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See page A3 for details

Culinary Extravaganza
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THURSDAY
September 20, 2007

WESTLAND Observer

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Driver pleads to killing GC woman

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman is facing seven to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to killing a Garden City woman in a drunken driving accident.

The plea bargain came from Julie Meyer, 40, on Friday. She had been scheduled for a trial to begin Tuesday in Wayne County Circuit Court.

"From what the prosecutor told me, the victim's family was agreeable to the plea bargain," said Detective Anthony Skolarus. "The case was scheduled for trial right up to Friday. She (Meyer) is to do the minimum of seven years. After that, any request for parole is up to the Michigan Department of Corrections."

In return for the guilty plea to the charge of drunken driving causing a death, two other charges against Meyer were dropped — second-degree murder which carried up to a life sentence in prison and driving with a suspended license causing a death, a 15-year felony.

Garden City resident Shelly Mepians, 42, was fatally injured in the Oct. 12, 2006, accident that occurred at Maplewood and Henry Ruff. Police said that Meyer was fleeing the scene of an earlier accident at Middlebelt and Warren and traveling at a high rate of speed when she ran a stop sign on Maplewood.

A nurse and mother of two, Mepians was traveling north on Henry Ruff when her car was struck by Meyer's vehicle. Mepians died of her injuries a few days after the accident.

The murder charge stemmed from what the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office viewed as mitigating circumstances of the accident — specifically that Meyer wasn't licensed to drive and was drunk when the accident happened.

A former Livonia Public Schools employee, Meyer has been incarcerated since her arrest in February in lieu of \$100,000 cash bond. At sentencing, Meyer will receive credit for the time served in the Wayne County Jail.

"The result of any fatality is tragic. There are two families that are at a loss — the victim's family and the defendant's family," said Skolarus. "Both (the victim and defendant) have children."

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Tom and Shirley VanDusen, who are celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary, still remember the night they met at the Vanity Ballroom in Detroit.

'Some Enchanted Evening'

1st dance leads to 65 years of wedded bliss

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Tom and Shirley VanDusen still smile like teenagers in love when they recall the first time they met, 72 years ago, inside the old Vanity Ballroom in Detroit.

"She was 15, and I was 17," Tom, now 89, said. "I remember the black-and-red plaid dress she had on like it was yesterday. I was quite impressed by her appearance."

He caught her eye, too. "I had seen him all the way across the dance floor, and I was hoping he would ask me to dance, which he did," Shirley,

87, said. "I thought he was handsome. I thought he was someone I'd want to get to know a little better."

Little did the Westland couple know on that enchanted night, in that stylish ballroom on East Jefferson, that Sept. 28, 2007, would mark their 65th anniversary of marriage.

As a teenager, Tom cleaned a beauty shop and washed cars, and he had saved the 50 cents he needed to get into the Vanity Ballroom. Shirley and her girlfriend used to walk a mile from home for a

Please see 65 YEARS, A3

Settlement ends suits over Woods

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Developers will be allowed to build a revised subdivision on Westland's southwest side, following a court-approved compromise that will result in the company dropping lawsuits against the city and a homeowners group, attorneys have confirmed.

The latest move clears the way for the Maida Woods subdivision on the south side of Palmer Road between Hannan and John Hix, and it ends a six-month legal standoff involving developers, city officials and residents.

"I think it's a good resolution for everybody," said Stephen Wasinger, attorney for Royal Oak-based developers Kentmoor LLC.

U.S. District Judge John Feikens has issued a consent judgment that officials say all sides can live with, if not embrace.

It averts a prolonged court battle that threatened to mushroom into a much costlier war for Kentmoor, the city and the Westland Homeowners Committee for Environmental Conservation and Smart Growth.

Kentmoor had filed lawsuits earlier this year accusing the city of illegally delaying the Maida Woods development and claiming that residents made slanderous statements exaggerating the potential harm the project would have on the environment.

Feikens' consent judgment was approved Monday night by the Westland City Council, and Wasinger confirmed

Tuesday that Kentmoor will halt its lawsuits against the city and the residents.

"Both lawsuits will be dropped," he told the *Observer*.

Kentmoor will be allowed to build 39 homes on a 14-acre site on Palmer — actually three more homes that it had most recently proposed.

However, the layout of the development has been described as more environmentally friendly.

Among the numerous high-lights of the plan:

■ Assistant City Attorney Mark McConnell confirmed that Kentmoor will preserve a 15-foot natural buffer between the Maida Woods development and existing homes.

■ Wasinger said the company will not attempt to fill in state-regulated wetlands — a concern that residents had raised. Moreover, he said there will be less filling of unregulated areas.

■ McConnell said road improvements and other site amenities will have to comply with governmental regulations.

■ Feikens ruled that Maida Woods homes with a basement cannot be any smaller than 1,600 square feet, and those without a basement must be at least 1,900 square feet.

Jim Rubasky, one of the residents who earlier opposed the Maida Woods project, said Tuesday he couldn't comment. David Lipski, an attorney who represented the homeowners group, hadn't returned a phone call to his office.

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(734) 953-2110

Big rigs get boot from vacant lots in Westland

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Semitrailer drivers who park illegally in Westland had better keep on trucking.

Besieged by complaints about big rigs being parked in commercial and vacant parking lots, city leaders just got tough.

In a sweeping decision Monday, the Westland City Council embraced a new ordinance from Mayor William Wild to ticket and tow semitrailers and other vehicles that officials say have created

blight conditions across the city.

The new rules, effective Oct. 11, will allow police officers to slap a warning on a vehicle and have it towed unless the driver moves it quickly.

"It's our belief that it's blight," Wild said.

Residents have complained about semitrailers at the old Best Buy and outside other vacant stores, such as the former Service Merchandise on Nankin Boulevard and the old Sam's Club on Central City Parkway.

Officials cited the northeast corner of Cherry Hill/Venoy and the southeast

corner of Ann Arbor Trail/Merriman as other trouble spots.

Wild's administration contacted property owners and learned that they hadn't forged any agreements allowing drivers to park their trucks or semitrailers in the parking lots.

Officials acknowledged that some drivers may pay tickets and consider it a part of doing business. But Assistant City Attorney Mark McConnell warned that the new ordinance, with its provision for towing, may get their attention.

The city also will notify the Secretary

of State Office that the vehicle has been towed.

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt commended Wild for proposing the new ordinance.

She said she has received numerous complaints from the Ann Arbor Trail/Merriman area.

Residents who want to file a complaint, particularly after the new ordinance provisions become effective Oct. 11, are encouraged to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600.

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

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Volume 43
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UNO CHICAGO GRILL

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AROUND WESTLAND

Free class

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is offering a free 60-minute infant massage class 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13.

Parents are invited to bring their babies, from birth to 9 months old, to learn the art of infant massage. Certified infant massage therapist Carol O'Brien will lead the class and share how infant massage can relieve baby's discomforts and strengthen bonding.

Register at the Children's Desk or by calling (734) 326-6123. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford, Westland.

Dollar Wise Week

Co-op Services Credit Union will hold a special event in support of Westland's "Dollar Wise Week" Monday-Friday, Sept. 24-28, to promote financial literacy among youth.

From 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26, visitors to Co-op Services Credit Union's Westland branch at 35050 Ford, just east of Wayne Road, will be eligible for prize drawings.

The credit union will also make a deposit of \$9.95 for each new youth account opened during the event, and new youth members will have a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

Among the credit union's programs is the "Next Generation Savings Account" designed for youth members up to 18 years old. The program provides several incentives for kids to save. They are rewarded through savings punch cards, monthly raffles, and a monthly savings newsletter.

For more information, call Co-op Services Credit Union at (800) 321-8570, Ext. 277.

Lyme disease benefit

The Michigan Lyme Disease

Association will hold a Walk/Run/Sit-Athon Family Picnic fund-raiser Saturday, Sept. 22, in Garden City Park at Cherry Hill and Merriman.

Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. with the walk/run/sit-athon starting at 10:30 a.m. There will be prizes awarded and a donation will be accepted as an entry fee.

The event is aimed at raising money to further Lyme Disease education in Michigan.

Call (888) 784-5963 to register or send an e-mail LPurdy1040@aol.com.

Pasta dinners

The Wayne-Westland Corps of the Salvation Army is holding all-you-can-eat pasta dinners 5-8 p.m. Sundays, now through Oct. 28, at its facility at 2300 Venoy, between Palmer and Glenwood.

The meals include pasta, bread and salad. There also will be a bake sale. The suggested donation is \$8 for those 12 years and older and \$5 for children ages 4-11 and seniors 60 years and older.

Proceeds will benefit the corps' outreach programs. For more information, call (734) 722-3660.

Book sale

Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland are holding a used book sale 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22. There will be a bag sale noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23.

Plan to stock up on some great reads for the cooler months ahead.

The library is at 6123 Central City Parkway north of Ford. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Country breakfast

AMVETS Post 171 and its auxiliary will hold a country breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Sept. 23, at the hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill in Westland.

The cost will be \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for kids up to age 12 for hash browns, pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, coffee and tea. Milk and juice will be available for an extra 50-cent charge.

Hospital's O'Dwyer helps in Botswana

BY LEANNE ROGERS STAFF WRITER

As Botswana deals with significant AIDS-related deaths among its middle-aged population, counseling support is coming primarily from the African nation's clergy.

Just how well-trained the members of the clergy are to provide that counseling can vary a lot.

"There is a need to be nonjudgmental, that's a necessary ingredient in developing a therapeutic relationship with a client," said Dr. Philip O'Dwyer, clinical director of the Center for Counseling at Garden City Hospital. "Sometimes clergy can be judgmental. Then they wonder why they haven't developed a relationship that is help with the congregants. That's one of the major things we have to overcome."

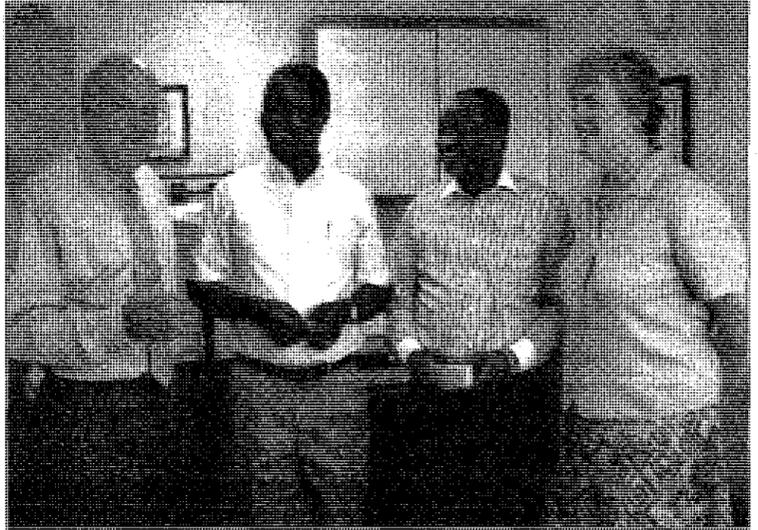
An adjunct professor of counseling at Oakland University, O'Dwyer recently spent three weeks in Botswana working on collaborative effort to develop a Pastoral Counseling master's degree program at the University of Botswana.

"Here, if you don't like a clergy person (for counseling), you go to a clinic and see someone," said O'Dwyer. "Botswana doesn't have the health care delivery system that we do. It will build in time, but in the interim, people go to the clergy."

NEED FOR TRAINING

The Botswana Pastoral Association of Clergy had identified the need for training to better serve their clients, but also to help members of the clergy cope and prevent burnout.

"The clergy feel overwhelmed, they don't have the advanced skills need to provide the counseling individuals and their families need," O'Dwyer said. "I gave



Dr. Philip O'Dwyer, director the Garden City Hospital Center for Counseling, (left) joined Oakland University Professor Dr. Luellen Ramey on a recent trip to Botswana. With them are Dr. Alao and Chris Tidimane from the University of Botswana.

a presentation to representatives of 20 denominations. Their level of preparation for counseling ranges from very limited to adequate."

Part of the visit was helping design a curriculum aimed at trying to meet the education needs over the long haul.

During the trip, O'Dwyer and fellow Oakland University professor Dr. Luellen Ramey were finalizing an agreement with the University of Botswana for an exchange program between the two universities.

"That will allow our students to go there for a semester or year and their students to come to Oakland University," O'Dwyer said. "It will also allow greater research between our faculties."

The exchange program will provide a great opportunity for Oakland University students to have a semester abroad and to experience a different culture with their issues, he

added. "There is a huge need to send people for advanced degrees to Oakland University or somewhere," O'Dwyer said. "This will provide an excellent educational opportunity for our students at Oakland University and for students at the University of Botswana."

During the trip, O'Dwyer said he had a couple of reminders that it is a small world. Only 25 years old, the University of Botswana has about 18,000 students.

"I was there when classes let out and I saw a kid in a Detroit Pistons shirt. I ran after him and yelled 'Go Pistons!'" said O'Dwyer. "He yelled, 'You know it! His mother did her doctoral work in English at the University of Michigan. He went to high school in Ann Arbor and two years at Oakland University.'"

During an unscheduled layover of 1 1/2 days

in Johannesburg, South Africa, O'Dwyer visited Nelson Mandela's home which is now a museum.

"There were all kinds of awards on the wall — honorary doctorates," he said. "Amongst them was a resolution from the Michigan House of Representatives. I was so proud of that — our House of Representatives had supported his efforts to end apartheid. It was just a simple resolution, but it matters."

A Berkley City Council member, O'Dwyer said he appreciated his meeting with the mayor of Gaborone, the capital of Botswana.

"We had a discussion on the issues they struggle with and they were not too different," he said. "They are struggling with the budget, providing adequate infrastructure and public safety. I was impressed with how carefully the mayor was focused on those issues."

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65 YEARS

FROM PAGE A1

night of dancing.

"It was a nice place," Tom recalled.

Tom's family didn't have a telephone he could use to call Shirley after they met. But to bear him tell it, she also gave him her address during that first dance.

"I don't believe it," she said, giving him a sideways glance as they sat side by side on a couch at Holliday Park Townhouses, where they live.

Either way, Tom knew where Shirley lived and went there to court her. Her parents didn't object, and their teenage love was nourished by nights of dancing at the Vanity Ballroom.

"We loved to dance," Shirley said.

They didn't have much money, and sometimes they would go to a bowling alley and watch others play.

"If she had a dime, she would buy two Cokes," Tom said.

They married in their early 20s. He had gone into the U.S. Army Air Forces and was stationed in Meridian, Miss., when Shirley traveled south to marry him. Tom, who served time in India and Burma in World War II, still carries a picture from their wedding day in his wallet.

After Tom finished his military stint, he returned to Detroit. He earned a living as an insurance agent, and Shirley worked at J.L. Hudson and Parke Davis. She also modeled shoes.

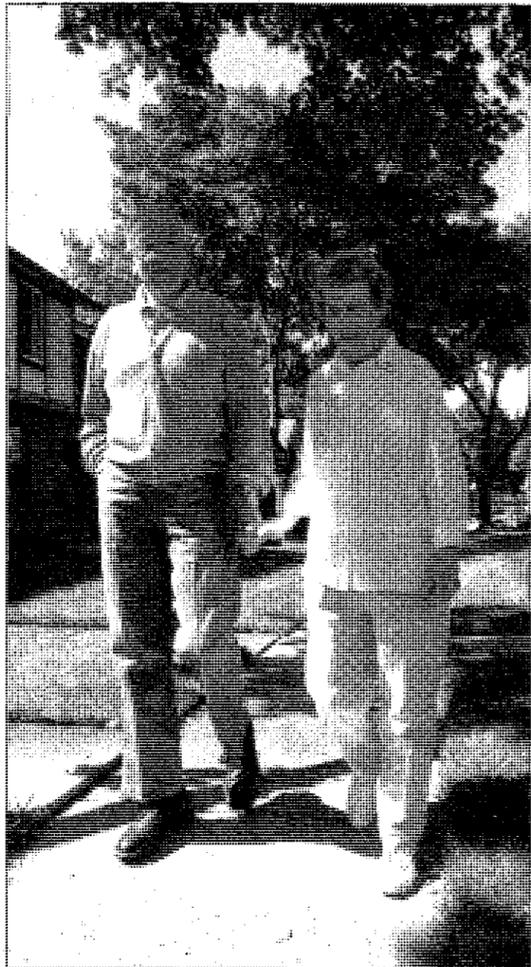
"She had legs that wouldn't quit," Tom said.

The VanDusens have two sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and one great-grandson who is 14 months old. They had another son who died from hepatitis at age 16.

"We got through it because the other children needed attention," Shirley said.

Tom kept in touch with his Army buddies, and he and Shirley often met with the Army families for vacations in places like California, Texas, Colorado, Florida and Kentucky.

"We had a lot of good trips," Shirley said.



Looking back, Tom and Shirley VanDusen didn't know the night they met that they would be celebrating 65 years of wedded bliss.

The couple traveled to Germany when their son Tim was in the Army and preparing to go to Desert Storm.

After 65 years of marriage, the obvious question is what has made their relationship last.

"We've always gotten along," Shirley said. "We've never been truly mad at each other for days at a time."

If they do have a disagreement, Tom said, "I always get the last word. It's 'yes, dear.'"

Tom and Shirley have their hobbies.

He golfs and is involved in the Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia. Shirley loves to read. They used to work on arts and crafts

projects together.

"He also makes good potato salad," Shirley said.

To celebrate their anniversary, 16 family members plan to have dinner at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Reflecting on their years together, neither has any regrets.

"I would do it all again," Tom said.

As he spoke those words, Shirley looked at him with such warmth, it seemed like the music from the old Vanity Ballroom should be playing. Even at ages 89 and 87, they seemed, yet again, like two teenagers in love.

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Sherman wins GSA award

A Wayne-Westland Community Schools administrator will be among a group of five women honored by the Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council with the 2007 Women of Distinction Award at the groups 11th annual luncheon next week.

Charlotte Sherman will be honored for her exemplify excellence in her profession and community service by giving her time and experience to enrich the lives of others.

The recipients of the award will be recognized at the awards luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. For more information, call (734) 971-8800.

"We are honored to acknowledge Charlotte Sherman who, by her professional achievements, community service and values, reflects the Girl Scout mission," said Council President Bonnie Carre. "She embodies the highest qualities of Girl Scouting."

Sherman has distinguished herself as a leader in secondary education over the past 30 years. She is currently the deputy superintendent of educational services for the Wayne-Westland School District, he state's eleventh largest school district. Under her leadership, an \$108 million bond issue was approved by voters, bringing all 26 schools into the 21st century



Sherman

with state of the art learning environments.

A positive role model for young people, Sherman routinely meets with college students to encourage their pursuits in education and administration. She also mentors educators and administrators who are new to the field.

She is an active contributor to the community, working with the city and school community to effectively manage all district special events. She is passionate about helping others succeed and promoting fairness and equality throughout her community. Her professional and personal leadership was recognized by the City of Westland with its Athena Award in 2005.

Sherman is a proven coalition builder, fostering cooperation among elected officials, business and civic leaders, and faith-based organizations. She is a member of the Westland Local Development Finance Authority, Wayne Chamber of Commerce, the Wayne "100 Club", a charity for underserved families, Wayne's Youth Advisory Board and Women of Westland. She also serves on the Task Force of Middle Cities, representing urban schools.

Women of Distinction recipients are selected from a committee made up of board members and former award winners. Since 1997, when the first Women of Distinction luncheon was held, the event has raised much-needed funding that supports the delivery of quality programs, adult volunteer training, maintenance of camp properties, recruitment of volunteers, and the expansion of community outreach programs at GSHVC.

In addition to Sherman, the 2007 Women of Distinction Award honorees are Judge Julie Creal of Ann Arbor, Judge Tina Green of Romulus, Paquetta Palmer of Ann Arbor, Kristen Stumpo of Ann Arbor. Each woman is being honored for her individual accomplishments and contributions to the community and her profession.

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. Girl Scouting is the leading authority on girls' healthy development, and builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council serves one in six girls living in Livingston, Monroe, Washtenaw and parts of Oakland and Wayne counties.

For more information, or to join Girl Scouts, call (800) 49-SCOUT, or visit the Web site at www.gshvc.org.

Teen journalists - Observer wants you!

The Westland Observer is looking for sophomores, juniors and seniors interested in producing local newspaper pages and online material for teens by teens.

This marks the second year of the Observer's Student Voices project in which area teens write about issues important to them.

Last year nearly 100 students participated in the school-year program.

Teens report, write, edit and take photographs for the hometownLIFE.com print and online sections which will appear periodically

in Sunday editions of the Observer.

Sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible to apply.

In addition, students must commit to serving as a student journalist for the entire 2007-08 school year and be prepared to attend a 90-minute orientation session on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at the Observer offices, 36251 Schoolcraft, in Livonia. Students must also be prepared to attend planning meetings as determined by the student group.

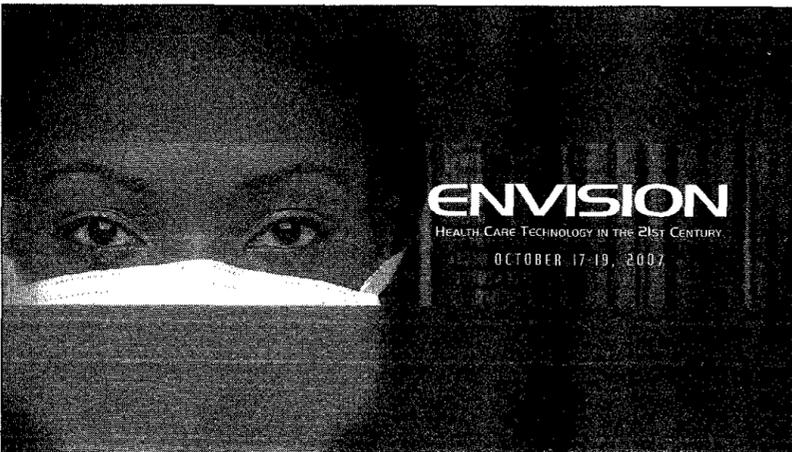
The first pages and online stories are scheduled to

appear in November.

"We want teens to take ownership of the section in print and online," said Susan Rosiek, executive editor of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. "Teens will decide what to cover, what to write about — what's important to them. They'll be mentored by reporters, editors and photographers at the O&E."

To apply, go to www.hometownlife.com and click on the Students Voices logo for an application.

Deadline to apply is Monday, Sept. 24.



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Ford employees help stock food depot shelves

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The shelves at the John Bolde Memorial Food Depot were looking a bit like Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard until two Ford Expeditions pulled into the parking lot last Wednesday morning.

The SUVs were filled with boxed and canned food, donations from the employees at Ford Motor Company's Michigan Truck Plant.

"We wheeled the vehicles into the plant and opened up the tailgates and asked the employees to bring donations," said Darryl Nolan, UAW plant chairman. "Our workforce is generally very responsive to charities like this."

"This food drive couldn't come at a better time," said Shelli Jump, director of the St. Mary Outreach Center which houses the food depot. "The donations are generally down during the warmer months, however, the need for assistance is growing at an alarming rate."

The outreach center is sponsored by St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne. Housed in a former credit union building at Sims and Second Street in Wayne, it provides clothing and food to needy families in Westland, Garden City, Livonia, Canton, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and other surrounding communities.

According to Jump, 110-120

ST. MARY OUTREACH CENTER

What: The center provides clothing and food to need families throughout western Wayne County. The main floor houses the clothing bank, while the basement is the John Bolde Memorial Food Bank.

Where: 34646 Sims at Second Street, Wayne.
Phone: (734) 326-2234

people come to the clothing bank daily, while the depot provides food to 500 families each month. She estimates 27,000 pounds of food was given out in August.

"That's a low number, we can easily give out 30,000 pounds a month," she said. "Obviously, the more we give, the more we need."

Helping at the depot is nothing new for the plant's employees. In the past, they provided assistance at the Christmas holidays. It's one of many charitable events staged at the Wayne plant. Employees have shown their support for United Way, March of Dimes and juvenile diabetes, according to Sue Sharp, the plant's employee resource coordinator.

"This is a very giving workforce," she said. "They see a need and open their hearts. In the spirit of what the company is going through, they see a need and they give."

"It's wonderful what Ford and Local 900 has done," said the

Rev. Jack Baker, pastor of St. Mary's. "People remember us around Christmas, but the need doesn't go away. And the need is growing, the demand is going through the roof. We had 100 families come for back to school."

The food bank has been open for five years and Jump estimates that it has distributed more than 1.25 millions pounds of food. To handle demand, the depot has 10 freezers to keep bread and meat and food rescued by Forgotten Harvest from restaurants, that it receives twice a week. It also accepts donations of fresh produce from home gardeners who don't know what to do with those extra zucchini or tomatoes, Jump said. To get the biggest bang for the buck, Jump buys food from the same wholesalers used by Cleaners, allowing her to put the per case fee she would have had to pay the agency to buying more food.

The depot always accepts donations and is willing to work around people's schedules to get the food and clothing. People can call Jump at (734) 326-2234 for more information.

Looking around the depot as the food was being loaded on the shelves, the empty shelves are obvious.

"We literally have no canned vegetables on the shelves," she said. "It's not from a lack of giving, the need is increasing."

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



Ford employees Pam Swoke (from left) and Brian Hinton and UAW plant coordinator Darryl Nolan unload supplies for the John Bolde Memorial Food Depot.



Sue Sharp, the employee resource coordinator at Ford's Michigan Truck Plant, gets a hug from Shelli Jump, director of the St. Mary Outreach Center and John Bolde Memorial Food Dept.



Shelli Jump talks about the demand for food that has emptied shelves at the food bank.



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CAVALIER PROPERTIES NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to State Law, a sale will be held at Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gully Road, Dearborn Heights, MI on September 29, 2007 at 1:00 P.M.
#444 Sean Hanchett
#446 Sean Hanchett
#737 Andrea M. Ford-Johnson
#849 Shavette Barnes

Unites contain misc Household items.

Publish: September 13 and September 20, 2007

06555008-211.6

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 36001 Warren Rd Westland, MI 48185-6591 (734)729-7095 on 9/28/07 at 10:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.
Personal property described below in the matter of:
5120 - Tina Goodlow - Computer, Speaker, Misc Items
5032 - Jennifer Harnos - Desk, Microwave, Vacuum
4148 - James Tuttle Jr. - 4 TV's, Bed, Misc Items
4118 - Shelia Walker - Microwave, 10 Boxes, Mattress
4044 - Edward Buchanan - 100 Boxes, 10 Totes, Misc Items
4016 - Christina Hughes - TV, DVD player, 10 Totes
1132 - Quartesia Fields - Couch, TV, Aquarium
1086 - Yolanda Charleston - Speaker, 5 Totes, Office Chair
1054 - Tonia Parker - Hutch, Full Mirror, Jewelry Chest
Publish: September 13 & 20, 2007

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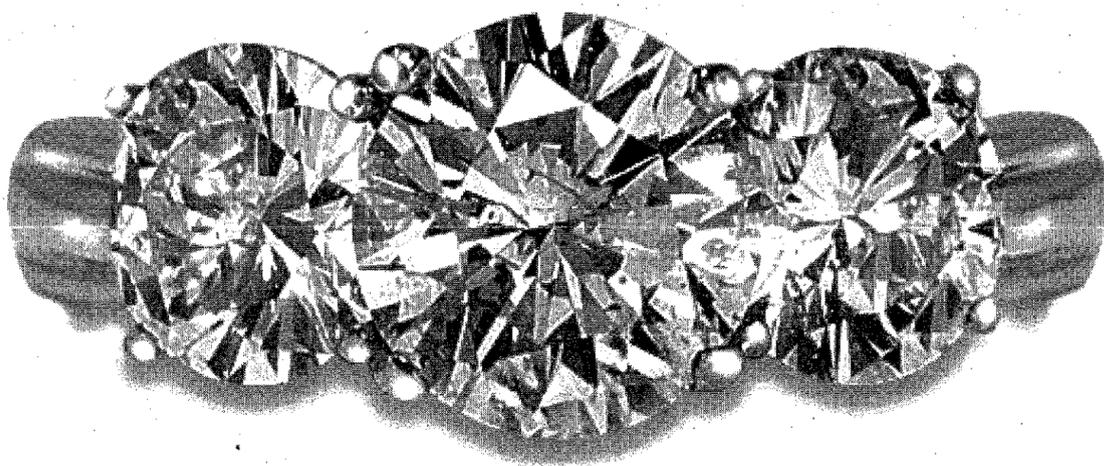


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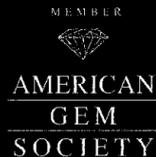
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Dinner, fashion show benefits Child's Hope

Child's Hope, the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Out-Wayne County, is gearing up for the third annual Hopes and Dreams "Girls' Night Out" fashion show and dinner at the Fairlane Club Thursday, Sept. 27.

The event begins with hors d'oeuvres, paired with select wines, and artist market at 5 p.m. The dinner and Neiman Marcus fall fashion show begins at 7 p.m.

This year's honorary chairperson is Alberta Muirhead. As a life-long

supporter of children, Muirhead is well known locally for the department store she and her husband founded in Dearborn, called Muirhead's.

Anne Doyle will emcee the event. Doyle is one of the first women TV sports broadcasters in the United States. As a sports reporter and anchor for WJBK, CBS-TV in Detroit from 1978-1983, she played a leadership role in achieving equal access to sports locker rooms for female journalists.

Doyle was also director of North America Communications for Ford Motor Company before starting her own company, Anne Doyle Strategies for Leaders.

Tickets for the "Hopes and Dreams" event are \$100 for patrons and \$175 for Founding Friends. There are corporate sponsorships available starting at the \$500 level up to \$5,000.

"Support from this event helps ensure that hundreds of children's real-life hopes and dreams are

nurtured and realized," said Gail Bagale, board president for Child's Hope. Sponsors for the event include The Ford Motor Company, The Fairlane Club and Spa, National Logistics Management and Dr. Mariam Awada.

Child's Hope provides training and resources to educators, Head Start teachers and day care providers on identifying the signs of child abuse and how to report it. The organization also provides classes for preschoolers, "My Body is

Mine," and other classes for young parents.

The Child's Hope organization is housed at University of Michigan-Dearborn and also provides more than 40 mentors to at-risk preschoolers in Wayne County through a program called Jumpstart. Child's Hope, established in 1985, has a mission to provide a central voice of child abuse prevention in Wayne County by building innovative collaborations and programs that offer

children and families the tools and supports needed to break the cycle of child abuse. Child's Hope is a non-profit organization funded through the Children's Trust Fund, Jumpstart and the support of individual donations and grants. For more information about the event or to make a donation to the Child's Hope, call Executive Director Annemarie Valdez at (313) 583-6401 or write her at 19000 Hubbard Dr., Suite 264, Dearborn, MI 48126.

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 15125 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan is accepting bids for installation and upgrade of facility security access control systems at the following locations:

**Integrated Security Management System
At Thirteen (13) K-4 Elementary Schools and
the Seven (7) building Central Administration Complex
Livonia, Michigan**

Bid forms and specifications are available at the Livonia Public Schools, Maintenance Department, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154 for a \$20.00 non-refundable bidder's fee (per set) in the form of a check made payable to Livonia Public Schools.

Sealed bids will be received until 10:00 A.M. on the 24th day of September, 2007 at the Livonia Public Schools, Board of Education, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Sandra Pollack. At this time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified, and will not be opened. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

No pre-bid walk through is scheduled, but contractors may visit each site by checking in with the front desk of the school.

Bid security in the amount of 5% of the total proposal, in the form of Bid Bond or Certified Check must accompany each bid. Performance bond and payment bond may be required of the successful bidder.

All bids must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid packet and all sheets must be returned for the bid. All proposals shall remain firm for a period of ninety (90) days.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement of disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner of any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board, Wayne RESA Board or the Superintendent of the Livonia Public Schools or the Superintendent of Wayne RESA. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

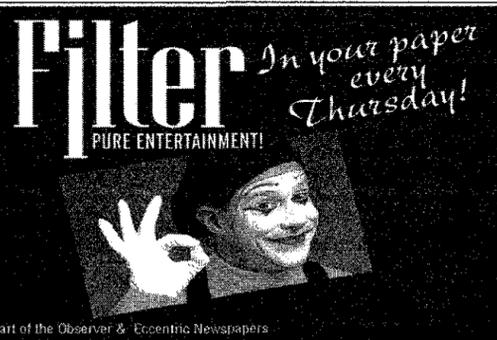
The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the district, including awarding by line item, with rationale to support such a decision.

All questions regarding this bid may be directed to Joseph R. Jinnett, jjinnett@livonia.k12.mi.us or Mark Schultz, mschultz@livonia.k12.mi.us or James McMuldloch, jmuldloch@livonia.k12.mi.us.

Sandra L. Pollack
Supervisor of Finance
Livonia Public Schools

Publish: September 13 & 20, 2007

020805570 - 2x7.5



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City Westland Downtown Development Authority and the EDC/TIFA (City of Westland) is making a Request for Proposals for professional marketing services to provide consultation and recommendations for developing marketing materials to be used in business development initiatives.

The City of Westland invites proposals from qualified consultants or agencies to provide creative concepts and preliminary design proofs of advertising, marketing material and website/digital materials.

The results of this project will provide the City of Westland with marketing and promotional materials to be used in attracting new businesses and expanding existing businesses in the City.

These materials will be used to promote the City of Westland in its businesses attraction initiatives. These initiatives will include such efforts as the following:

- Target Marketing
- Participation in Trade Shows
- Print and Digital Advertising
- Follow Up to Request for Information
- Meetings with Businesses and Developers

The City of Westland Economic Development Department has issued this RFP. Address 37095 Marquette, Westland, Michigan 48185. Phone 734.467.3264 Fax 734.467.3224 Email econddev@ci.westland.mi.us. Web address is www.ci.westland.mi.us All questions should be addressed to William Caya, Economic Development Director.

The deadline for submission to the RFP is 3:00 p.m. Monday, October 15, 2007.

To request a full Proposal contact William Caya, Economic Development Director at 734.467.3264 or email econddev@ci.westland.mi.us.

Publish: September 20, 2007

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Experts, Spidey help children learn safety

Spider-man will help cast a safety net over local children, when the superhero headlines the Passport to Safety event Saturday at Laurel Park Place.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. children can visit eight safety stations throughout the mall to learn about safety topics and have their passports stamped. Topics include bike safety, 9-1-1 training, computer safety, automobile safety, food safety, choking/poisoning, fire safety and stranger danger.

The annual event, sponsored by police and fire departments, the Department of Homeland Security and local companies, has become the largest indoor kids safety event of its type in the Midwest, said Patrick Derrig, marketing director for Laurel Park Place. It attracts 5,000 people.

Dispatchers will demonstrate the proper way to report an emergency during a 9-1-1 call.

Nurses will provide training about dangerous household chemicals and how to perform life-saving techniques on a choking person.

Some bike helmets, fire safety DVDs and coloring books will be given away.

"As children go back to school, we want to keep them safe," Derrig said. A stamped passport gives children a feeling of accomplishment, he said. Entertainment helps keep them focused while learning.

Spider-man, this year's featured entertainment, will be available to meet and greet children and parents from noon until 2 p.m.

Other entertainment includes Buckle Up Bear from the Michigan State Police and the Allstate Fire Dog.

Forty Livonia Public Schools high school students will volunteer at the event. LPS will hand out coloring books that focus on bus safety.

Children can dress up as firefighters and have their picture taken for a donation to the Selfridge National Air Guard Base.

Raffle prizes include a family vacation package to Great Wolf Lodge.

Laurel Park Place is at 37700 W. Six Mile at Newburgh. For more information, visit the Laurel Park Place Web site at www.laurelparkplace.com or the Passport to Safety Web site at www.livoniapassport-tosafety.com.

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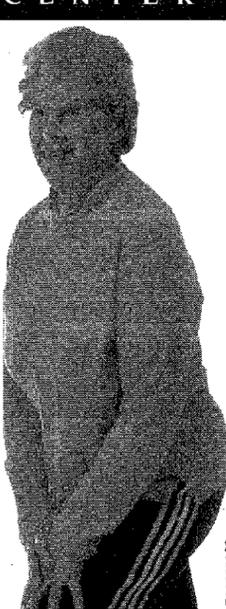
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Benefit goes Groovin' and Cruisin' with '60s-style party

Get those go-go boots ready! Angela Hospice is planning a 1960s party for its 20th annual Light Up a Life Benefit, which will be Saturday, Oct. 13, at Rock Financial Showplace - Diamond Center, in Novi.

The Livonia-based Angela Hospice invites the community to join them for this gala, which raises money to fund programs for terminally ill patients and their families. "Groovin' and Cruisin' through the '60s" is the event's theme.

"This event is an opportunity for a lot of people to come together to celebrate the good work of Angela Hospice, have a great night of entertainment, and raise funds for this worthy cause," said Barbara Paul, events coordinator.

The night will begin at 6 p.m. with a performance by The Stubbs Girls. Guests will be treated to hors d'oeuvres and an open bar while the silent auction and fishbowl raffles take place. A plated dinner will follow, then The Reflections will take the stage and the dance floor will come alive. Dessert, classic automo-

biles, and a "Best Dressed 1960s" contest will round out the evening.

"The committee is really looking forward to this event, and encouraging all of their friends to buy a table," said volunteer Ramona Keatts of Plymouth. "Between the music, the dancing, and the excitement of the raffles and auction, it's going to be a great time."

This year, in addition to its popular \$1 Raffle offering the chance to win up to \$1,000 in cash, Angela Hospice is holding a Classic Car Raffle as well. A limited number of \$100 tickets are being sold for the chance to win a 1969 Buick Electra 225 Convertible worth more than \$25,000.

This benefit follows last year's 1950s event, which was popular with those who attended.

For more information about the event and to make reservations, call Barbara Paul at 734-953-6014, or visit www.angelahospice.org. Tickets to attend are \$100, though sponsorships, advertisements and donations at various levels are also available.



Light Up a Life volunteers Lee Zalewski of Livonia and Connie Sarasin of Redford take a seat in the classic 1969 Buick Electra 225 Convertible that will be raffled at this year's benefit.

YWCA seeks nominations for Women of Achievement

Do you know a woman who deserves to be recognized? Is there a woman that changed your life? Celebrate the success of an outstanding woman you know by nominating them for the YWCA of Western Wayne County 2007 Women of Achievement Awards!

Qualified for nomination are women who reside or work in Western Wayne County and have demonstrated qualities of outstanding leadership and excellence in both their professional and personal endeavors for the betterment of their community.

The categories are:

■ **Arts/communication** - A woman who has excelled in the arts, media or public relations. Such fields include visual, literary and performing arts, journalism, television/radio.

■ **Business/industry** - A woman who has exhibited outstanding abilities and accomplishments as an entrepreneur, or at the technical/professional, management or executive level.

■ **Government/law** - A woman who has provided exceptional leadership in government or the legal profession, either in an elected or career capacity.

■ **Professions** - A woman who has demonstrated excellence and commitment as a professional in the field of education, health, human ser-

vice, religion or research. ■ **Volunteer service** - A woman who has made significant contributions to her community through her volunteer efforts.

■ **Young woman** - A young woman of today (age 16-23) who has demonstrated leadership qualities, service to the community and a positive glimpse of tomorrows woman.

The nomination deadline is Oct. 19. Nominees will be honored at the Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon and Silent Auction Nov. 16 at The Dearborn Inn. The program begins at 11 a.m. with a silent auction and the awards presentation begins at 12:15 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person and \$400 for tables of 10.

Contact the YWCA at (313) 561-4110 to receive Women of Achievement nomination forms.

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Keep children safe to and from school

Here we are into fall already and school is back in session. This brings me to this month's subject - child safety to and from school.



Fire watch

Lt. Catherine Harman

There are many ways for the kids to get to and from school, each with their own potential hazards. Driving or being driven by parents, taking the bus or riding in a car pool are just a few. Children and teens also ride bicycles, scooters and skateboards. Those living closer often make their way to school on foot.

Let's discuss some safety measures for all the different modes of transportation to and from school.

Child passengers by law must be restrained properly, and their seating arrangement can go by size or age. Dangers inherent to being passengers in a motor vehicle are specific

to the safe and proper handling of a motor vehicle. Responsibilities rest primarily with the driver.

Parents who must drop their kids off at school before going to work may be distracted for a variety of reasons. Distractions can be even more pronounced, if the passengers contribute by being loud and disorderly. Keep distractions to a minimum by reminding children that the driver must be able to concentrate on the road.

In a previous article, I wrote about the time I was driving to the station and a kid exited a van on the street side through the side door. Please remind your kids that if they have to exit on the road side that they need to look both ways! I would have struck this kid with my truck, if I had been going just a mile or two an hour faster.

If your child walks to school try to have him or her walk with a group. Remind them of stranger danger. They should also know who or where they should go in the event someone approaches them on foot or in automobile. Utility companies have the eyes and ears

logo on their vehicles. A woman with children would be someone to go to for help.

Remind them not to approach a vehicle, if someone asks them a question, then tells them to come closer because they can't hear them. If they are approached and someone gets too close, tell them to yell, scream and run away.

If your child rides a bicycle, skates, skateboards or uses a motorized scooter, please have them wear the proper protective equipment. Helmets may not look cool, but head injuries can be life threatening and/or life changing. Kneepads, elbow pads and wrist guards will minimize an injury in the event of a fall.

By all means, tell them to obey all traffic laws, wear reflective or light colored clothing so they can be easily seen, and stay out of traffic. All too often I see kids taking unnecessary chances crossing the busier streets without the aid of a traffic signal, and unfortunately, I've responded to several who've been struck by a car.

Sometimes wearing protective equipment and/or clothing is met with some resistance because it just

doesn't look cool, or so kids may think. Just remind them of their favorite sports personality, or their local firefighters and paramedics who have to wear protective equipment.

There aren't any arguments on the sidelines of sporting events because someone doesn't want to wear their helmet, mouth guards or protective padding. You can bet that our fire chief doesn't have to stand by our fire trucks reminding us to wear our fire gear and breathing equipment before we go into a fire. We all just do it because we want to be able to respond to the next call, and go home safely once our shift ends.

We automatically wear personal protective equipment when we respond to medical calls to protect us as well. Latex gloves are not fashionable, but they are functional. Please just take a few moments to remind your kids of the information in this no frills article about being safe to and from school.

Lt. Catherine Harman is a member of the Garden City Fire Department.

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CHILDREN'S SPORTSWEAR

Bills would protect state water supply

State Sen. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, has joined other members of the Democratic caucus in offering legislation that will help protect Michigan's water.

The package of bills ensures large scale water withdrawals won't hurt Michigan's water resources, eliminates loop holes for water bottlers, and strengthens tools of Michigan citizens to safeguard this precious resource.

"Michigan's water is a crucial piece of our state's identity and economic engine," Anderson said. "Whether water leaves in a one liter bottle or a 10-ton tank, it's still leaving, and we need to bring a stop to it."

Anderson's bill eliminates the loop hole that allows water bottlers to ship unrestricted quantities of water out of the state. Currently, Michigan law permits the withdrawal and shipping of water out of the state as long as it is shipped in individual containers smaller than 5.7 gallons.

Other key elements of the package include:

- Lowering the withdrawal thresholds over which possible effects of the withdrawals must be assessed and requires permits for large withdrawals to ensure those withdrawals will not harm citizens' rights or access to water or the water resources themselves.

- Stipulating the use of an interactive, Web-based tool developed by the Groundwater Advisory Council, which can predict if a withdrawal of a given size at any place in Michigan will change the fish communities in nearby water bodies.

- Reaffirming that our waters belong to the citizens of Michigan and are held in the public trust.

The legislation is supported by Clean Water Action, the Michigan Environmental Council, the Sierra Club, and Tip 'o the Mitt Watershed Council.

Applebee's fund-raiser benefits YWCA program

You can 'Eat Good in the Neighborhood' and support domestic violence programming at the same time.

The YWCA of Western Wayne County is participating in Applebee's Dining to Donate Program Tuesday, Oct. 2, at the Applebee's location on Ford Road in Dearborn Heights. Present a Dining to Donate flyer to your server on, and Applebee's will donate 15 percent of your bill to the YWCA.

The event runs 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Come after 6 p.m. and see who the celebrity servers are. They'll accompany wait staff during the dinner hours, greeting guests and having fun. Special evening activities also will include a disc jockey and karaoke.

All proceeds from the event will help fund YWCA domestic violence programs. Call (313) 561-4110, Ext. 28, for more information or to receive a flier.

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KNOW THE SCORE
check out the numbers in
today's **SPORTS** section

Choose mutual funds that have a solid track record

I received a call from a friend who heard about a new mutual fund and wanted my opinion. He was told the fund is following a new strategy of investing and using some sophisticated trading techniques to protect the portfolio in up and down markets.

There was a sense of urgency. He was told that the fund may soon close to new investors.

My answer to him is the same I give whenever asked about new mutual funds — avoid them.

When you make an investment, it should meet certain criteria. One is the investment must have a solid track record.

Typically, I like investments that have been around for a period of time so they can be compared to other investments. In a perfect world, investments that have solid three-, five- and 10-year track records are preferred. Unfortunately, we don't live in a perfect world and exceptions have to be made. However, those exceptions should be few and far between and never in the case of a new investment. This holds true even with mutual funds where the manager has had success at another company.

Companies come up with new investments not necessarily because they have a better way of managing your money, but because they are trying to capture market share.

There have been many cases where a successful fund manager leaves a company and begins managing a new fund. The general consensus is if he/she was successful at one fund, he/she should be successful at another fund. It doesn't work that way. In today's world, mutual funds are very rarely managed by one individual. Typically, a company will have an entire management team that includes a variety of analysts and researchers.

In addition, mutual fund companies have different cultures associated with them. When a manager leaves one fund family and goes to another, the culture that allowed them to be successful may not exist in the new company.

A good analogy is sports. In today's world of free agency, where players move from team to team, a player may have been productive on one team, but when they come to another team they fail.

We see the same thing with portfolio managers.

I recognize that by avoiding new funds, you potentially can miss out on an opportunity. However, there is a difference between investing and speculating.

When you purchase an investment, you need to research how the fund has performed vs. its peers in different market conditions.

Investors that hear about an opportunity may wish to pursue it. As a general principle, I have no problem with taking a flier on something. However, I want to make sure that I identify it as a flier. I would not want my entire portfolio invested in fliers. There is



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

no problem, though, investing a small portion of your portfolio in something that interests you. Even with a new fund, you can research who is establishing the fund and who

is managing it. By doing some homework ahead of time, you're increasing the odds in your favor.

As investors, we must be able to separate the fluff from the facts. I'm a firm believer that in order to be a success-

ful investor, one must live by a set of rules. One rule I live by is that I don't invest in new funds. Others include checking things out independently and investing in what I understand and in funds that have a good solid track record.

I'm willing to give up some opportunity to protect myself from investing in something that goes belly up.

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

CORRECTION

The Senior Alliance, Area Agency on Aging 1-C, request proposals to provide **Adult Day Care** services. Priority will be given to bidders with service availability and location in the northwest portion of The Senior Alliance service area.

Proposal applications and bid specifications are available on our website, www.aaalc.org.

Application deadline is Wednesday, September 26, 2007.

Publsh: September 20, 2007

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Come home to the Blues.

County parks sponsoring photo contest

Wayne County Parks Division is holding its first photography contest.

The Parks Division is seeking photos taken on county park property or at a park special events.

The contest winner will be eligible for a cash prize and have their photo featured prominently in the upcoming Wayne County Parks 2008 brochure and on the county Web site. Submission deadline is Nov. 1, 2007.

For complete contest rules and regulations, visit www.waynecountyparks.org or call (734)261-1990.

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OUR VIEWS

Grants will keep students safe

OK, so it may not be quite what Gov. Jennifer Granholm envisioned in her State of the State address earlier this year, when she encouraged school districts and municipalities to look at shared services.

But the more than \$400,000 in federal grants the Westland and Wayne police departments landed is a pretty good example of schools and cities working together for the betterment of the communities' children.

Awarded through the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services, the money will be used to install new digital cameras in and around 25 school buildings and on school buses.

Westland Deputy Police Chief Alan Ramsden says the money will give an unprecedented level of security for the schools and help in solving crimes and quickly knowing what's happening in the schools.

The latter, in and of itself, is good news. The district spends thousands of dollars each year cleaning up the damage caused to buildings by vandals. The cameras would be a tool in identifying those individuals and bringing them to justice.

They could also be used to identify individuals who decide to leave threatening messages like the one found in a bathroom at John Glenn High School last spring.

Security in and around schools is paramount. Weapons, knives, guns or whatever have no place in the school setting. There's already a zero tolerance for a student who brings a weapon to school, but that doesn't stop some individuals.

You need only look at the killings at Columbine High School and the most recent carnage at the Virginia Technological University in April to see why school and law enforcement officials need to be able to monitor situations and make informed decisions.

Students need to know they will be protected, and heightened security on school property and on school buses goes a long way in doing that.

Even though it doesn't quite fit the governor's idea of shared services, we're glad the cities and schools worked together in securing the COPS grants. We know crime can't be totally eliminated, but the new cameras go a long way in keeping it at bay.

As for those who are thinking about damaging schools or disrupting the school day, we suggest you remember to smile for the cameras.

Leadership lags on state budget

In the latest state budget tango, the Republican-controlled Senate approved a temporary 30-day budget extension Monday to avoid a shutdown of government services when the new budget year begins Oct. 1.

We're not optimistic that the Legislature and the governor will take the steps needed to resolve their partisan differences.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm said she would veto the extension. No Democrats in the Senate voted for it. At a news conference, Granholm said, "It will just kick it down the road." It will also mean that the state has one month less to resolve the state's \$1.75 billion deficit.

Over in the House, Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford, says he has a deal that would include an income tax increase, but Republicans quickly countered that there is no deal.

Ten Democrats, including Marc Corriveau of Northville, didn't vote, apparently to avoid riling voters in their swing districts and protecting their seats from recall efforts. So much for political courage.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, says he would be willing to look at some form of tax increase, but only after deeper cuts in state spending. Democrats counter that they have already supported deep cuts, but that some proposed cuts would be harmful to state services and fall on those most vulnerable.

After the vote to extend the budget, Bishop said, "It's about getting the job done."

He's wrong. It's about *not* getting the job done, just as last year's long partisan squabble prevented a budget resolution until the end of the budget year. Then the Legislature voted to delay payments, juggle accounts and put off making hard decisions.

It also took a long struggle to approve the new business tax to replace the old Single Business Tax.

The leaders in both parties need to look beyond their partisan concerns toward serious long-term resolution of the state's financial situation that includes structural reforms, appropriate rather than across-the-board spending cuts and new taxes that do not unduly burden those less able to pay.

Based on past performance, we're not optimistic.



Smoking ... yuck!

I read the most recent editorials about smoking. First let me say, I do not smoke. I tried it when I was about 13-15 years old. Oooh, I was so cool. Ha-ha, I know it was strictly peer pressure, but I have to say, that is some nasty stuff. I hated the smell, I hated how I smelled after, so I stopped.

I am married to a smoker. We celebrated our 20th anniversary Sept. 12. It does not bother me when she smokes, however, once in a while, when I get that mouthful of smoke when I am eating, then it bugs me. And the thing I dislike the most is being woke up when someone walks into the bedroom with a lit one. Oh, do I hate that. I am up after that.

When we go to a restaurant and they say how many, smoking or non, she says smoking and I say non. Then I say it's OK, I am used to it, I'll sit with the smokers. It seems like all my relatives smoke.

I always hear how hard it is to quite. Well, I tell them my grandfather smoked for almost 60 years and one day just stopped cold turkey. Never had another one after that, and he lived until he was 90. What a tough old guy he was, said it was a waste of time, said at one point he had figured out how many days he had smoked up until the point of quitting and said he had smoked 25 years of his life away.

I love all the members of my family. I have begged my wife to quit, pleaded, told her I did not want to be alone when she dies of cancer. Her brother Jim died of cancer, he was 26. He did not smoke, but on his death bed he begged them all to please quit. His two kids are now adults — they were ages 3 and 1 when he passed. They both smoke.

My dad was a smoker, he could have stopped whenever he wanted. He could go months without one, and then all of a sudden, he would light one up. My mom just passed recently from emphysema. At the funeral, I was totally amazed. Here she was laying in her casket, and everyone is out taking a "cigarette break."

I don't like smoking, never have. I love my wife more than anything, and it scares me everyday, but here are some famous words: "She is a big girl." And that is right. Do I wish she would quit? You bet I do. Do I wish other family members would? Absolutely. Does it bother me to go into a restaurant or a bar where people are smoking? No it does not. Oh, and when I mention bar, I don't drink either. I have been the designated driver since I turned 18 years old. We won't give my age now, but it has been for many years.

When I went to California, I was laughing at all my brothers and sisters because they had to go outside. My younger brother does not smoke either.

The way I look at it, if you want to smoke in a public place go ahead and light up, but what does make me really upset is when I go to a school event, where the signs clearly say, "No smoking on school property." I guess maybe someone should teach people how to read.

Bud Somerville
Westland

LETTERS

Endorsement questioned

I have lived in the City of Westland for 28 years and seen a lot of elections come and go. In my 71 years, I have also seen a lot of endorsements by the UAW. In regards to this election I would like to ask a few questions.

Why was there a candidate in our council race that did not have to appear nor answer any questions by the UAW? Was it because of her mother's name? Why should a person be qualified to run for office on her mother's name only? I know there were a couple people on the screening committee who live in the City of Westland. Did they not have the right to ask questions of this young lady? I am really disappointed in the UAW.

If your parents committed a crime would you blame the child? The same goes for politics or anything else! Does that make them a good candidate because they have the same name?

Now for my comments! My family has been union for a lot of years. My stepfather was beaten in the days they were trying to form a union. I am not trying to denigrate the union but I sure would like some answers.

I have nothing against this young lady, but what has she been involved in? Until recently she did not attend council meetings nor study sessions. If she had run on the name Christine Bryant and not added Cicirelli she would not have made the primary.

Concerned in Westland,
Georgia Becker
Westland

Employees' 'cash cow'

While more than 300 homes are in foreclosure, more than 700 are vacant in the city of Westland, the preferred employees in the city government continue to enjoy a "cash cow" called optical reimbursement.

In the year 2004, two employees were reimbursed \$764.46; year 2005, three employees were reimbursed \$1,002.05; year 2006, two employees were reimbursed \$486. Thus far, for the year 2007, three employees have been reimbursed \$1,950.50. These are all the same employees year after year and although, hard to believe, it has been documented in the vouchers.

Why is there such a system that gives away dollars under the cover of optical reimbursement? Does income tax get paid on these "cash cow" reimbursements? For the first six months of 2007, optical reimbursements totaled \$25,490.22 for city of Westland employees. It is time to get in line with the general populations who are hurting but are forced with their high taxes to support this giveaway.

How many taxpayers are aware that their taxes contribute to the Police/Fire Retirement Pension Fund, however, four people in the city of 86,000 plus are permitted to go to Hawaii on a boondoggle called "pension fund" conference. Two half days spent for conference and the other time pleasure, which Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer paid for!

Start by trimming the "fat" at the top; two classes of people, (1) the poor who

are losing their homes supporting the crooks, (2) preferred city employees, current and retired, who are sucking the life's blood from the taxpayers!

How many employees are getting a car allowance and what is the total dollars?
Angeline Ludwick
Westland

Ethical, not political

The issue of universal health care is not a political issue or an economic issue, it's an ethical issue. It is patently unethical to profit from the treatment of the sick. Period. And ethics should be a completely nonpartisan issue. As a U.S. and Michigan taxpayer, I would gladly agree to a tax increase in order to fund universal health coverage. By the way, if we weren't paying for a war thousands of miles away, it might be a less taxing proposition. Let's really make this the greatest country in the world and take care of all of our citizens, not just those who can afford it. Please pass H.R. 676. Thank you.

Rachel Kain
Farmington

Not in the give-up mode

The reporting on the surge in Iraq has been scant. *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* have followed the policy that good news is no news. The move by Petraeus and our forces surprised the Jihadists and assorted miscreants in that the enemy evidently thought that the wail and cry by the leftists and assorted Democrats in the United States would mean the certain early retreat, Iraq left to the poachers, Iranian interlopers, all kinds and sorts of Koran rapists and killers.

The murdering Muslims had determined that the leftists in America would steer our country to a give-up mode, quit the attempt to preserve freedom, and high-tail home, opening the door to a more complete takeover and domination of the social and economic affairs of all nations in the immediate East.

The liberal press continues to be of little help.

Neil Goodbred
Livonia

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

"He gave me every assurance that there would be no interruption of service to the city of Westland."
- Mayor William Wild about Midwestern Sanitation's filing for reorganization under Chapter 11 of federal bankruptcy law

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

State needs a shared vision to begin to rebuild economy

Michigan's political, public policy and finance systems are broken. That's the only lesson that can be drawn from the year-long — repeat, year-long — deadlock in Lansing over the state's budget.

Ten million Michigan citizens have been held hostage to the partisan agendas of both political parties and their members who now hold office, not to mention the interest groups that fund their campaigns. If that weren't the case, we'd be talking seriously today about how to get Michigan through our current economic crisis and begin laying the foundation for our future prosperity.

We'd have a vision for our state and a well-developed agenda for reaching it, as well as a realistic budget to get us by in the meantime. Oh, there would be some disagreements over how to get there. That's normal and healthy. But there is nothing healthy about what we have now. For months, we've had partisan bickering and finger-pointing while the Oct. 1 constitutional deadline for a balanced state budget keeps getting closer and closer.

Conceivably, some kind of cobbled-together deal to theoretically "balance" next year's budget may happen between the time I write these words and you read this column.

Or our lawmakers may throw together something before the deadline to avoid a government shutdown. But it doesn't seem likely that there will be the kind of real, comprehensive solution we need.

What we need to do is get our finances in order, so Michigan can focus attention on the real issue at hand: how to remake and re-brand Michigan as a vibrant and entrepreneurial "North Coast." This place is home to one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water and a fistful of other natural resources that support sustainable growth in industries such as agriculture, tourism and forestry.

All we need to do is also become a place that grows ever smarter, more innovating and world-competitive. So how would we go about it? It's actually pretty simple — we establish a new "public purse," a long-term sustained taxing and spending strategy focused like a laser on that vision for Michigan and how to reach it.

Our top spending priorities would be education, economic development, marketing our state to the world and investing in our quality of life: arts and culture, natural resources, health, safety.

But we need a budget and a shared vision.

Our new Michigan would continue to thrive as a manufacturing powerhouse, but this time re-engineered for high technology, high productivity, high skills. The Chrysler-Mitsubishi-Hyundai joint engine manufacturing plant near Dundee is the model. It operates with only two job classifications, outsourced janitorial and other ancillary tasks, four 10-hour shifts, and every worker with no less than an associate's degree from a community college. The result: high profitability and growing market share.

To get this on a statewide basis, we need cooperation between labor and management. And we need a statewide vision to encourage this kind of collaboration. We don't have that.

We need to support our universities both as magnets for the best and brightest to come to (or stay in) Michigan. We'd sustain the research now being done in university labs, and we'd support commercialization of this research.

But without a shared vision and a budget, this won't happen.

With both, Michigan will grow an entrepreneurial culture through our universities and our schools. We would begin to undo the historic fantasy that all kids have to do is get a high school diploma and get a job on the assembly line to live well and support a family.

We'd encourage venture capital to find a profitable home in Michigan. We'd provide recognition and support for our new economy of entrepreneurs and small businesses. We'd have a simple, predictable, competitive tax structure that recognizes that firms thrive when they have a high-skill, high-productivity business model — and rewards them for doing so.

But we don't have a budget that sustains all this. And we don't have a vision that motivates such a budget.

These ideas are hardly rocket science. They're just common sense. And they establish common ground for all kinds of people, whether Republicans or Democrats or independents.

So how do we figure out how to get there? That will be the subject of community conversations that are part of the Michigan's Defining Moment campaign that starts next month. To learn more or reserve a seat, go to www.thecenterformichigan.net.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of Michigan politics and economics. He is founder and president of The Center for Michigan. He welcomes reader comment at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.



Phil Power

Let's hear it for the team — Shock pros send good message to fans

As we left The Palace Sunday evening, my husband tuned the radio into the Lions game in time to hear of their victory over the Minnesota Vikings.



Julie Brown

That game was a nail-biter, but my mind was on the Detroit Shock-Mercury Phoenix pro basketball championship game we'd just seen, in which the Shock lost 108-92 in the final championship matchup. The Shock had to hand over the trophy to the Phoenix women's team, but they're all still champs in my book.

It's been 10 years since the WNBA came along to dominate women's sports, and things haven't been the same since. Women stars from college teams now have a pro league to aspire to; more importantly, girls and young women in this country have role models to look up to and emulate.

At The Palace Sunday, there were lots of moms and daughters, as well as other family combinations. Coach Bill Laimbeer of the Shock got plenty of applause. I hear comments often of surprise from people that the former "Bad Boy" Piston could do so well coaching a women's team to trophies.

Deanna Nolan, who scored 27 points Sunday, and other Shock players also got lots of applause. The parking lot of The Palace included church vans from Detroit; many tickets for Sunday were given away and our \$17 seats, good ones, certainly provided a great view of the action.

Pro sports in Detroit have gotten expensive, and it's good to have a family-friendly option that's affordable, which the Shock team provides. I like to see the players and others from the Shock so involved in community projects.

Laimbeer received the Michigan Women's Studies Association/Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Philip A. Hart Award a while back, given to recognize a male Michiganian who has advanced women's rights. I remember being at the awards dinner, when two Shock players accepted the award — and joked about Laimbeer sending women to do the work.

Certainly, members of the Shock have been visible in our community, not just conducting basketball clinics for kids but also participating in a variety of service projects, even leading up to the championship games.

So far, they've been a model of civility on and off

It's been 10 years since the WNBA came along to dominate women's sports, and things haven't been the same since. Women stars from college teams now have a pro league to aspire to; more importantly, girls and young women in this country have role models to look up to and emulate.

the court, without the high-profile antics of some male athletes. Let's be honest, some of the guys aren't the greatest role models for youngsters.

The Shock have also encouraged young people, and adults, to take care of their health by being active, a good lesson to teach in a notably overweight state of Michigan.

This is a sports-mad town, with fans of the Red Wings, Tigers, Pistons and even Lions following their teams with eager anticipation each year. I like all those sports, too, especially baseball on a nice sunny day, but am glad to see there's room as well for women's basketball.

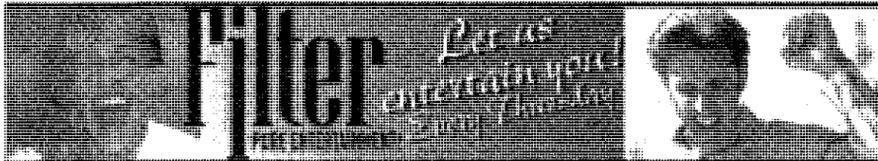
The Detroit Shock may have lost the three out of five series that culminated Sunday at The Palace, but I'm glad I spent the money and time to go to see them play. Here's to hoping for many more years of playing and, hopefully, winning.

Setting a good example for girls and young women, and letting them know they can reach for the stars when it comes to their futures, means a lot in this day and age, too. We have the Shock and other members of WNBA teams to thank for that — no matter what the scoreboard says.

I'm reminded of the coach in *A League of Their Own*, who's at first highly skeptical about women playing baseball in the wartime 1940s. By the end, he's on their side, telling them, "It's OK, you played a good game."

The Shock played a good game, too, and I'm glad I was there to see it.

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or via e-mail at jcbrown@hometownlife.com.



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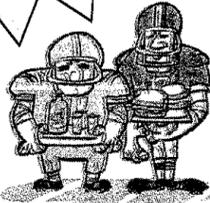
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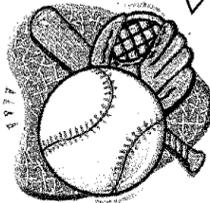
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Humane Society holds Best Friend event

The Michigan Humane Society and the Detroit Zoo will host the seventh annual fall Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo, the largest off-site companion animal adoption event in the country, on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 29 and 30.

The event will take place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak. There is no charge for admission to the adoption event or for parking.

Hundreds of adoptable dogs, cats, puppies and kittens will be available for immediate adoption both days. Because puppies are often in high demand, "puppy passes" will be given each morning to the first 15 adoption event guests who are looking specifically to adopt a puppy. Those will puppy passes will be allowed to enter the adoption tents at 9:45 a.m., with the remainder of guests allowed to enter at 10 a.m. Preventing a "puppy rush" during general admittance to the event will ensure

that all adopters - and the adoptable animals - will have a wonderful experience. A "get acquainted" area will be available to give guests an opportunity to spend time with an animal before adopting.

The participating organizations, in addition to the Michigan Humane Society, include: Adopt-a-Pet, Animal Rescue Connection, Animal Welfare Society, AuSable Valley Animal Shelter, Battle Creek Animal Shelter, Detroit Animal Control, Faerie Tales Cat/Maine Coon Rescue, Feline Friends, Great Lakes Weiwaner Rescue, Greater Hillsdale Humane Society, Home Fur-Ever, K-9 Stray Rescue, Kitty Haven Rescue, Last Chance for Animals, Metro Area Animal Adoption Association, Michigan Greyhound Connection, Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue, No Place Like Home, Oakland Animal Care Center, REGAP, Roscommon County Animal Shelter, Sanilac County Humane Society, Southern Star MinPin Rescue and

WAG Animal Rescue.

Last year, the fall Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo event found homes for more than 550 animals. Since the event's inception in 1993, more than 13,400 dogs, cats and rabbits have been placed into new homes.

Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo is held outdoors under tents in the Detroit Zoo parking lot at 8450 W. 10 Mile Road.

Adoption fees and policies are set by each participating group. Adopters must present a driver's license or state ID card. All dogs and cats will have received a medical checkup and age appropriate vaccinations. For health and safety reasons, leave current companion animals at home.

For more information or to donate to the welfare of homeless animals, call the Michigan Humane Society at 1(866)-MHUMANE (648-6263), 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or visit www.michiganhumane.com.

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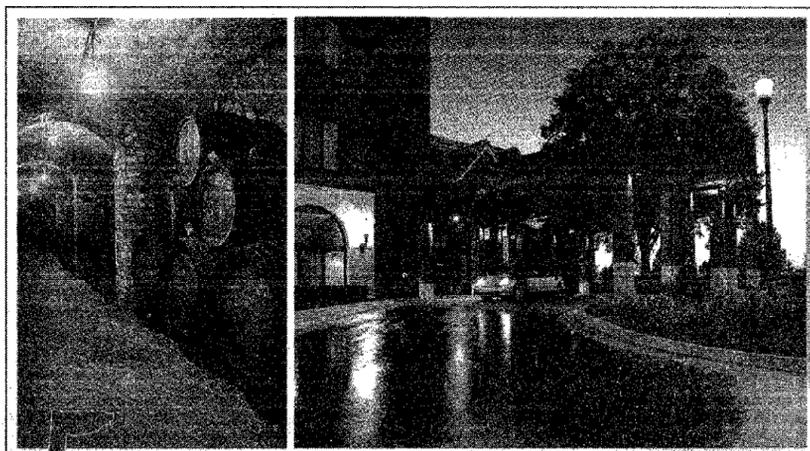
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Smoked Pork Loin with Peanut BBQ sauce glazed Sweet Potatoes

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RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

SEPTEMBER

MOPS meetings

The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group begins meeting this fall on a new time and time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Laverne, Redford. The first session is 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 20. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month. Join in for teaching, discussion, creative projects and presentations. For more information, call (248) 470-5202 or

send e-mail to nikki.tiernan@gmail.com.

Global village night

Liberia, West Africa, Global Village Night 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20, at Detroit West District Peace Center at Hope United Methodist Church, 26275 Northwestern Highway, near Lahser, Southfield. Speaker is the Rev. Charles Boayue Jr., senior pastor, Second Grace United Methodist Church, Detroit. Liberia history, culture, customs, folk storytelling, Liberia art and dancing, music, thoughts about PEACE, sign up for Liberia Pen Pals (ages 12-17). Bring donated items for 2008 February, Liberia Mission Trip. Open to the public. Refreshments. For more information, call (248) 356-1020, Ext. 137.

Alpha - Questions of Life

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, nonthreatening setting over 10 thought-provoking weekly sessions beginning 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township. Includes a free dinner each week. Free child care available when attending class. To register, call (248) 374-5932 or send e-mail to Margy.Burkhart@ward-church.org.

Bible studies

Regular Bible Study program begins 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20, and continues on the first and third Thursdays of the month, at St. Michael's Catholic Church on the corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia. The group will be undertaking an in-

depth study of Paul's Letters to the Romans, the longest and often considered the most systematic presentation of the disciple's thoughts on salvation. Informal classes are open to all interested persons regardless of religious affiliation. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

Weekend celebration

St. Matthew's and St. Joseph's Episcopal Church is holding a three-day celebration honoring St. Matthew the Apostle. The festivities kick off with an Ethnic Taste Fest 4-11 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, followed by a dinner dance 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22 (tickets \$45 per person, \$80 per couple), and a jazz Mass featuring Kenn Cox 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, at the church, 8850 Woodward, between Holbrook and King streets, Detroit. Call (313) 871-4750 for more information.

MOPS groups

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. MOPS recognizes the year from infancy through kindergarten are foundational in a mother-child relationship and filled with unique need. For information, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomensministries@hotmail.com.

St. Michael's parish picnic

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia will hold its second annual Parish Picnic 1-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, at Rotary Park. The order of the day will be great food, fellowship, and fun for everyone, with food being served from 1-4 p.m. Highlights include softball, volleyball, games, horseshoes, Moonwalks, face painting, tattoos, and much more all at affordable family pricing. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, for advance ticket sales. All food, beverages and paper goods are once again being provided courtesy of Larry Lokuta of Larry's Foodland on Plymouth Road.

Heart to heart mission

St. Raphael's Catholic Church of Garden City holds the Parish Renewal Mission, Heart to Heart, Sunday-Wednesday, Sept. 23-26, with the Rev. Hugh Burns. Burns speaks at 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Sept. 22, and at the 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon Masses Sunday, Sept. 23. The evening missions take place at 7 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday, Sept. 23-26. Burns will also be speaking 8:30 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, Sept. 24-26. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call (734) 427-1533.

Allens sing

Riverside Park Church of God is pleased to present The Allens 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, at the church, 11771 Newburgh Road at Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for more information.

Rummage sale

Huge variety of household goods, clothing, jewelry, books, toys and items too numerous to mention at Plymouth United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial, between Sheldon and Beck, Plymouth. Sale begins Tuesday Sept. 25 at noon through 7 p.m. Wednesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a \$4 per bag sale 3-5 p.m. Fund-raiser for United Methodist Women with all proceeds to benefit those in need here and around the world.

LOGOS Youth Club

Calling all youth grades four-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. beginning Wednesday, Sept. 26. For more information or registration forms, visit www.funmcrnorthville.org or call (248) 349-1144.

Heartcry

The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. The group is using the book, The Hope of a Homecoming, by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12). For information or to register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4.

Rummage sale

Orchard United Methodist Women present the annual Fall Rummage sale 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29, and the bag sale 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 29, at Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. For directions or information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

ENDOW

Educating on the Nature & Dignity of Women, a women's study group to discover their God-given dignity and femininity through Catholic teaching, series of sessions explores Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women while enjoying a prayerful, relaxed atmosphere of faith, friendship and fellowship, runs Thursdays, Sept. 27 to Nov. 15, in Bixman Hall (church building) at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$60 for materials. Registration required. Visit www.endowonline.com or call (734) 425-5950.

Mom to Mom sale

Tri-City Christian Center is having their Spring Mom to Mom Sale 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at 3855 Sheldon in Canton, just north

of Michigan Avenue. Table rentals are sold to capacity with more than 75 moms selling their kids' clothes, toys, baby equipment, etc. \$1 admission.

Mom-to-Mom sale

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. For details, call (734) 422-0149.

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia is hosting a showing of the Vatican Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles of the World, Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 29-30, to celebrate the feast day of its patron in a special way. The Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit uses an extensive assortment of historical photographs, descriptions, and scientific data to present 126 church-sanctioned miracles which have taken place throughout the world from the 2nd century through 2001. The exhibition will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30, in the school gymnasium at 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. Guides will be available to assist visitors through the exhibit and answer questions. Nationally-known Catholic apologist and St. Michael's parishioner, Gary Michuta, will also speak about the Eucharistic Miracles during the exhibition.

During the hours of the exhibition, there will be a concurrent exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the church 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and immediately following the noon Mass until 5 p.m. Sunday. The exhibition is open to all. For details, call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

Holy Grounds coffee house

Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills is hosting its first Holy Grounds coffee house in The MAC 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29. Local musicians will be featured and the styles will be eclectic. \$3 at the door, beverages and snacks available for purchase as well as the entertainers' CD's. For more information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Animal blessing

Blessing of the animals at 11 a.m. worship Sunday, Sept. 30, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Bring your domestic animals to the fellowship hall to be blessed during this special service. Call (734) 464-0211.

Felician Sisters Marian Rally

Join the Felician Sisters of Livonia as they honor the Blessed Virgin Mary at the annual Marian Rally Sunday, Sept. 30. The rally begins at noon with the Celebration of the Eucharist (Mass) in the Motherhouse Chapel, followed by praying of the rosary at the shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa at 1:30 p.m., and a procession to the Fatima shrine and crowning of Mary by students from Ladywood High School. Refreshments will be available after Mass. Wheelchair participants are welcome. Parking is available at the Montessori Center of Our Lady at the Newburgh entrance. The Felician Sisters Motherhouse is at 36800 Schoolcraft, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 591-1730.

Father Solanus concert

Remembering Father Solanus - A Simple Man concert 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30, at St. Bonaventure Monastery Chapel, 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit (48207). Featuring the Rev. William Cunningham Memorial Choir, The Metro Catholic Gospel Choir, and John R. King Academic and Performing Arts Academy. Tickets are \$15. (313) 579-2100.

Organ concert

International concert organist David Briggs plays a recital 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30, at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 students, and available by calling (248) 626-2515, Ext. 109, or at the door.

Fall schedule

Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, has new worship hours for Fall - Three Hours Of Power! Worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. with Christian education for all ages at 10 a.m. Leadership is shared by class members. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Pancake breakfasts

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continue their 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month. The breakfasts are served in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hashbrowns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffet-style at family friendly prices. Adults, \$5; children ages 4-11, \$3; children under age 3, free; and family (2 adults and all children), \$15. Everyone is welcome.

Tiny Tots Preschool

Now enrolling for 2007-08 for 3- and 4-year olds, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

UPCOMING

Grief recovery

Living with the loss of a spouse series dealing with grief and coping with loneliness and other issues, facilitated by members of Widowed Friends, a peer support group, at St. Columban Parish Center, 1775 Melton, north of 14 Mile between Woodward and Coolidge, Birmingham. Six-week series begins 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, call Dorothy at (248) 540-9848 or Gerry at (586) 795-0477 to register by Oct. 1. Four week series begins 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10, call Pat at (248) 549-1220 or Carol at (248) 853-2268 to register by Oct. 1.

Smart Discipline seminar

6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. Cost is \$12 per person, \$20 per couple. To register, visit www.christoursavior.org. For more information, call (734) 522-6830. If unable to attend the seminar, the DVD and 4 workbooks are available for \$89. Call (800) 208-0807 or purchase online at www.smartdiscipline.com. For those of you wondering, the main difference between Love and Logic and Smart Discipline is Smart Discipline addresses and is extremely effective with a wider range of behaviors.

Islam: A primer

Join us for an introductory exploration of Islam: a 14-century old religious, geo-political, and social system 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. Presenter is David J. Conrad. Please register to allow accurate preparation of handouts, seating and hospitality. Call (734) 425-5950. No charge.

Rummage sale

Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Livonia and Newburgh roads, Livonia, will be holding a Rummage Sale fund raiser. Pre-sale 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4 (admission \$2 per adult), Big Sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 6 (admission free). Saturday everything is half price.

Reformed Protestant Service

The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism will be preached 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5, at the regular, monthly worship service of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. All are welcome to attend. Rev. Robert McCurley of Greenville, South Carolina will preach at the service. For more information, call Margaret Waldecker at (313) 530-6170 or visit www.westminsterconfession.org, or phone the church at (703) 359-0192.

Men's breakfast

Ham & eggs, hashbrowns, pancakes, and more... when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant, located off Haggerty Road between Five Mile and Six Mile in Northville. All men are invited for fellowship and food. Next breakfast is Saturday, Oct. 6. Sponsored by Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

Church Women United

Next meeting for Suburban Detroit-West is 12:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5, at Farmington First United Methodist Church (please bring one salad for every three persons attending), and Area 2 Meeting: Stepping Up to the Plate with Mind, Body and Soul Friday, Sept. 28, at Smith Chapel A.M.E. Church, 3505 Walnut Street at Beech, south of Michigan Avenue, Inkster (cost is \$10, call (248) 646-9574). Deadline for registration is Friday, Sept. 21.

Mom to mom sale

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 6, at First United Methodist Church, 6448 Merriman, Garden City. Admission is \$1. Rental cost is \$25 for 6-foot table, \$27 for 8-foot table, \$3 for a rack with table rental. Call (734) 532-7818 for information.

South Pacific

The Chancel Choir of Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church in Livonia will present "South Pacific" 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6 in the fellowship hall of the church located on W. Chicago, between Merriman and Farmington roads, Livonia. "South Pacific," featuring classic musical selections such as "Some Enchanted Evening," "There's Nothin' Like a Dame," and "Bali Hai," earned Rodgers and Hammerstein extraordinary reviews and a Tony Award for best musical. It was the second musical to ever receive the Pulitzer Prize for drama. A sell-out crowd is expected. Tickets are \$5 and may be reserved by calling (734) 422-0494 or Marilyn Hirtzel at (734) 422-0841.

Celebration of Life Mass

In honor of Respect Life Sunday, St. Aidan's Parish will host a Celebration of Life Mass with Monsignor John Kasza as celebrant and our contemporary choir will perform 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at St. Aidan's, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Light refreshments and fellowship to follow. For more information, call (734) 464-0211.

Please see RELIGION, A15

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232

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ANN C. CAMP (nee Cooper)

Suddenly September 16, 2007, age 43. Beloved wife of Hans. Dear mother of Sean and John Evans and Halle Camp. Daughter of Harold and Joan Cooper. Sister of James (Sandra) Cooper. Services have been held. Share memories at: schrader-howell.com

DANIEL WOZNY

Age 55 of Westland passed away at Hospice of Northwest Ohio on September 18, 2007. Mr. Wozny was born in Dearborn on November 29, 1951 to Stanley and Helen (Sucharski) Wozny. Daniel was employed for 30 years with TRW and a member of the Sober Rider's Motorcycle Club. He is survived by his children: Justice Steven (Tonya) Wozny of Brooklyn and Honesty Lynn (Dr. Kenny) Harless of Onsted and their mother: Mary Wozny of Manitou Beach; brother: Robert Wozny of Westland. He was preceded in death by his parents. Memorial contributions may be given to Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Envelopes will be available at the Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Braun Chapel where family will receive friends on Thursday, September 20, 2007 from 4 p.m. until the time of service at 6 p.m. Please sign Mr. Wozny's guestbook at: www.borekjennings.com.

ELIZABETH RENARD

Died September 17, 2007 at the age of 83. Beloved wife of the late Willard "Bob". Dear mother of Gary (Ann), Linda (Jim) Morgan, Jan (Paul) Snyder, and Mark (Marilee). Grandmother of Lauren, Kristen, Michael, David, Vincent, and the late Erin. Great-grandmother of Irie. Sister of Woodrow "Bud" Pickering. The family suggests memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice. Arrangements by: Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home 734-425-1800.

JACK PERRY McLEAN

Age 82, of Brighton, September 15, 2007. Beloved husband of Kathy. Loving father of Larry (Dara), Brad (Denise), Jay (Terry), Nancy (Rick) Reno, Katie (Lance) Greane and Karrie (Bill) Martin. Dear grandfather of Bryan, Amy, Jessica, Chelsea, Danielle, Sarah, Kevin, Mead, Isaac, Adam and the late Lisa. Also many loving extended family and dear friends. Mr. McLean was a teacher, athletic director and a dedicated coach with Dondero High School for 39 years. He was a proud member of the Michigan High School Coaches Hall of Fame. Jack served as a Marine in WWII and was a Purple Heart recipient. Funeral was held at St. James the Greater Catholic Church, Novi, Sept. 18th. Father George Charney officiated. Burial Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorial Contributions may be made to the Jack McLean Athletic Scholarship Fund, Royal Oak High School Athletic Dept., 1500 Lexington, Royal Oak, MI 48073 Att: Sam Lynch. For further information please call Lynch and Sons Funeral Directors, Milford 248-684-6645.

JULIA E. SARGEANT

Age 92, of Rochester, died September 17, 2007. A long time Rochester resident, residing in Rochester for over 67 years. Beloved wife of the late George Loving Mother of Judy (David) de Steiger. Proud Grandma of Joe (Ashlee), Rachel and Jaclyn de Steiger, Sister of Lucy Bando and Hugh Preston. Julia was an active member of St. Philips Episcopal Church in Rochester for over 60 years. She served in various capacities at church including President of the ECW and Altar Guild. She twice received the Distinguished Philippiian Award. She and her husband, George, started Sargeant's Cider Mill (currently Rochester Cider Mill) back in the early 1950's. Funeral Service Friday, 1:00pm at St. Philips Episcopal Church in Rochester, 100 Romeo Rd. Visitation Friday 11:30 am until the time of service. Memorial Contributions may be made to the church and envelopes will be available. Visit www.mem.com. Arrangements entrusted to: Pixley Funeral Home in Rochester 248-651-9641.

LORAIN G. LOGUE

9.17.07, age 71. Beloved Mother of Karen Hook (Steven), Kevin Bourque (Laurie), Charles Bourque (Debbie), Danny Bourque Dearest Friend of Larry Alexander and John Wiper. Loving Grandmother of eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Loyal and loving pet Baby. Please make donations to Michigan Humane Society. Arrangements were through the Voran Funeral Home (Taylor Chapel). Please visit our OnLine Guestbook at: www.voranfuneralhome.com

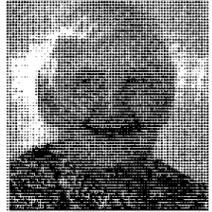
ROBERT H. LASKEY

Age 74, Westland, 9-13-2007. Burial Cadillac Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Westland. Uht Funeral Home



THADDEUS (Ted) OPALINSKI

Age 85, of Livonia, September 13, 2007. Ted was the beloved husband for 62 years of the late Mary Ann (Wolnick), dearest and best dad to Carol (Steve) Lawrence, Kenneth (Diane) Opalinski, and Robert (Darlene) Opalinski, proudest grandpa of Jill and Matthew (Jacque) Lawrence, Jeffrey, Ryan, and Brian Opalinski, and a special great-grandpa to Austin and Kaitlynn. Ted was the youngest of six "Opalinski boys" and was preceded in death by all his brothers. He served in World War II as a specialist radar technician in the Pacific. He founded and operated Norwest Electronics for 50 years in metro Detroit. A Livonia resident for 50 years, he served on various boards and committees, ran for city councilman, and served 17 years as a traffic commissioner. He served as president of the Livonia Lions Club, commander of the Polish Legion of American Veterans and was a member of the Livonia Elks. Donations may be sent to the Alzheimers Association of Michigan, Livonia Lions High Nooners, or Angela Hospice. Family and friends will gather Saturday, September 22, 2007 from 10 AM until an 11 AM Memorial Mass at St. Maurice Catholic Church, 32765 Lyndon Avenue, Livonia MI. Please share memories with the family at: www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com.



Sister Mary Bernice Pohl, RSM

(Farmington Hills, MI) - Sister Mary Bernice Pohl, RSM died at McAuley Retirement Center in Farmington Hills on September 15, 2007, the eve of her 84th birthday. She was born to Louis and Catherine (Thelen) Pohl in Westphalia, Michigan on September 16, 1923 and named Adeline Catherine at her baptism. She joined the Sisters of Mercy in Detroit in 1944. There she received the name, Sister Mary Bernice, and made perpetual vows on August 16, 1950. Sister Mary Bernice earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Mercy College of Detroit in 1951 and a master's in nursing from Catholic University of America in 1960. During her 43 years as a nurse she served as supervisor at St. Lawrence Hospital in Lansing, Mercy Hospital in Jackson and St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids. The majority of her professional years, however, were devoted to nursing education. She was director of St. Lawrence Hospital School of Nursing and Mercy School of Nursing in Dubuque, Iowa, and effectively transitioned the latter to a collaborative program with the local community college. Sister Mary Bernice later became assistant to the dean of the nursing education program at Mercy College of Detroit where she worked with faculty and students for 18 years. She joined the support staff at McAuley Center in 1994 and retired there two years later. Sister Mary Bernice was entrusted with varied responsibilities throughout her life but always handled them gracefully. As she cared for patients and worked with young women who chose nursing as a career, her compassionate heart, attention to professional standards and non-assuming manner endeared her to all. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, praying and sharing life with the members of her religious community and family. Sister Mary Bernice is survived by her sisters, Rosaline (Delbert) Smith of Lansing; Sisters Dorothy Pohl, Mary Ann Pohl and Bernadine Pohl, all of whom are Dominican Sisters from Racine, Wisconsin; brothers Rev. Father Leon Pohl of Coldwater; Norbert (Marian) Pohl of Fowler; Gerald (Joan) Pohl of Fowler and Joseph (Marie) Pohl of Holt; many nieces and nephews; friends; and Sisters of Mercy. A welcoming service will take place on September 18, 2007 at 3 pm at McAuley Center, 28750 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, followed by a remembrance service at 7 pm. The Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated in McAuley Center's Sacred Heart Chapel on September 19, 2007 at 10:30 am, with burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills, is in charge of arrangements. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Mercy Ministry Fund, 29000 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336.

Let others know... When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"... a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

Observer & Eccentric

Call 1-800-579-7355

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to: oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232

For more information call: Charolette Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067

or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

RELIGION

FROM PAGE A14

425-5950.

Grief recovery

Living with the loss of a spouse series dealing with grief and coping with loneliness and other issues, facilitated by members of Widowed Friends, a peer support group, at St. Columban Parish Center, 1775 Melton, north of 14 Mile between Woodward and Coolidge, Birmingham. Six-week series begins 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, call Dorothy at (248) 540-9848 or Gerry at (586) 795-0477 to register by Oct. 1, four week series begins 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10, call Pat at (248) 549-1220 or Carol at (248) 853-2268 to register by Oct. 1.

CROP walk

To raise awareness and funds for international relief and developments as well as for the Plymouth Salvation Army 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, beginning at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth Township. There will

be two-mile and four-mile routes. For CROP Walker envelopes and information, call Bill Brave at (734) 414-9867.

Animal blessing

Blessing of the Animals Service 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 9083 Newburgh, Livonia. All pets are welcome. Treats will be provided. For more information, call (734) 591-0211 or visit www.holyspirit-livonia.org

World Communion Day

Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills celebrates World Communion Day Oct. 7. Everyone is invited to join in celebrating at 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. For more information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Interfaith dialogue

The Detroit West District Peace Center at Hope United Methodist Church will present an Interfaith Dialogue with the Rev. Dr. Carlyle F. Stewart, III, senior pastor, Hope United Methodist Church, Southfield, and Rabbi Joshua Bennett, Temple Israel, West Bloomfield to discuss dif-

ferences and similarities of Christian and Judaic Religions. They will speak from the same text with different perspectives and engage in dialogue with audience questions and answers, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9, at Hope United Methodist Church, 26275 Northwestern, near Lasher, Southfield. The event is free and open to the public. For information, call Barbara Talley at (248) 356-1020, Ext. 137.

Training class-Level I

Six-week training in conflict, peace-making and reconciling begins Oct. 9, and continues 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the West District Peace Center, Hope United Methodist Church, 26275 Northwestern, Southfield. Open to the public. The program covers resolving conflict, personal, family, church, and workplace using Christian biblical principles. Registration fee \$15, includes Peacemaker Book by Ken Sande. To register, call (248) 356-1020, Ext. 137, or e-mail Barbara Talley at peacecenter@sbcglobal.net.

Celebration

Minister Mary Edwards is celebrating 65-years of life, 33-years of ministry, 25-years full-time ministry 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 3837 W. Seven Mile, Detroit. Please RSVP by Oct. 4, by calling (313) 347-0726.

Singers wanted

Riverside Park Church of God is looking for voices to join their choir. If you like to sing and love God (or just want to get to know God) join in. Choir practice meets once a month on Saturday and sings the following Sunday at the church, 11771 Newburgh, corner of Plymouth Road, Livonia. Upcoming practices 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 13. For more information, call (734) 464-0990.

Fall craft show

Get a start on holiday shopping at the Fall Craft Show noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Road, Plymouth Road, Livonia. A few spaces are available Call (734) 464-

0990 for an application.

Crafters needed

For Riverside Park Church of God's fall arts and crafts show noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20, at the church, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. Rentals \$20 Saturday only, \$30 for both days, \$5 additional for table rentals. Applications being accepted at (734) 464-0990.

Women of the word

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth Project (new from Focus on the Family). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbcwomen.

Catholic women's conference

Women Encountering Christ in Friendship and Love is the fifth annual Catholic Women's Conference sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Macomb Community College Sports & Expo center, 14500 E. 12

Mile, Warren. Cost is \$45 adults, \$35 for full-time college or high school students, and includes the conference and lunch. Religious are free of charge but must register. Registration using secure PayPal is available by visit www.aodwomensministry.org. Mail-in registration forms available by sending e-mail request to AODwomensconference@wowway.com or calling (734) 459-9558.

Benefit

Jeremy Wagner Games Night Benefit: A Fun Filled Night Of Card Games & Mahjongg 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, Temple Shir Shalom at Wainut Lake Road & Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Donation is \$25, 100 percent of proceeds go to the Jeremy Wagner Family. Jeremy is a West Bloomfield High School student with bone cancer. Light snacks available. Please send a donation made out to Jeremy Wagner and mail to 5025 West Pond Circle, West Bloomfield, MI 48323. For information, call Lori Lieberman, (248) 892-3455, Franci Silver, (248) 505-9007.

Your Invitation To Worship

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NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
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Virgil Humes, Pastor
Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Children, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Clarenceville United Methodist
20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
248-474-3444
Pastor Beth Librande
Worship Service 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Nursery Provided

Redford Aldersgate
2 blocks South of Plymouth
10000 Beech Daly
313-937-3170
9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch.
11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96
734-522-6830
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional
Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am
Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413
Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ
Pastors: Robert F Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden

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"Where the Word is Relevant, People are Loved and Christ is the Key"
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www.pfumc.org

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Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery Provided
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The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor

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Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.
Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560
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All are Welcome
Come as you are!
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Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

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Sat. 4 p. Sun 11a
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32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616
(between Merriman & Farmington Roads)
MASS: Mon. 8:30 a. Fri. 8:30 a.
Sat. 6 p. Sun 9a

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Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER
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First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
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734-453-0970
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Rev. William J. Burke Jr.
Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall
35600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia
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(Livonia) • 427-2290
Jill Hegdal, Pastor
10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available)

For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

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SHORT GUYS A PLUS

SWF 46, petite, attractive, nature girl, looking for life partner, who's life is as together as mine. Someone who's 40-50, and looking for a great girl for LTR. ☎113552

BUSY GIRL

Very cute SWFF, 48, looks 35 on a bad day, 5', 115lbs, brown, very long hair, looking for someone to spice up my life, take a chance and leave me alone. ☎218523

PERSONABLE AND SPECIAL

SWF, refined, talented, fun-loving, attractive, 132lbs, 5'9", blonde, seeks well-groomed gentleman, 65+ to share life and enjoy each other's company. ☎291247

HIDDEN TREASURE

I'm the treasure in the haystack and there you will find true love. Seeking SM, 65+. ☎212790

FRIENDS FIRST

WWF, 66, 5'8", 145lbs, healthy, honest, happy, likes comedy films, country cooking, looking for out-of-town active man affectionate and warm-hearted, to share the good things in life. ☎139719

WANTED: TALL, CLASSY MALE

I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel. Seeking a companion, 6'0"-7'0", long dark curly hair, N/D, N/S, D/D-free, never married, no children. Interests? Call ☎292478

SEEKING FRIEND

DWCF, 70, 5'2", looks much younger, N/S, N/D, brown/brown, very easy to get along with, seeks SWM, 58-75, who loves sports, drives and holding hands. ☎266284

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

Attractive SWF, 50s, 5'7", 125lbs, loves all life, animals, arts, family, nature, spirituality, Masters helping professionals. Seeking big-hearted, financially/emotionally secure, intelligent DPM, 48-68, for fun, friendship, depth, etc. ☎292222

IT'S HIS BOX I'D FIND

A 42-year-old SWF, ISO SWM, 38-45, for friendship and possibly more. I'm sociable, affectionate 5'7", 120lbs, long dark curly hair, N/D, N/S, D/D-free, never married, no children. Interests? Call ☎224748

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...

45-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 45-year-old who's bright, spunky and really. Only Jewish men please. ☎292317

IS IT YOU?

SF, 65, employed, outgoing, honest and fun-loving, Libra, wishing to meet a southern gentleman, social drinker with good sense of humor, to share all life offers. ☎222721

LOTS OF LOVE TO GIVE

SWF, 66, 5'6", blond, N/S, good sense of humor, enjoys life, dancing and dining, seeking a WHM, 66-75, N/S, sincere and humorous, for companionship, maybe more. Oakland county replies only. ☎207161

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP

SWF, young 60s, w/ good morals, caring, nice-looking, 5'3", 135lbs, N/S, N/D, N/D, N/S, clean, honest living, party retired, enjoys art, card playing, casinos, and movies. Seeking honest man 50-60, race open. ☎134422

ITALIAN/SICILIAN MAN...

wanted, 40-year-old SWF, 5'8" looking for handsome, fun, older Italian or Sicilian Male, 40-55 years old, I like shopping, movies, and cooking. ☎218623

YOUR SOULMATE IS WAITING

SWF, 27, 5'4", chocolate complexion, pretty brown eyes, dimples, thick build, looking for SM, 28-40, for friendship and possibly more. ☎226022

CLASSY AND ATTRACTIVE

SWF, 40, curvy, seeking a SWM, 40-50, masculine, who likes walks, movies and having fun. No head games. ☎217813

HELLO GENTLEMAN

SWF, 42, 5'3", 138lbs, medium complexion, easy on the eyes, intelligent, caring, seeking compatible man to share my life. ☎218906

BUSY GIRL

Very cute 48-year-old SWF, could easily pass for 35, 5', 115lbs, long brown hair, looking for someone to spice up my life. ☎230116

HITHERE

SWFF, 35, 5'8", 135lbs, sexy, curvy, golden-brown complexion, long hair, beautiful smile, seeks SWM, 45+, to share life and all it offers. I enjoy water sports, travel, fine dining, art. ☎218866

LOOKING FOR ME?

SWF, 37, attractive, trustworthy, down-to-earth, with down south vibes, seeking a SWM, 35-45, who's a gentleman, 35-55, for friendship, possible romance. ☎220303

SIMPLE REQUEST

Are you honest, trustworthy, down-to-earth? SWF 40, N/S, seeks SWM, 57, N/S, who knows how to take life one day at a time. ☎208061

CALL ME SOMETIME

Loving, compassionate, romantic lady, 34, enjoys day trips, good talks, genuine, honest, sincere, time with family. Seeking a loving, respectful, level-headed man to share the good things in life. ☎208752

MAYBE US

SWF, 42, 5'6", pretty smile, enjoys weekend get-aways, seeking a SWM, 37-48, N/S, to share interests and companionship. ☎214333

DO-WOP TO CLASSICS

DWFF, 56, 5'5", blonde, classic features, shapely blond, enjoys concerts, dining, classic cars, the lake, dancing, ISO christian +, N/S, gentleman, 50+, for dating, open to new activities. Rochester. ☎228822

LIFE IS SHORT

SWF, 41, 5'7", outgoing, fun, enjoys all sports, the outdoors and warm climates, seeking a caring, romantic, honest, handsome SM, 35-70, with similar interests, for companionship, romance and more. ☎189112

GOOD TIMES

Hard-working, honest, respectful, ambitious, attractive, SWF, 38, educated, D/D-free, in search of SWM, with same qualities, for friendship and casual fun. ☎159358

SEEKS NEW FRIENDS

Tall, sexy, ebony artist, enjoys culture, music, the outdoors, the ocean, bookstores, coffeehouses, biking, sports, seeking for a SM, 18-45, who can enjoy the same. ☎198785

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

Employed, easygoing SWF, 48, mom, pretty smile, golden complexion, brown/brown, attractive, independent, warm-hearted, loves R&B, soul, classic cars/shows, concerts. Seeking warm-hearted, independent SWM, intelligent and good-humored for companionship. Replies only. ☎292229

A GOOD WOMAN 4 U

Laid-back, nice SWF, 42, N/S, N/D, loves music, movies, bowling, relaxing by the water, quiet times home. Seeking like-minded lady, feminine and fun-loving, to share friendship and possibly more. ☎229655

SINCERE ONLY

SWF, 38, feminine, beautiful, sexy, seeks confident, similar lady to share nights on the town, good talks and simple fun. Will it be you? Friendship first, possibly more. ☎210970

DWFF 63, 5'2", Italian, brunette, attractive, well-

educated, sincere, loving, optimistic, likes theater, travel, dining, fitness. Wishing to meet N/S WM, 58-70, financially secure, easygoing, good morals, loves family for dating. ☎930808

UNAPPROVED A LITTLE...

strangeness. Caring, compassionate, SWF, 27, mother with 11 month old who is my world, loves reading, friends, animals, and exploring life. Seeking someone compassionate to share a friends first relationship. ☎223613

LOOKING FOR MY SOULMATE

Cute SWF, mother of 2, enjoys movies and dining in/out. Seeking lucky bear type SM, 35-45, race open, N/S, attractive inside and out, humorous, candidly responsible, family-oriented, lady. ☎290301

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND

SWF, 59, 5'4", easy on the eyes, full-figured, nice personality, D/D-free, enjoys camping, music, football, casinos, cooking and much more. ISO god-natured SWM, 55-71, with same interests. ☎220857

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?

Loving, youthful SWF, 57, trim, shapely, very attractive, energetic, happy, enjoys dining, travel, amusement parks, the outdoors, festivals, nature, family-friends, theater, more. Seeking like-minded gentleman to share these. ☎212126

READ THIS AD!

SWF, 61, N/S, homebody, enjoys cuddling, cozy movies and antiques, searching for a SWM, 52+, with various interests and qualities. ☎164114

MAYBE US?

Sociable, employed SWF, enjoys family, friends, camping, sailing, boating, water, travel, reading, quiet times, live music and more. Looking for family-oriented gentleman with a zest for life. ☎218636

ARE YOU MY MATCH?

SWF, 29, 5'5", easygoing, laid-back, D/D-free, seeking a SWM, 21-36, honest, caring, for friendship, maybe more. ☎188807

WORTH YOUR CALL

SWF, 22, 5'4", light complexion, brown/hazel, dimples, 200lbs, enjoys horror films, hanging with friends. Looking for a nice, smart, compassionate, goal-oriented man to share the good things in life. ☎201985

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE

SWF, 66, Gemini, very feminine, sexy and cute, loves travel, cooking, movies, gardening, candlelight dinners, theater, good people. Seeking companionship with interesting, open-minded lady, who can intrigue me. ☎216978

WHY NOT CALL?

SWF, full-figured, seeks a SM, 37-80, for friendship, possible LTR. Call me, let's get together and get to know each other. ☎217234

LOOKING FOR AN EXPLORER

SWF, 68, looking for a cultural man who enjoys restaurants, cafes, the Arts, French culture, stimulating conversations, reading, cooking and more. Let's meet and see if we connect. ☎226494

LOOKING FOR ME?

Energetic SWFF, 62, N/S, attractive, educated, sociable, 5'7", 170lbs, enjoys movies, reading, concerts, theater, dining, travel, trying new things. ISO intelligent, spontaneous, active gentleman, N/S, to share these. Let's talk. ☎135617

POSSIBLE LTR

SWFF, 58, 5'7", attractive, slender, athletic, N/S, enjoys sports, concerts, dining out, seeks SWPM, 55-62, N/S, college degree, healthy, SOH, possible LTR. ☎93361

DO YOU EXIST?

DWF, 58, 5'7", slender, very attractive, college-educated, enjoys movies, theater, sports, concerts, dining and travel. Seeking widowed/divorced SWM, 55-63, athletic, healthy, tall, N/S, D/D-free, with good sense of humor. ☎220226

MAKE ME LAUGH

DWF, 54, 5'9", N/S, outgoing, enjoys comedy, theater, soft rock, dancing, dining, outdoors. ISO tall, S/DWMA, like easy, good-humored, honest and spontaneous. ☎222222

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU

WWF, 57, homeowner, independent, a little lonely, dog owner, enjoys quiet times, good talks and simple pleasures. Seeking a kind man to share these. ☎211390

LET'S TALK SOMETIME

SWFF, 38, 5'6", 120lbs, smoker, love jazz. Seeking BF, 30-45, smoker, for dining out and movies. For friendship, possible romance. ☎152939

NO DRAMA

SWF, 28, outgoing, down-to-earth, loves shopping, bowling, shooting pool, more. ISO a special man, 30-38, with life interests, to share special times. ☎172728

LET'S TALK

SWF, 63, 4'11", likes romantic walks, dining and more, seeking a tall, caring SWM, 54-59, honest, respectful, who enjoys the same, for friendship, maybe more. No head games/drama. ☎190972

GIRL NEXT DOOR

SWF, 22, 5'5", brown/hazel, seeking a SM, 22-35, who likes movies, dining and more. Let's get together. ☎192872

SENT FROM HEAVEN

SWF, 21, loving, caring, kind, compassionate, generous, attractive, honest, seeking a SM, 25-72, with similar qualities, to spend time with, go out to dinner or the movies. ☎201988

THE GOOD LIFE

SWF, 25, 5'7", seeking a SWF, 20-38, who enjoys the simple things in life, to hang out with, go out to the movies, shopping or walk in the park. ☎188894

HOW ARE YOU?

SWF, 29, mom of 2, N/S, fun-loving, caring, compassionate, likes cooking, painting, walks, beaches, family time. Seeking a nice guy with zest for life, to share a little happiness. ☎200770

GET TO KNOW ME

Loving, open-minded SWF, 60, 145lbs, attractive, enjoys music, dining, concerts, travel, ISO honest, compassionate SWM, 57-65, N/S. Possible LTR. ☎963760

LET'S MEET

SWF, curvy, short, pretty, outgoing, self-employed, seeking a busy SWF, 48-60, who likes concerts, board games, nights out, more. Call me. ☎225257

OUTGOING AND OUTSPOKEN

SWF, 19, 5'10", likes dining, movies and relaxing at home, seeking a SM, 18-24, with various interests, let's get together and talk over dinner. ☎208077

QUEEN SEARCHING FOR KING

SWF, 23, searching for a SWM, 25-35, outgoing, sensitive, outgoing, understanding, good sense of humor, who likes to go out and have fun. ☎208114

LADY IN THE WOODS

SWF, 50, looks younger, nice smile, blonde/hazel, 5'2", average build, employed, educated, home owner, dog lover, seeking compatible, outdoorsy, rugged, good-hearted male to share the good things in life. ☎210247

SEEKING MR. RIGHT

Classy SWF, 58, outgoing, mature SWM, 45-60, I'm a very passionate, affectionate, loving person, who enjoys a variety of activities. If you're seeking your soulmate, why not try me? ☎365794

ATTRACTIVE SWF, 64, 5', 155lbs, dark hair, blue

eyes, fair skin, looking for N/S, honest gentleman, 60-70, who has numerous interests including history, traveling, and home life. ☎408979

TRY ME

SWF, 33, 5'5", 160lbs, caramel complexion, brown eyes, looking for a loving SWM, to share talks, good times, shopping, dancing, laughter and simple times. ☎212013

HELLO GENTLEMAN

SWF, 38, 5'2", 135lbs, looking for SWPM, to hang with, get to know and just have some fun. Interests? ☎212013

MAKE U SMILE

Loving, open-minded, spontaneous SWF, 18, D/D-free, N/S, no children, looking for SWHM (to share friendship, fun times, talks laughs a little romance and see what happens next. ☎212804

LET'S TALK

SWF, 31, 5'9", brown/blue, Pisces, enjoys romantic dinners, movies, nice talks, quiet walks, simple fun. Looking for a nice, easygoing, simple guy to share friendship and fun. ☎212627

LOOKING FOR ME?

SWF, 46, 5'8", dark complexion, slim, cute, looking for tall, attractive, sweet guy, kind and understanding to share all the good things in life. ☎212627

WILD AND SOPHISTICATED

Ebony woman desires shared love relationship for mental, emotional, physical, spiritual and financial uplift. 40-50, fit. ☎147059

CLASSY LADY

SWF, 38, 5'3", N/S, seeking a SWM, 35-49, who enjoys sports, dining, traveling and movies, for friendship first, maybe more. ☎192050

VERY CUTE

SWF, 66, 5'3", 122lbs, interested in fit, good-looking, confident male, 45-58, N/S, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth, who wants to commit to someone special. ☎113198

HOW ARE YOU?

Attractive, caring SWF, 32, 5'2", likes comedy/suspense movies, dining and having fun, seeking a woman, 25-35, athletic, soft-stud, for friendship first, possible LTR. ☎218911

FUN AND SIMPLE

SWF, 19, dark complexion, arsy, easygoing, passionate about music and art. Looking for creative, fun SM, to chill with and just get to know. ☎222583

I NEED A LOVE

SWF, 32, 5'2", N/S, attractive, classy, delightful, charming WF, 48, no kids, seeks SWM, 45+, no kids, N/S, fun, loving, caring. ☎268059

CLASSY LADY

SWF, middle-aged, attractive, enjoys dining, movies, plays and bowling, seeks a SWM, 48-69, N/S, good sense of humor and good values/morals. ☎207254

READY FOR A FRESH START?

DWFF, 47, 5'2", 120lbs, long blonde/blue, well-proportioned, very feminine, attractive, self-employed. Seeking SWM, 45-67, 6'1", 225lbs+, good sense of humor, energetic, traveler, outdoorsman, adventurer, mainly gentlemen. ☎292549

WIDOW

Blonde hair, green eyes, 120lbs, 65-year-old SWF, N/S. I enjoy the theater, travel, music, musicals, dining and anything fun. Seeking SWM, 63-68, with similar interests. ☎224393

ASIAN PRINCESS

WM, 37, enjoys travel, clubbing, walks, video-games, and concerts. Seeks 18-45 AF for LTR. ☎223925

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED

Attractive SWM, 58', 185lbs, muscular, looking for attractive, down-to-earth woman, fit and open-minded, to get to know and share good times. ☎227318

HI LADIES!

DHM, 48, kind, hard-worker, N/S, seeks a HWF, 37-57, N/S, for sharing of conversations, dates, fun and more. Possible LTR. ☎216527

GOOD LOOKING...

SWM, 36, 5'9", average construction by trade, likes movies, night clubs and more, seeking a SF, 26-45, independent, caring, honest, to spend quality time with. ☎192998

WANT TO JOIN ME?

SWM, 38, electrical contractor, electrician by trade, looking for an outgoing, honest, fun lady with like interests. I enjoy biking, hiking, snowmobiling, outdoor activities, quiet times. ☎200127

NO DRAMA

SM, 49, N/D, very open-minded, ISO easygoing, drama-free lady to hang out with for fun, travel, movies, more. You name it. ☎200215

A SPECIAL GUY

DWM, 58, 5'10", handsome and nice, seeks honest S/DWF, wise/wise of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

'Festival of Fashion'

The Redford Suburban League will host its 34th celebrity fashion show, the 2007 Fall Festival of Fashion starting with a luncheon served at noon Wednesday, Oct. 17, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Road. The show is a benefit for the Burger School for Students with Autism. Tickets are \$45 per person. For more information and tickets, contact the league at (734) 981-6003.

On the big screen

At 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4, little Carol Anne and her family are back on the big screen in a special presentation, celebrating the 25th anniversary of "Poltergeist" at Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, north of Seven Mile, Livonia. The 1982 Steven Spielberg cult classic that incited a generation of movie fans to turn off their TVs and throw away their clown dolls has been digitally remastered in High-Definition and will include a never-before-seen 15-minute featurette on paranormal activity. Tickets for this special one-time-only event can be purchased for \$10 at the Livonia 20 box and online at www.FathomEvents.com.

Fund-raiser

Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool will present THE READ CARPET annual dinner auction 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2, at the Livonia Marriott at the Laurel Park Mall. Enjoy cocktails and a gourmet strolling dinner, catered by Sweet Lorraine's Chef, while pursuing the silent auction tables. Stay late for live entertainment and dancing. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Michigan Dyslexia Institute. For more information, call (734) 261-540, by e-mail at candksdad@earthlink.net or on the Web at www.academicpathwayspreschool.com.

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.gsdfmd.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



Come join the band

The Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps (PFDC) will hold an informational recruitment meeting 7-9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 29, at Salem High School on from in the choir room. Parents and students are encouraged to attend to learn more about PFDC. All aspects of becoming a member will be covered at this meeting, as well as a performance by the 2007 Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps. PFDC members range in age from 12-18. There are openings for positions in fifes, drums and color guard. No previous musical experience is necessary. For additional information or to contact the Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps, visit the PFDC Web site at www.pfdc.us.

any more. 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).

CRAFT SHOWS

Knights of Columbus

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

St. Theodore

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

Ss. Simon and Jude

Crafters are needed for a fall arts and crafts show 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, at Ss. Simon and Jude Parish, On Palmer east of Venoy. Westland. Rentals are \$25 for an 8-foot table and \$40 for two 8-foot tables by Aug. 31, and \$30 and \$50 respectively after

that date. Electricity also is available on a first come-first served basis. For applications or more information, call (734) 516-7520 or (734) 721-4867.

Sts. Peter & Paul

Crafters are needed for the 19th annual arts and crafts show that will be held Saturday, Nov. 17, in the hall of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, 750 N. Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call Deb at (248) 946-0173 or Virginia at (734) 522-9653.

Franklin High

Those who make hand-made crafts or fine art are invited to participate in the juried Franklin High School Craft Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17. Money raised goes to the athletic department at FHS. For information, contact Julie Culp, (734) 522-0039.

St. Michael's

The Women's Guild of St. Michael Catholic Church, on Hubbard at Plymouth in Livonia, invites all area crafters to participate in their annual Craft Fair and Bake Sale from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20, in the cafeteria of St. Michael's School. Tables are available for rent at \$25 per each 8-foot tables (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

St. Edith

Crafters are needed for the St. Edith Fall Craft Show, set for Saturday, Nov. 10, at the St. Edith School. Hours will

be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To apply, call Dawn at (734) 420-6959 or Michelle at (734) 591-7773.

CC Mothers Club

The Mother's Club at Catholic Central High School in Novi is sponsoring a Holiday Craft Show and Marketplace 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3, at the school on Wixom Road in Novi. The show is open to artists, craftspeople and businesses which sell items suitable for holiday gift giving. For more information, call (810) 231-3235 or (248) 705-9519.

ORGANIZATIONS

Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise group meets 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

Toastmasters

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people

overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Monday Cozy Corner Family Dining, 35111 W. Michigan Ave. at Wayne Road, Wayne. For more information, call Vicki Brannon at (734) 467-7224 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

Democratic Club

The Garden City Democratic Club meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (September through June) in Room 5 of the Maplewood Center, Maplewood west of Merriman. For more information, call Billy Pate at (734) 427-2344.

Citizens for Peace

Citizens for Peace meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. The group is dedicated to working for creation of a U.S. Department of Peace. All are welcome. Colleen Mills, (734) 425-0079.

MOMS club

MOMS Club, a non-profit support group, welcomes all western Wayne County stay-at-home mothers, offering children activities, weekly age-appropriate play groups, and family get-togethers. MOMS Club also performs service projects that benefit needy children in our community. For more details, call Birthe, (734) 458-8143 or Kimberly at (248)231-6120.

Vietnam Vets

The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA for more information.

In Harmony

The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

Veteran's Haven

Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible.

For information, call (734) 728-0527. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. The Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably discharged Veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

Silver Strings Dulcimer

Musicians and listeners are welcome to stop by and visit a traditional music jam 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. Acoustic instruments include hammered and mountain dulcimer, guitar, banjo, fiddle, harmonica, concertina, autoharp, recorder, pennywhistle, ukulele and upright bass. Call (734) 482-2902 or check out the Web site at <http://geocities.com/ssd-society>.

Garden City Kiwanis

The Garden City Kiwanis Club meets for lunch at 12:15 p.m. each Thursday at Amantea's Restaurant, 32777 Warren. Guests and potential new members are always welcome.

Garden City Rotary

The Garden City Rotary Club meets at 12 noon Thursday at Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren. Community service planning, lunch and socializing are enjoyed. Please join us there.

Habitat help

The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. For information, call (734) 459-7744.

Tutoring program

A tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 3:45-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, is for students 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Tyrone Peterson, (734) 722-3660. Tutors need to have at least a high school education.

Hospital retirees

The Oakwood-Annapolis Retirees meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of the month at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, Venoy at Howe in Wayne. All Oakwood Retirees are welcome to attend.

Radio Club

The Garden City Amateur Radio Club meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of

She got her goggles at a garage sale...

...along with a lava lamp, trampoline and a pair of hiking boots. Some people will buy anything, so if you have anything to sell, call us and we'll place your ad, give you some great free stuff, and hope this lady comes to your sale.



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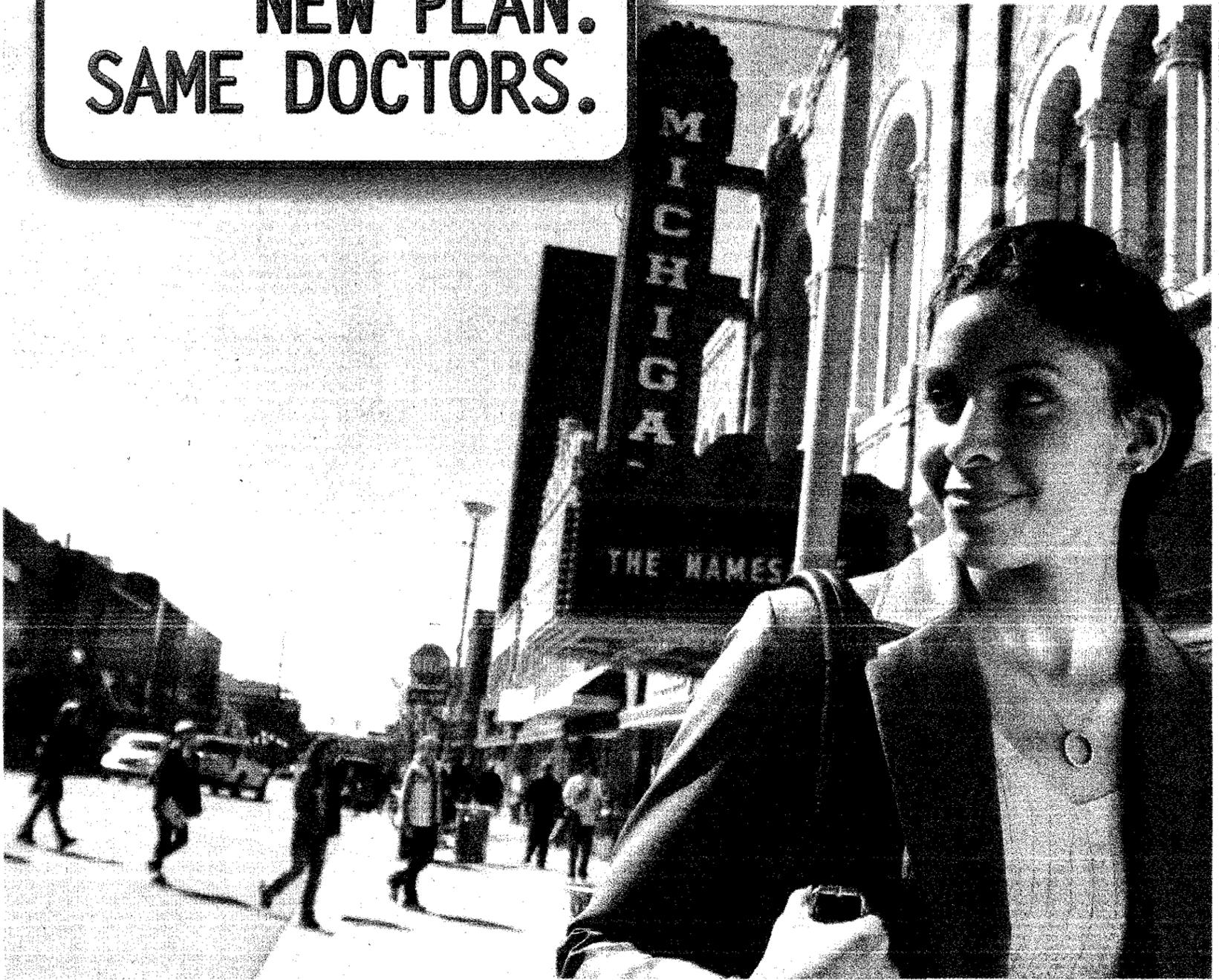
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SPORTS



(LW)

Thursday, September 20, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor (734) 953-2123 . bemons@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Churchill hitting attack sends Franklin reeling

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Livonia Franklin tried the "Kobe Bryant" approach in trying to stop Livonia Churchill's 6-foot-3 All-State middle hitter Kyndra Abron at the net. "We figured she'd get her points, we dropped one player back and used one blocker, but we didn't take care of business elsewhere and we couldn't block their other hitters," said Patriot coach Linda Jimenez, who could only watch helplessly

from the bench. Churchill, the defending Class A state champions, improved to 11-1-1 overall with a convincing 25-13, 25-10, 25-8 girls volleyball triumph over the Patriots in a match that barely lasted an hour. "We wanted to avoid aces, but we had no offense," said Jimenez, whose team fell to 4-10-3 with the Western Lakes crossover loss. "We

have some pretty competitive kids, but I think we were wide-eyed. "Churchill has a good coach, a good program, good passing and good hitting. They're a dynasty." Abron was once again her dominant self. She got plenty of swings, finishing with 20 kills and two blocks. Junior Brianne Schmansky added five kills and two blocks, while junior Kathryn Krupsky, younger sister of graduated All-State Lauren Krupsky (now at

Central Michigan), contributed four kills. Junior setter Kristy DeClercq was steady running the Chargers' offense with 34 assist-to-kills, while the defense was led by junior Lindsey Graciak, who added team-high 14 digs. Jordan Kerr, one of only four seniors on Churchill's roster, contributed eight digs with five aces serves. She was 28-of-29 serving. "We're seeing progress with our outside hitters," Churchill

coach Mark Grenier said. "It's nice because we can do it by committee. We've got kids who can hit from three different spots. We're more diversified and a little less predictable because we got kids who can hit." But like any good coach, Grenier can always lean on Abron, who is bound for Michigan State. "If we have to," Grenier said, "we'll drop anchor every time."

bemons@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2123

Singles

Blazers deadlock

In a Michigan High School Girls Field Hockey League match Monday, host Livonia Ladywood and Bloomfield Hills Kingswood battled to a scoreless draw.

Sophomore goalie Sara Burnosky made six saves en route to the shutout for the Blazers, now 3-2-2 overall and 0-1-2 in Division II of the MHSGFHL.

Kingswood goalie Jessica Sparks made three saves for the Cranes (5-2-3, 2-1-2).

Fitness champs

Matthew Freed and Max Montini were among the winners from Livonia's Department of Parks and Recreation in the 50th annual 2007 Metropolitan Area Youth Fitness Meet held July 26 at Metro Beach Metropark.

The event attracted 19 different communities including two district from the City of Detroit.

Freed won the Class B (ages 11-12) chinning, while Montini was the Class C (ages 9-10) running long jump champion.

Second-place Livonia finishers included Quinn Blair, Class D (ages 7-8), softball throw; Mairi VanDyke, Class B, 60-yard dash; Tasha McKinley, Class B, chinning.

Third-place finishers from Livonia included Chris Kanagy, Class B, softball throw; Justin VanDyke, Class B, running long jump; Andrew Smutek, Class B, standing long jump; Ivelyn Sullivan, Class D, 50 dash; and Keira Calison, Class D, chinning.

Jones 4th overall

Keenan Jones, a fifth-grader from Cooper Elementary School, finished fourth overall amongst a field of 100 runners Saturday at the Walled Lake Western Invitational at Willis Memorial Park.

Jones, competing against sixth-graders, covered the hilly 1.25-mile course in 8 minutes, 17 seconds.

He runs for the USATF Stickman United.

6-shooter Wildcats' Rolfe guns down Pats

Plymouth's Colin Rolfe performed like a Veggiematic. The All-State senior forward sliced and diced his way Monday night around the Livonia Franklin High turf, scoring six goals in the Wildcats' 8-2 boys soccer triumph.

"He just cut 'em up," said Plymouth coach Jeff Neschich, referring to the way Rolfe sliced through the Franklin defense. "Colin was on his game tonight and his teammates did a good job of getting him the ball."

Tyler Floyd was the most proficient distributor for the winners, dishing out four assists.

The Wildcats jumped to a commanding 5-2 halftime lead thanks largely to four goals from Rolfe.

Daniel Jasewicz and Thomas

Please see **SOCCER, C3**



RENA LAVERTY

It's a goal

Schoolcraft's Brad Spencer (bottom) makes a diving header of a shot past Kellogg CC goalkeeper Richard Haagsma during Saturday's MCCA Eastern Conference matchup. See the collegiate soccer roundup on page C3.

Winless teams: Take Crowe approach

It worked for Lloyd Carr, so why not for Ryan Irish, Parker Salowich and Bob Snell?

The Michigan coach was looking for his first football win of the season Saturday so he brings in his good luck charm, the Cinderella Man, none other than Aussie actor Russell Crowe.

Crowe, who owns a rugby team Down Under, gave the Wolverines a pregame pep talk and bam! Down go the Fighting Irish, 38-0.

So who can Ryan Irish, the Livonia Clarenceville coach, bring in to change the fortunes for the Trojans, who stand 0-4 overall and 0-4 in the Metro Conference?

If you're talking actors, why not Braveheart, none other than another Aussie, Mel Gibson.

But with Macomb Lutheran North (3-1, 3-0) coming to town on Friday, I have another suggestion.

Former Trojan great and Penn State linebacker



Grid Picks

Brad Emons

roster.

Things get a trickier for Salowich, who still searching for his first win in 13 games as varsity coach of the Salem Rocks (0-4, 0-2). They take on Walled Lake Central (1-3, 1-1) Friday at home.

Personally, I'd call "The Deuce," Rich Hewlett, the former U-M quarterback and Rocks' standout to come out of retirement and take a sabbatical from his law career. Let him run the wishbone attack and perform some of that old "Salem Witchcraft" on those Central defenders.

Tim Shaw might make a cameo appearance in lieu of the fact that he has yet to be activated as a member of the NFL Carolina Panthers' 53-man

As for Snell, his Thurston Eagles (0-4, 0-2) have a golden opportunity to snap out of their doldrums this week in a Mega-Conference Blue Division date Friday at home against Garden City (1-3, 1-2).

I've got the perfect pregame guest. He did that 1968 movie, *Where Eagles Dare* — none other than the former mayor of Carmel, Calif., Clint Eastwood.

"The Enforcer" can provide "Sudden Impact" and turn opponents "Every Which Way But Loose."

So there you have it. Just a suggestion. Maybe something can be worked out.

As for your prep prognosticators, I'm in the lead with a 30-15 overall record despite going 6-4 last week.

Former leader Tim Smith, the Redford-Garden City sports editor, got criticized by the public at-large for his two Mega Conference picks last week — Thurston over state-ranked Highland Park and Redford Union over

unbeaten Dearborn Fordson — came back down to earth going 5-5 and now stands one game off the pace at 29-16 overall. (But give Smith some credit; he was the only one to correctly pick Plymouth over Canton in that PCEP matchup.)

Ironically, Plymouth-Canton sports editor Ed Wright finally got it right, going 8-2 to close the gap to three games. He is 27-18 overall.

Here is a look at this weekend's action:

THURSDAY'S GAMES

W.L. NORTHERN (0-4, 0-2) AT LIV. STEVENSON (4-0, 2-0), 7 P.M.: The Spartans' offensive attack may be the best the Western Lakes has seen since the Drew Stanton-Marcus Woods-Agim Shabaj Harrison juggernaut of Farmington Hills Harrison in 2001. Stevenson is averaging 45 points per game, while Northern gave up 55 points in last weekend to rival Walled Lake Central.

PICKS: Emons (Stevenson); Smith (Stevenson); Wright (Stevenson).

Please see **PICKS, C2**

MU regroups to deck Cards

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Perhaps Madonna University's volleyball team came out onto the court Tuesday looking past their opponent (Concordia) and thinking about this weekend's Sailfish Classic in Palm Beach, Fla.

Whether the Crusaders were guilty of focusing less on the Cardinals and more on the Florida sun remains to be seen. But Concordia did take it to 23rd-ranked MU in game one Tuesday, 30-28.

"We actually just got outspirited and outplayed in that first game, I don't know what happened," said Madonna head coach Jerry Abraham. "No answer for it. We were coming off a great last performance and a great couple days of practice. So it was sort of a surprise, but you have to credit Concordia, they played well."

Fortunately for the home team, the

Please see **VOLLEYBALL, C2**

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Coach Walt Reasor (top left) and his Franklin boys cross country team captured the Walled Lake Western Invitational title for grades 11-12 Saturday at Willis Park.

Churchill wins U-M-Dearborn title; Lutheran Westland winds up third

The state's No. 3-ranked team in Class A, defending champion Livonia Churchill, earned its first tournament title of the season Saturday at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Invitational with a 25-21, 25-19 girls volleyball win over Northville in the championship match.

The Chargers, who improved to 10-1-1 overall, reached the title game with a 25-16, 25-21 win over Lutheran High Westland following a 25-15, 25-13 quarterfinal triumph over Center Line.

In pool play, Churchill defeated Center Line (25-12, 25-8), Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (25-5, 25-6), and Wayne Memorial (25-5, 25-16).

All-Stater Kyndra Abron, a 6-foot-3 senior headed to Michigan State, recorded 53 total kills on the day to go along with 10 blocks and 13 aces.

Kristen Nalezec added 31 kills, while setter Kristy DeClercq finished with 99 assists and 13 aces.

The defense was led by Lindsey Graciak (46 digs), Jordan Kerr (21 digs) and Shannon Warner (20 digs). "All three passed over 90 percent, our ball control was pretty good," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said.

The Chargers also got a boost from junior Kelsey Buhler, who finished with four kills, six digs and 100 percent serving.

Lutheran High Westland (7-1-3) started off pool play by knocking off Northville (25-18, 25-20) and Melvindale (25-10, 25-12), while splitting with Harper Woods Regina (21-25, 25-18) to reach the Gold

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Division quarterfinals which featured a 25-19, 19-25, 15-7 win over Monroe-Jefferson.

That set the stage for a matchup with Churchill. "We had a very successful day, and I'm very proud of the team's overall effort throughout the day," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade said.

It gave our girls a chance to compete against a big-time program and chance to measure ourselves a chance to see a great player in Kyndra. She is a great player and our girls definitely had fun playing against her. I was very pleased with the way we played against them. It can only help us in the long run."

Becca Refenes, a 6-1 junior, led the Warriors with a total of 51 kills, 23 solo blocks and 27 digs.

Katey Ramthun added 18 digs, while Allyson Yankee contributed 11. Setters Lauren Gieschen and Julie Jongsma added 50 and 32 assist-to-kills, respectively. Ramthun also had a team-best 42 digs, while Abi Gieschen added 30 and Yanek collected 20.

Spartans best Wayne

Brooke Knochel had six kills, 12 digs and three blocks Monday as host Livonia Stevenson defeated Wayne Memorial, 25-15, 25-11, 25-18, in a WLAAs crossover.

Other standouts for the Spartans, now 6-4-3 overall, included Jordan Pilut, 15 digs and six aces; Katie Vellucci,

18 assists; Meg Iafrate, five kills and one block; Stephanie Labby, seven digs, two aces, three kills; Kaylee McGrath, and three kills; and Natalie Fenech, three aces and five digs.

Samantha Dye paced Wayne (1-9) with four kills and one block. Katie Badrak added two solo blocks and three kills, while Emily Rudy contributed two blocks.

Last Wednesday, Ferndale bested host Wayne in a non-conference match, 25-17, 25-18, 25-9.

Jillian Novak served five consecutive points in the second game for the host Zebras.

Mustangs clip Glenn

In a WLAAs crossover Monday, visiting Northville defeated Westland John Glenn (1-5-4) in four games, 25-22, 23-25, 25-23, 25-10.

Junior Brittany Holbrook led the Rockets with 17 kills and six blocks, while Kirstin Kirk led the defense with 25 digs.

"The fourth game we came out flat and Northville used some strong serving with their attack," said Glenn coach Julian Wargo, whose team fell behind 15-1 and never recovered. "The first three games we fired out - well-paced attacks, good physical play - but we were not able to sustain our emotional intensity. We'll learn from that."

Stevenson runner-up

Livonia Stevenson went all the way to the finals Saturday before losing its own tournament championship to visiting Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 25-22, 6-25, 9-15.

In pool play, the Spartans defeated Bloomfield Hills Lahser (21-10, 21-13), Redford Union (25-18, 25-21), and Farmington Hills Harrison (25-15, 25-20), while splitting with Livonia Ladywood (24-26, 25-18).

Stevenson then reached the finals with wins over Ladywood (25-13, 28-26) and Trenton (25-17, 25-23).

Standouts on the day for the Spartans included Jordan Pilut (50 digs); Brooke Knochel (29 kills); Stephanie Labby (26 kills, 29 digs); Meg Iafrate (22 kills, 13 blocks, seven aces); Kaylee McGrath (22 kills, nine blocks); Natalie Fenech (41-of-43 serving with two aces) and Katie Vellucci (60 assists, three aces).

Patriots go 1-3-2

In Saturday's Walled Lake Central Tournament, Livonia Franklin (4-9-3) played six matches, losing in the Silver Bracket to Westland John Glenn (25-21, 23-25, 7-15) and Grand Ledges (22-25, 15-25), while defeating the host Vikings (25-19, 25-20).

In pool play, the Patriots fell to Farmington Hills Mercy (20-25, 20-25), while splitting with Salem (9-25, 25-23) and Brighton (14-25, 28-26).

With a pair of starter out due to illness, coach Linda Jimenez received strong defense from Sam Culp (10 digs) and Sam Wensing.

Other standouts included Ashley Price, who had 27 total kills, nine aces and 18 digs; Brittany Taylor, 23 kills; Briauna Taylor, 18 kills and six aces; Natalie Sanborn, seven aces; and setter Liz Holloway, 57 assists and eight kills.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

METRO CONFERENCE JAMBOREE
Sept. 18 at Macomb Lutheran North
BOYS TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, 27 points; 2. Lutheran North, 59; 3. Lutheran Westland, 69; 4. Clawson, 84; 5. Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest, 144.
Individual winner: Nick Anderson (Cranbrook), no time available.
Lutheran Westland finishers: 3. Spencer Lyle, 16:34.0; 9. Josh Rice, 18:22.0; 16. Ross Pursfull, 19:22.0; Alex Kemp, 20:17.1; Cameron Banks, 21:00.2; Paul Bealfield, 21:28; 25. Paul Rickett, 22:03.

GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Lutheran North, 17; 2. Kingswood, 65; 3. Lutheran Northwest, 92; 4. Lutheran Westland, 92; 5. Clawson, 120.
Individual winner: Amber Siegle (North), 20:17.
Lutheran Westland finishers: 11. Hannah Mielke, 22:57.14; Miriam Pranschke, 24:12; 18. Megan Fisher, 25:25; 20. Danielle Voetberg, 26:10; 29. Amber Pniwski, 28:19; 30. Emily Meier, 29:38; 31. Ashley Pniwski, 29:39.

NEW BOSTON HURON INVITATIONAL
Sept. 15 at Willow Metropark
BOYS TEAM STANDINGS (Division 1): 1. Salem, 28; 2. Ann Arbor Huron, 44; 3. Livonia Stevenson, 102; 4. Monroe, 103; 5. Wyandotte, 106 (nine schools).
Overall winner: Justin Heck (Monroe), 15:34.5 (5,000 meters).

Stevenson finishers: 9. Kevin Reschke, 17:07.55; 10. Mike Gibbons, 17:08.7; 11. Shawn Howse, 17:12.4; 32. Alex Hoelzel, 18:07.6; 40. Tom Kaman, 18:37.2; 44. Scott Brewer, 18:56.8.
GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS (Division 1): 1. Ann Arbor Huron, 39; 2. Monroe, 85; 3. Livonia Stevenson, 86; 4. Flat Rock-Woodhaven, 87; 5. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 130 (10 schools).
Overall winner: Lindsey Gakenheimer (Monroe), 18:29.55.

Stevenson finishers: 3. Courtney Calka, 18:55.15; 4. Denee Meier, 20:24.65; 18. Julia Schroeder, 20:34.3; 21. Victoria Saferian, 20:45.1; 30. Samantha Kay, 20:45.1; 32. Karli Kutchka, 21:15.3; 36. Christina Joss, 21:15.3.
BOYS TEAM STANDINGS (Division 3): 1. Ida, 56; 2. Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central, 63; 3. Erie Mason, 64; 5. Vandercook Lake, 116; 5. Lutheran Westland 136 (9 schools).
Overall winner: Nick Smith (Ida), 16:51.45 (5,000 meters).

Lutheran Westland finishers: 2. Spencer Lyle, 16:57.45; 11. Josh Rice, 18:18.6; 38. Alex Kemp, 20:17.1; 41. Cameron Banks, 20:27.0; 44. Jechariah Robinson, 21:42.5; 57. Chris Kovacs, 24:15.6.
GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS (Division 3): 1. Ida, 48; 2. Monroe St. Mary, 55; 3. Erie Mason, 66; 4. Vandercook Lake, 84; 5. Flat Rock 130; 7. Lutheran Westland, 174.
Overall winner: Kaylin Belair (Erie Mason), 20:11.5 (5,000 meters).

Lutheran Westland finishers: 18. Hannah Mielke, 22:33.85; 34. Miriam Pranschke, 24:10.4; 37. Danielle Voetberg, 24:42.55; 39. Megan Kozt, 25:05.7; 46. Emily Meier, 26:06.4; 47. Amber Pniwski, 26:10.8; 48. Megan Fisher, 26:15.5.

WALLED LAKE WESTERN INVITATIONAL
Sept. 15 at Willis Memorial Park
BOYS TEAM STANDINGS (grades 11-12): 1. Livonia Franklin, 44; 2. Walled Lake Western, 45; 3. Novi, 79; 4. Walled Lake Northern, 127; 5. Birmingham Brother Rice, 154; 6. Garden City, 213; 7. South Lyon, no team score.
Franklin finishers: 2. Evan Sirena, 17:28 (5,000 meters); 8. Dylan Taylor, 18:03; 9. Mike Krcatovich, 18:07.12; Doug Cole, 18:35; 13. Peter Walby, 18:44; 24. Stuart Gregory, 21:29; 49. Allen Spennburgh, 22:58.
BOYS TEAM STANDINGS (grades 9-10): 1. Novi, 39; 2. Brother Rice, 73; 3. Walled Lake Central, 74; 4. Franklin, 79; 5. Walled Lake Northern, 146; 6. (tie) Walled Lake Western, South Lyon and Garden City, no team scores.
Franklin finishers: 11. Robert Freed, 19:13; 12. Austin Jones, 19:14; 16. Nick Gherardini, 19:33.6; 17. Jason Riffel, 19:33.8; 23. Anthony Crechilo, 20:13; 25. Zach Belanger, 20:37; 38. John Ferriera, 22:26.

GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS (grades 11-12): 1. Walled Lake Northern, 35; 2. Walled Lake Central, 68; 3. Walled Lake Western, 69; 4. Garden City, 82; 5. Novi, 143; 6. Livonia Franklin, no team score.
Franklin finishers: 14. Amanda Young, 24:47.0; 30. Whitney VanOrden, 28:00.1; 32. Anastasia Bending, 28:12.8; 33. Jackie Edwards, 28:27.2.
GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS (grades 9-10): 1. Livonia Franklin, 24; 2. Novi, 106; 3. (tie) Walled Lake Western and Walled Lake Northern, no team scores; 5. Walled Lake Central, no team score; 6. (tie) Garden City and Southfield-Lathrup, no team scores.

Franklin finishers: 2. Malory Church, 21:58.6; 2. Victoria Church, 22:19; 5. Brittany Dilley, 22:42.3; 6. Megan McPherson, 22:44.8; 7. Kelly Walby, 22:58.6; 9. Tiffany VanOrden, 23:18; 12. Shannon Niznik, 23:58.6; 13. Breanna Minnick, 24:00.6; 14. Megan Wickens, 24:01.4; 17. Megan Lark, 24:39.9.

SPARTAN INVITATIONAL
Sept. 14 at East Lansing
GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS (Elite Division): 1. Rochester, 146; 2. Traverse City West, 154; 3. Brighton, 168; 4. Salline, 172; 5. Rockford, 217; 6. Milford, 242; 7. Grand Ledge, 244; 8. Livonia Churchill, 263; 9. Rochester Adams, 271; 10. Troy, 271 (24 schools).
Overall winner: Katie Haines (Rockford), 18:04 (5,000 meters).

Churchill finishers: 18. Rachel McFarlane, 19:01; 32. Alyssa Mira, 19:27; 37. Sara Kroll, 19:34; 84. Amanda Southwell, 20:30; 92. Kim Verellen, 20:36; 98. Hannah Otto, 20:42; 119. Michelle Verellen, 21:06.
BOYS TEAM STANDINGS (Green Division): 1. Novi, 127; 2. Northville, 141; 3. Saginaw Heritage, 194; 4. Portage Northern, 205; 5. Livonia Churchill, 260; 6. East Kentwood, 267; 7. Wayland Union, 281; 8. Rochester, 322; 9. Easton Rapids, 363; 10. Remus Chippewa Hills, 383.
Overall winner: Jon Rock (Utica Eisenhower), 16:05 (5,000 meters).

Churchill finishers: 29. Joe Varilone, 16:55; 40. Brandon Grysko, 17:05; 54. Paul Folk, 17:15; 65. Nathan Wise, 17:25; 72. Mark Waterbury, 17:29; 87. Mark Freyburg, 17:39; 213. Matt Hecksel, 18:53.

Churchill vs. Canton at Hickory Creek, 3 p.m.
John Glenn vs. W.L. Central at Woodlands, 3 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS
Friday, Sept. 21
Churchill at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Northville at Franklin, 4 p.m.
Salem at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
Wayne at Canton, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 22
Novi Invitational, 9 a.m.
GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY
Thursday, Sept. 20
Ladywood at G.P.W. Univ.-Liggett, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 22
CHSL Championship at Ladywood, 9 a.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Thursday, Sept. 20
Delta CC at Schoolcraft, 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 21
Madonna at Palm Beach (Fla.) Atlantic Sailfish Classic, TBA
Saturday, Sept. 22
Schoolcraft at Owens CC Quad, TBA.
Madonna at Palm Beach (Fla.) Atlantic Sailfish Classic, TBA

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Friday, Sept. 21
Schoolcraft at Heartland III, CC, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 22
Schoolcraft at Ancilla (Ind.), 1 p.m.
Madonna vs. Siena Heights at Livonia's Greenmead Field, 2:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Saturday, Sept. 22
Madonna vs. Siena Heights at Livonia's Greenmead Field, noon.
Sunday, Sept. 23
Cincinnati State at Schoolcraft, 11 a.m.

COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY
Friday, Sept. 21
Ferris State Invitational, 4 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

Lady Ocelots caught off-guard in defeat

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Carrying momentum into the weekend from a high-intensity conference victory last Thursday against Oakland Community College, the Schoolcraft College women's volleyball team was running on fumes Saturday at the Muskegon Jayhawk tournament.

And by Tuesday, the tank was completely on empty in Tuesday's 31-29, 30-24, 30-27 Eastern Conference loss at Henry Ford CC.

The Lady Ocelots are now 12-7 overall and 4-1 in the MCCA's Eastern Conference, while Henry Ford improved to 6-5 and 4-0.

At the Jayhawk Tourney, Schoolcraft won four of six

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

matches on the day, only to fall 20-30, 19-30 in the semifinal to Vincennes University (Ind.).

"It was our third consecutive match without a break and Vincennes had been off for the previous two," lamented Schoolcraft coach Richard Lamb. "Our effort was at times incredible, considering we were going into our 10th hour of the tournament. Unfortunately, we ran out of steam."

Schoolcraft reached the semifinal thanks to victories over Henry Ford (27-30, 30-28, 16-14), Ancilla (30-15, 30-23), Olivet JV (30-17, 30-9) and Muskegon (30-21, 30-22). The Lady Ocelots did lose to

eight-ranked McHenry, 26-30, 26-30.

Virginia Butler (Canton/John Glenn) led the Lady Ocelots with 51 kills on the day, while Livonia Churchill alum Stacy Urbats continued her sparkling play with 133 assists. Defensively, Amanda Ballnik led the team with 72 digs while Lauren Braun chipped in with 12 solo blocks. Braun also had 41 kills.

Contributing 10 service aces, along with 31 kills and 42 digs, was Carly DeClercq (Livonia Churchill).

"We really caught our groove during the Olivet match," Lamb noted. "Our serving was on target and we were able to run our offense efficiently."

Lamb said he was pleasantly surprised by the victory over

Ancilla.

"They have an outstanding setter, who anticipates well and digs every ball," he said. "There were some very long rallies in that match and fortunately, we were able to win those rallies."

Lamb added that defeating Muskegon in the quarterfinals was personally rewarding, because the opposing coach (Ed Bailey) was his former social studies teacher and the person "who introduced me to the game of volleyball. Our team was really fired up for this match and they came out hard."

Last Thursday, Schoolcraft defeated OCC (7-8-0, 1-1) by a 30-14, 30-17, 30-24 score, with Urbats (36 assists), Butler (18 kills) and Ballnik (16 digs) leading the way.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL
Thursday, Sept. 20
W.L. Northern at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 21
Lutheran North at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Churchill at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Northville, 7 p.m.
Hamtramck at Luth. Westland, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Thursday, Sept. 20
New Haven at Clarenceville, 6:30 p.m.
H.W. Regina at Ladywood, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 22
Clawson Tournament, 8:30 a.m.
Romulus Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
Kalamazoo Central Tourney, TBA.

BOYS SOCCER
Thursday, Sept. 20
Cranbrook at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Clawson at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 21
Wayne at Farmdale, 4 p.m.
Macomb Christian at Huron Valley, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 22
R.O. Shrine at Lutheran Westland, 11 a.m.
BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY
Saturday, Sept. 22
Monroe-Jefferson Invitational, 9 a.m.
Jackson CC Invitational, 10 a.m.
Novi-Detroit CC Inv. at Cass Benton, 10 a.m.
Univ. of Toledo Invitational, TBA.

GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING
Thursday, Sept. 21
Churchill at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Northville, 7 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF
Thursday, Sept. 20
Churchill vs. W.L. Central at Edgewood, 3 p.m.
Ladywood vs. Notre Dame at St. John's, 3 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 21
Stevenson vs. Plymouth at Fox Creek, 2:45 p.m.

PICKS

FROM PAGE C1

CANTON (2-2, 1-1) AT W.L. WESTERN (3-1, 2-0): Any hopes of Canton defending its WLAAs Western Division and WLAAs crown rest on this matchup against the host Warriors, who sit in the catbird's seat with a victory. The big question is: Can Canton get over its 22-20 loss against Plymouth?

PICKS: Emons (Western); Smith (Canton); Wright (Churchill).

W.L. CENTRAL (1-3, 1-1) AT SALEM (0-4, 0-2): The Rocks will be looking to snap a 19-game winning streak against a Central contingent that roughed up Walled Lake Northern, 55-7, last week. **PICKS:** Emons (Central), Smith (Central); Wright (Central).

FRIDAY'S GAMES
(ALL AT 7 P.M. UNLESS NOTED)
LIV. CHURCHILL (4-0, 2-0) AT WESTLAND GLENN (2-2, 1-1): The Chargers, off to their best start since 1978, will get their biggest test of the season to date against the Rockets, who are coming off a humbling 45-15 setback

to Stevenson. It will be test for Churchill's defense to contain Glenn's speedy tandem of Keshawn Martin and C.J. Woodford.

PICKS: Emons (Churchill); Smith (Churchill); Wright (Churchill).

PLYMOUTH (3-1, 1-1) AT LIV. FRANKLIN (1-3, 1-1): The loser will more than likely be out of the WLAAs Western Division race. Injury-plagued Franklin got a last-second win over Wayne Memorial, while the Wildcats broke new ground with a win over rival Canton.

PICKS: Emons (Franklin); Smith (Plymouth); Wright (Franklin).

WAYNE (2-2, 1-1) AT NORTHVILLE (0-4, 0-2): It's been a roller coaster ride so far for the Zebras, who might be 4-0 right now had it not been for fourth-quarter collapses in losses to Jackson and Franklin. Northville has yet to prove it can escape the cellar of the WLAAs Western Division.

PICKS: Emons (Wayne); Smith (Wayne); Wright (Wayne).

GIB. CARLSON (1-2, 0-2) AT REDFORD UNION (1-3, 0-2): This is unfamiliar territory for Miles Tomasaitis and his RU Panthers, who are off to an 0-2

start in the Mega-White. Carlson is coming off a 29-21 setback to Taylor Kennedy, while RU was no match for unbeaten Dearborn Fordson, 36-8.

PICKS: Emons (RU); Smith (RU); Wright (Carlson).

GARDEN CITY (1-3, 1-2) AT RED. THURSTON (0-4, 0-2): In this Mega-Blue matchup, Garden City is licking its wounds following a 50-6 loss last week to state-ranked Highland Park. Thurston, meanwhile, has only scored a total of 25 points thus far and needs to get its offense untracked.

PICKS: Emons (Thurston); Smith (Garden City); Wright (Thurston).

LUTHERAN NORTH (3-1, 3-0) AT CLARENCEVILLE (0-4, 0-4): The Trojans lost to the best team in the Metro Conference last week (45-6 to Harper Woods) after suffering three close losses to start the season. North, one of the conference favorites, is coming off a 37-6 breather against winless Hamtramck.

PICKS: Emons (Lutheran North); Smith (Clarenceville); Wright (Lutheran North).

VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE C1

Crusaders started dealing with Concordia's slow-the-pace-down tactics in time to take the next three, 30-18, 30-18, 30-12 and come away with their third Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference triumph in as many decisions.

"We need to stay in our system," Abraham emphasized. "When we pass the ball and when we stay in the system then we're tough to beat. But we did not play at that high level tonight."

"(But) I'm happy with the win

and we'll learn from this. It's actually going to be good for us."

Abraham said the Crusaders couldn't get the outside attack going as usual, noting that junior outside hitter Lubovj Thimirova had an off night with 15 kills.

But MU (11-5, 3-0) benefited from what the coach called a "stellar" performance from sophomore outside hitter Mary McGinnis (12 kills, eight defensive digs).

"She executed the kind of plays we ask her to do based on their defense, she picked apart some of their tendencies," Abraham said. "She was probably our most consistent attacker."

The Crusaders were also

led by sophomore setter Inta Grinvalds (47 assists, 11 digs) and solid defensive outings by senior co-captains Jacqui Gatt (Livonia Churchill) and Amy Szymanski (Redford/Livonia Ladywood).

Gatt and Szymanski collected 18 and nine digs, respectively, with Szymanski also serving up three aces in the fourth and clinching game.

"Jacqui and Amy were strong defensively today, but we expect them to be," Abraham said. "They're senior captains and they're expected to do that night in and night out."

"They had steady performances tonight, especially

State-ranked Spartans hitting on all cylinders

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

BOYS SOCCER

Unbeaten and 2006 state runner-up Livonia Stevenson didn't crack the state's top ten in the Division 1 boys soccer rankings until this week, but the Spartans already have a vote cast in their favor by Westland John Glenn first-year coach Reavis Olive.

"They're the best team we've seen and played all year," Olive said following an 8-0 loss Monday night at Stevenson. "They're a very impressive team."

The game lasted only 57 minutes as the Spartans took a 7-0 halftime lead and added another second-half goal to invoke the eight-goal mercy

rule.

Nick Anagnostou led the assault with four goals, while Adrian Fylenenko added two goals. Mike Debolski chipped in with a goal and two assists, while Nate Sergison also had goal and one assist.

Other assists went to Chris Long, Bob Smith, Brian Klemczak and David Simor. Goalkeepers Justin Collins (first half) and Conner Burton combined on the shutout as the No. 8-ranked Spartans improved to 9-0 overall and 6-0 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The loss drops the Rockets

to 2-8-1 overall and 0-6 in the division.

On Saturday, host Stevenson blanked perennial state power Troy Athens, 3-0, as Sergison had a goal and assist.

Brian Klemczak tallied the game-winner on a penalty kick. Sergison (from Smith) and Fylenenko (from Sergison) completed the scoring against the Red Hawks (3-5).

Burton (first half) and Collins (second half) combined for the shutout.

"This game is one that features a long tradition of good games," Stevenson coach Lars Richters said. "They (Athens) have been bit by the injury bug a little bit, but I'm still proud of the way my guys played. It was a good overall game by our boys."

SOCCER

FROM PAGE C1

Madigan tallied the Wildcats' other two goals.

Plymouth is now 3-6-3 overall and 2-2-1 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Franklin, getting first-half goals from Ryan Matthey (from Zain Qureshi) and Noel Romo, falls to 2-7 overall and 1-5 in the division.

"Rolfe single-handedly took us," Franklin coach Vic Rodopoulos said. "Everything a coach would want in a player — he is. He's a phenomenal player. We'd mark him, but gradually he would get away from us. Staying with our marks seems to be a problem. He (Rolfe) had a great game, but I'm stiff baffled. It doesn't make sense. We didn't play terribly. We had our chances. We had opportunities and did not get the ball in the net."

CHURCHILL 2, SALEM 1: What a difference five days makes.

After falling flat and playing listlessly last Thursday in a 3-0 loss to Salem, host Livonia Churchill (6-5, 3-3) rebounded Monday night at home to edge the Rocks (3-3-8, 3-2).

All the scoring occurred in the first half as Josh Pascarella, who had all three goals in last Thursday's match, put Salem on top again 1-0.

Churchill, however, answered on Matt Regan's two goals — the first assisted by Vinny Carozza and the second off a rebound headed into the goal area by Etienne Lussiez.

"It was a good statement game for us," Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs said. "The kids responded so well. It was not about them (Salem), it was more about the way we played. It was about character and putting pride back into the program."

"We had two starters out sick, but we had kids come off the bench and play well. Pat Beier, a senior, came in the second half and that's the best game he's ever had at Churchill."

Churchill goalkeeper Adrian Motta also came up with several key stops in the win.

"Salem serves a lot of balls in there and I thought Adrian was good, very solid in traffic," Friedrichs said.

W.L. WESTERN 10, WAYNE 2: The teams completed a game Tuesday that was suspended Aug. 29 due to lightning with the Warriors holding a 5-0 lead with 4:35 remaining in the first half. The game was continued at that point.

Each team had two goals in the first two minutes Tuesday. Tim Hubbard and Quentin Tennant scored for the Zebras, who are 0-6 in the WLA Western Division and 0-8-2 overall.

Western's Joe Deverteuil and Mark Wright scored three goals apiece; Raul Garcia had two goals and one assist, Winston Henderson one goal and five assists, Anthony Volante and Eral Omabshi three assists each and Stephen Magee two assists.

The Warriors are 3-2-1 in the Western Division and 6-3-1 overall.

W.L. WESTERN 6, WAYNE 1: Winston Henderson notched a hat trick Monday as Walled Lake Western (5-3-1, 2-2-1) rolled to a WLA Western Division triumph at Wayne Memorial (0-7-2, 0-5).

Raul Garcia added a pair of goals for the Warriors, who led 2-0 at intermission. Nick Lewin contributed a goal and two assists.

Freshman goalkeeper Blake Hunter made three saves for Western, while Stephen Maynor scored the lone goal for the Zebras.

LUTH. WESTLAND 3, INTER-CITY 3: In a Division 4 nonconference matchup Monday, visiting Lutheran High Westland (7-2-1) and Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (6-3-1) battled to a draw.

Junior Daniel Lambert's goal off a cross from Jimmy Vanderaa gave the Crusaders a 3-2 with only two minutes to play, but the Warriors' Austin Baglow pounced on a mis-play off a throw-in back to the Inter-City keeper and scored from 19 yards out in the 79th minute.

Inter-City led 2-1 at halftime on goals by senior Garrett Daniel and Vanderaa in the 42nd and 45th minutes, respectively, after junior Josh Kruger opened the scoring in the 33rd minutes off an assist from

Gage Flanery.

Kruger then scored again in the 65th minutes from Austin Baglow.

"I felt we better make some adjustments so we moved Kruger up front and we put Ryan Baglow and Aaron Derminer in the middle," Lutheran Westland coach Rich Block said. "Both Ryan and Aaron got quite a few touches. I liked the way we played through the middle."

Goalkeeper Micah Hausch made a total of 11 saves in the tie.

CRANBROOK 4, CLARENCEVILLE 0: In a Metro Conference game Tuesday, host Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (4-2-1, 3-2-1) scored a pair of goals in each half to beat Livonia Clarenceville (2-8, 1-4).

Suk Hoon Choi, Jeff Hammond, Zander Tallman and David Bleznak scored for the Cranes.

Goalkeeper Do Yung Na got the shutout.

Clarenceville goalkeeper Garrett Gregg made 10 saves in the setback.

FRANKLIN ROAD 9, HURON VALLEY 1: Freshman Tom Pickern unloaded for five goals and two assists to lead Novi Franklin Road Christian (3-4-1, 2-1-1) to the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference-Red Division win over host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (0-10, 0-4).

Andrew Fusco chipped in with two goals and two assists, while Jon Cregg added two goals and one assist for the victorious Warriors. Jordan Ramos also assisted on two goals.

Mark St. John had the lone goal for the Hawks.

Lyons tamer

Goalkeeper keeps Crusaders on plus side in WHAC

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

COLLEGE SOCCER

Spectacular goalkeeping by Madonna University senior Kristofer Lyons paid off Tuesday as the visiting Crusaders blanked Indiana Tech, 4-0, after playing to a 1-1 double-overtime tie with Aquinas on Saturday.

Lyons stopped three Indiana Tech shots en route to the shutout, helping MU improve to 5-2-2 overall and 3-1-1 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Getting things going for the Crusaders was sophomore midfielder Emilio Giorgi, with a goal about 11 minutes into the match. Breaking it open in the second half were goals by Makes Lewis, Darrel Quinn and Daniel Amaya.

Indiana Tech (2-6, 0-4) did not muster much offense throughout the game, but Lyons, a product of Walled Lake Central, was there when he needed to be.

The 6-2 goalkeeper, meanwhile, was outstanding against Aquinas. He made six of his 11 saves during the two overtime sessions — four of those coming in the second extra stanza.

His counterpart, Ben Richardson, made six stops, including two in overtime of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference men's soccer game.

Such goalkeeping heroics by Madonna's goalie wouldn't have been needed if not for a clutch goal by sophomore midfielder Emilio

Giorgi with about 16 minutes left in regulation to lift the Crusaders into a tie. Setting up the marker was senior defender Darrel Quinn.

The Saints, who outshot MU 26-15, had taken a 1-0 lead at the 15:12 mark of the second half when Eric Smith found the back of the goal behind Lyons. Earning an assist was Jeff Larson.

With the draw, MU's record moved to 4-2-2 overall, 2-1-1 in the WHAC; Aquinas is 5-2-1, 1-1-1.

Ocelots win handily

Also Saturday, Schoolcraft College's men's soccer team tallied three goals in the first half and went on to register a 5-0 victory over Kellogg Community College.

According to Ocelots assistant coach Eric Scott, the team got off to a rousing start when sophomore defender Brad Spencer scored in the second minute of play "on a diving header off a great cross from sophomore forward Louie Djokic (Livonia Stevenson) for probably our best goal of the year so far."

Djokic made it 2-0 at the 16-minute mark (from freshman midfielder John Swiastyn) and Djokic set up Spencer once again about four minutes later to give Schoolcraft a three-goal cushion.

Schoolcraft really blew the Michigan Community College Athletic Conference

tilt open with about 15 minutes left in the opening half. Redford Union product Plamen Mitev, a sophomore-eligible defender, served up what Scott described as a "tremendous left-footed volley" that sophomore midfielder Jason Gillow (Livonia Churchill) chipped into the goal.

The final tally was an unassisted goal by freshman midfielder and Livonia Stevenson alum Roberto Muradian, during the second half.

Sharing goalkeeping duties for the Ocelots (3-2-2, 1-0-0) were freshmen Sean Simney and Plymouth High grad Bob Lovelace, while Scott said sophomore defender Dave Ujkic also played outstanding.

Kellogg remains winless, 0-4-0, 0-1-0.

MU women blanked

Teresa Buiocchi scored goals in the 29th and 84th minutes Saturday to give host Aquinas College a 2-0 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference win over Madonna University.

Bri Hill and Rebecca Underwood drew assists for the Saints, now 7-0 overall and 3-0 in the WHAC. Goalkeeper Kristina Gladstone turned away five MU shots en route to the shutout.

MU goalkeeper Tracy Anderson made seven saves. The Crusaders had shots on goals by Lauren Hess (two), Ashley Stoychoff (two) and Katie Kozlowski.

GIRLS GOLF RESULTS

LIVONIA STEVENSON 214
WAYNE MEMORIAL (forfeit)
Sept. 17 at Fox Creek

Stevenson scorers: Gabrielle Sabatini, 47 (medalist); Elizabeth Grace, 52; Natalia Cicchelli, 54; Shelby Plichota, 61; Andrea Burford, 65.
Wayne scorers: Berlynn Beaver, 53; Taylor Tuttle, 62; Summer Tuttle, 62.
Stevenson's dual meet record: 3-1 overall, 3-1 WLA.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 22
PLYMOUTH 259
Sept. 17 at The Woodlands (Van Buren)

Glenn scorers: Heidi Irvine, 48 (medalist); Jamie Young, 56; Justine Woodard and Courtney McKinney, 59 each; Danielle Sulewski, 72; Samantha Baker, 79.
Plymouth's top scorers: Patricia Burns, 50; Missy Gosbee, 53; G. Krush, 77; Chloe, 79.
Glenn's dual meet record: 3-6 overall, 1-6 WLA.

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4062 - Helene Mitchell - Microwave, Air Conditioner, 20 Boxes
4035 - Lynda Jordan - 25 Totes, 5 Boxes, Misc Items
3102 - Tamara Sailor - 2 TV's, Dresser, 2 Bookcases
3077 - Donna Garris - TV, Chest, Mirror
3020 - Lynda Jordan - 35 Totes, 2 Bags
2115 - Kristina Stevens - Couch, Dresser, 50 Records
2079 - Nicole Patterson - TV, Lawnmower, Aquarium
2017 - Akieta A. Smith - Refrigerator, 5 Chairs, Misc Items

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C053 - Mike Yarbough - Stereo, Scooter, Wardrobe
C064 - Paul Kocpak - Bike, TV, File Cabinet
C065 - Denise Simpson - Fridge, Stove, Tote
D014 - Jeffrey Borin Construction - 60 Boxes, 20 Bags, 2 Toolboxes
D095 - Gloria Threatt - 2 Totes, TV, 2 Suitcases
D097 - Lenora Fowler - 50 Boxes, 10 bags, Misc Items
D117 - Anna Marie Howard - Bike, Exercise Bike, 30 Boxes
D118 - Anna Marie Howard - Dresser, 20 Boxes, Lamp
D137 - Alice Hudgins - 5 Totes, TV, Misc Items
D146 - Carmela Threatt - 1 Coffee table, 20 boxes, 2 end tables
E039 - Deborah Jones - Mattress, Chairs, Misc Items
E066 - Marie Prime - TV, Sofa, China Cabinet
E097 - Lori Appleyard - Cedar Chest, 30 Boxes, 2 TV's
E126 - Jeffrey Borin Construction - 20 bags, 5 boxes
F076 - Cherie Williams - Mattress, Suitcase, Misc Items

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WHOLE LOT OF HAULIN' GOIN' ON

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

Transitions from one season to another are always good times to try out the capabilities of pickup trucks. And I'm happy to report - after testing three heavy-duty pickups over the last few weeks, in tasks ranging from hauling trash to taking the kids back to college - that the Nissan Titan, GMC Sierra 1500 and Chevrolet Silverado 1500 each is more than up to the challenge.

As a segment, pickup trucks are really interesting these days. The Big Three rely on them heavily for the profits that have been missing lately as high gasoline prices have forced consumers to consider less capacious - and more fuel-friendly - rides. Yet at the same time, competing Japanese makes have been flooding into the category, typified by the entry of Titan into the full-size market a couple of years ago and followed up by this year's launch of the much-ballyhooed Toyota Tundra.

For consumers, that's all great news: more worthy pickups than ever to choose from, with historically tough price competition.

It's difficult to pick one of these three as the standout. Titan, Sierra 1500 and Silverado 1500 each are helping set the standard for the modern pickup: a highly capable, durable and big vehicle that at the same time offers interior amenities that formerly were the province only of the car, along with ride and handling that are much improved over earlier generations. And, of course, rotten fuel economy - that much hasn't changed enough.

I will say that driving the Titan provided me with the most interesting interactive experience, anyway - with a human. I had just loaded some bushes into the bed of the truck at a nursery and was wheeling the cart back to the yard when a 70-ish woman who was parked next to me approached me and said, "Don't tell me you bought a Nissan!" She was driving about a ten-year-old large, domestic-make sedan.

Talk about the attitude of a dinosaur! Not to mention the rudeness of her remark. If I were Jerry Seinfeld, I could have come back with the zinger for



Nissan's Titan has made a name for itself in the pickup market.

The Chevrolet Silverado 1500 provides classic power and cargo capability.



all time. On my feet, the cleverest thoughts I could muster were to ask her if she realized that Titan is built in America, only by workers who don't happen to be unionized. But fortunately, I had a polite out: I really hadn't bought the Titan, of course, only "borrowed" it for this review. So that's what I told her with a smile and walked away.

But if that exchange at least hints at the importance of the pickup-truck market to Detroit, it was instructive. And Nissan has given plenty of reason for concern with Titan. Whether I was slinging garbage or hauling greenery, Titan allowed me to do so with power and style. Its 5.6-liter V8 engine provided 317 horsepower and 385 pound-feet of torque, more than enough for the relatively light jobs I was performing - and certainly adequate even for much more demanding tasks. At 12 mpg in the city and 17 mpg in the country, fuel economy for the 2008 Titan 4x4 Pro-4X model I drove also wasn't dreadful.

For my biggest tonnage - hauling my kids' stuff back to college - I relied on the 2007 Sierra 1500 4WD Crew Cab SLE1. Because I had to strap a whole

lot of furniture and other dormitory stuff into that bed, I needed the cargo area to be versatile. And it was: The railings surrounding the bed were ideally designed for using ropes, bungee cords and winches to secure things (although I'm still waiting for someone to invent a reasonably sized pickup where the wheel wells someone don't intrude on the bed space!).

Over the three-hour ride, despite the hulking load I had in the back of the Sierra, I never experienced anything that would shake my total confidence in the size and scale of the vehicle to get me and the stuff safely where we needed to go. The four-wheel-drive, heavy-duty drive train and suspension were more than up to the task, as was the Vortec, 4.8-liter V8 engine. With that heavy a load we probably didn't get the listed 15mpg in the city or 19mpg on the highway.

Driving the 2007 Silverado 1500 4WD Extended Cab LTZ, however, I also discovered the benefit of having more interior room and a bigger bed in a larger overall truck. The extra foot and a half of bed, compared with the Sierra I drove, makes a huge difference in hauling capacity and convenience.

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