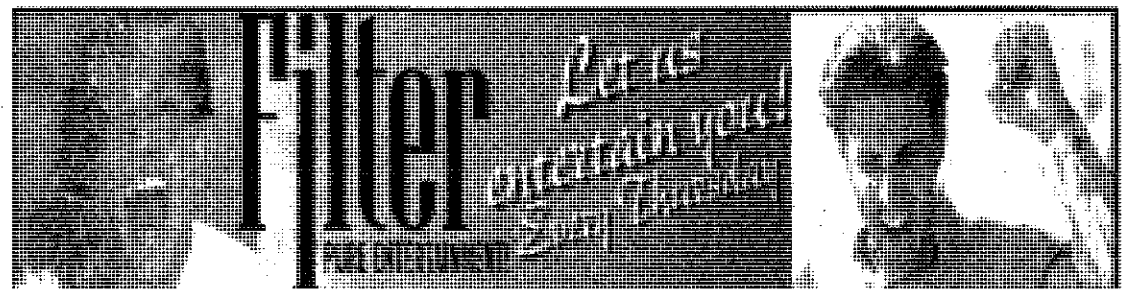
For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640 during normal business hours or visit www.wyaa.org.

All-Star Showcase

The Michigan All-Star Showcase, open to all high school players (2007 through 2010 grads) interested in playing college baseball will be Monday-Tuesday, July 2-3, at Fifth Third Ballpark, home of the West Michigan Whitecaps of the Class A Midwest League.

Twelve Michigan colleges will be in attendance.

For more information, call (616) 635-0010; or visit gvsulakers.com (go to baseball camps).

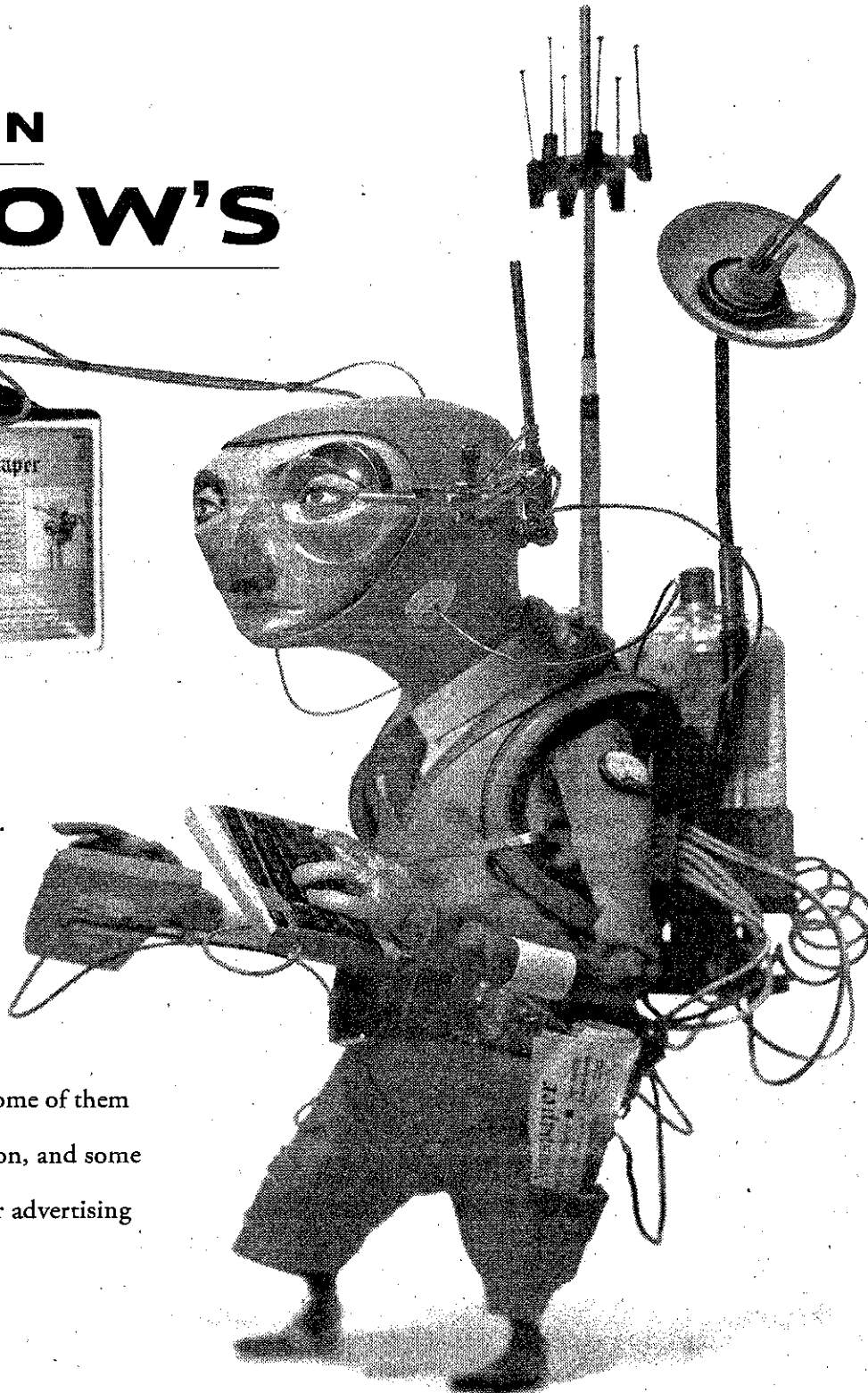
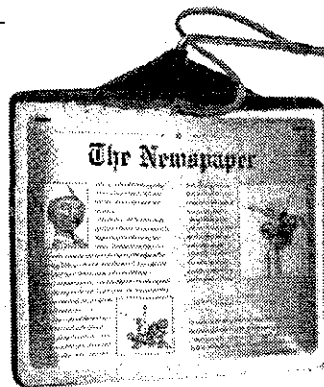


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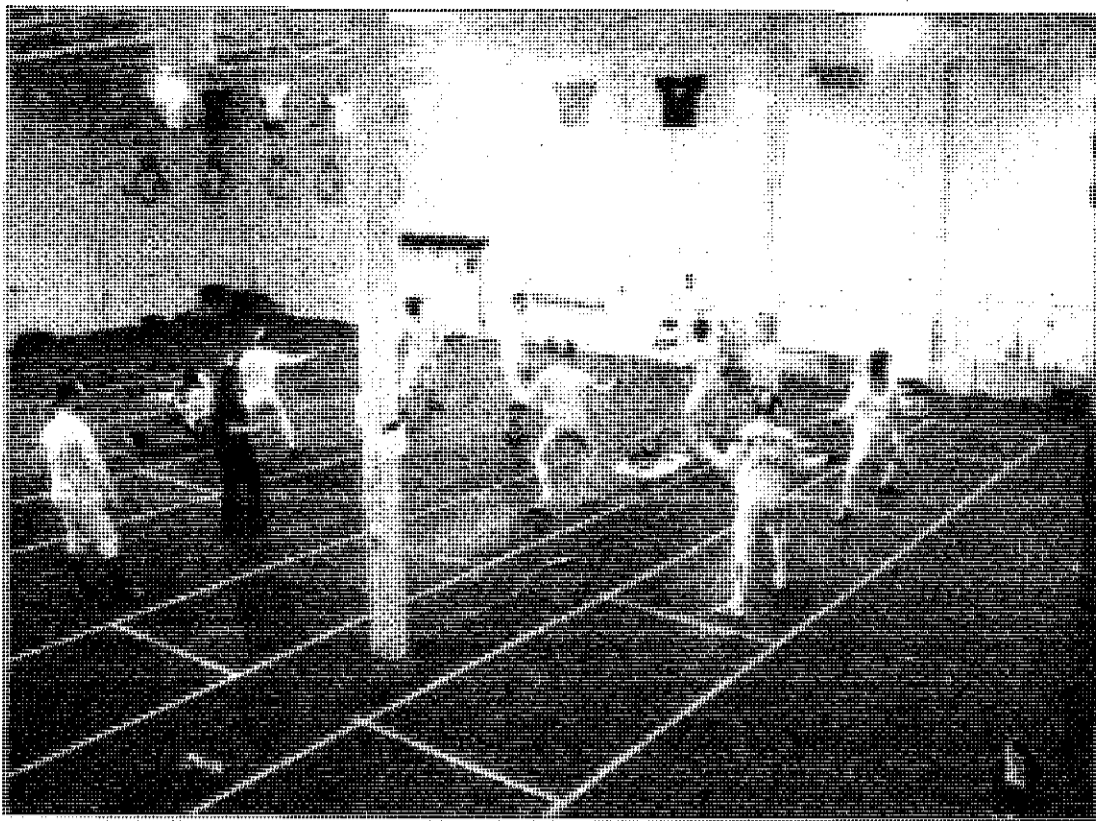


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Fencers work out at the Salle d'Etroit facility in Livonia.

FENCERS

FROM PAGE B1

Nor do you have to be in excellent shape.

While quick physical reflexes help, it's usually patience and a tactical mind that carry the day.

Competitive tournaments are staged throughout the state most every weekend from September through June.

If you have kids and you want an activity you can do with them, fencing is ideal, since greater size and strength are outweighed by quickness and speed.

Salle d'Etroit offers classes for beginners with no fencing experience in each weapon. Students as young as age 9 are welcome, while classes include the use of all required fencing gear.

If you've fenced in the

past and are seeking more practice or private lessons, Salle d'Etroit features several coaches that offer instruction, including footwork.

For more information, call (734) 432-5014; or visit the Web Site at www.salledetroit.com. For more information on UFO, visit www.underground-fencing.org.

bemans@oe.homecomm.net
(734) 953-2123

COBB

FROM PAGE B1

NO TIME TO WASTE

Cassie Cobb rushed her son to St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti. Following a short stay there, he was transferred to the University of Michigan Hospital, where his serious condition was diagnosed by a heads-up resident doctor.

"Had the resident not realized Drew was suffering from compartment syndrome, things could have been a lot worse," said Cassie Cobb. "They told us that in a lot of cases, if it's not treated in 11 or 12 hours, you can lose the arm. We put our trust in the doctors and let them do what they needed to do."

The doctors rushed the 9-year-old into emergency surgery, during which they cut the injured arm open from the wrist past the elbow. The procedure allowed the muscles some room to swell outside the cramped confines of Cobb's damaged right arm.

"It was very scary at first because Drew had no feeling in his arm for a while, which is a symptom that the nerves are dying," said Cassie Cobb.

BUMMER OF A SUMMER

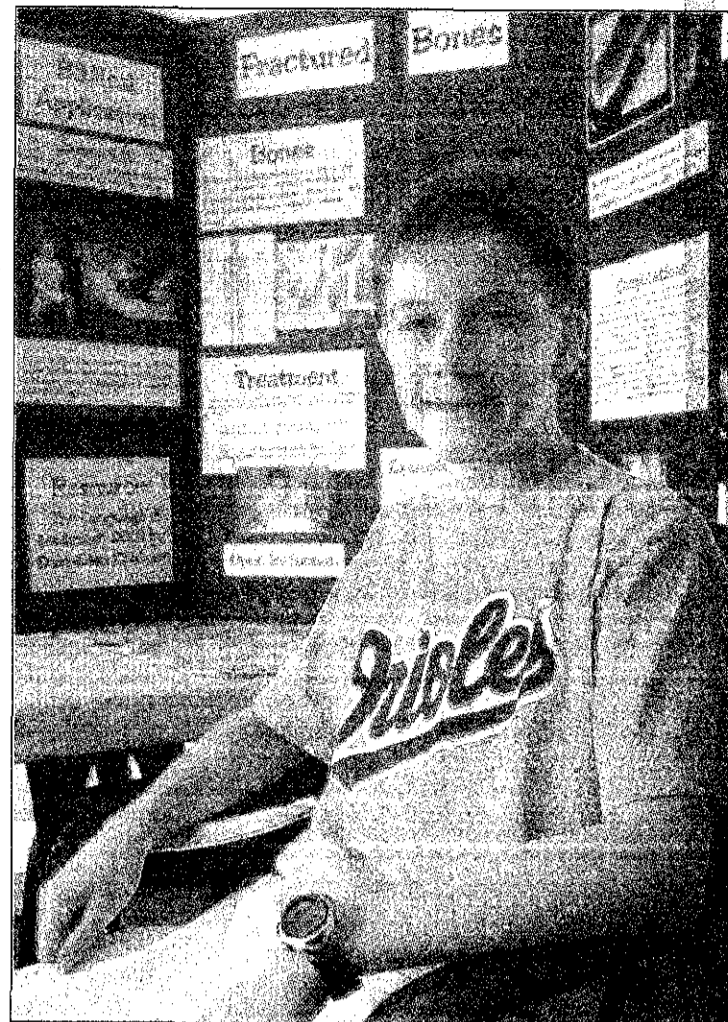
For the next three months, baseball was replaced by a series of surgeries and painstaking physical-therapy sessions, which Cobb endured with the courage of a superhero.

"It hurt even when we had to do something as simple as change the gauze on his scar," said Cassie Cobb. "It's never easy to see your child suffer like that. Drew was amazing, though. We'd remind him that if he was going to reach his goal of getting better, he'd have to work hard at the physical therapy, and he'd smile and nod."

"I had to go to physical therapy twice a week for two months," said Drew. "It was boring and it was hard, but I knew it was something I needed to do to get better."

The combination of hard work, perseverance and faith paid off for Cobb later that summer when he began regaining use of his arm.

"They told us that if his arm wasn't permanently damaged, it would start coming around 12 or 13 weeks after the injury and that's about how long it



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton resident Drew Cobb sits in front of a science project he completed that explains the serious arm injury he suffered three years ago. Cobb, a student at Canton Agape, received an "A" for his effort.

was when we started noticing improvement in Drew," said Cassie Cobb. "The injury and the recovery shaped Drew's character into a stronger person. When you have to work harder at everything, it will definitely grow your character."

INSPIRING RETURN

By the following spring, Cobb was ready, able and more than willing to make his return to the baseball diamond.

"I was a little rusty because I hadn't played in so long, but it felt good to be able to get back out there," he said. "I had some issues with the longer throws because my arm hadn't fully recovered yet, but I could get the ball over to first from just about anywhere on the infield."

"It was awesome when he started playing baseball again because we didn't know what to expect," said Cassie Cobb. "But he had a great group of coaches — they were the same ones he had had since he started playing — and they were a great help. They let him do whatever he

was capable of doing."

OUTSTANDING ORIOLE

Drew Cobb is currently thriving as a second baseman for the GCYSBA's 12-and-under Orioles squad, which was in fourth place in its division as of Friday afternoon.

"Our family's motto even before Drew's injury was, 'Have faith, work hard and never give up,' and he definitely followed that," said Cassie Cobb.

Cobb's recovery has amazed doctors, Cassie Cobb said. He still has troubles with some fine motor skills in the wake of the injury, but that doesn't keep him from competing in baseball and basketball, and from playing the piano.

Unfortunately, Cobb has not realized his dream of being able to pitch due to the severity of the injury.

But he has definitely proven that he can handle even the most wicked of curveballs.

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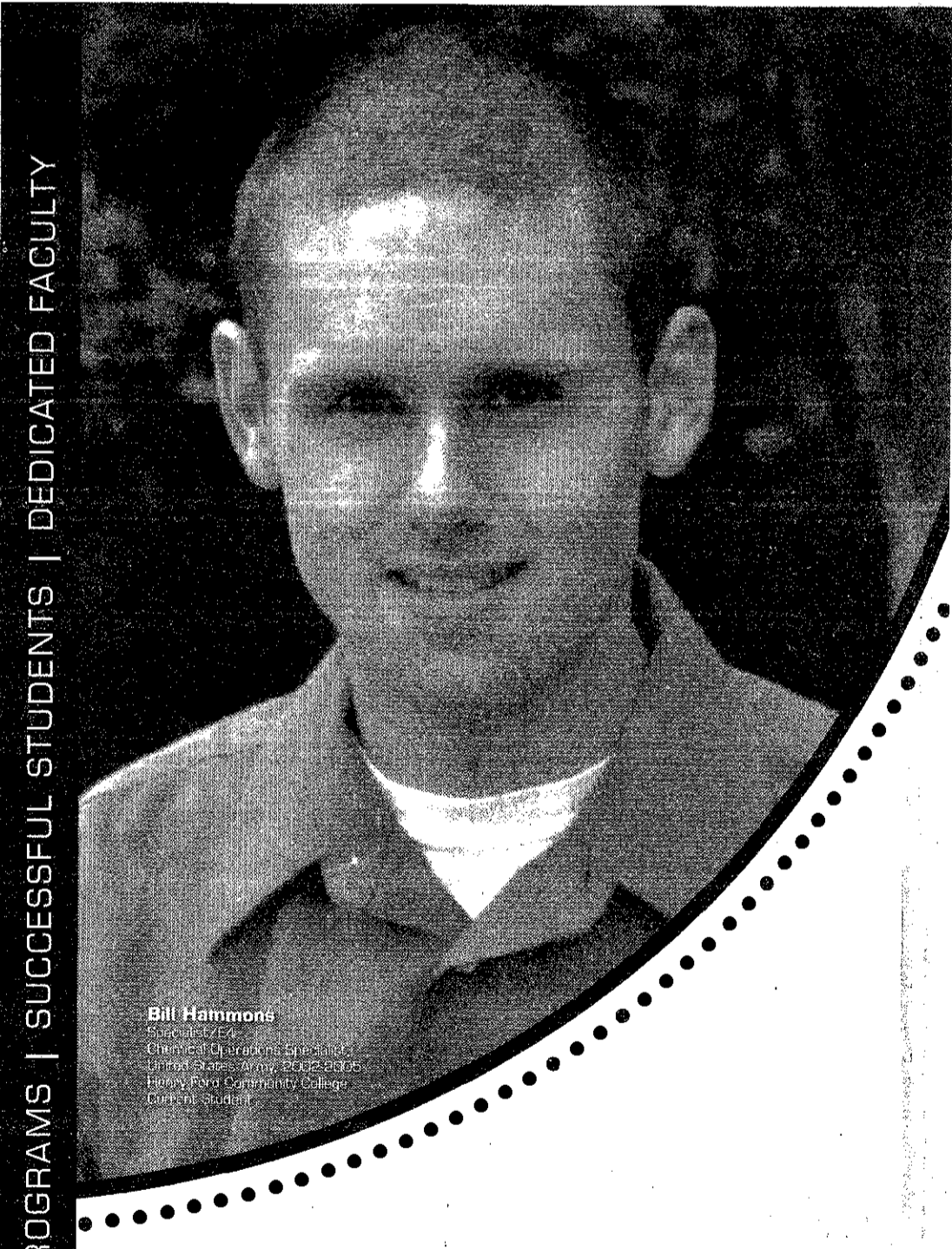
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List what makes you so great

All of my friends are usually outgoing, but when they socialize with other people in class, I just hang back and watch. What can I do to put a burst in my confidence and be more outgoing? Boring and Left Out in Garden City

It sounds like you're feeling insecure when your friends socialize with other people besides yourself. When your friends talk to other people, you might be feeling threatened. This may be coming from a core feeling that you're not good enough in some way. Are you afraid your friends won't be your friends anymore if they start socializing with others too much? This is



Monica Fulton

very common ... but not always right. To give yourself a shot of confidence, make a list of all the great things about you ... what makes you a good friend, a responsible daughter, a helpful sister? What are you good at ... sports? School? Drama? Then, turn this list into a daily meditation ... something that you can read to yourself every morning that reminds you of all your good qualities. The next part is a little more difficult. Make a list of all the things you're interested in or like to talk about. Jot down some bits of information that you already know about each of the things on this list and some questions you'd like to get answers on. The next time your friends are socializing with a group of people, sit down next to your friends and listen. One of the subjects you're interested in might come up and give you the chance to pipe in and add some information or ask a question. But, if you find that the people your friends are socializing with don't really have anything in common with you, it might be time to branch out and find another group of people that share your interests.

What should I do when my girlfriend and one of my other friends get into a fight? I want to side with my girlfriend, but I want to keep my other friend and not lose her. Angry but Confused in Garden City

First, it's important not to take sides unless you really know all the facts. The problem with this is, there are usually two sets of "facts" in every argument. I tell people that there are three realities in life ... mine, yours, and The Truth. What I mean is this ... The Truth usually lies somewhere between the way I see it and the way you see it. So, taking sides with either one probably isn't a good idea. One of them will be angry with you no matter what. Here's the deal, you need to tell these two that the fight is theirs and not yours. Make it clear to them that you're staying out of it and that you're not taking sides. Your girlfriend needs to hear that you will remain friends with your friend. Your friend needs to hear that you will continue to date your

Please see FULTON, C3



Fore kids



Dylan (left) and Marki Tillotson, their father, Ken Grifka, mother Daena Grifka, and sister Paula Tillotson are working together as a family to host a golf outing to benefit Lutheran Social Services of Michigan.

Golf outing to raise money for foster program

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

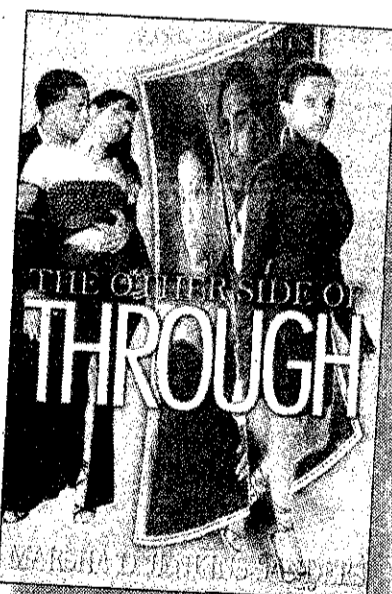
Other families can't quite compare when it comes to the loving camaraderie in the Grifka-Tillotson home, at least in the eyes of 17-year-old Marki Tillotson. Two seconds later, the 17-year-old Livonia girl is asking her parents, "Do you think I'll get more allowance" for that comment? All kidding aside, Marki and her sister, Paula, and brother, Dylan, are grateful for the second chance Ken and Daena Grifka gave the three Tillotson teens by fostering them last June.

Please see GOLF OUTING, C2



John McCurdy takes a swing at last year's Uniting Families Golf Scramble to raise funds for the foster program at Lutheran Social Services of Michigan.

Author's first novel reveals steamy side of Hollywood



Marsha Jenkins-Sanders' new novel exposes the scandalous side of the Hollywood entertainment industry.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Marsha Jenkins-Sanders prayed her first novel would not only entertain readers, but help them learn from her failed marriage to rhythm and blues singer Keith Washington. Although she has changed the names, the story remains true to life in *The Other Side of Through*, published by Ströbor Books International (an imprint of Simon and Schuster) this spring.

Fourteen years after tying the knot with Washington, Jenkins-Sanders would leave the glamour of Hollywood behind and return to her father's home in Westland. Hollywood hasn't forgotten her though. *Sister 2 Sister*, a Hollywood entertainment industry magazine, reviewed the new novel in its July 2007 issue.

"I received an e-mail from an Atlanta man thanking me for the book. After

23 years in a relationship, he said he learned how to treat a woman," said Jenkins-Sanders, who returned home Monday from a three-day book signing in Virginia.

Jenkins-Sanders admits she was ill-prepared for Hollywood and fame when she met Washington during a Peabo Bryson concert. "He was way too short and pretty for my taste," she said, but that evening he sang a song for her over the phone and "that was it." Two years of dating followed until Jenkins-Sanders refused to live with Washington outside the institution of marriage. Before long, they took their vows.

"I built a home studio in our condominium," said Jenkins-Sanders, who had been promoted to management from a position as a flight attendant. "11 p.m. one night I awoke to music Keith had written. It was the most beautiful thing he'd ever written. He said why don't you try writing the lyrics? The end

result was *Kissing You*."

Washington was nominated for a Grammy and received the Soul Train Music Award for Best R&B Single for *Kissing You*. Jenkins-Sanders received the ASCAP music publishing and writer award for Song of the Year. For six months, it was used as background music on the afternoon soap, *General Hospital*.

"This was Keith's introduction to Hollywood and a record deal. Our relationship changed. Infidelity is big in the music industry. I had women showing up at my door, calling, sending me notes that we have to talk," said Jenkins-Sanders, 52. "I finally made the decision to leave in '92, '93, but didn't leave until 1995 because I didn't want to lose all the trappings of Hollywood and my friends."

Jenkins-Sanders finally walked out on Washington after realizing she was

Please see NOVEL, C2



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NOVEL

FROM PAGE C1

losing herself. "I had become cynical and mean. I left and came back poor. We became legally separated in 1999. In 2001 I divorced him," she said. "In 1995 when I left, I hated him and started journaling my bitter thoughts. Gradually I started to heal and saw the makings of a novel. It's not male-bashing. I wanted to tell a story that there's life after a breakup, life after a divorce. Katlyn (the character named after her in the book) finds herself. By the time I'd finished the book, I didn't hate him anymore." Almost weekly, Jenkins-Sanders is asked to speak to groups at churches and book clubs about the novel. She is constantly being contacted by fans of the book as well. One woman was ready to leap from a window ledge after a relationship soured. Jenkins-Sanders counseled her. "I asked where did it go wrong with you? What's the life lesson? Don't focus on what he's done. I had to fix Marsha," Jenkins-Sanders said. "God puts speed bumps through your journey. Through is a place of peace, contentment, fulfillment you reach. The other side of through is

where you are now. It's an arrival. The journey is not easy. The journey starts back in childhood." Jenkins-Sanders was only 9 when her mother, a nurse at Wayne County General Hospital, died from a heart attack at age 32. The young girl was thrust into taking care of her father and three brothers, the oldest of whom was 10, the youngest only 6 months old. "I missed doing all of the things teenagers do. Dad had to work," said Jenkins-Sanders, who managed to not only graduate with honors from high school, but be crowned first runner-up in the Miss Westland pageant. Afterward, she studied nursing at Michigan State University for a year before transferring to the nuclear medicine program at the University of Michigan. For a short time, Jenkins-Sanders worked as a technician in a hospital, but left for a position in medical sales and management. From there, she became a flight attendant before marrying Washington. Today, Jenkins-Sanders writes books when not caring for her 83-year-old father and her two step-children. Book two, *Jealousy: A Strange Company Keeper*, is due out in fall 2008. Book three, *God's*

Loudest Whisper, is in the works, as is book four, a sequel to *The Other Side of Through*. Jenkins-Sanders has also promised one of her young step-sons that she would write him a children's book about taunting, bullying and self-esteem. When she isn't putting pen to paper Jenkins-Sanders is recruiting students for the Inkster Vocational Academy, an alternative education program for dropouts ages 16-19. She works one-on-one with kids, encouraging them to return to school to earn diplomas or GEDs. "During my failing marriage, God became paramount in my life," said Jenkins-Sanders, who joined a Bible study group in Hollywood. Her maternal grandfather was a pastor in Inkster. "I never forgot the seeds that had been planted (during childhood). "I didn't know who I was and lost myself in who I made myself to be for him (Washington). I went through a spiritual rebirth. I was a chameleon. Whatever it took to make someone smile or be what they wanted me to be, everyone else came first." For more information or to order *The Other Side of Through*, visit www.marshajnsanders.com.

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GOLF OUTING

FROM PAGE C1

But enough about them, the Grifka-Tillotson family is more interested in talking about a golf outing to raise money for the foster care program of Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, the nonprofit organization that brought them together. Paula, 18, and Ken came up with the idea for the event last year. The second annual *Uniting Families Golf Scramble* takes place Saturday, July 14, at Fox Creek Golf Course, 36000 Seven Mile, Livonia. Tee time is 8 a.m. "We had a bad life and miraculously made it, but we felt we were getting way too much attention considering there were so many kids out there not being as lucky," said Paula Tillotson, who graduated June 8 from Stevenson High School. Paula wanted other children to have the same opportunity as the Tillotsons for a future. Until the Grifkas began fostering them in September 2004, Paula and Marki were living in a Detroit shelter, Dylan in a different shelter. Three years later, Paula is preparing to enter the pre-med program at Wayne State University in hopes of becoming an emergency room physician. "It's the type of normality this gives you," Paula said. "We wouldn't be able to have a regular teen life with curfews and chores." "Before we worried about paying bills and if we were going to have food," Marki added. The Grifkas gave Dylan, 16, the opportunity to keep playing clarinet. He joined the school band in fifth grade, but had to quit in seventh grade when he couldn't afford to rent a clarinet. Today he owns two clarinets, takes private lessons, marches in the Stevenson High School band and looks forward to joining the school's symphonic band in fall. In the meantime, he's excited about landing his first job. He works at McDonald's with Marki. Paula works at Cold Stone Creamery in

Farmington. The ice cream store holds special memories for Paula. It was the first place the family went on their first night together. The Tillotson teens enjoy doing activities as a family, but also one-on-one with their parents. Marki found a new interest since moving to the Grifka home. She trains and competes in agility with Kess, one of the family's two Australian shepherds. Daena competes with Cayenne, making it a mother-daughter activity, one relationship Daena would have missed out on if she hadn't considered fostering then adopting the teens. Daena was adamant about not fostering a child over age 5 when she first contacted Lutheran Social Services. Then she received a call from the Holmes Middle School vice principal about fostering Dylan, a student. The Grifkas had previously fostered another Holmes student. "I love the family we have. I obviously didn't know what I wanted," said Daena Grifka, a special education teacher in Garden City. "When Ken and I got married, we weren't going to have no dogs, no kid. Then I turned 40 and said I want to have a baby." Instead, the Grifkas got a dog then another dog to keep that dog company. Still longing for a baby, Daena suggested fostering so the couple would have a better chance of adopting a baby. "The vice principal said we've got these three kids," said Daena, 46. "They're still in shelters. Dylan wasn't in Livonia schools, but the girls were. The girls somebody would take them, but not Dylan. I contacted Lutheran Social Services and all within a matter of days we thought we would take the girls temporarily because our home wasn't large enough. Within 24 hours, the staff at Holmes had two twin beds delivered to our home." Before long, Dylan would join his sisters at the Grifkas. "There were too many things falling into place for me to say God didn't have a hand in this," Daena said. "Their father died and the foster home that was going to be licensed was 10 houses away. We let the kids

make the decision of whether to stay with us." Ken is grateful to Lutheran Social Services for coordinating the fostering and adoption. He's hoping golfers turn out for the outing that raised \$2,800 last year. "Lutheran Social Services helped Daena and I build our family," said Ken, 45, who's employed by Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn. "I've probably had as much growing to do as the kids. I was not experienced with kids. It's kind of fun and scary when you skip the young part and go to the scary teens." John DeVivo, director of foster care and licensing for Lutheran Social Services offices in Flint, Saginaw, Ann Arbor, and Jackson, is just as appreciative of the Grifka-Tillotson family. Last year as this year, the money will be used to recruit and train foster parents, and provide ongoing parenting classes for biological parents to reunite the family whenever possible. Lutheran Social Services is always looking to recruit foster parents in the state. DeVivo said prospective applicants should have a stable income and household, be over age 21, love children, be able to provide a house that is safe and secure with lots of opportunity for play as well as study, and should have a willingness to interact with the biological parents because the goal is to reunify whenever possible. For more information, visit www.lssm.org or call (877) 971-5776. "They've been a wonderful family from the start," DeVivo said. "The money they raised last year was used for Flint and Saginaw foster care regions which are much newer. We just opened a region in Saginaw two months ago to help support the Flint program, which was opened around two years ago. It's exciting to be in these communities that are very challenged and have a lot of needs." Deadline to register for the golf outing is July 1. The cost is \$100 per person, \$400 per team, and includes green fees, cart, lunch, and steak dinner. Call (734) 513-6673 or send e-mail to gumbykrg@yahoo.com.

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Before AFTER

Photo contest spotlights pet safety for July 4th

Pet Supplies "Plus" wants pets to enjoy a safe Independence Day weekend so the Michigan-based company is offering the convenient guide, 4 Steps To A Pet-Safe Fourth, for dog and cat owners. To draw attention to summer holiday pet safety, the 225-store chain is also running a Patriotic Pet contest.

Owners are invited to send the chain photos of their pets that reflect the spirit of Independence Day. Photos can be submitted by e-mail through the company's Web site, www.petsuppliesplus.com, or dropped off at any participating Pet Supplies "Plus" store in the metropolitan Detroit area. Photos will be judged based on aesthetic value and originality. Any photos that indicate a pet has been made uncomfortable or endangered will be disqualified.

The grand prize winner will receive a \$200 Pet Supplies "Plus" gift card while the second place winner will earn a \$100 gift card and the third a \$50 gift card. There will also be seven \$10 gift card prizes for runners up. Complete contest rules are posted on the company's Web site. Also posted on the Web site are the following 4 Steps To A Pet-Safe Fourth.

Forget The Fireworks - Even the most patriotic pet isn't thrilled with our customary way of celebrating Independence Day. In fact the loud noises and bright flashes

of a fireworks display can be downright terrifying to a dog or cat. It's best to leave your pet at home with the curtains drawn and soft music playing on the radio when you go out to enjoy the pyrotechnic performance. If you must take your dog to watch the fireworks, be sure he or she is closely supervised and securely leashed at all times. The bright lights and loud noises of a Fourth of July celebration can be disorienting for a dog leading even a normally calm pet to behave irrationally and run away.

Lost and Found - On the subject of running away, every year after the Fourth of July weekend, animal shelters take in dogs that have become separated from their human families. This is not only true during Independence Day, but throughout the summer as camping, road trips and beach barbecues create new opportunities for dogs to become lost. Be sure your dog has an up-to-date identification tag with your cell phone number as well as your home number on it. Your cell number will come in very handy if your pet is lost while you're on a trip hundreds of miles away. Always carry a photo of your pet on you too so you can make up lost posters in a heartbeat. And of course, micro chipping is highly recommended.

Beat The Heat - Make sure your dog always has a shady resting spot and access

to fresh, clean water whenever you go outside during the Fourth of July or any time in summer. A dog's normal body temperature is between 101 and 102 degrees. Compared to us our pets have a very limited number of sweat glands so they cool off by panting, which can be a challenge when the temperatures rise steeply. Limit your dog's outdoor activities to early morning and evening on very hot days and never leave your pet inside a car during summer. On an 85 degree day, the temperature inside a car will climb to 102 degrees in about ten minutes. Water is always essential especially in summer. A 50-pound dog needs about six cups of water daily.

Don't Pass The Plate - Sharing is good but not when it comes to table scraps and your pet during Fourth of July barbecues. Fatty meats and barbecue sauces can lead to a variety of gastrointestinal problems in a dog or cat. The same is true of potato chips, dips and other goodies. Dogs and cats are drawn to chicken and rib bones, but both can cause life-threatening blockages of the digestive tract. Corn cobs should also be avoided since they can expand in a pet's stomach.

For more information on the Patriotic Pet Contest our Fourth of July Pet Safety Tips contact Pet Supplies "Plus" at (248) 374-1900, or visit www.petsuppliesplus.com.

Program to offer safe driving workshops for older drivers

Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, and the Traffic Improvement Association (TIA) have developed a pilot program that brings TIA's Mature Driver Workshops to hospital rehabilitation centers - Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and Troy; University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor and Canton; St. Joseph's Hospital, Ann Arbor, and

Hope Network Rehabilitation Services, Lansing.

The goal is to increase the number of older drivers who can self-evaluate and improve their driving skills.

TIA's voluntary and confidential workshops were first presented in southeast Michigan from 1989 to 1991 with a grant from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration after research showed a growing

population in the 65 and older segment with an inordinate amount of traffic fatalities for this age group.

To date TIA has offered more than 200 workshops in community facilities throughout Michigan to help older drivers stay on the road for as long as safely possible. By 2020 this population segment will double.

For more information on TIA, visit www.tiami.org.

FULTON

FROM PAGE C1

girlfriend. If either of them has a problem with this, you might want to re-evaluate the relationship. Neither of them should expect you to take sides and neither of them should punish you for staying out of their argument. One last thing ... is jealousy involved in this argument? Your girlfriend might be jealous of the time you spend with your friend, or your friend might want to be more than friends ... if this is the case, you're in for a long summer!

What do you do when you think your boyfriend is cheating on you with your best friend?

Suspicious in Garden City

First, you really need to think about whether you're just feeling generally jealous or if there have been specific incidents that don't "add up." If your boyfriend is talking with your best friend a lot, he may just be trying to be accepted by a very important person in your life. Ditto for your best friend. You shouldn't feel

jealous if the two important people in your life get along. Count your blessings! Lots of "best friends" have disliked the boyfriend and vice versa. This causes huge headaches for the one in the middle! However, if you've discovered things that both of them have lied to you about the same thing and your relationship with your boyfriend seems more distant, you might want to ask him if he's been seeing your best friend. Hopefully, he'll be honest and admit the relationship. But, if he denies it and you feel he's being less than honest, ask your best friend if she's been seeing your boyfriend when you're not with her. I would hope she would be honest with you! But, in the end, it's up to you to decide to believe them or not. If you can't, it's probably time to move on ... the relationship just simply might not be The One.

My parents are always fighting and I'm afraid that they're going to eventually get a divorce. How can I help my parents get along better?

Split in Garden City

The simple answer is ... you can't. You cannot do anything to help your parents work out their problems. Your parents are adults and need to take steps to repair their marriage on their own. However, as their child, you can let them know how their fighting affects you. They may not be aware of how hard it is for you to hear them fighting. Lots of times, adults and parents forget that kids can sense when things aren't going right. By bringing their attention to the fact that you KNOW something is wrong, they might decide to make a better effort to improve things. But, that will be their decision, not yours. In the mean time, do some things to take care of yourself when your parents argue ... put your iPod in, take a walk, or call a friend. And remember, it's not your fault.

Monica Fulton is the supervisor of the Family Resource Center in Garden City working on youth and family problems. She has a master of arts degree in clinical psychology. She can be reached by e-mail at monicafulton@sbcglobal.net.

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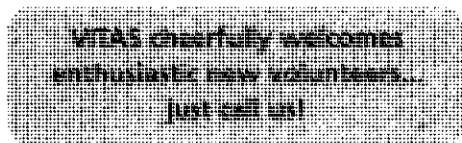
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daily newspapers enjoy the kind of popular support most politicians can only dream of. A recent study shows that newspaper is the dominant news franchise in the U.S. Newspapers reach 70% of all adults during an average week (Source: Media Market Research Inc.).

Some of them read the paper-and-ink edition, some read the online edition, and some read both.

So while new technologies

have splintered audiences for TV and radio, they've actually expanded readership of newspapers. Consider this. Thanks to the popularity of newspaper websites, total newspaper readership among 25- to 34-year-olds is up 15% (Source: Scarborough 2006).

Newspaper sites receive more than 58 million unique visitors per month. That's more than Yahoo!® News and MSNBC.com combined (Source: Nielsen/Net Ratings 2006, 2007).

Why all the love? Consumers appreciate the core strengths

of newspapers, like in-depth reporting. Newspapers have the largest, most experienced newsgathering staffs around. Small wonder newspaper

organizations, because they've been part of those communities much longer. That explains why newspaper websites are the hands-down favorites for online



**NEWSPAPERS REACH 70% OF
ADULTS OVER FIVE WEEKDAYS.**



reporting gets reused in other new media outlets, and by pundits and bloggers.

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Any exercise beneficial for the elderly

George from Walled Lake says he is overwhelmed by his doctor and family constantly urging him to exercise. He says he is 80 years old and has a hard time moving. What can he do?

Well George, I have some good news for you! A new study by the National Institute on Aging suggests for people over 70 the type of activity you do may not matter as long as you are

active. Researchers say activities like sweeping, carrying grandchildren, climbing stairs and walking may be enough to help you live longer than if you don't do any sort of activity. It is recommended you do 30 minutes of moderate exercise a day. So mix it up and have fun!



Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen Jennifer from Farmington Hills is dieting to lose weight, but she heard it could be bad for her bones.

Jennifer, that is a possibility. A new study found cutting calories alone could lead to bone loss. Researchers compared 2 groups of people. One group dieted to lose weight while the other exercised. While both groups lost about the same amount of weight, the dieting group also lost 2 percent of their bone density. The exercisers showed no bone density loss. Cardiovascular exercise and strength training increases the mechanical stress on the skeleton and that stimulates production of new bone. So don't just diet alone! You need exercise as well!

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



Hospitals go smoke-free

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Ken Antczak realizes how difficult it is to quit smoking, so he gladly volunteered for the committee to make the transition to a smoke-free environment at St. Mary Mercy Hospital easier. The Michigan Health & Hospital Association has issued an advisory for hospitals to ban smoking by Jan. 1, 2008. As of July 7, smoking will not be allowed inside or outside St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

Although Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills has been smoke-free inside the building since the late 1980s, the new policy expands the no-smoking zone to exterior grounds. St. Mary Mercy and Botsford are just two of the area hospitals preparing to clear the air in the next several months. Garden City, Providence and Beaumont's Royal Oak and Troy hospitals' no-smoking policy takes effect July 1, Crittenton Hospital in Rochester July 9.

For the last 16 months, a group of employees, smokers and nonsmokers has been talking about the changes at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

In addition to posting no-smoking signs and offering cessation programs to employees at no cost, the hospital is hosting a Clear the Air fair

Clearing the air



Garden City Hospital transportation assistants Dave Fenech (left), Bill Leach, Roy Richardson III and Matt Kasprzyk quit smoking as a department.

12:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, in the south lobby at 36475 Five Mile in Livonia. Representatives of the American Lung Association, Wayne County Health Department and pharmaceutical companies will be available with information on nicotine replacement therapy. For details, visit www.stmarymercy.org.

"There will be no smoking in cars, outside the front door. Our intent is to create a clean air environment for patients and their families as well as our associates and physicians," said Antczak, vice president of human resources at St. Mary Mercy. Antczak quit 15 years ago after smoking for 25 years. "I'm a reformed smoker. Smoking is the most addictive substance there is. I will be honest, there are days standing downwind from a smoker, it's difficult. Every

day is a new adventure to make sure you don't smoke. So far we've had two lunch and learns for associates around tobacco free and the type of products for those who want to quit. We offer a number of community programs for individuals who want to quit."

Twenty-two-year-old Roy Richardson III took oral medication to kick the habit in time for the start of Garden City Hospital's ban. Employees have been offered quit smoking products at a discount since they will not be allowed to smoke during their shift.

"We decided as a group to quit smoking, the whole department," Richardson said. "It really did help. We kind of turned it into a competition to see who could make it the longest. Three of us took medication.

The other quit cold turkey."

Terri Stupyra and the rest of the tobacco-free task force took the extra step to prevent employees from smoking during Garden City Hospital shifts, although the ban doesn't call for it.

"We took away ashtrays in areas slowly, purchased new garbage cans without ashtrays on top. We feel it's important you don't smell like smoke when caring for a patient in this setting," said Stupyra, a nursing coordinator. Stupyra was a longtime smoker who quit in February. "We feel this should be one place that doesn't allow smoking."

Dr. Ayman Soubani commends the advisory to ban smoking in hospitals. As a pulmonary specialist,

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SMOKE-FREE

FROM PAGE C6

Soubani sees the effect of the deadly habit on patients at the Karmanos Cancer Institute, which has been smoke-free since the early to mid-1980s. Soubani says smoking is the main risk for lung cancer.

Karmanos is doing its part by offering smoking and cancer facts, as well as free quit lines and a Michigan Smoker's Quit Kit by visiting www.karmanos.org and clicking on education then smoking cessation, or call the community education department at (800) KARMANOS or send e-mail to communityed@karmanos.org.

"I think it's a very important step forward for people who smoke, people who don't smoke, the hospital. We're committed to improving health care," said Soubani, an associate professor of medicine at Wayne State University and a Farmington Hills resident. "It helps people who smoke since this will cut down the amount of cigarettes per day. Studies show a 20-percent higher success rate for hospital employees to quit because they couldn't smoke at the institution. People who don't smoke, we know environmental tobacco smoke is a cause for a 30- to 50-percent increased risk of lung cancer in those exposed compared to the general population, an increased risk of breast cancer, heart disease and strokes, also some evidence of risk of respiratory and ear infections, asthma and low birth weights for fetuses of pregnant women. When you have children or patients or visitors coming to the hospital, they will not be exposed as they enter the hospital. It helps prevent these medical problems."

Stacy Lipson wishes "everywhere was smoke-free." Lipson is part of the Botsford Hospital committee that began planning to enforce the smoking ban last November.

Since then, Botsford has provided information for employees on smoking cessation classes (www.botsford.org, click on tobacco-free) in preparation for the Nov. 16 target date to ban the habit.

"When someone is lighting up a cigarette, it affects my health as well as theirs,"

Lipson said. "So far we haven't found a lot of resistance to the policy. As it gets closer, it will be interesting to see what happens. We've had a lot of positive response from employees."

Margo Gorchow remembers the early to mid-1980s, when smoking was still allowed inside hospitals.

"Michigan passed the Clean Air Act and triggered the ban on smoking in health care organizations with the exception of psychiatric and chemical dependency units," said Gorchow, Botsford's corporate vice president of community relations and marketing and a former registered nurse. "People would be walking around smoking on the lower level, in conference rooms and offices. I remember change of shift when you swear you could see a cloud of smoke come out. When someone is smoking outside the door, one does not want to walk through a curtain of smoke. There's something dissonant in having smoking around a health building."

The University of Michigan Health System saw the wisdom in going smoke-free Feb. 14, 1999, and is now assisting Michigan hospitals in clearing the air through a grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health. When Linda Thomas started the U-M tobacco consultation service in 1999, she was a one-person department. Today, eight employees offer bedside and outpatient quit smoking counseling. Last year, they served 6,200 patients.

"You need to do something to attend to nicotine withdrawal," said Thomas, tobacco consultation service manager. "Patients undergoing tests are scared and stressed. Tobacco users learn to use tobacco as part of their stress coping. This is an addiction like cocaine, heroine and alcohol. We try to help with cognitive or coping strategies in the hospital."

For more information about quitting smoking, visit www.med.umich.edu/mfit/tobacco. Hospitals can receive a free CD on setting up an inpatient program through the Michigan Smoke Free Hospitals grant by calling (734) 936-5988.

lchomin@hometownlife.com
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JUNE

Locks of love

A fund-raiser to raise money for Locks of Love, a nonprofit organization that makes wigs for children who have suffered hair loss due to medical conditions such as cancer. The event takes place 1-5 p.m. Sunday, June 24, at Shula's Steak House in Troy. Tickets are \$25 and include lunch, live entertainment, an entry into a raffle for many great prizes. Children under age 12 are free. For tickets, call (248) 680-9616 or send e-mail to michelle.holka@marriott.com.

Hospice volunteers needed

Looking for caring volunteers to provide in-home companionship visits to patients with life-limiting illnesses and/or respite support for their caregivers and families. Weekday availability preferred. St. John Hospice provides services in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties. Mileage reimbursement available. For information, call (800) 248-2298 or visit www.stjohn.org/Hospice.

Volunteer training

Heartland Hospice Services is looking for caring and compassionate individuals for hospice volunteer training to provide companionship, support and friendly visits for patients and their caregivers. We are located in Southfield and serve the Tri-county area. Evening and daytime classes available. Office support is also needed. To register, call (800) 770-9859.

Health screenings

Meijer offers health screenings. Cholesterol or fasting blood glucose test patients must fast at least 10 hours and 8 hours respectively but

may take morning medications. Clinic hours 8 a.m. to noon June 26, 4200 Highland, Waterford, (248) 738-7833; June 26, 20401 Haggerty, Northville, (248) 449-5733, and June 22, 49900 Grand River, Wixom, (248) 449-8533.

Divorce support group

An Overview of the Process of Divorce, attorney Connie S. Kelley focuses on the process 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, in the Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. For information, call (734) 462-4443.

Sharing & Caring

7-9 p.m. Thursday, June 28, breast cancer staging and grading with Richard Zekman, M.D., medical oncologist fellow, at Beaumont Hospital's Cancer Center, 3601 W. 13 Mile, west of Woodward, Royal Oak. Sharing & Caring offers educational and support programs for breast cancer survivors, their family and friends. For information, call (248) 551-8585. For possible schedule changes, call (248) 551-8588 prior to meeting.

UPCOMING

Divorce support group

Group discussion 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, July 10, Patricia Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come, first served basis, in the Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. For information, call (734) 462-4443.

Camp Oasis

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Michigan Chapter (CCFA) host its sixth annual Camp Oasis July 15-21 at Camp Copneonic in Fenton for children ages seven to 17 who have Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for persons with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis. For information or to have application information mailed, send e-mail to michigan@ccfa.org or call (248) 737-0900.

Health camps

Students can learn about their bodies at two camps at the St. Joseph Mercy Health Exploration Center in Canton. For information and to register, call (734) 398-7518. Amazing Me focuses on keeping the body healthy and features demonstrations, dissections, games, crafts, and activities Aug. 6-10 for students completing second to fourth grades. Awesome Asthma is designed to improve self-image and promote independence in kids with the disease. Campers learn about medications, risk factors and self-management Aug. 13-17 (students in grades 2-5).

Post-polio conference

Presented by Michigan Polio Network, a nonprofit providing information and education on the later effects of polio, Friday-Saturday, Sept. 21-22, at Soaring Eagle Casino Conference Center, Mt. Pleasant. Keynote speaker is Dr. Daniel Ryan, medical director, St. John Post-Polio Clinic. Cost is \$45.

Pre-registration required. Call (248) 476-2477 or (313) 885-7855.

ONGOING

Our Body exhibit

Our Body exhibit tickets \$24.95, \$22.95 seniors, \$19.95 children. Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by adult. Advance tickets on sale at www.detroitssciencecenter.org. Exhibit continues to Sept. 3, at Detroit Science Center. For information, call (313) 577-8400 or visit www.detroitssciencecenter.org.

MS support group

Family and friends of those with MS (multiple sclerosis) are invited to attend a new support group held at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Botsford Hospital's A & E building in Farmington. For directions call (248) 231-1136.

Volunteers needed

Sandcastles grief support program for children and teens needs volunteers for Rochester, Southfield, Livonia and other sites. Sponsored by Hospices of Henry Ford Health System, the programs meetings are held biweekly. SandCastles also offers a weekend bereavement camp in August which is in need of volunteers. For more information or to register for training, call (313) 874-6881.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
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HYDROXY APATITE

Gout is a form of arthritis caused by crystals of uric acid. When these crystal precipitate onto joints, the result is intense inflammation. The features of the inflammation are pain, redness, and swelling at the joint.

Another crystal causes a condition called pseudogout. This crystal, when it precipitates on joints causes inflammation identical to that caused by gout. Hence the name pseudogout. Your doctor can treat an acute attack of either gout or pseudogout with a steroid injection or large dose on anti-inflammatory medication. However, the long term treatment of the two conditions is different, therefore it is important to determine which type of crystals is causing the attack.

There is another crystal, called hydroxy apatite that acts on joints exactly like gout or pseudogout. The inflammation hydroxy apatite causes mimics gout and pseudogout. For the acute attack of hydroxy apatite crystalline disease injection is the treatment of choice. Experience has shown that large doses of anti-inflammatory medication are only partially helpful. At present no medication exists for the long term prevention of hydroxy apatite arthritis. Your doctor needs to know if this crystal is the cause of your gout-like attacks so as not to place you on therapy that will not help.

He makes that determination by noting the pattern of your joint attacks, and your response to therapy. In each of the crystalline joint conditions, the type you have is not determined by a single episode, but by the features over time.

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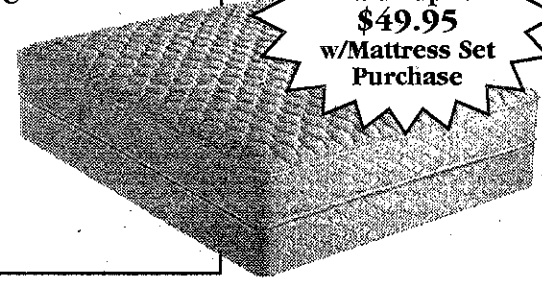
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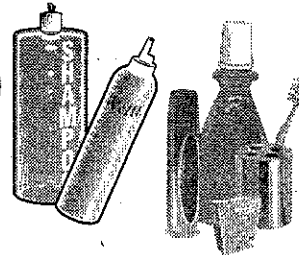


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Love story tells of wife's fight against cancer

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

You can barely hear the pain anymore in John O'Shaughnessy's voice, the agony of those last few years spent watching his beloved wife, Ann, battle cancer not so much a faded memory as one put in its proper place in his heart.

The battle lasted some 41 months, until the cancer claimed Ann at the tender age of 41 in November 1998. The grief lasted a lot longer, until he learned how to deal with it. The lessons he learned, some from the battle but most from Ann herself, will last a lifetime.

They were important enough, O'Shaughnessy felt, to share in an effort to help others dealing with similar issues.

That's why he's sure Ann will be watching Saturday when O'Shaughnessy launches his first book, *The Greatest Gift: A Return to Hope*, during an event at his Plymouth Township home.

"It's designed to help other people who are going to be going through what we went through those three and a half years," said O'Shaughnessy, a senior key account manager with Sealy Inc. "It's designed to make (readers) feel. You'll cry and, I hope, you'll laugh. I wanted people to enjoy it, so it's written as a love story with lessons."

The love story started in fall 1981, when the two met at The Dubliner, an

'How I wished I could be there with you. I hope you will always recall my love. I wonder how I got that message across. I love you all so much ... I did fight the cancer with all I had.'

ANN O'SHAUGHNESSY. In a letter to her son

Irish tavern in Lowell, Mass., John a 24-year-old trying to find his way and Ann a 25-year-old tricked by John's friend into striking up a conversation.

It continued through courtship and a wedding in May 1983, through the sharing of a life together and the birth of two sons. It not only continued, but grew in strength and depth after the devastating diagnosis came in June 1995.

Ann had been suffering from a sore shoulder, which had been misdiagnosed - a fatal mistake, as it turned out - as bursitis.

John remembers pushing, cajoling his wife to seek a second opinion, and the light-hearted way she questioned his judgment. "Should I start calling you 'Dr. John?'" she asked jokingly.

The pain persisted, and so did John, until Ann finally sought another diagnosis. This time, it was devastating: a three-centimeter mass in her lung.

"It was devastating," O'Shaughnessy remembers. "I cried for months on end.

(Ann) was the strong one back then, and I was the weak one. Then it reversed itself."

Doctors gave Ann a year, maybe 18 months. She stretched that to 41 months, but in the last few was told by doctors, after exhausting every radiation and chemotherapy treatment available, to prepare for the worst.

What John didn't know at the time was, Ann was already doing that. She kept a journal and videotaped messages to both her sons. The journal became an integral part of her husband's book.

Even the book itself was partly Ann's idea. During her illness, John spent a lot of time searching for information, books that could help him and his family deal with the situation, cope with Ann's illness, to no avail. He remembers complaining to his wife that no books were out there.

Her response: "Write the damn book yourself."

And so he has, using his wife's lessons, his own memories and insight from scores of friends and relatives to pen his love story as a way to help others learn the same lessons he's gotten. It started out as a "how-to" book, but neither O'Shaughnessy nor his publisher, Marian Nelson of Ferne Press in Northville, were happy with how it was going. When he turned it into the love story, it simply started flowing.

"When I changed it to a love story in 2005, it just started pouring out of me," said O'Shaughnessy.

He got a lot of help. First, he stumbled across the journal and knew "that's got to go in there."

And he'd tell friends or relatives about a certain chapter, and they'd tell him, "No, that's not the way it happened."

The effort impressed his son, Collin, now 17. "He'd come down and read it to us," Collin recalled.

"I didn't think he could write that well. It was great."

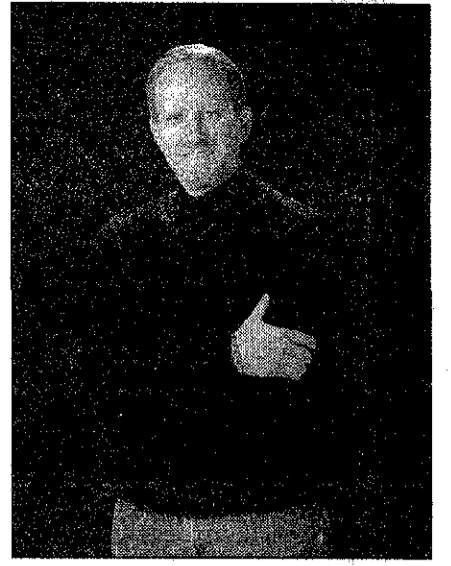
Once she convinced him it needed to be a love story, Nelson, the publisher, was impressed with the finish product.

"I think overall it tells a really tightly woven story, but it also can help all of us," said Nelson, owner of Nelson Publishing and Marketing.

"Not one of us are going to get off this Earth without having some sort of loss or trauma. This book can help not only people who are grieving the loss of a loved one, but it gives lessons on how you can deal with it by making choices positively in the direction of getting through the grief and living on happily."

That's what O'Shaughnessy is doing now, being a single dad to sons Eric, a third-year student at Michigan State, and Collin, who will enter Lansing Community College in the fall.

It wasn't hard, he said, to relive the



John O'Shaughnessy

tragedy as he researched the book, and he was able to get through it thanks in no small measure to the lessons his wife helped him learn.

"I wouldn't say it was joyful, but it was good to go back and reminisce," O'Shaughnessy said. "We had a good life. I could almost feel her pushing me to get this done, saying, 'Finish this book.'"

He has, and it reflects, he hopes, his wife's message on life.

"She more than anybody made me who I am today ... she kept me grounded and balanced. She had a knack for knowing what mattered. It wasn't the material things that make you happy. It's the love."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Investors need to focus on low-cost investments

Q: After listening to your show I asked our financial advisor about no-load funds. He told me that all funds have fees, it's just that some funds call them different things. Is he telling me the truth?

A: Your advisor is partially correct. All mutual funds have fees.

What he is not being straight-forward about is that no-load funds or commission-free funds have substantially lower fees than the commission-based funds. And commission-based funds have additional fees not in the no-loads.

All mutual funds charge a management fee for the day-to-day running of the fund. The management fee is charged on

an annual basis. It's not a fee that you write a check for; it comes directly out of your investment. In addition to the management fee, the commission-based funds have what are known as loads. Loads are sales charges. The load is paid to the financial salesperson who sells you the fund. The typical load or commission is approximately 5% percent, however, it can go much higher. Loads come right off the top of the money that you invest.

For example, if you invested \$10,000 into a 5% percent loaded mutual fund, \$575 would be paid directly to the salesperson and the remaining \$9,425 would go into the investment. On the other hand, if you invested \$10,000 in a no-load fund, all \$10,000 would go to work for you.

In many mutual funds, in addition to the sales commission, they also have what are known as 12b-1 fees which are additional marketing fees. In some cases this fee

is paid directly to the salesperson. This is known in the industry as "trails" or "trailer" fees.

I've always been a believer that investors need to focus on low-cost investments. That is why I always recommend commission-free mutual funds where 100 percent of your money goes to work for you. In addition, the typical no-load fund will also have a lower management fee than the commission based fund. When you go commission free you have lower fees across the board, which means more money in your pocket.

Every independent study I have seen always reaches the same conclusion and that is the average no-load fund outperforms the average commission-based fund, even if you did not factor in the commissions.

When you are evaluating a commission-free fund you have one thing to sell and that is your performance. When you are a

commission-based fund you have two things that you can sell - your performance and your commission and sales program.

One of my pet peeves with commissions in the mutual fund industry is that they are generally undisclosed. When I see that the industry intentionally tries to hide cost and fees from individuals, it generally leads me to the conclusion that it is a product that I should avoid.

Q: My elderly parents were contacted by a mortgage company about refinancing their mortgage. At the present time they have no mortgage on their home and the mortgage person told my parents that they can free up a lot of money, if they refinance. What do you think?

A: I don't favor seniors refinancing their homes and putting a mortgage on the property where they presently had none. This is particularly true, if the senior wants to invest the money

to produce the income needed to make the mortgage payment.

I have heard about cases where seniors are contacted by unethical companies that use aggressive sales tactics to convince them that it makes sense to refinance their homes, withdraw the money and then to invest in high commission products.

What they are frequently told is that they can earn a lot more on their money than their mortgage payment will cost them.

However, they are not told the whole story. When many of the stock market returns are quoted, they are quoted with the assumption that dividends and capital gains are reinvested. When you need a cash-flow to make your mortgage payments, the numbers are totally different. Therefore, in the situation at hand and in most situations, I don't recommend seniors who have no mortgage refinance their homes and use the money for investment purposes.

For seniors who are in their homes and who have a cash-flow issue, an alternative to consider is a reverse mortgage which allows you to withdraw money from your home and never have to make a mortgage payment. Eventually, when you either sell your home or when both husband and wife pass on, that's when the mortgage is due.

Reverse mortgages are not for everyone however, they are a tool that many seniors can consider. Like all financial products, it is important to deal with a reputable company. A company that I've had much luck with is First Financial Mortgage, www.first-loans.net or (800) 720-7003.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com, or visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday's on WDTK 1400 AM.

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