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WESTLAND Observer

SUNDAY July 8, 2007

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Settlement reached in Civic League case

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

A former Wayne-Ford Civic League officer will have to pay \$10,000 in restitution after pleading no contest to embezzling from the nonprofit organization.

Shari Greenfield, 42, reached a settlement with civic league officials even though she had earlier contended that the league actually owed her more than \$20,000.

Greenfield, former league vice president, had pleaded no contest to embezzling \$1,000 to

\$20,000 from 1999 to 2004, although league officials and prosecutors had contended she took thousands more.

Nonetheless, Greenfield and league officials reached an agreement accepted Friday in Wayne County Circuit Judge Gregory Dean Bill's courtroom. It ended a long chapter that tarnished the league's image, although new officials pledged they are repairing it.

The league raises money to sponsor such activities as youth sports and senior citizen activities. Neither side embraced the restitution agreement. "Shari's not happy. I'm not happy. The league

is not happy," defense attorney Paul Bricker said. "If neither side is happy, then it's probably a pretty good compromise."

New league President Vic Barra said no amount of restitution could heal the damage the league suffered and the financial losses it incurred due to the two-year loss of its now-restored bingo licenses.

"I can only say that I'm grateful that it's now behind us and the civic league can focus on the good works it does," Barra said, adding that the community has again embraced the league and its activities.

Greenfield will have to pay \$4,000 within 30

days, but she will be given three years to pay the remaining \$6,000. She has been working as a waitress at a Westland cafe/bar.

She and ex-husband Neal Greenfield had been charged with embezzling from the civic league. Neal Greenfield had earlier settled his case by agreeing to repay \$16,000 and by giving up another \$16,000 that police seized during their investigation.

The Greenfields will remain on probation for three years.

dcclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

New history group strives for harmony

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

A new group dedicated to preserving the city's history is being formed, just one month after strained relations led the former Friends of the Westland Historical Museum to disband after 19 years.

Organizers hope the new group and the Westland Historical Commission can work closely together without the rivalry and clashes that doomed earlier relations.

"That's been the problem all along," said historian Georgia Becker, one of the new group's organizers.

Commissioners and Friends members had accused each other of being counterproductive rather than trying to work toward common goals. The two sides disagreed on issues ranging from the sale of two acres of museum land to the official naming of the Westland Historical Village Park, on Wayne south of Marquette.

Commissioners such as Jo Johnson supported the name, while longtime Friends member Ruth Dale called it inappropriate. Dale said the park lacked certain buildings, such as a schoolhouse and a church, that would make it a village.

Dale led the charge to disband the fund-raising Friends group, saying "there seems to be a deadlock in getting anything done."

Becker and former Friends member Ernie Johnson - Jo Johnson's husband - have initiated efforts to start the new group, which will adopt a name during its first meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 17, at the Bailey Recreation Center. Anyone who wants to become involved is urged to attend.

Becker and Ernie Johnson have said the new group will be dedicated to raising money, preserving Westland's history and helping to restore buildings such as two 1800s-era houses that sit on museum property. The new group also will help with museum displays and conduct tours.

"We want people who have a love for the city's history and who have a willingness to work with the commission and the city administration," Ernie Johnson said.

The new group will choose a name during its formative meeting. It also will discuss issues such as granting membership to those who had paid dues to become lifetime Friends members.

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Westland resident Roy Green sits alongside Greenville, the backyard village and railroad system he built.

All aboard for Greenville!

Local man runs railroad in his back yard

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

An old steam engine blows its horn as it chugs lazily past a bustling sawmill, an old-fashioned bakery, a filling station where gas costs 22 cents a gallon, and a general store where friendly neighbors talk while they shop.

As the train rolls on, it passes through a mountain tunnel, crosses aluminum bridges and meanders past a coal mine, a windmill, a barnyard, a schoolhouse, a pharmacy, a church, a logging mill with a waterfall, and a town hotel where visitors are made to feel welcome.

It's all in Westland, in Roy Green's back yard.

Green, 58, is the mayor of Greenville, a model town with a G-scale railroad where the calendar never changes from 1948. With 900 residents, it's a peaceful place with no crime, no cell phones, no iPods, no terrorism alerts, no political scandals - a place as old-school America as a Norman Rockwell painting.

"I spend a lot of time out here," said Green, a welder who works as a maintenance supervisor for Severstal North America, formerly Rouge Steel. "I took an indoor hobby and brought



A rail car makes its way down the track in front of the shopping district of Westland resident Roy Green's backyard town of Greenville.

it outside. It's peaceful out here, very relaxing."

In some ways, Green's town reminds him of his childhood in the small Tennessee town of McMinnville, southeast of Nashville. Green, the youngest of four children, moved to Michigan with his parents, Willie and Thelma Green, in 1959, when many Southern folks migrated north.

Green and wife Brenda now have three daughters and four grandchildren of their own. It was during a family vacation to Gatlinburg, Tenn., seven years ago that the idea for Greenville

Please see GREENVILLE, A3

37th Summer Festival is a crowd-pleaser

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

Officials deemed the 37th Westland Summer Festival a success this week after the city's biggest party culminated Wednesday with a crowd-pleasing fireworks display over Central City Park.

"I just thought the crowds were great," Parks & Recreation Director Robert Kosowski said, adding that many residents likely stayed close to home for the holiday due to high gas prices.

"We had seven days of gorgeous weather for the festival," he said. "All the crowds were really good, especially on the fireworks night. All in all, I thought the festival was a success, and I thought the festival committee did a great job in bringing the entertainment and so forth."

The festival included a parade with grand marshal U.S. Army Staff Sgt. William Boettcher, who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the crowning of 2007 Miss Westland April Kersey, scores of events ranging from magic shows to live musical entertainment, and carnival rides that thrilled the young and young-at-heart.

"It appeared that most everything went fine, and the people enjoyed themselves," festival Chairman Kenneth Mehl said.

He thought that attendance may have dropped slightly from last year, but he said events such as the Barnyard Express, which allowed children to pet small farm animals, proved highly popular.

Crowds had to stay outside of fenced-off Central City Park, closed

Please see FESTIVAL, A2



April Kersey, 18, of Westland was crowned Miss Westland recently at the Westland Summer Festival. The daughter of Roger and Regina Kersey, she will attend U of M Dearborn in the fall. A 2007 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School she enjoys going to the movies, arts and crafts and baking pies. For her essay on What Will Make Westland a Better Place, she answered by saying more environmental days, recycling, car pools and planting additional trees are a few examples. Ms. Kersey would like to get more involved in Westland.

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Volume 43 Number 13



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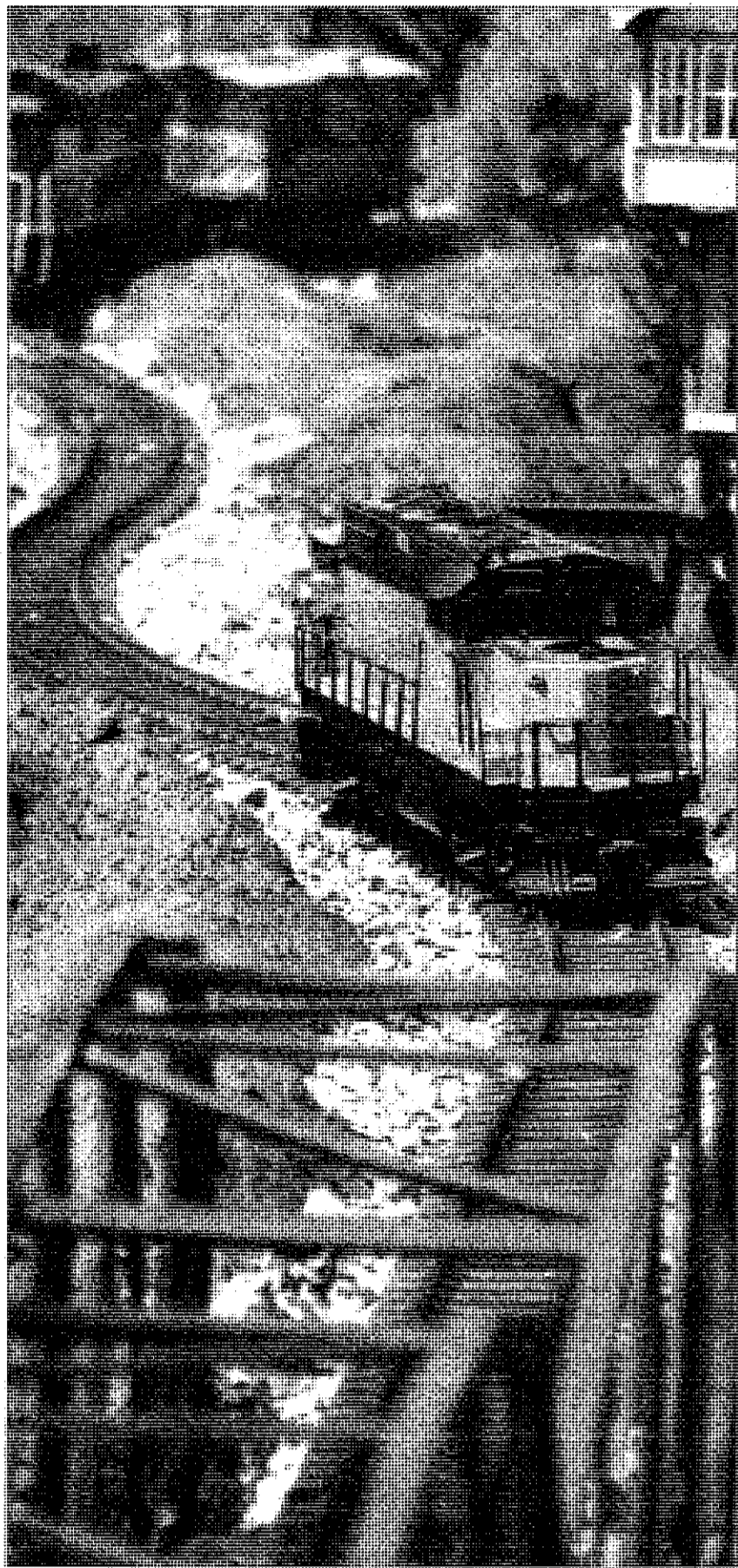
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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the engines makes its way toward the bridge in Greenville.

GREENVILLE

FROM PAGE A1

was born. "I saw this model train station, and I fell in love with it," Green said. After returning home, he started calling model train dealers, and his collection has grown ever since. He has some 90 train pieces - many of them Lionel brand collector's items - that circle 600 feet of railroad track surrounding Greenville. The engines spew smoke, and Green uses sound cards in his remote-controlled village, which represents about 35 acres to scale.

Brenda Green smiles approvingly as the sound of cows, roosters and other animals emanates from a miniature barnyard. "That's the farm animals talking," she said.

A miniature pickup truck carries crates of chickens, and vintage cars can be seen on the town streets.

Most residents earn their living from the lumbering and mining industries. The town has a coal mine, an iron ore mine and a sawmill where miniature workers can be seen using a vertical blade.

"The village lights up at night," Brenda Green said. "It's really cute."

Greenville stays put even in the wintertime, although railway traffic slows during the cold months. It even has a miniature fire department to protect the residents, including the tiny children who can be seen on the school playground.

Greenville has more than 30 buildings, and Green created many of them with his own hands. He also built mountains by washing burlap in concrete, spreading it over chicken wire and then adding more concrete. He used different hues of sand and ground charcoal for color.

Green used dwarf trees, such as boxwoods and Alberta spruce, to add greenery to his town.

"All the plants are real, so I do gardening while I'm out here, too," he said. "It's about being outside. When I started this, I had an idea of what I wanted to end up with, and it felt good to see it when I got it done."

As another day ends, quiet descends over Greenville. The lights stay on for awhile after residents retreat to their homes for another peaceful night in a peaceful village. They will rest up for another hard day's work in the sawmill or the mines.

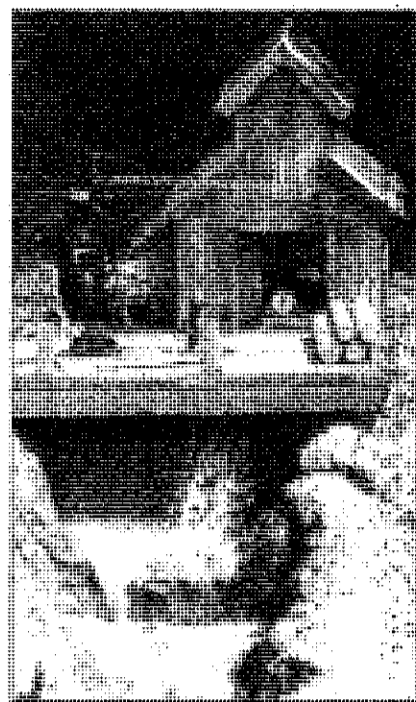
They will rest up for another day that will dawn on Greenville. And it always does. The mayor sees to it.



In an era when the world is complicated, Westland resident Roy Green relaxes in his yard and has deep admiration for a model town and railway that he built.



Brought out to scale, Greenville, the back yard town of Westland resident Roy Green, would be about 35 acres and consists of a coal mine, iron ore mine, general store and much more.



Greenville has its own waterfall and logging industry.



Westland resident Roy Green works one of the many train engines in Greenville.

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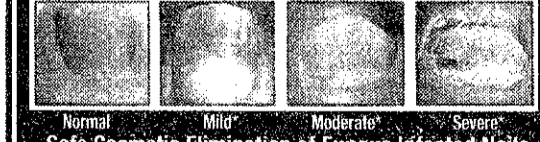
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Your chance to meet, eat with crew of Motor City Middays

The *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* are teaming up with Buddy's to present "Dining With the Stars" featuring Jay Towers, Shila and Bill McAllister host of Motor City Middays, on Live 97.1 FREE FM.

In 100 words or less, tell us why you're a fan of the Motor City Middays crew 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, courtesy of Pro Tran Transportation, makeover from Ruby Blu Salon in Farmington Hills and a dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills. Other upcoming dining with stars include 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



Shila, Jay Towers and Bill McAllister

four "fan" letters.

The stars featured for the month will make the final selection. Lunch and/or dinner date is to be determined with the winner and star by Buddy's representatives.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

Although it makes sense that the person you know most thoroughly would be yourself, there still remains an intense desire to unearth aspects of your personality of which even you were not aware. Enter the art of handwriting analysis.

This topic has been a popular attraction at fairs, festivals, and special events for some time now, but it is also a skill utilized by criminal justice professionals. Handwriting analysis, or graphology, has been used to provide evidence in instances of forgery as well as forensic investigations, thus giving the practice a more serious reputation than the public may often view at various places of amusement.

The Westland Public Library has tools to satisfy handwriting analysis interests on an individual level. Books such as *The ABCs of Handwriting Analysis* by Claude Santoy and *Hollander's Handwriting Analysis*: a complete self-teaching guide allow the reader to gain skills necessary to

evaluate his own handwriting as well as that of others.

For some insight into your relationship style, take a look at *Lovescript*, in which author Michael Watts discusses not only implications of a particularly curly tail on the letter "g", but also the potential meanings behind the most random of doodles.

If you have any interest in handwriting analysis and what may be revealed through your own scrawls, then July is your lucky month. As a part of this year's Summer Reading Program theme of James Bond spy action, there will be a workshop to enable you to know yourself through your handwriting on July 10th from 6:30-8:45. Handwriting expert Ruth Holmes from Pentec, Inc., a forensic and personnel consulting firm, will present how aspects of your personal identity, relationships, and performance potential can be analyzed through the words you write. To reserve your seat at this program, call the Reference Desk at (734) 326-6123 and come prepared to understand the hidden secrets in your signature!

-Mary Beth Fixler

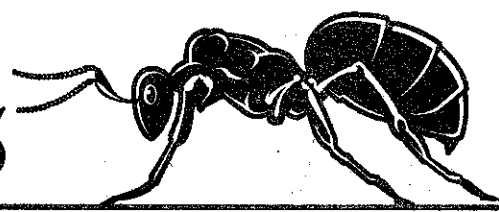
Highlighted Activities

Rochester Spy Shop Presents... Spy Tech July 9, 7 p.m. Come and see the latest innovations in spy technologies and hear private investigator Mark Ford describe how he uses them. www.riskinvestigations.com No registration is required. Walk-ins are welcome.

Know Yourself Through Your Handwriting July 10, 6:30 p.m. Learn how handwriting reveals insights into your personality. Handwriting expert, Ruth Holmes, from forensic and personnel consulting firm, Pentec, Inc. will be presenting this fascinating and informative program. Space is limited. Call or stop by the library to reserve your seat. 734-326-6123.

Internet 101 July 14, 10:30 a.m. A beginner's guide to the Internet - how do I get around a website, what is a website. No registration is required. Walk-ins are welcome.

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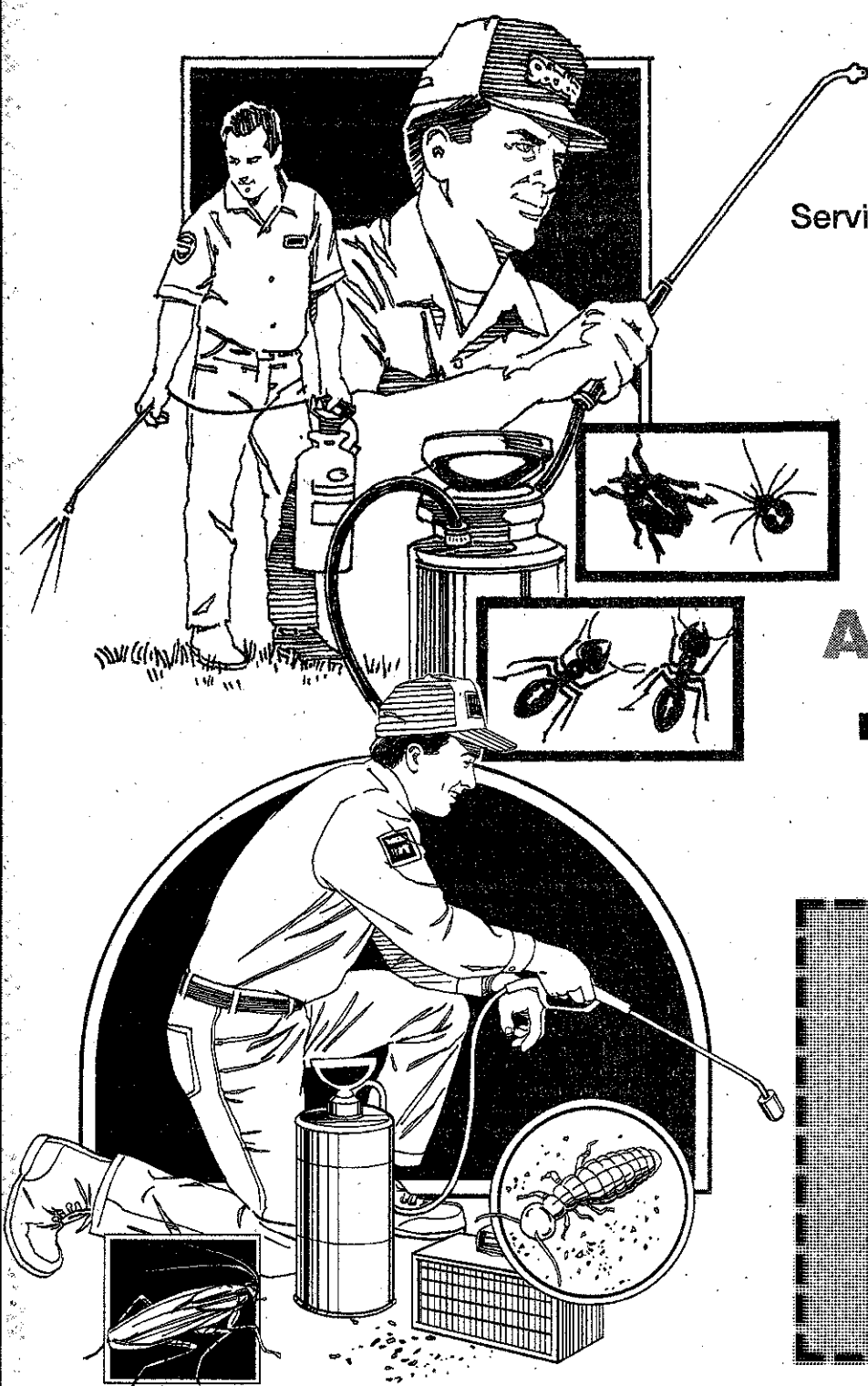
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WELLNESS PROGRAMS

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

Monday, July 9

American Red Cross blood drive 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Garden City Hospital will hold a blood drive in the Lower Level classrooms of the Allan Breake Medical Office Building located on the hospital campus, 6245 Inkster Road. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (734) 458-4259.

Childbirth Education (first of six classes) at 6 p.m. The six-week course prepares the expectant mother and coach for labor and delivery. Class runtime is 2 1/2 hours and there is a \$60 fee. Medicaid is accepted. A refresher course also is available. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information or to register.

Tuesday, July 10

Diabetes Self-Management Education (first of four classes) at 9:30 a.m. This comprehensive series is planned to help people Live Well With Diabetes. Participants learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. The program is certified by the Michigan Department of Community Health to assure quality and compliance with State and National Diabetes Education Standards. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans. Call (734) 458-3481 for more information or to register.

Wednesday, July 11

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 any questions or for more information.

Self Help for Hard of Hearing (SHHHH) at 7 p.m. Are you or someone you know hard of hearing? You're not alone. A free support group for people who are hard of hearing is held every third Wednesday of the month. Call (734) 458-3381 for more information.

Alzheimer's Support at 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, family members, friends

and caregivers of persons afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders are invited to join this free monthly support group. The group will provide mutual aid, support and the opportunity to share problems and concerns. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the lower level classrooms of the Allen Breake Medical Office Building (attached to the main hospital), 6255 N. Inkster Road, Garden City. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Eating Disorders Support Group at 7 p.m. This 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, July 12

Diabetes Self-Management Education (first of four classes) at 6:30 p.m. This comprehensive series is planned to help people Live Well With Diabetes. Participants learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. The program is certified by the Michigan Department of Community Health to assure quality and compliance with State and National Diabetes Education Standards. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans. Call (734) 458-3481 for more information or to register.

"Focus on Living" Cancer Support at 7 p.m. A self-help group designed to bring together persons living with cancer. A nurse facilitator provides opportunities for all to share their mutual concerns. This meeting is free of charge. Call 734-458-3311 for further information.

Michigan waits in line to charge cemetery owner

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Michigan's case against an Oklahoma businessman accused of mishandling millions of dollars in cemetery trust funds will have to wait until he faces similar charges in Tennessee.

Clayton Smart, who owns cemeteries and funeral homes in three states, is being held in a Tennessee jail on a \$4.2 million bond. Michigan will have a crack at Smart after Tennessee has had its turn.

Attorney General spokesman Matt Frendeway said Smart is facing much tougher charges in Michigan than he is

in other states. "He's still there," he said. "We're still waiting for his arraignment there to extradite him. That may not be until August."

Smart is facing 39 charges in Michigan including 10 for embezzlement, one for racketeering and 28 for failure to trust cemetery funds. In all, the attorney general's office wants to get an accounting of more than \$70 million it believes Smart mishandled.

"There are two trust funds a cemetery has to keep: one for merchandise (monuments, caskets) and one for endowed care," Frendeway said. "Both are handled differently."

If someone puts down \$1,000 toward a casket and headstone before his or her death and the bill comes to only \$900, the cemetery operator can keep the difference. The endowed care fund pays for cemetery maintenance forever and the only funds a cemetery operator can touch from that fund are through investments — and there are state-generated guidelines for what constitutes acceptable investments.

Prosecutors say Smart took \$61 million in care and trust funds for investments in offshore hedge funds, something that is illegal under Michigan law.

A total of 28 Michigan cemeteries are affected in the case including Cadillac Memorial Gardens in Westland, Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens in Livonia and United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth. The Michigan Attorney General's office filed an injunction against Smart in 2006 removing him as the operator of the Michigan cemeteries and putting them in the care of a conservator.

People who have already purchased services (plots, care) will not see an interruption in their contracts.

alundberg@hometownlife.com
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Convalescent, Rehab Center wins Award of Excellence

Westland Convalescent and Rehab Center recently received the prestigious Michigan Award of Excellence for Improving Care in the Nursing Home Setting from MPRO, Michigan's Quality Improvement Organization.

Westland Convalescent and Rehab Center received the accolade for working to improve the quality and safety of care in high-risk areas and for chronic pain identification and management.

This marks the first year that MPRO has honored skilled/short-term rehab facilities statewide that are actively engaged in quality improvement initiatives.

Recipients of the Michigan Award of Excellence showed notable improvement in quality measures designated as national health care priorities

by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Merrilee Spry of Westland Convalescent and Rehab Center led specific departments to spearhead improvement using verified evidence-based practices to spur better outcomes. Nationally recognized standards were used to assure that consistent care and protocols were carried out to realize notable improvement in care and satisfaction.

On April 26, MPRO honored Westland Convalescent & Rehab Center for its quality improvement efforts at a special ceremony was held at the Eagle Eye Golf Club in Bath, Mich.

For more information about Westland Convalescent and Rehab Center, visit its Web site at www.westlandcce.com.

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ARTHRITIS IN MULTIPLE JOINTS

If you have arthritis in many joints, with each joint needing attention, how will your doctor proceed?

Bilateral knee arthritis is the most common occurrence of multiple joint impairment. If both knees require replacements, the orthopedist usually replaces both knees at the same operation. In turn, the best way to undertake the bilateral knee replacement is to operate on both knees at the same time; your orthopedist replaces one knee and another orthopedist does the other knee.

The advantage to this approach is that you are under anesthesia only as long as would be needed for a single replacement. Also, replacing both bad knees at once makes rehabilitation more efficient. Your regimen is not held back by having to step and bear weight half the time on an impaired joint.

In instances when you have a bad shoulder or hand and a hip, knee or ankle requiring surgery, the hand or shoulder operation comes first. The reason is that you need a good grip for rehabilitation of a hip or knee replacement as holding on to hand rails or a walker will be a vital part of lower limb rehabilitation.

In the leg, an ankle needing reconstruction takes precedence over a bad hip or knee. You need reasonable ankle or foot mechanics before knee or hip motion can proceed.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Italian Night

Community Opportunity Center will hold its third annual Italian Night Monday, July 16, at East Side Mario's, 31630 Plymouth Road west of Merriman in Livonia. Anyone who dines at the restaurant from 4 to 8 p.m. on July 16 will be treated to East Side Mario's celebrated spaghetti, salad and bread for just \$10. Drinks, tips and tax are extra. The restaurant will donate the entire \$10 to Community Opportunity Center, a non-profit housing corporation supporting adults with developmental disabilities in Wayne County. For additional information call Denise King at (734) 422-1020.

AMVETS Dinner

AMVETS Post 171 will host a buffet dinner and concert featuring country singer Sarah Wilson Friday, July 20, at the post hall 1217 Merriman Road in Westland. Tickets are \$20 and include (three-meal) buffet dinner, entertainment and open bar. Doors open at 6 p.m. for appetizers followed by dinner (7-8 p.m.). Entertainment from 8-11 p.m. Open bar until midnight. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call (723) 721-9440. Only 140 tickets will be sold.

Youth Philharmonic auditions

The Livonia Youth Philharmonic of Michigan, a regional orchestra, is hosting student auditions for strings, winds, brass and percussion performers from age 5 to 18, from novice to advanced. Auditions will also be scheduled by appointment. Five different concert groups are offered. (734) 464-8704 or (248) 476-6341 or visit auditions@lypm.org

Hospice help sought

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required. (248) 967-8361 or visit www.vna.org.

Literacy Council tutors

The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

Hospice training

Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit welcomes girls ages 5-17 to discover fun and friendship, while enjoying opportunities to develop leadership skills. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit also is looking for volunteers who want to make a difference in girls' lives. To learn more, call (313) 972-GIRL (4475) or visit www.gsosmd.org.

Explore Girl Scouting

Girls ages 5-17 can discover how much Girl Scouts has to offer all. Scouting isn't just about camping and cookies anymore. Girls learn a lot about themselves and the world around them, form lasting friendships, become more confident, independent, helpful and resourceful. Through Girl Scouting, girls learn the importance of community service and challenge themselves and develop value systems they use the rest of their lives. Call the Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council at (800) 49-SCOUT (497-2688).

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Advocacy group

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. Call (734) 362-8825.

Menopause & More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. Call

(734) 655-1100 for information.

Substance abuse support

A SAFE PLACE meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program. For more information, call Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995.

Fibromyalgia

The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. For additional information, call Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

Counterpoint

Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families. For more information, call (734) 563-5005.

Toughlove

A Toughlove support group meets 7:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington roads. Newcomers welcome. Call (734) 261-7800 or (248) 380-7748.

VOLUNTEERS

Karmanos Institute

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute needs volunteers to transport cancer patients to mammogram and doctor appointments in metropolitan Detroit. Drivers are needed for Macomb and Oakland counties, Dearborn and Detroit. Volunteers must be at least 18. Mileage reimbursement is provided. Call (800) KARMANOS to volunteer.

First Step

First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program. Call (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223.

Drivers

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings. Call (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208.

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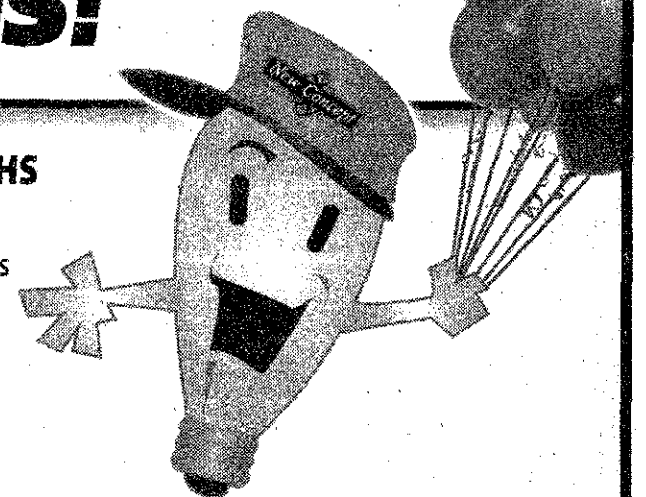
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Corporations prosper; workers get squeezed

"Right to Work for Less" people at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and various Chamber of Commerce are again hacking at unions with policy positions that are largely misleading. It is axiomatic with these groups that unions are undesirable because, in some instances, wages make them a costly condition of employment. Unions are monopolistic and coercive. They should be voluntary.



Al Churchill

In essence, they say, unions are driving employers to other states.

An independent study done by the Center for Automotive Research found that the hourly wage of UAW members at the end of the current contract, including benefits and overtime, will be around \$66 per hour. On the other hand, aside from the burden of health care costs, non-union transplants have comparable costs. What is never mentioned by "Right to Work for Less" advocates is productivity in the form of added value. In the domestic automobile industry, \$292,000 in value is added to production by each employee. Compared to the average \$73,000 of value added nationally, \$292,000 easily justifies a paycheck that allows for a diet beyond grits and bacon grease.

Market share loss has occurred, in part, because there are more choices available to consumers. It is a natural economic phenomenon that what was once a Big Three oligarchy will lose customers to increased competition.

Beyond that, the location of new plants has followed the population shift to the South. Indeed, incentives come only after a regional site search establishes a location. Southern states are offering incentives packages that are 70 percent more than states with established plants. They lean heavily to infrastructure changes, employee screening and recruitment rather than tax abatements. Less competition for skilled workers, freight and utility costs are also a primary concern.

Union labor costs are a non-issue. On the other hand, there are times when monopoly and coercion are useful and appropriate. Patent and copyright laws create socially acceptable monopolies intended to protect intellectual property of creative people and groups. Without patents, there is no incentive for drug companies to research life-saving drugs. Without copyright laws, writers would not be compensated adequately for their creativity. These governmentally induced monopolies are, oh my, coercive in the same sense that law generally is coercive. Obeying the law is not a voluntary activity. Not paying your income tax isn't going to be greeted with an "Aw shucks" from the Internal Revenue Service. Indeed, the intent

of American law is to create widespread fairness and civility. Prohibiting monopolies and laws that achieve that end is not good public policy.

Ask those who favor "right to work" laws if they would do away with legal monopolies created by patent and copyright laws. The answer, of course, will be "no." Then ask why labor unions should not have the same right to protect their members through a collective bargaining process that removes a gigantic imbalance of power tilted toward management.

Contrary to what the Mackinac Center and Chambers of Commerce say, American citizens would benefit if more people joined unions.

Here's why. Comparing the "free trade" situation today with Japan's earlier entry into America's market, Morgan Stanley chief economist Stephan Roach notes this distinction, "Today you have a different situation, with profits at record highs and the share of income going to labor at a 40-year low ... today, U.S. companies, as seen through the lens of corporate profitability, are thriving as never before while the American workforce is increasingly isolated in its competitive squeeze." *The Economist*, perhaps the most pro-business magazine in print, states that the United States "risks calcifying into a European-style, class-based society."

It is noteworthy that 42 percent of members of the House of Representatives who left office in 1998 became lobbyists, according to a report by Public Citizen, 50 percent of senators, ditto. With some elected representatives likely casting votes with an eye on their next job, Congress is now an apprenticeship on the way to journeyman status as financially lucrative lobbying shops. The end result is trade deals and other legislation that leave America's workforce hopelessly unprotected, while those with monopolistic copyrights and patents have ironclad protection.

Fact is, we are in the middle of the second Gilded Age, with an attendant disparity in wealth and power characteristic of the first Gilded Age.

One way to fight back is to unionize. Unions are among the very few fighting for people who have a cup of coffee and toast in the morning before going to work and contributing to America's well-being. The alternative is to watch an American democracy become a historical aberration, a pause between the passing of a hereditary European aristocracy to a moneyed global aristocracy.

Solidarity and strength for American working people is found only in America's unions.

Al Churchill is a retired UAW autoworker and a resident of Livonia.

Investors need to know cost to buy, sell or hold an investment

I read your weekly column that talks about the five tips for picking a mutual fund. You indicate to watch for fees. When choosing a no-load, no-transaction fee fund, what would be considered an acceptable fee? What would you suggest to be the maximum number of funds in a portfolio to limit the affects of fees?

First, with regard to the maximum number of funds, I do not believe there is a magic number. There are so many variables involved when establishing a portfolio such as goals and objectives and comfort level that I believe it is impossible to say how many funds someone

Money Matters

Rick Bloom

should own. For example, someone may not feel comfortable having more than \$10,000-\$15,000 in a fund. If that's the case and if they had \$45,000 to invest, there is no problem having four different funds. From a fee standpoint, when you use no-load, no-transaction fee funds, it is rare that having more or less funds will impact the fees in your portfolio. The exception to the rule is that in some fund companies, if you have a large amount of money invested in one fund, i.e. \$100,000, then it is possible to qualify for a different class share of mutual funds that would have a lower management fee. The area where owning less funds makes a difference is when you use commission-based funds. There are more break points so if you invest more in one fund, you potentially do pay a lower commission.

As more investment opportunities arise, it does require investors to diversify a portfolio by adding different types of funds into the mix. For example, adding an international real estate fund to provide further diversification and take advantage of certain opportunities is wise.

Don't focus on the number of mutual funds in a portfolio. Aim for a diversified and balanced

portfolio to achieve your goals and objectives.

In regard to fees, my general rule is total management fees of 1 percent or less. The exception is in international and specialty funds. In those types of funds, you typically will pay higher management fees. For those types of funds, I typically look for total management fees of less than 1.5 percent.

When it comes to management fees, I look at the bottom line number. One ingredient is to consider whether a fund has high 12-B-1 fees. These are marketing fees that companies sometimes tack on. If a fund charges 0.25 percent or less on a 12-B-1 fee, then it generally means the money collected is paid back into the fund. On the other hand, when you see high 12-B-1 fees, anything over 0.25 percent, you generally know that that money is being used for marketing purposes, including additional compensation to financial sales people.

I believe investors must always understand the cost of an investment. Know what the costs are to buy, sell and hold. Understanding these ingredients can make the difference of literally tens of thousands of dollars extra in your portfolio. Fees do matter. My question pertains to required minimum distributions for IRAs. My mother turns 70 on July 12, which means she will be 70½ in January 2008. Does she take her first RMD by April 15, 2008, and is that the only RMD she will have to take in 2008, or does she take her first annual distribution by April 15, 2008, and have to take another by Dec. 31, 2008?

Unfortunately, our tax laws are confusing and difficult which can lead to the situation where two qualified individuals have different opinions as to the state of the law.

Your mother will turn 70 next week and 70½ in 2008. Technically, her first required minimum distribution would be by April 15, 2009. The law says that required minimum distributions are due when you are 70½, however, there is an extension of time on that due date for your

first required distribution. You are allowed to take your first required distribution by April 15 of the year after you turn 70½.

The downside of following this provision is that if you wait until the year after you turn 70½ to take your minimum required distribution, then another distribution is due by Dec. 31 of that year. In other words, in the situation where you delay your distribution until April 15 of the year after you turn 70½, then in that year only you must take a double distribution.

My recommendation is to have your mother take her first required minimum distribution by Dec. 31, 2008. She will not have to take another distribution until Dec. 31, 2010.

Senior citizens must have an overall game plan regarding required minimum distributions.

Many people believe that you should not touch your IRA before 70½ so that you can continue to let it grow tax-deferred.

I don't necessarily agree with that strategy at all times. For example, I sometimes have someone begin to withdraw money from his/her IRA when they first retire. This may keep them from paying exorbitant taxes down the road when they must take distributions. Remember, money outside the IRA grows at a capital gains rate which is a maximum of 15 percent. Money in the IRA does grow tax-deferred, however, when it is withdrawn it is taxed at the ordinary income bracket, which for most people is approximately 28 percent and can be as high as 35 percent. Therefore, sometimes deferring money only increases taxes.

When someone retires, he/she should begin to set forth a game plan on how to handle a tax-deferred account. There is no one strategy that works for everyone. The key is to have a strategy that works for you.

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

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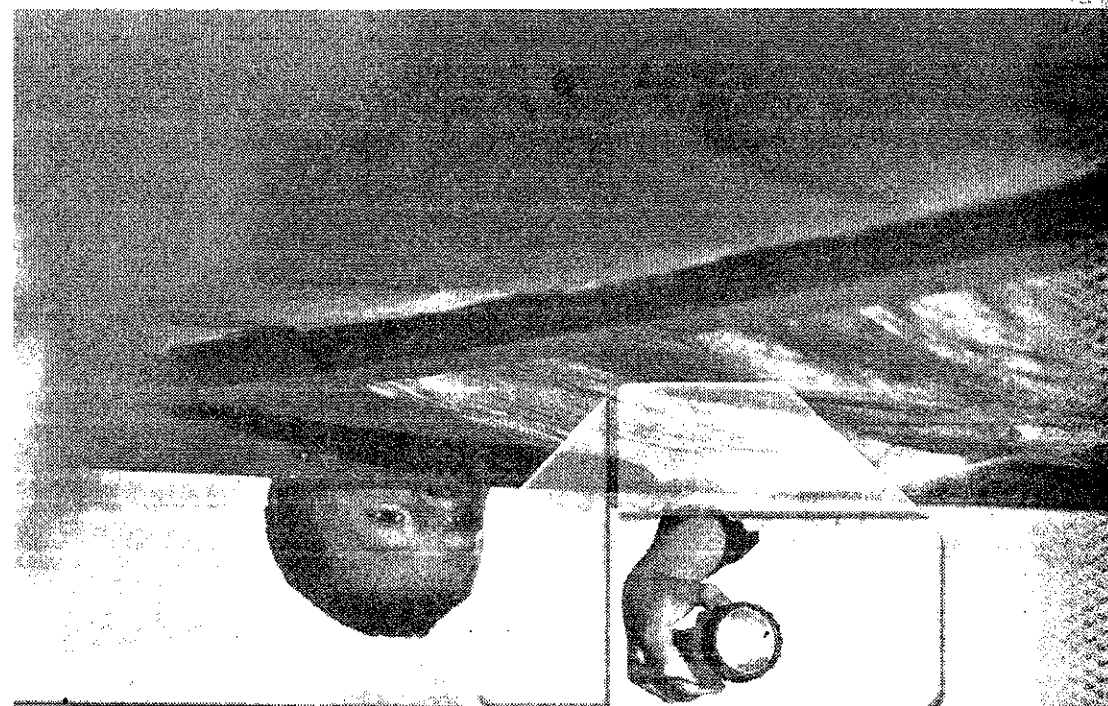
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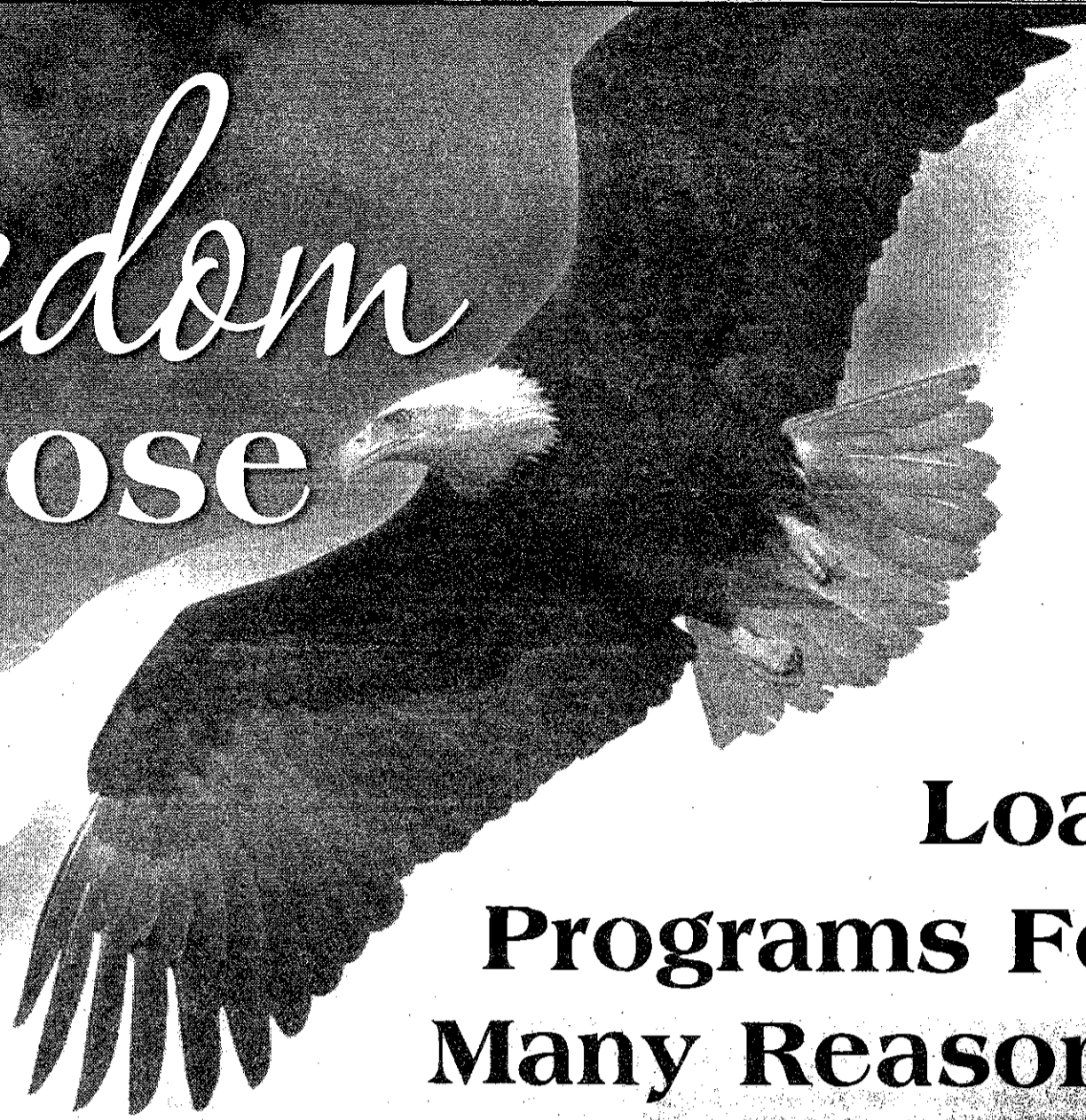
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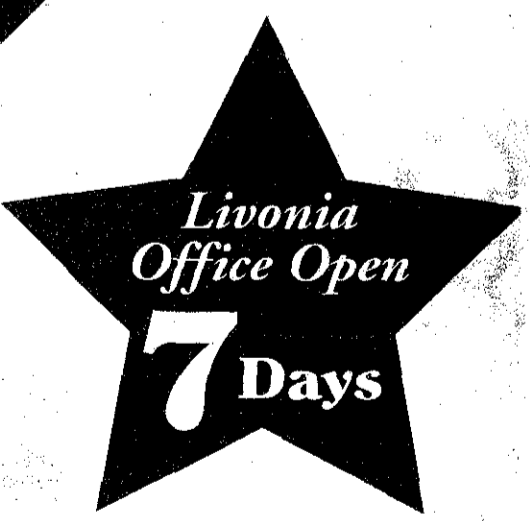
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SPORTS

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Sunday, July 9, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emmons, editor (734) 953-2123. bemonson@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Hawks thumped by Cleveland in 1st W-League loss

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Fourth of July fireworks apparently didn't quit exploding Thursday night as the Michigan Hawks Women got scorched in W-League soccer action by the host Cleveland Internationals, 6-1, at John Carroll University.

Under-21 National Team player Danesha Adams, who plays for UCLA, scored four times for third-place Cleveland, which improved to 5-2 in the W-League's Midwest Division of the

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Central Conference.

It was the Hawks' first defeat in the W-League. The are 6-1-1, a game behind the first-place Minnesota Lightning.

Cleveland also featured two other Under-21 National Team pool players in Amanda Cinalli (Notre Dame) and Jessica Rostedt (University of Virginia), each tallying a goal.

"It's a tough loss for sure," said Hawks assistant coach Amanda Wallo, who was filling in for head coach Doug Landefeld.

"They have the three U-21 players who play up-top. She (Adams) is quick. She broke through our defense and made it look easy. And we normally have a strong, tight defense. Hawks goalkeeper Kathryn Cumming found herself at the mercy of Adams' one-on-one attacks.

"Our defense did the best they could, but Danesha did a great job of playing and dribbled right through," Wallo said.

Northville's Lauren Hill (Michigan State) tallied the lone goal for the Hawks, who get another crack at the Internationals beginning 7 p.m. this

Friday at Livonia Churchill High School.

"It was a tough loss for the women," Wallo said. "We'll chalk this one up to experience. We'll move forward and learn from our mistakes."

The playing field for this Friday, however, will be more level as Adams and Cinalli will be away with commitments to the U-21 National Team in the Nordic Cup (being held in Finland).

"It will make for an interesting game," Wallo said.

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Sidelines

Deren promoted

Livonia Stevenson High grad Nick Deren has been promoted as a full-time assistant coach status for the University of Detroit Mercy men's soccer program.

Deren, who spent the past three seasons as one of Morris Lupencic's top assistants, is a 1999 UDM grad.

The three-year letter winner scored seven goals and added five assists as a Titan. He has earned an Advanced National License from the National Soccer Coaches Association and has been a staff coach for the Michigan Rush and the Michigan Olympic Development Program.

During his time at UDM, Deren served as goalkeeping coach for both the men's and women's programs in addition to assisting with training sessions, travel, fund raising and recruiting.

MU inks Plinka

Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger announced the signing of two more players including Livonia Stevenson High third baseman Nick Plinka and Northville infielder Dominic Benavides.

Plinka, a second-team All-Observer and All-Lakes Division selection, hit .354 this season with 20 RBI while scoring 24 runs.

Benavides, a three-year letter winner, helped the Mustangs to a 29-5 record, including a 26-game winning streak, while hitting .360.

He earned All-Western Lakes honors and was named Northville's Best Defensive Player.

MU signs harriers

Three runners, including Livonia Churchill's Brian Robertson and Stevenson High grad Max Guy, signed NAIA letters of intent last month.

Coach Patrick Daugherty also announced the signing of Monroe's Jacob Burman, who ran a personal best 16 minutes, 58 seconds in the 5-kilometer run.

Robertson, meanwhile, earned three letters in cross country and four in track at Churchill.

He earned second team All-Observer honors and was a state qualifier in cross country. Robertson also qualified for the Division 1 state track meet in the 4 x 800-meter relay.

Guy, a four-year letter winner in track and cross country at Stevenson, is a transfer from Grand Valley State where he was named to Dean's List.

In the Lions' den



Fourth round draft pick A.J. Davis, a defensive back from North Carolina State, works with the kids during Friday's final day of the Detroit Lions Youth Football Camp staged at Central Middle School in Plymouth.

Draftee Davis instructs campers

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

As Art Linkletter would attribute: "Kids Say the Darndest Things."

Fourth-round draft pick A.J. Davis found that out Friday as the Detroit Lions Youth Football Camp closed Friday at Plymouth's Central Middle School.

Davis, a defensive back from North Carolina State, fielded questions from 106 campers, who weren't adverse to asking the darndest things.

Here's a sample: "Do you think Jon Kitna could throw the ball over the roof of the

Silverdome?" Davis was at a loss for an answer.

"Are you famous?"

Davis replied: "Just a little bit."

"Did you play any other sports?"

Said Davis: "I ran track and

jumped (he was an NCAA runner-up in the long jump). I played basketball, but I was fast. I couldn't shoot."

And then there was this one.

"When is your birthday?"

The NFL's 105th pick overall responded: "May 29. Did you forget to get me a gift?"

The rookie Lion, who stands 5 feet, 10 inches, and weighs a mod-

Please see **CAMP, B2**



Devin Cameron of Canton runs a defensive drill during the final day of the Detroit Lions Youth Football Camp held at Central Middle School in Plymouth.

Detroit River lures anglers in Chevy Open

Local waters of the Great Lakes here in southeastern Michigan will be teeming with some of the best professional bass anglers in the world July 12-15 as the FLW Tour holds its sixth and final regular season tournament, the \$1.5 million Chevy Open, on the Detroit River.



Outdoor Insights

Bill Parker

Anglers will fish anywhere from the St. Clair River to the western basin of Lake Erie in both U.S. and Canadian waters.

While the tournament features some 400 anglers from 35 states, Australia, Canada, Italy and Japan, a couple of local anglers will have some pretty high stakes at hand when the tournament lands on their home waters.

Art Ferguson III, a Rochester native, and Kevin Long, who was raised in Bloomfield Hills, are each hoping the Chevy Open

Please see **OUTDOORS, B3**

Michigan Bucks continue PDL mastery

BY DAN STICKRADT
STAFF WRITER

MEN'S SOCCER

Teams within the Premier Developmental League have been trying to crack the codes of solving on just how to beat the Michigan Bucks.

They have been trying for a year now - and counting.

The Bucks toppled the Chicago Fire 2-1 Thursday night at Toyota Park in Bridgeview, Ill., to run their franchise league unbeaten streak up to 19 games. The Bucks (8-0-3 in league games this year) have not lost against another PDL team since July 9, 2006, a 2-0 loss to Chicago. The Bucks have now defeated

the Fire on three straight occasions, twice this year and once last year in the PDL playoffs.

"We're just rolling right now," admitted Bucks head coach Dan Fitzgerald, whose team finished second in the Great Lakes Division of the PDL to the Fire last season. "We've got a solid group of 15-16 players and we've only had a couple of minor injuries, nothing major. That's been a key."

Super-sub Kenny Uzoigwe continued his hot streak with his third game-winning goal of the season, coming off the

bench at halftime to deliver some more heroics in the 86th minute.

"He's just so quick," said Fitzgerald of Uzoigwe. "We usually bring him on at halftime or early in the second half. The other teams don't usually sub their central backs, so with Kenny fresh in the second half, he causes problems for the other teams when they're getting tired."

The Bucks would strike first in the 19th minute against their arch-rival when Ty Shipalane (Lindsey Wilson) blew by two defenders and sent a cross along the six-yard box that was neatly slotted into the back of the net by Bucks leading scorer

Please see **BUCKS, B5**



Chargers Grand Champs

The Livonia Churchill High pom pom achieved Grand Champion honors at the Mid-America Pom Camp held June 19-23 at Northwood University in Midland. Coached by Judy Nouhan and Vicki Middleton, the Chargers were also award first place in Senior Kick Line and Most Congenial team. Members of the squad include: Laura Adams, Krysten Barczuk, Jessica Brown, Lauren Campbell, Allison Estes, Katelyn Humphrey, Beth Kiurski, Sarah LaBerge, Christine Lang, Jessica McClain, Alic McGrorty, Kelsey McHugh, Amanda Rees, Brynn Rosbury, Kristen Schwarz, Katie Sedgewick, Stefanie Shepler, Chelsea Sieber, Annie Sobczak, Angela Swirlies, Ashley Thomas, Alecia Tsermengas, Melinda Wagner, Mary Wojcik, Brittany Wood and Rachel Zarem.

Future basketball stars invade at AAU nationals

BY DAN STICKRADT
STAFF WRITER

There's going to be some company in the area this week. Young, but good company.

The AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) will host its U-15 Boys Basketball National Championships with Lake Orion serving as the epicenter of the event, which is being held in conjunction with the Detroit Metro Sports Commission. The tournament will run July 10-15.

"This is the second straight year that this has come to the Detroit area, and that's pretty good company because it's never easy bringing these types of events in," said Kurt Kosmowski of the Kosmowski Group, a marketing and public relations firm that is promoting the event for the DMSC. "This is the second year that we've helped with this event. It's kind of a warmup for future events we hope to bring into the area."

The AAU tourney is expected to bring in close to 2,000 players, coaches and parents of teams from more than 30 states. There are 92 teams officially registered as of Friday. In past years, the event has served as a decent draw of basketball junkies wanting to gain a sneak peak of future collegiate stars today.

There will be even more this year. The AAU tourney is now a sanctioned event with the NCAA, which will allow college coaches to attend to view potential prospects. College coaches will still not be allowed to talk directly to student-athletes until July 1 before the start of their senior year, meaning it will be July 2009 until college coaches can talk to anyone in this age group.

In past years, several rising stars have made appearances at the AAU tournament in Oakland County. In 2000, current Phoenix Suns standout Amare Stoudemire played with a Florida-based team that participated in games

at Lake Orion, which will have three courts going through the first four days of the event.

Other sites in the area include the Lake Orion CERC building (the old high school adjacent to the current high school), along with Scripps, Oakview and Waldon middle schools in the Lake Orion district. Additional games will also be played at Lutheran Northwest High School in Rochester Hills.

"I think what might help draw people is that this event is sanctioned, which allows college coaches to attend the event," Kosmowski said. "That was not the case last year. I expect there will be plenty of (college) scouts there this year."

As for spectators, it's a chance to see tomorrow's stars today.

"You look at these rosters and five or six years from now, some of these guys will be tremendous college players or maybe even pros in the future," Kosmowski said. "There is already one kid from Ohio, Jared Sullinger, who has made

a commitment to Ohio State. These kids are only going to be sophomores in high school, but there are some very talented kids playing in this tournament. It's worth checking it out."

Several other of the top 100 rated players in the Class of 2010 age group, according to a variety of national recruiting sources, are expected to play, including some from Michigan. Among that group are Christian Vaughn (Saginaw HS), Jonathon Horford (Grand Ledge HS) and Patrick Lucas-Perry (Grand Blanc). Other top prospects from Michigan include Mohamed Conde (Belleville HS), Juwan Howard Jr. (Orchard Lake St. Mary's) and Evan Webster (Orchard Lake St. Mary's).

Rosters, brackets and schedules with times and locations of the tournament can be found on the DMSC's Web site at www.detroitssports.org/events.

"We'll have some of the best in the country here for this age group," Kosmowski said.

CAMP

FROM PAGE B1

est 191 pounds, told the campers he always dreamed about playing in the NFL.

"It wasn't about the money or the fame," he said. "I just love the game. I still feel like I'm playing a little kids' game. I'm living proof you don't have to be big, but I'm fast (he's clocked a 4.28 in the 40-yard dash). I'm just trying to remain humble and I'm thankful I have the opportunity to play. It's a blessing to play in the NFL."

Davis, who comes from a football and track family, has two cousins in the NFL (Jamal Brooks of the St. Louis Rams and Don Davis of the New England Patriots).

He got his first exposure to football through a camp in his hometown of Burlington.

"I went to a lot of them and I just loved it," Davis said. "I was bad when I started. I was an offensive lineman. I had to toughen up. Then I was a flanker. I also played quarterback and receiver. I went through the passing leagues. As far as technique for this age group (6-14), it really starts here, the little fundamentals, the footwork you get down that lasts a lifetime. It's also about having fun."

The Lions conduct 12 summer youth camps throughout the state. The cost is \$159 for 14 hours of instruction.

"We got two days of offense and two days of defense," said



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lions Youth Football Camp director Chris Fritzsching gets his players together.

Chris Fritzsching, Director of Detroit Lions Youth Football. "We go with position groups. We don't try to give them too much, just understand the game more. We give them a taste of every position that they can take with them whenever they decide to play in the fall."

Canton's Kyle Cameron, 12, goes to Discovery Middle School and plays running back. He picked up some valuable nuggets from the Lions Youth camp that he can use

this fall with the Plymouth-Canton Steelers.

"I learned you never give up and keep your eye on your goals," he said. "Always listen to the coaches because if you don't listen, you'll mess up in the games. It's all about mental toughness."

It's too early to tell if Kyle Cameron will become the next A.J. Davis, but Fritzsching is glad he has the forum to make a difference, not only through his 12 summer camps, but year-round programs.

"We have different 11 programs," Fritzsching said. "We do school assemblies. We have our Lions Leaders for Life. We do football education, coaching education and character education."

The Lions tap into different markets around Michigan each summer, but plan to return again next year to Plymouth.

"We've had this camp (Central M.S.) four years now and it's always active, high energy, and the bottom line is that they're having fun doing it," Fritzsching said.

Davis, meanwhile, is getting ready for the rigors of the NFL training camp, which is just weeks away.

He calls the Allen Park complex: "Top of the line."

"I like it," said Davis of his new surroundings. "Being from North Carolina and going to school there, this is my first time being away from

'I went to a lot of them and I just loved it. I was bad when I started. I was an offensive lineman. I had to toughen up. Then I was a flanker. I also played quarterback and receiver. I went through the passing leagues. As far as technique for this age group (6-14), it really starts here, the little fundamentals, the footwork you get down that lasts a lifetime. It's also about having fun.'

A.J. DAVIS

home. I've only been back twice, so I must be getting pretty comfortable here."

And how about one more question? This was probably the most perplexing of all to the rookie DB.

"Who is the worst player on the Lions?"

Davis obviously danced around that one: "I really can't say. Everybody there has got to be pretty good."

(The next Lions Youth Football Camp in the area is July 23-26 at Lake Orion and July 30-Aug. 2 at Detroit's Ford Field.)

Call (313) 262-2248 for more information.

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OUTDOORS

FROM PAGE B1

will boost them into the FLW Tour's Forrest Wood Cup Championship, Aug. 2-5 in Arkansas.

In FLW Tour tournaments, professionals and co-anglers (amateurs) are randomly paired each day. Co-anglers fish from the back of the boats against other co-anglers. Pros fish against other pros. The top 10 amateurs and top 10 pros, based on an accumulative weight from Thursday and Friday, advance to fish on Saturday.

Weights are wiped clean and the co-angler champion is crowned following the weigh-in on Saturday night. Pros return to the water on Sunday for one more day of competition. Anglers also earn points for their finish in each of the FLW Tour events and the top 50 to 55 in total points at the conclusion of the six tournaments, advance to the championship in Arkansas.

Entering the Chevy Open, Ferguson is in 62nd place in the point standings and Long is in 71st.

"This is the most important tournament of the year for a lot of people who are trying to make the championship," said Ferguson, who runs Art of Fishing Guide Service (586-531-2821) when he's not competing. "I'm right on the bubble. I'm 62nd in points and the top 50 to 55 will advance to the FLW championship. I need a top 50 (finish) in this one to qualify for the championships in August. Of course, you always want to win

it, or to finish in the top five." Ferguson, who fished his first tournament 28 years ago and has been a full-time pro since 1990, fishes in four professional series, including the FLW Tour, FLW Eastern Series, Stren Midwest Series and the BASS Southern.

He's had his share of good luck fishing his home waters, finishing in the top 10 twice, including a third-place finish in an FLW Tour event in 1999.

"It's on my home water, so I have no excuses," said Ferguson, who is sponsored by Marathon Oil and Kars Nuts. "The (week) leading up to the tournament I'll be out there trying to learn some new stuff to combine with what I already know. Your home water can be an advantage, but sometimes it can hurt you, too. Sometimes you'll be fishing (a pattern) you know will work, but if it doesn't you can be reluctant to make a change."

The tournament is equally important to Long, who is in his second year of fishing the FLW Tour.

"This is a big one for me," said Long, who runs Longcast Guide Service (888-536-3474) when he's not fishing in tournaments. "I've had three good finishes this year so far and two bad finishes. After all is said and done, I'm in 71st place, so I have a pretty good shot at making the cut. I think with a top-30 finish I might make it, and with a top-20 I'll probably make it for sure."

Long, who is sponsored by BF Goodrich, Evenrude and Ranger, agrees with Ferguson that it can sometimes be difficult to fish your home waters.

"I'm glad we're here. I love to fish at home, but to be honest,

I've done better on waters I'm not so familiar with. (For the Chevy Open) I'll have to keep an open mind and fish with blinders on as far as past history."

Anglers will take off at 6:30 a.m. each morning from the Elizabeth Park Marina in Trenton. Thursday and Friday's weigh-ins also will be held at Elizabeth Park Marina beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday's and Sunday's weigh-ins begin at 4 p.m. at the Cobo Center in Detroit.

FLW Outdoors is hosting a free Family Fun Zone and outdoor show at the Cobo Center from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The event includes a meet-and-greet with pro anglers, new fishing products, and fishing-themed games and rides for kids.

The first 300 children ages 14 and under to attend the event on Saturday will receive a free FLW Outdoors hat. The first 300 children ages 14 and under to attend the Family Fun Zone on Sunday will receive a free rod and reel combo. On Sunday, a member of the audience will also win a free trip for two to Hot Springs for the \$2 million Forrest Wood Cup championship, and a chance to win a \$53,000 Ranger Z20 bass boat and a Yamaha outboard. Participants must be present during the 4 p.m. weigh-in Sunday to win.

Coverage of the Chevy Open will be broadcast on FSN (Fox Sports Net) on Aug. 26 and Sept. 2 as part of the "FLW Outdoors" television program.

Bill Parker covers the outdoors for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact him c/o Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.



Wishes on Wheels

The Foresters Group, along with Compuware Corp. and Credit Union ONE, have teamed up for a common goal when they embark July 27 on the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan 300-mile bike ride throughout the state. Team WOW (Wishes on Wheels), with over 80 area registered riders, is striving to raise a total of \$100,000 to grant wishes for children who suffer from life-threatening medical conditions. This year's Team WOW will be riding for 19-year-old Lyz Schultz of Grosse Pointe Woods, who was diagnosed in Dec. of 2005 with Acute Lymphoblastic/Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL). Currently undergoing chemotherapy at the Van Elslander Cancer Center, Lyz is a student at Macomb Community College. Prior to her diagnosis, Lyz was a goalie on the Grosse Pointe South High girls lacrosse state championship teams (2005-06) and rowed for the Blue Devils girls team at the former Detroit Boat Club (Belle Isle). Among the riders for Team WOW includes Kevin Degen, who lives with cerebral palsy. His determination and enthusiasm continue to inspire the entire team. The Foresters (Branch Benevolence of Livonia) hopes the community will match the \$650 it has already pledged to sponsor Degen. Recently, the Foresters' (Branch Arrowhead) Fran Teeple (front row, center) presented Compuware's chief administrative officer, Denise Knoblock-Starr (top row, second from right), with a check for \$12,800. Also joining in the efforts are (front row, from left) Tom Hutson, Fran Teeple and Howard Teeple, all of the Foresters; (back row, from left) Tom Hutson (Foresters), Krista Snow (Compuware), Amy Casey (Credit Union ONE), Gary DesChenes (Foresters), Starr and Tom Anderson (Compuware). If you would like to help Team WOW reach its goal, visit www.wishmich.org. (Click on events, then click and WAM 300 Bicycle tour; or you can make a general donation to Team WOW.)

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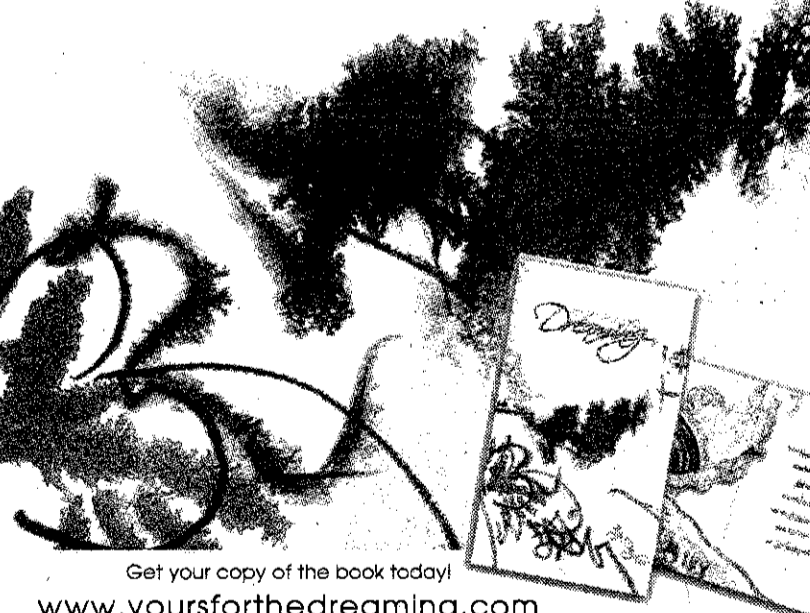
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SPORTS SHORTS

O&E Golf Open

The men's and women's Observer & Eccentric Open will be Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 11-12, at Whispering Willows and Fox Creek golf courses.

The men's 36-hole medal play is 18 holes Saturday at Whispering Willows and 18 holes Sunday at Fox Creek.

Maximum handicap is 20 and you must have a current USGA index to participate. The women's 18-hole medal play is Saturday, Aug. 11 at Whispering Willows. The fee is \$50.

Entries close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4. For more information, call (248) 476-4493.

2-woman scramble

The Michigan Women's Golf Association two-woman scramble is Saturday, July 14 at Sugarbush Golf Club in Davison.

The shotgun start is slated for 9 a.m. The entry fee is \$64 for MWGA members; \$84 for non-members. Included in the cost is golf, cart, range, continental breakfast and prizes.

For more information, call tournament director Deb Horning at (248) 642-7834; or e-mail clubchaser@comcast.net.

CYO golf outing

The 2007 Catholic Youth Organization Friends Athletic golf outing will be Monday, July 16 at St. John's golf Center in Plymouth.

Hole sponsorships are also available. For more information, call CYO athletics at (313) 963-7172, Ext. 149.

Judo juniors

The 2007 U.S. Judo Federation Junior Nationals will be Saturday-Sunday, July 14-15, at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center in Ypsilanti.

For more information on the Junior Nationals, visit www.MichiganJudo.org.

Motor City Jr. Golf

The Motor City Junior Golf Championship for ages 12-17 is scheduled for Wednesday, July 25 at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia.

The 18-hole event is sponsored by Caddy Shack and Top

Flite Golf. Included in the \$49 entry fee is one practice round (prior to the event), one bucket of driving range balls (the day of the event), lunch ticket and gift pace.

Entry forms must be fill out in full, signed and returned by Wednesday, July 18 to Whispering Willows, located on Newburgh Road just south of Eight Mile Road.

Fee times will be announced after noon on Sunday, July 22. For more information, call (248) 476-4493.

Baseball lessons

The Bernie Carbo Pro Secrets Baseball Academy will be staging individual, small group and team skill sessions in power pitching, hitting and fielding.

Marketing showcase sessions for high school players are available.

Former Phillies minor league All-Star Mark Rutherford will be the featured instructor. Call (734) 421-4928.

Soccer openings

The Waza FC Soccer Club has open positions for the following teams: under-8 (boys and girls), under-10 (girls); under-11 (boys); under-12 (boys and girls); under-13 (boys).

Practices will be held at Livonia's Bryant Field, located on Merriman between Six and Seven Mile roads.

For more information, call Jim Debolski at (734) 637-1730; or visit www.WazaFC.com.

High Velocity soccer

High Velocity Sports in Canton will be offering summer soccer clinics after the 4th of July.

The clinics are once a week for eight weeks.

The cost and day of the week for each class varies per class from \$60 to \$90. All classes include a free T-shirt.

Schedules and fees are available on www.hvsports.com.

The available clinics include "Future Stars" (2- and 3-year-olds), "Small Stars" (3-4), "Kicks With Kids" (4-5 and 6-7), a Skill Acceleration Camp (8-9 and 10-12), "Beginning Booters" (8-11) and a women's clinic for adults. Call (734) HV-SPORT.

HVS will also offer skill development classes with Detroit

Ignition players on Thursdays beginning June 14 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 for those who are already registered for spring or summer clinics at HVS or \$10 for anyone else.

Finally, HVS will offer a summer soccer camp for kids between the ages of 5 and 12 June 25-29 from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$110. All HVS summer camps are buy one, get one half off.

3-on-3 hoops

The first annual Hoopin' for the Sal' 3-on-3 double-elimination basketball tournament will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11 at Salvation Army parking lot, 2300 Venoy, Westland.

The cost is \$80 per team. Registration starts at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11.

Divisions for co-ed include Open (adult ages 18 and up), Middle (15-17) and JV (12-14). Awards included a 20-inch flat screen TVs to the Open Division winners; trophies and T-shirts to all other divisions.

For more information, ask for Captain Matt at (734) 722-3660.

WMGA tourney

The Michigan Women's Golf Association 22nd annual state championship is set for Saturday-Sunday, July 28-29, at Hunter's Ridge Golf Course in Howell, voted in 2005 as the top "female friendly" public golf course in southeastern Michigan.

Players of all experience levels are welcomed, especially junior girl golfers. There will be three division of competition including Regular, Senior and Junior.

Juniors will play only on Sunday, July 29. The fee is \$59.

The Regular and Senior divisions will have a 9 a.m. shotgun start on both Saturday and Sunday.

The cost is \$140 for MWGA members; \$160 for non-members (includes golf, cart, range, prizes, continental breakfast both days, and lunch after play on Sunday.

Call tournament director Sonia Pysh-Denison at (586) 212-6639; or e-mail Pysh-Denison@wmgolf.org. An entry form is online at www.wmgolf.org.



Cyclones win title

The Livonia Soccer Club Cyclones, an under-13 boys recreational team, recently finished 10-0 during the spring season in the Great Lakes Soccer League's Superior Division. The Cyclones also captured the U-13 division at the Canton Cup, defeating U-13 Western Suburban Soccer League champion Farmington in the final, 4-0.

Members of the 2007 spring team include (from left) Kevin Louwers, Matthew Sankey, Chad Evans, Robert Schramm, Peter Eri, Stephen Marchio, Tyler Reetz, Derek Covert, Derek Wenderlich, Kari Tiama, Scott Horger, Matt Kruppa, David Koponen, Jayson Gibson, Stephen Bank, Alex Hassa, Chad Lipinski, Sean Goulette and Craig Lefevere; coaches Tim Evans and Jim Kruppa, along with team manager Ben Bank.

BUCKS

FROM PAGE B1

Khelli Dube (Coastal Carolina).

Dube's ninth goal of the season would not hold up into halftime as Chicago won a goal-mouth scramble in front of Bucks goal netminder Steve Clark (Oakland), who made two fine saves before the third rebound was put by him by Chris Jackson for the 1-1 tie late in the first half.

With the win, the Bucks (27 points) move further ahead of the Fire (6-3-4, 22 points) in the eight-team Great Lakes Division with the season sweep of Chicago. The Bucks are one of only three unbeaten teams of the 63 clubs in the PDL.

"I think we pretty much have it sewed up," said Fitzgerald. "We would have to fall apart not to make the playoffs. I think we might start resting some guys to get ready for the playoffs. Other teams come out and play us hard every time."

CAMPS/CLINICS

MU cross country

Madonna University will stage a base camp for the serious high school cross country runner from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, July 30-Aug. 3, at Cass Benton Park, part of the Hines Park system just south of Northville on Hines Drive.

The cost is \$95.

MU will also stage a series of long runs from 7:30-9 a.m. on Saturdays, July 14, 21, 28; Aug. 4 and 11, at Cass Benton.

The cost is \$2 each Saturday. For more information, call camp director and MU head coach Patrick Daugherty at (734) 658-0226 (evenings) or the MU cross country office at (734) 432-5634. You can also e-mail pdaugherty@madonna.edu.

Advertisement for GAM (Golf Association of Michigan) featuring the slogan 'GET IN THE GAM! And Get The Best Value In Golf!' and 'SAVE ON GOLF! Become a Member of the Golf Association of Michigan'. It includes the USGA logo and website information.

Large advertisement for Meijer featuring a 'NEWS FLASH!' banner and the headline 'Saving your hard-earned money just got easier'. It includes details about a \$10 gift card offer for new subscribers to Observer & Eccentric newspapers.

Advertisement for 'Dining with the Stars' charity event. It features a photo of Jay Towers, Shila, and Bill McAllister and lists prizes for the winner, such as a limo, makeover, and special table at Buddy's Pizza.

FRIDAY FROM THE GRILL!!!

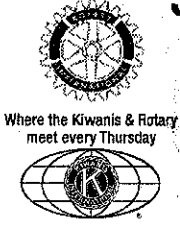


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Lean & tender veal sauteed with green peppers, mushrooms & onions in a special wine & tomato sauce.

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What's up with Webkinz?

Sophia left for camp today, entrusting me with the care of her 1-week-old Persian cat. Over the next three days, I must feed my 7-year-old's kitten, give it love, and make sure it takes a few spins on its skateboard. Quite a to-do list for a stuffed animal.

But Princess is no ordinary plush. This fur-ball has a virtual persona as well. In cyberspace, Princess can jump on a trampoline, eat popcorn, and cheer for Sophia as she plays games to earn so-called KinzCash, with which she'll buy cute kitty clothes and, undoubtedly, more popcorn.

My two kids recently purchased Webkinz pets - the super-popular, super-hard-to-find toys that come with a secret code used to register at Webkinz.com. It's easy for kids to fall head-first into Webkinz World, I've discovered. And their parents aren't far behind.

I have a friend who, after tucking in her kids for the night, logs on to their Webkinz accounts and cleans up their toys. Their virtual toys. In their virtual rooms. I teased her

— until I became a Webkinz Mommy myself. Now I've given enough thought to these \$12 toys to have compiled a pro and con list. First, Things I Don't Like About Webkinz:

■ **The Entire Premise Is Materialistic.** Almost everything kids do on the site earns them KinzCash, which they must save and spend on things their pets want and need. On the one hand, I appreciate this early lesson in capitalism. (Watching 5-year-old Jackson set aside funds for a virtual swimming pool gives me hope that 16-year-old Jackson won't fritter away his entire McDonald's paycheck on dollar store miscellany when he's actually saving up for an iPod or iCar or whatever iThing Apple will be selling in 2018.) But it seems a sad reflection on society that a pre-K kid should be indulging in retail therapy.

■ **Greed Is Encouraged.** I assumed that once each kid had a Webkinz, we'd be set for life. But one pet equals one year of membership. When that year is up, the child's account is deactivated — unless he registers a new pet. With each subsequent adoption, kids get more KinzCash and finer welcome gifts. There are not-so-subliminal messages everywhere on the site encouraging multiple acquisitions, such as, "Adopt a new Webkinz. You can never have too many furry friends — or too much KinzCash!"

■ **It's Addictive.** And not just for the kids but for their mom as well. I test-drove several games — all in the name of research for this column, of course. Two hours and multiple Solitaire sessions later, I had accumulated a few hundred in KinzCash for each kid but felt a little sheepish about the whole thing. Especially when my husband remarked, "You're on fire over there; do you have a story due tomorrow?" and I had to admit I'd actually been playing Lunch Letters, a speed-typing game.

But then there are Things I Like About Webkinz: ■ **The Parental Propaganda.** Jackson's pet utters missives such as: "It's good to know how to swim!" and "Healthy food makes me happy!" He seems to take these nuggets of wisdom more seriously when they're exclaimed by an adorable black bear rather than droned by a grouchy mother.

■ **Readers Are Rewarded.** The great majority of material presented in Webkinz World is written rather than spoken. My pre-K son is quickly accumulating words he recognizes by sight, and Sophia is keeping her skills sharp this summer not just during her turns but also as she helps her brother navigate the site by reading aloud to him.

■ **It's Safe.** Once a child logs on, Webkinz World exists in a self-contained window that doesn't include an address bar — meaning younger ones can't accidentally end up in unsavory sections of the Internet. What's more, the site is designed to keep personal information such as e-mail addresses, hometowns and even names private.

■ **Inspires Imaginative Play.** One day, Webkinz World was down for repairs. Although initially disappointed, Sophia redirected her enthusiasm. Instead of decorating her pet's online rooms, she got motivated to build a cardboard house for her plush Webkinz. Cost: 0 KinzCash!

Rebecca Kavanagh is a Farmington Hills freelance writer who interrupted the creation of this column to log on to Webkinz.com so she could earn a bonus spin on the Wheel of Wow for her daughter, who couldn't do it herself because she was too busy having a life. Write to Kavanagh at momssthewordcolumn@gmail.com.



Bob Paul of Garden City, and Dick Sprague of Livonia both work on the B-25.

Yankee Air Museum is hub of activity

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Dick Sprague raises his right arm signaling the pilot to start the B-25 bomber. Sprague was part of the Yankee Air Museum crew that spent hundreds of hours replacing then testing the number 2 engine in time for the public to purchase rides on the World War II era aircraft during Thunder Over Michigan. The event features performances by the Blue Angels U.S. Navy Aerial Demonstration Squadron Saturday-Sunday, July 7-8, at Willow Run Airport in Belleville. Proceeds from the performances and rides in the B-25 and B-17 go toward a fund to rebuild and expand Yankee Air Museum.

Like the mythical bird the Phoenix, the museum is rising from the ashes after the 1941 hangar housing vintage aircraft was destroyed by fire in October 2004 at Willow Run Airport. Earlier this week, Hangar 2 was a hub of activity. The museum is temporarily located in the hangar.

"The B-25 Bomber is the only Model D still flying in the world," said Sprague, 80, of Livonia. Sprague used his skills as a master modeler for Ford's Design Center for 38 years to build the bomber's machine guns. "This is the first flight since changing

THUNDER OVER MICHIGAN

When: 9 a.m. Sunday, July 8, air show begins at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets: Available at the gate for \$20 (ages 16 and up), children free, parking \$10; B-25 and B-17 rides cost \$425 and are available beginning at 10 a.m.

Details or directions: www.yankeeairmuseum.org. For more information about the museum, call (734) 483-4030.

the engine. We started building in the old hangar and rebuilt the entire plane in five years. I'm anxious about the new museum. We want to get a hangar of our own."

A GOOD PLAN

Bob Paul is as anxious about putting up a new hangar for the museum's historic aircraft. Paul, a 64-year-old Garden City resident, worked seven days a week to change the B-25 engine. Over the last two years he helped restore the bomber's tail. A member of the museum since 1996, Paul served in the Marine Corps and was crew chief on the F-4 Phantom and A-4 Skyhawk

Please see **MUSEUM, C3**



Westland resident Joe Kosek works on the airframe for a World War I era Spad.



Dick Sprague's model maker's skills enabled him to build the machine gun and turret.

Michigan Jazz Festival educates young and old as well

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER



Dennis Tini of Farmington Hills performs selections from his new CD at the Michigan Jazz Festival Sunday, July 15, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Tini is organizing a Playing with the Pros session to encourage young jazz musicians.

Dennis Tini is the perfect choice to direct the newest element of the Michigan Jazz Festival Sunday, July 15, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Playing with the Pros provides an opportunity for gifted young musicians to play with professionals such as Tini.

Not only has the Farmington Hills pianist taught music for 33 years at Wayne State University where he co-founded the jazz studies program, but Tini's releasing a third CD as leader, *Global Peace & Understanding* with his trio - Jeff Halsey, bass, and David Taylor, drums. Joining them on the album were the Rucner String Quartet of Croatia and Peter Soave, accordion/bandoneon of Farmington Hills, among others.

The CD was recorded in Switzerland, Croatia and Detroit and commemorates the South African AIDS pandemic, the

Please see **JAZZ, C2**



Dennis Tini's new CD commemorates the South African AIDS pandemic, the Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina disasters, world peace, and the Lake George, New York boat tragedy that killed 21 people including Charles and Louise Greenwald of Livonia in October 2005.



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GIRLS BASKETBALL CAMP



Benefit dinner

The Community Opportunity Center holds its third annual Italian Night Monday, July 16, at East Side Mario's, 31630 Plymouth Road, west of Merriman in Livonia. Anyone who dines at the restaurant from 4-8 p.m. will be treated to East Side Mario's celebrated spaghetti, salad and bread for just \$10. Drinks, tips and tax are extra. The restaurant will donate the entire \$10 to Community Opportunity Center, a non-profit housing corporation supporting adults with developmental disabilities in Wayne County. For details, call (734) 422-1020. Pictured here are Mike and Karen Parkinson and son Jeff enjoying last year's dinner.

Learn basic motorcycle safety

Do you want to learn to ride a motorcycle safely or see if motorcycling is for you? Henry Ford Community College's Center (HFCC) for Lifelong Learning is offering a Basic Rider Course to help beginning motorcyclists develop basic skills including shifting, braking and turning. Upon successful completion of the course, the Secretary of State will waive the riding skills test required for motorcycle endorsement.

Courses run 5:30-9:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, July 9-19, and Mondays through Thursdays, Aug. 13-

23. The final intense session meets 6-10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 8-9. Riders will be assigned range time on the first class meeting, but must be available throughout the entire stretch of time.

All sessions take place at HFCC's Dearborn Heights Center, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail. The course provides 16 hours of instruction and costs \$25. The course is conducted with state funds from a motorcycle safety grant. Limited space is available and classes fill quickly. To register, call (313) 317-1500 or 1-877-855-5252.

Motorcycles will be provided. Riders must supply their own protective clothing and gear for the course including a Department of Transportation-approved motorcycle helmet; eye protection; full-finger gloves; sturdy, over-the-ankle boots; heavy-duty pants; heavy-duty, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, and rain or cold-weather gear.

Participants must be at least 15 years old. Participants under 18 years old must bring a waiver signed by a parent/guardian on the first day of class.

Visit www.hfcc.edu/cl2.s

JAZZ

FROM PAGE C1

tsunami and Hurricane Katrina disasters, world peace, and the Lake George, New York, boat tragedy that killed 21 people including Charles and Louise Greenwald of Livonia in October 2005. The Greenwalds were longtime volunteers with the Michigan Jazz Festival. The first track, Unexpected Passings, is dedicated to the victims. Beautiful, lyrical selections definitely convey peacefulness throughout the CD.

"Why global peace? I've spent almost 40 years on concert tours in Europe, guest conducting choral concerts, teaching in South Africa. I've seen a lot of problems and difficulties in the world. I've been concerned and committed to having people understand each other and it evolved into this new album project," said Tini, distinguished professor of music at Wayne State University. Tini returns to Europe the day after the festival for a three-week tour with Soave. He performs 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16, at a B' jazz Vespers concert at First Baptist Church at Willits and Bates in Birmingham. "Throughout the world we're not viewed as positively as in the past. I became part of the music relief effort in South Africa in 1992, bringing textbooks and equipment. I'm trying to use positive ways to use music to inspire peace and a more cohesive existence."

Tini took on the challenge of organizing Playing with the Pros at the request of Eileen Standley, a professional pianist and jazz festival volunteer. The session takes place 3:30-4:30

p.m. on the Inmart/CRH stage in the Presentation Room of the VisTaTech Center. Bob Harsen (drums) and Jeff Halsey (bass) join Tini in welcoming Matt Ryan, bass, of Livonia and saxophonists Evan Pedder of Troy and Victoria Williams of Detroit to the stage.

"I'm a past president of International Association for Jazz Education so I was all for it," said Tini. "The idea was they're going to come up and give us the music to play with them. It's going to be a performance clinic and they're going to be featured playing with a trio. The whole process is going to unfold before the audience right in the moment. It's going to be spontaneous and creative."

Festival goers of all ages can learn about jazz as well at the hourlong Cohen/Steinway Jazz Cafe educational sessions featuring Buddy Budson, Bess Bonnier, Alma Smith, Bob Seeley, and Taslimah Bey, beginning at 12:15 p.m. Tini shares the concept for compositions on his new album 6:15-7:15 p.m. More than 215 musicians perform a variety of jazz styles from noon to 9:15 p.m. including the Johnny Trudell Big Band, Los Gatos, Chris Collins Trio & Jazz Harp, World's Oldest Sax Section, saxophonist George Benson and his quartet, Tom Saunders Detroit Jazz All Stars, Jerry McKenzie's Just Jazz, Jim Ryan Trio, and the Richko/Keller/Siers Trio with a tribute to Oscar Peterson. The Schoolcraft College and Wayne State jazz lab bands also perform at the 13th Michigan Jazz Festival which takes place on five stages and is free.

"It's a fantastic festival," said Tini. "They've really worked

hard to feature Michigan, Detroit area artists. The venue they've chosen makes it easy to hear on the various stages."

Lynne Standley is especially excited about seeing her 14-year-old son, Matt, play with a professional trio. Matt and brother Brendan volunteer at the festival every year.

"He loves jazz," said Lynne Standley. "He was accepted in Wayne State's Jazz Week, a new initiative with the Detroit Jazz Festival (Labor Day weekend). He's at Blue Lake (music camp) until Sunday night. This is his second year in the jazz program there."

Eileen Standley is equally as proud of her grandson, Matt Ryan. Eileen has been playing show tunes and jazz professionally since the 1970s. She taught classical piano for 20 years.

"I suggested Playing with the Pros because I love young people," said Eileen Standley of Plymouth. "Two-thirds of our audience is over the age of 50. The festival committee agreed to give me one hour and I called instructors looking for exceptional students. They did their own arrangements. They will call the tune and set the tempo and its their tune but there will be no rehearsal. We want to show other people that the Michigan Jazz Festival is interested in educating the public about the music and being able to educate young musicians. I would have loved to have had that experience."

Schoolcraft College is at 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. For more information, visit michiganjazzfestival.homestead.com or call Midge Ellis at (248) 474-2720 or Eileen Standley at (734) 459-2454.



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MUSEUM

FROM PAGE C1

jet attack aircraft.

"It's a good plan for the museum," said Paul. "It's just going to take some time to get money."

Dick Stewart estimates the entire project will cost more than \$100 million and take at least 15 years to complete. An official groundbreaking for a temporary visitor center and classroom located in an about to be restored school house took place April 16.

Stewart as museum president is working with Prentice Co. museum consultants in Illinois, URS (Grand Rapids) and Quinn Evans (Ann Arbor) architects, and Exhibit Design Central (Illinois) to come up with plans for the 12-building campus by the year's end.

A concept drawing features the main museum, galleries, historic aircraft hangar and restoration facility with machine shop, visitor reception building with corporate offices, theater, aviation theme restaurant, banquet facilities, and aerospace charter high school.

A private individual has donated \$650,000 for the restoration of the Willow Run School House built in 1938 by Henry Ford for workers' families and kids who attended Camp Ford for disadvantaged and at risk youth who would then go on to trade school. Stewart expects work to begin in the next 90 days and continue to early winter.

"A classroom will be used for educational programs. We now go into schools to teach kids about aviation history through the Wright Flyer Program," said Stewart, a Vietnam veteran. "We're partnering with Eastern Michigan University for the education program and school districts and the state to update all of our programs. We want to let kids know what really goes on with aviation and what it took. Our main museum is going to tell the story. President Roosevelt called this the arsenal of democracy."

Stewart says plans call for reproducing Henry Ford's Willow Run bomber plant during World War II. Many Michigan companies took part in the war effort as plants changed over from making cars to aircraft. An influx of people came up from the South to work

in the plants, creating a melting pot of peoples.

The museum will educate visitors about the Victory Gardens, the drives for rubber, gasoline rationing, the sacrifice of people at home and the Boy Scouts who delivered messages for civil defense.

Gallery buildings will tell the stories of pilots and aircraft mechanics with exhibits of tools, equipment and uniforms. The history of aviation continues through the space program. Stewart refers to the overall concept for the museum as Moments in Time.

"We're going to have our historic aircraft in building No. 1. Hopefully we can get someone to donate the steel for it. That's 75 percent of the cost. One company has already donated landscaping for the campus. Someone else has promised a steel roof for the school house," said Stewart. "About 300 volunteers give their time on a fairly regular basis. Almost \$1 million of volunteer hours were donated last year."

A TON OF HISTORY

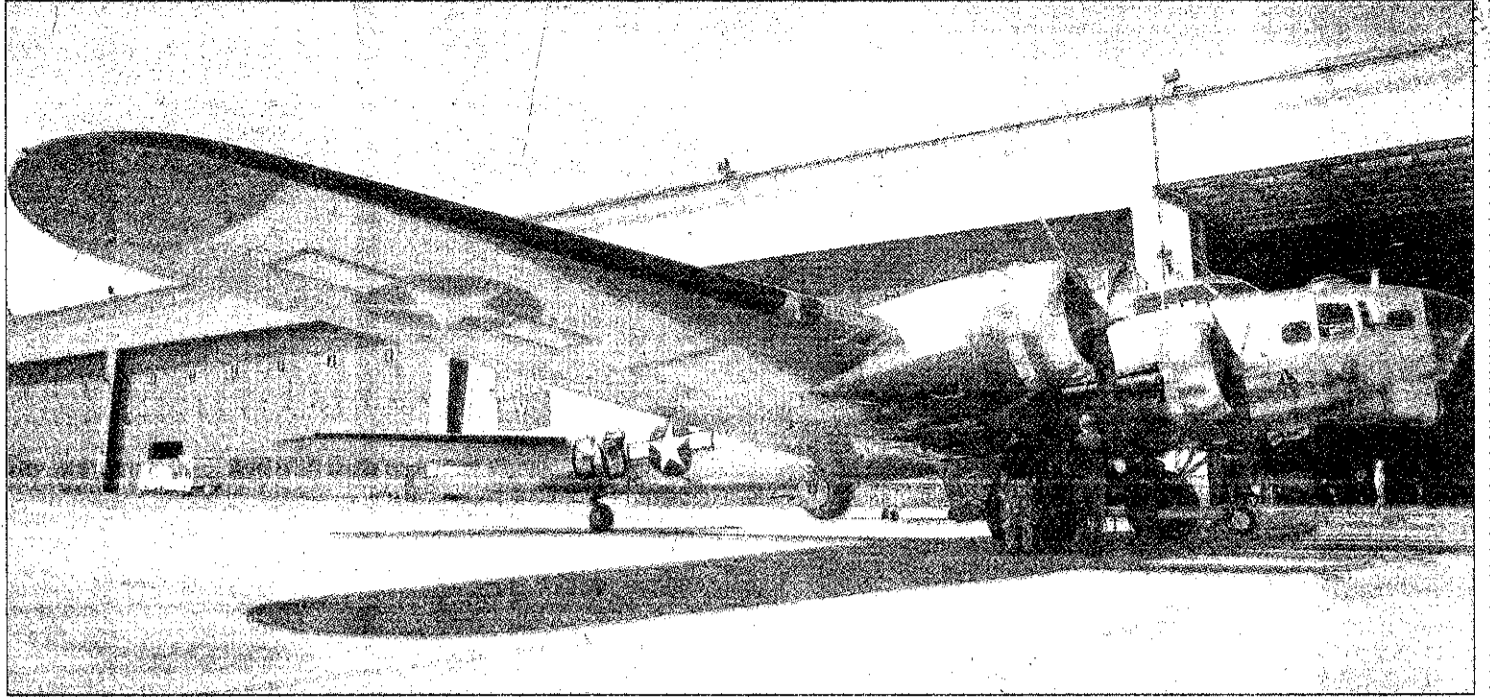
Doug Duff of Amherstberg, Ontario, comes twice a week to volunteer as a B-25 crew member with Paul and Sprague. He explains the crew is testing number 2 engine to check for extreme temperatures and rattles.

"For every one hour flown, we have about 10 hours of maintenance," said Duff. "It costs about \$40,000 for a typical engine rebuilt. This plane saw combat in Corsica with the 340th Bomb Group of the 12th Air Force in the Mediterranean. After the war it was used for training in Canada. The new museum is dedicated to veterans of World War I and World War II, Vietnam, Korea, all of the veterans of all the wars. There are a lot of air museums in the U.S. but Yankee is an international museum. This area has a lot of history. Willow Run built B-24s during World War II, GM built Bearcats. There's tons of aviation history."

"And it's one of the few museums that you can touch the airplane and take them into the (B) 25," said Paul.

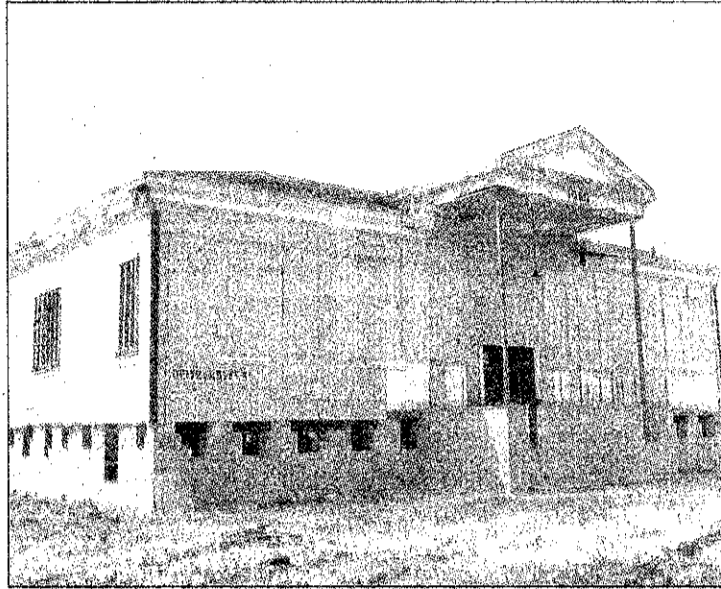
"It's a live museum," added Duff. "We work, restore and fly the aircraft."

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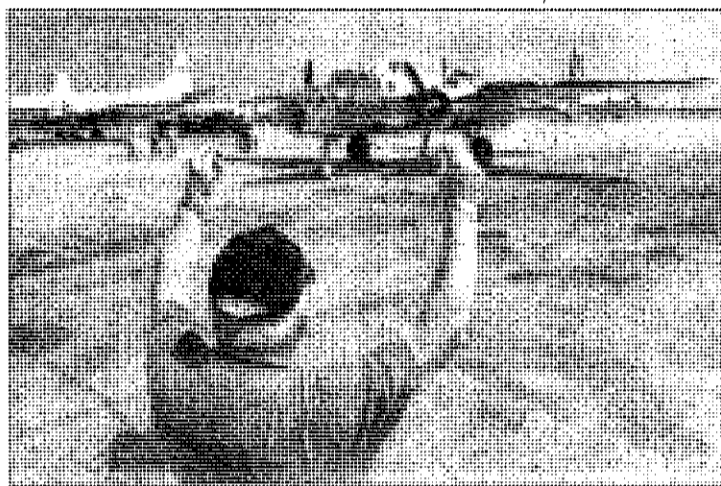


PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

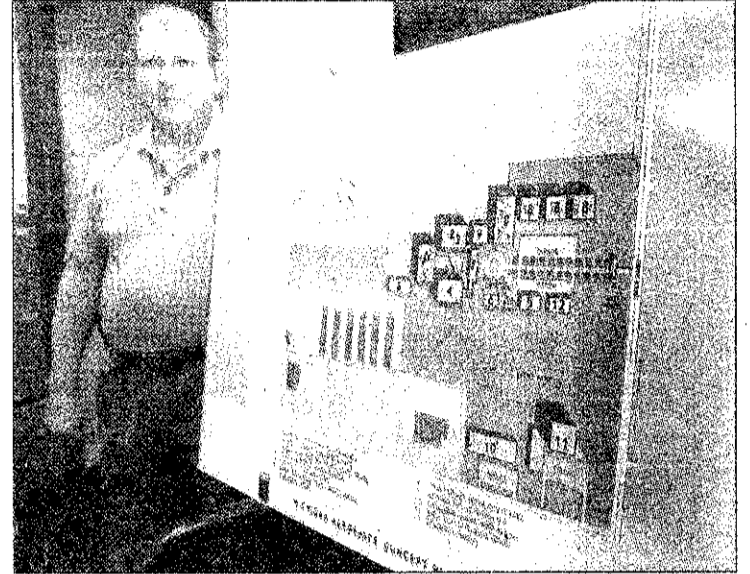
The B-17 had been used by the US Coast Guard for search and rescue operations and then by California, fighting forest fires.



The old school was moved to the site.



Dick Sprague signals to the crew of the B-25. The Yankee Air crew replaced the number 2 engine on the bomber. This ground test and flight would test the new engine.



Dick Stewart is pictured here with plans for the new Yankee Air Museum campus. Stewart is the museum's president.

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In plein air

Artists use paints, pastels to capture scenes in the out-of-doors

BY SHARON DARGAY
COMMUNITY LIFE EDITOR

Jan Davison of Oakland Township chose oil paint for her canvass and sunblock for herself while painting in a Traverse City vineyard two weeks ago.

"The thermometer registered 102 degrees," Davison said. "We do have umbrellas that they make to hang over our easels. You have to work fast and you have to bring sun lotion and hats and mosquito repellent."

Bug sprays, sun guards, umbrellas — it's all in a day's work for a plein air painter, like Davison. The retired Avondale High School art teacher is among professional and amateur artists who often prefer to trade the comforts of their studios for the unpredictable climate outdoors.

Plein (pronounced "plain") air painting is a French term meaning painting from life outdoors, according to the Great Lakes Plein Air Painters Association (GLPAPA) Web site. It says a true plein air painting is completed from start to finish on site, in a few hours.

Davison, a member of the GLPAPA, also paints twice weekly outdoors with friends and recently worked on site at Van Hoesen Farm in Rochester Hills during the community's garden walk.

"On Tuesdays, I have a group I paint with. I meet with artist friends and we go to Cranbrook or Meadow Brook (Hall) gardens or Van Hoesen Farms," she said. "The group I meet with on Thursday is called Company of Art. We do still life and plein air."

Davison also paints portraits and figures with other professional artists on Mondays at Margot's Gallery in Oxford.

Her Thursday group will show their works beginning Monday, July 9, through the end of the month, at the Birmingham Corporate Training and Conference Center, 31301 Evergreen, Beverly Hills. The show will include portraits and plein air works. She and others also

PLEIN AIR CLASSES AND GROUPS

■ Great Lakes Plein Air Painters Association The organization is based in East Lansing, but includes members from throughout Michigan and adjacent Great Lake states.

The organization offers painting meets, educational experiences and competitions. Upcoming painting meets include Greenfield Village, in Dearborn, Friday-Saturday, Aug. 17-18; Old Mission Peninsula in Traverse City, Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 6-9; and the DeVries Nature Conservancy just north of Owosso on Saturday, Oct. 13.

Membership runs from April 1 - March 31. Dues cost \$25. After April 30, renewal dues are \$30. High school and college student dues are \$15. Inactive members can receive a newsletter for \$10. For more information about the organization, write to Great Lakes Plein Air Painters Association, PO Box 4344, East Lansing, MI 48826.

Or visit its Web site at www.glpapa.com

■ Michigan Plein Air Painters Dues are \$25 annually, which includes participation in shows and exhibits, notices about upcoming events, and placement of the artist's works on the MPAP Web site. The group meets most Saturdays year-round, at 8 a.m., in the nature center parking lot at Kensington Metropark near Milford, then moves to a site within the park to paint. Visit www.michigan-pleinair.com

■ Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association A seven-session plein air painting class wraps up July 14. A class for independent professional artists and for those developing their own aesthetic, runs Monday-Friday, Aug. 13-17. Cost is \$185 for members and \$225 for guests. The group will travel to a different location each day. Artists work in the dry or wet medium of their choice. The class includes slide shows and group critiques that will take place in a studio at the BBAC. For more information, call the BBAC at (248) 644-0866 or visit www.bbactcenter.org.

will paint on site during Scripps Days, Sept. 21-23, at the Scripps Mansion, in Orion Township.

Davison painted outdoors in



A true plein air painting is started and completed on site. Rochester area residents recognize Jan Davison's painting as the gazebo at Van Hoesen farm.



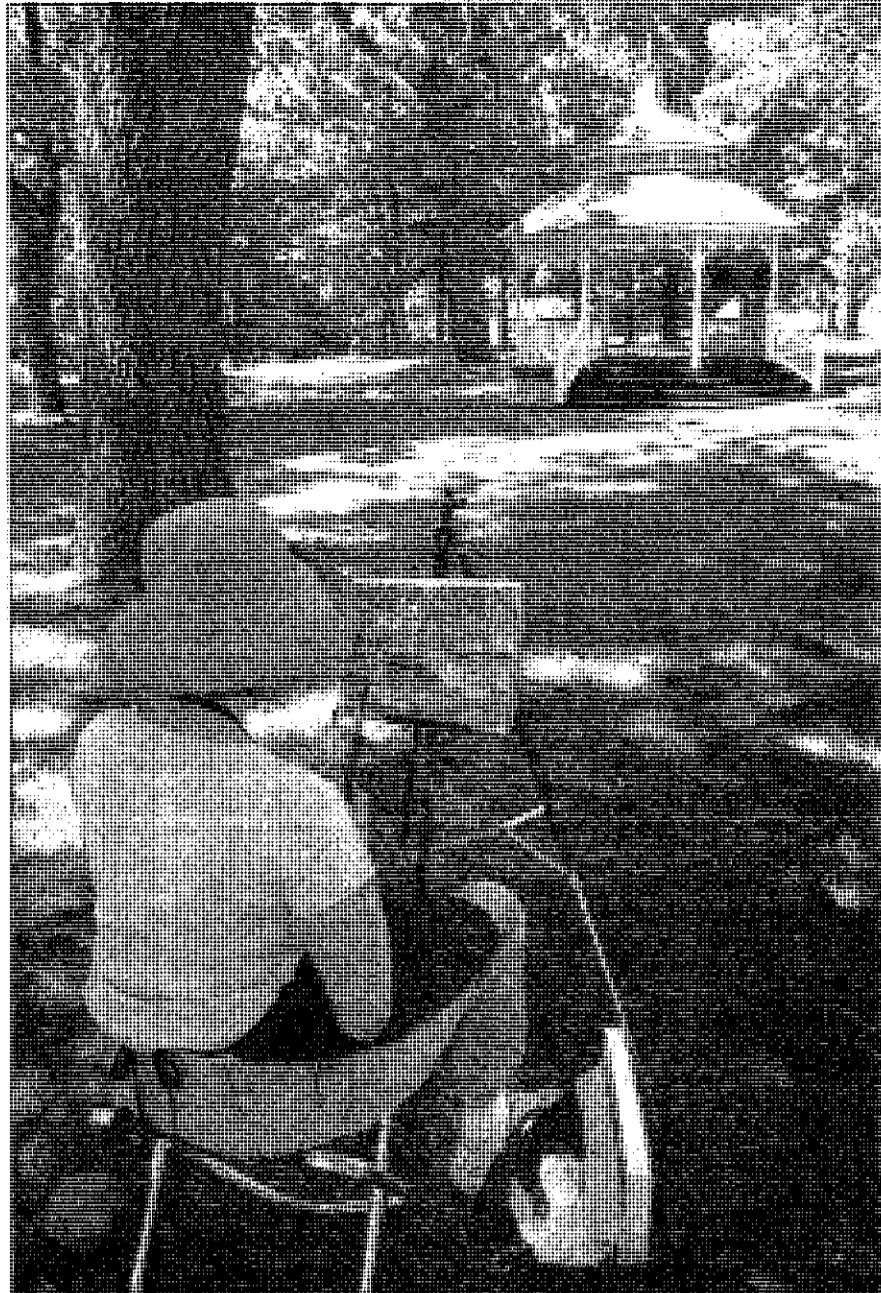
Janet Davison dresses for the weather when painting outdoors.

the summer during the 30 years she taught high school art, but couldn't devote as much time to her art then as she does now.

"We like to paint in the early morning or late afternoon. The idea is that it's a quick sketch and the aim is to finish in two hours because the light changes too much after that. We learn to do gestures, which is fast, capturing the essence of what is there," Davison said.

"When you're out-of-doors, you get the true dimension. Photographs flatten things and doesn't show true values and colors."

The out-of-doors also offers "fresh air, smells and ambiance" that artists don't find indoors. Although Davison doesn't work outside in the winter, some of her friends don "big boots and hand warmers," to set up easels in the snow.



Retired Avondale High School art teacher Jan Davison paints outdoors at Van Hoesen Farm in Rochester Hills. Davison, one of several artists who painted outside during a community garden walk on June 21, regularly paints on location with a handful of friends.

"We're trying to capture realistic perspective and light. Once you paint something outdoors, you never forget what it looks like," she said. "I love to do gazebos. There's something romantic about a gazebo. You can picture yourself just sitting there and reading a book."

She encourages artists of all skill level to give plein air a try. A basic painting or drawing class with instruction in perspective will help the beginning artist get started.

Davison also offers these tips:

■ Make sure the location permits on site painting. Davison and her friends, for example, call Meadow Brook Hall before setting up easels in the mansion's gardens.

They buy a garden pass to paint at Cranbrook to paint on site.

■ Consider safety. "I've painted in downtown Detroit and the Eastern Market is a good place to paint in the morning, but by 2 p.m., everyone is drifting away," Davison said.

■ Remember to take bug spray, a hat, umbrella, sunblock or other items for a more pleasant experience.

■ Consider obstructions, such as foot traffic and cars, that might appear during your painting session.

■ Enjoy the setting. "It's fun to watch people walk by. Some try to ignore you and others will come right up and ask, 'Do you mind if we look?'"

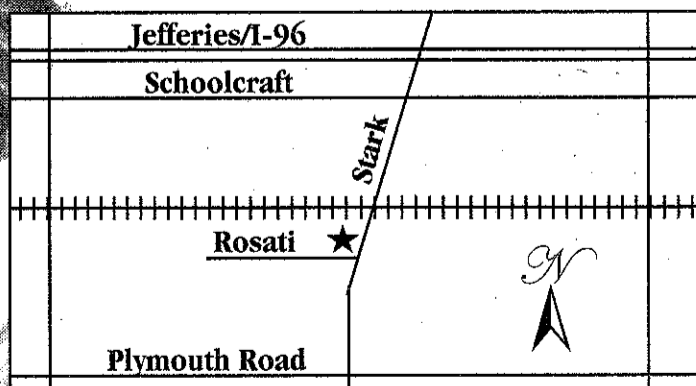
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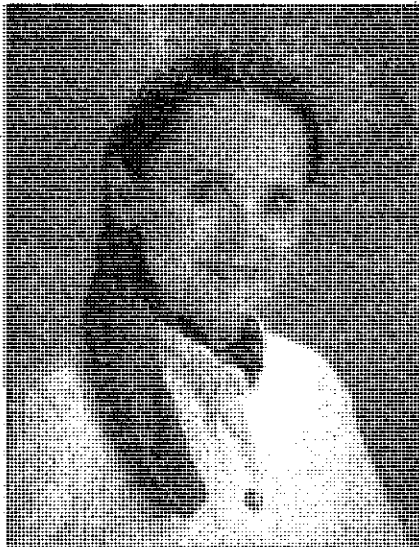
Fibromyalgia experts offer advice on managing mysterious syndrome

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Twenty years ago, Sharon Ostalecki went from doctor to doctor trying to find out what was causing her to hurt all over. Her decades of research since then resulted in the new book, *Fibromyalgia - The Complete Guide from Medical Experts and Patients*, published by Jones and Bartlett this spring.

Ostalecki called on physicians including pain specialists, physical therapists, psychologists, fibromyalgia patients, and her background as a nutrition counselor to assemble the medical resource for others who suffer from the syndrome. Ostalecki eventually received a diagnosis and found help for the fibromyalgia causing her muscle pain and fatigue. In addition to editing the book and writing chapters on self-management, nutrition and healing, Ostalecki stays busy scheduling speakers for the H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Pain & Exhaustion) support group she founded. The lectures continue in September at the Farmington Hills Public Library. A documentary on the disorder is scheduled to be released by the non-profit H.O.P.E. in early 2008.

"The purpose (for the book) was to help people. The lectures reach only a portion of people suffering with fibromyalgia," said Ostalecki. "I've received e-mails from as far away as England and Australia about the work. It's written at an understandable level and you don't have to read the book from cover to cover. You



Sharon Ostalecki gathered fibromyalgia experts to write a new book on the syndrome.

can read a certain chapter that pertains to you. Everyone with fibromyalgia is different. Every picture on the cover represents one of the issues I had."

Muscle and joint pain, insomnia, chronic headaches, forgetfulness, depression, back pain, fatigue, tingling, intestinal problems - fibromyalgia causes a variety of symptoms throughout the body. Ostalecki says people with fibromyalgia have to be their own advocate to find relief. She practices yoga and walks nearly every day.

Stretching the muscles is important for fibromyalgia patients to relieve the knots or trigger points that develop when a muscle con-

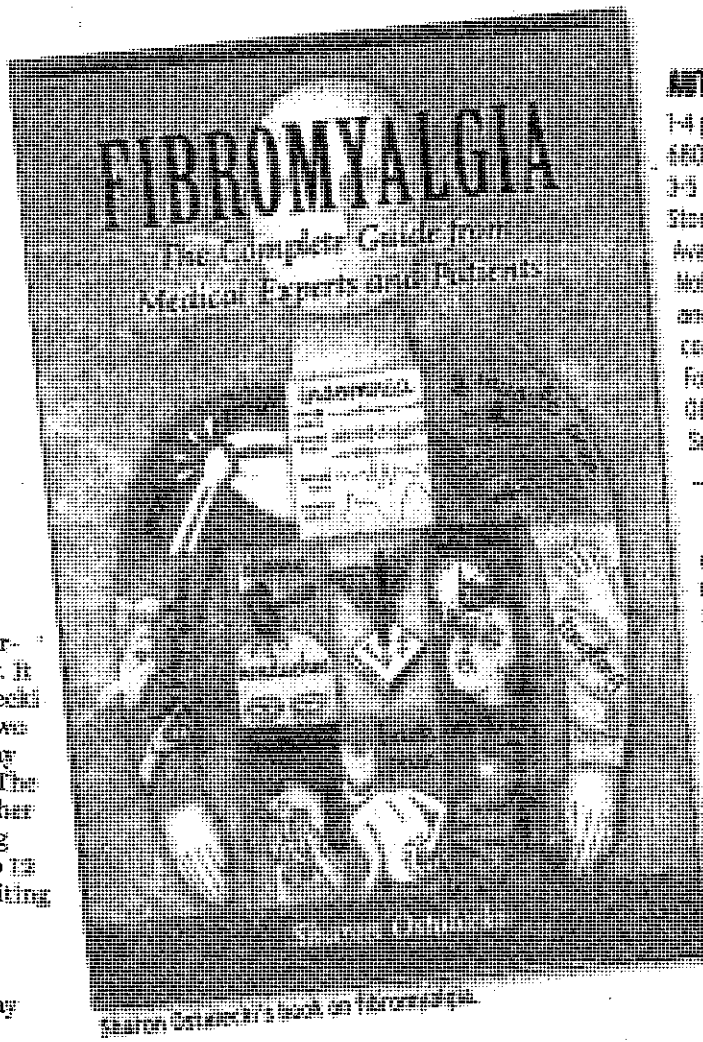
tracts and fails to release causing pain. She recommends exercising, but cautiously. It took a year for Ostalecki to go from walking two to three minutes a day to 50 minutes daily. The routine helped calm her flare-ups from sitting at the computer 10 to 12 hours a day when writing the book.

KEEP MOVING

"My advice is to stay with a routine. Go to sleep at the same time. Get up at the same time. I have to move all the time," said Ostalecki. "They have to work with their doctor. Pick one or two problems at a visit. Try to help yourself. Get your sleep under control. I'm using hypnosis and meditation to help calm down. Medication is also available for sleep. Once sleep is under control people with fibromyalgia hurt less."

Diet can affect fibromyalgia patients as well. Ostalecki says while refined carbohydrates like sweets and munchies are soothing when people are in pain, she suggests avoiding treats in favor of a high protein diet rich in lean meats, tofu and beans, and high in complex carbohydrates. She recommends 60 to 90 grams of protein a day to fibromyalgia patients, but persons with a kidney disorder or cholesterol problem should consult their physician.

Ostalecki refers to Dr. Joseph



Sharon Ostalecki's book on fibromyalgia.

Meerschaert as a pioneer in the treatment of fibromyalgia so it was only natural she asked the retired physiatrist to write the introductory chapter with Peter Ianni, a pain psychologist in Farmington Hills. As a physiatrist, Meerschaert specialized in the diagnosis and nonsurgical treatment of pain at Beaumont Hospitals in Royal Oak and Troy where he was chief of physical medicine and rehabilitation. Meerschaert began treating fibromyalgia patients in 1970. Then as now it remains a mystery as to what causes the syndrome.

"We've found out more in the last five to 10 years than the years before that. We believe it's a central nervous system disorder," said Meerschaert of Troy. "It has been around forever. German literature reported it in the 1880s and called it different names. In 1993 the American College of Rheumatology published a list of

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNINGS

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diagnostic symptoms. There's no one specific test (for fibromyalgia). It is more prevalent in women 20 to 40, but I have seen patients as young as third grade."

LEARNING MORE

When Meerschaert began treating patients, about all he could do was write prescriptions for sleep and pain medications.

"Research is finding medications like anti-convulsant medication we never expected to work," said Meerschaert. "The theory is that the central nervous system is hypersensitive to pain. Originally we used medications to help patients sleep, Elavil, anti-depressants, pain management."

Rob Leider credits Meerschaert for diagnosing the cause of his pain and treating the trigger points with injections. The 56-year-old Bloomfield Hills resident suffers with post-traumatic fibromyalgia resulting from a 1986 automobile accident that left him with a head injury, broken bones and memory problems. At the time he was a high school drama teacher. Leider later went on to become the West Bloomfield High School principal before retiring in August 2006. In fall of 2005 he took a two-story fall that caused more broken bones which exacerbated the fibromyalgia.

Today Leider, an architectural consultant for educational facilities,

Please see FIBROMYALGIA, C7

Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind Woman to See Again

Dr. Sheldon Smith helps those with low vision to enjoy daily activities like reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi

Low vision is defined as vision that cannot be corrected with regular prescription glasses or contact lenses. For most people, low vision means they cannot drive or do daily activities like reading a newspaper. With specialized treatment people with low vision can get back to doing the things they enjoy.

Michigan Optometrist, Dr. Sheldon Smith helps people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and other eye conditions. Just like looking through a pair of field glasses or binoculars, telescopic glasses make things look bigger, closer, and much easier to see.

"Many of my patients consider me the last chance to help their vision," states Dr. Smith.

Macular degeneration is the most common eye disease among the senior population. Twenty five percent of people over 65 years of age have some degree of degeneration. When the macula, a small part of the retina, degenerates it leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision making it hard to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

The cause of macular degeneration is unknown. However, it has been shown that



Dr. Smith's Patient with Bioptic Telescopes for Driving.

UV light from the sun, smoking, poor nutrition and aging are contributing factors. In addition, 15% to 20% of macular degeneration cases have been shown to be genetic.

"People don't know that there are experienced doctors who can help them with low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "My job is to figure out anything and everything possible to help a person see at the best level possible."

Valerie Bassett, 79, a music teacher and church organist from Essexville, Michigan was turning down music students because she could not see the music from the teacher's position. Dr. Smith fit Valerie with telescopic glasses with an adaptor to read music. "Now I use my glasses to participate in worship service, sing hymns and read the bible. I can read music. It's wonderful to be able to see again. I have a new lease on life!" says Valerie.

There are as many low vision devices as there are various activities. Bioptic telescopes help some people continue driving, while special prismatic glasses can help for reading and other hobbies. Devices range in price from \$500 to \$2,500.

"Every situation is unique. Each person's level of vision varies and every patient has different desires," states Dr. Smith. "Our ultimate goal is getting patients doing those things they most wish to do. The impact on quality of life and independence is remarkable."

Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, St. Clair Shores and the Lansing area. To see if low vision care can help you or your loved one call Dr. Smith today at Suburban Low Vision.

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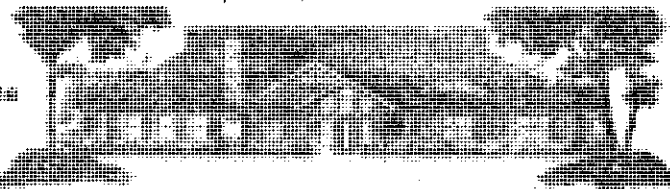
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