



Subscribers find a fun guide to Fire Prevention week inside today's newspaper



WESTLAND Observer

SUNDAY
October 7, 2007

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City gets new gas supplier

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland officials expect to save thousands of dollars by switching to a new company that will supply natural gas to city buildings.

An account representative for the company said residential customers also might save money by making the switch.

City officials have approved a plan for Ohio-based Volunteer Energy Services Inc. to supply the natural gas. Company spokeswoman Dena Leginski said deregulation efforts allow VES to provide the gas at lower cost while using Consumers Energy lines.

Mayor William Wild estimated that Westland could save nearly \$16,000 a year, or 10 percent on annual costs of nearly \$160,000. The city can drop the month-to-month contract at any time, if the projected savings don't happen.

"There's very little if any risk at all to the city," Wild said.

VES supplies the natural gas but Consumers Energy delivers it, responds to calls and handles the billing, Leginski said. The company began marketing its services in Michigan last year, she said.

Westland officials explored the cost-cutting measure after learning that neighboring Wayne had realized savings.

Last year, the Michigan Public Service Commission granted VES a license as an alternate gas supplier.

"The MPSC determined that the application is in the public interest and that by granting this request for a license, opportunities for competition may expand," according to a state Web site.

VES has an office in Northville. Leginski said potential customers who want more information may call (800) 977-8374.

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Patriot royalty

Franklin High School crowned its Homecoming King Greg Killeen and Queen Kelly Powers during halftime festivities during the Sept. 28 football game.

Go F.I.S.H.

New group provides rides for seniors and disabled

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Residents in three western Wayne County cities who need rides to locations outside of local transit system's service area can get them through a new volunteer organization.

F.I.S.H. Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is now providing free rides to medical and social service appointments for seniors and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia, and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation outside the areas served by Nankin Transit and Livonia's Community Transit.

"We looked at what was available and saw that if you go outside of that area, you have to have a friend drive you or get a cab or you're out of luck," said Gary Simon. "This would provide free rides to someone who may need to get to the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, the dentist or physical therapy."

Armed with a \$100 donation from the Garden City Kiwanis Club, Simon has helped organize F.I.S.H. Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County.

There are F.I.S.H. programs worldwide and each chapter serve their communities in different ways. The F.I.S.H. program in Westland is a food bank, while F.I.S.H. of Plymouth-Canton provides free rides and is the inspiration for the western Wayne F.I.S.H.

People living in the three communities who need a ride must call F.I.S.H.'s toll-free number a week in advance and leave their name, phone number and information about the ride they need.

According to Simon, a volunteer phone messenger then contacts the individual to make the arrangements. The free transportation is available Monday through Friday, except holidays.

"The messenger will try to handle all requests, a ride could be refused mainly because of a lack of drivers," Simon said.

The group already has a secretary, treasurer and an operational phone number. With the seed money from the Kiwanis, the group is ready to take calls. Now Simon is looking for volunteers and is asking people interested in helping to come to an organizational meeting that will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12, at the Maplewood Community Center on Maplewood west of Merriman in Garden City.

Drivers and other F.I.S.H. volunteers list their availability in terms of days of the week and geographic area, like being available to drive Tuesday and Thursday and no driving to Ann Arbor or Detroit.

People interested in being volunteer drivers will need to provide photocopies of their driver's licenses and proof of insurance. Most auto insurance policies cover the volunteer work because there is no charge for the service, however, the organization accepts donations, Simon told members of the Garden City Kiwanis at their meeting Thursday.

"We'll give the client an envelope they can use, if they'd like make a donation," he said.

"I believe we can operate on \$50 a month, we have to budget that because of the two area codes in Livonia," he added. "And we've got an 800 number so they can call toll free."

People interested in volunteering can call Simon at (734) 751-4101 or by e-mail at GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com. People in need of a ride can call F.I.S.H. Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County at (888) 660-2007.

Election 2007 Westland City Council candidates

Godbout: Can work with council, mayor

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland City Council incumbent James Godbout, cited his experience and his leadership skills as reasons voters should return him to office amid tough economic times.

"I think I've worked hard for the city and the residents," he said.

Godbout, 52, has served



Godbout

He emerged as the top vote-

Please see **GODBOUT, A2**

seven years on council, and he hopes to win one of four seats at stake in the Nov. 6 election. In all, eight candidates are in the race.

Johnson: Enjoys helping residents

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland City Council appointee Bill Johnson described himself as a common-sense candidate who will never stray from voting for what he believes is in the best interest of local residents.

"I won't make a vote that's going to hurt the city or the



Johnson

low appointee Dewey Reeves

Please see **JOHNSON, A2**

citizens," he said.

Johnson, 57, found himself essentially drafted for a council appointment in January, before he and fel-

Kehrer: Experience benefit to council

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland City Council incumbent Michael Kehrer pointed to his knowledge of local issues, his ability to weigh all sides and his no-nonsense approach to decision-making as why he should be re-elected to his position.

"We need to maintain



Kehrer

campaigning for one of four

Please see **KEHRER, A2**

experience and leadership on the council," he said.

Kehrer, 53, is finishing his sixth year on the council, and he is

CITY COUNCIL. Eight candidates are vying for four council seats. The top three vote-getters will earn a four-year term; the fourth-place finisher will get a two-year term. The job pays \$12,515 a year.

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Obituaries
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Coming Thursday



Ensemble of local artists will bring to the stage his first original opera, 'Cyrano.'



Last month, members of The Little Stars Foundation performed a special violin concert for seniors at the Four Season Nursing Center in Westland.

Little Stars brighten up day for nursing home

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

At one moment, 6-year-old Elbert Yi and his 5-year-old buddy, Anna Sun, are jumping up and down, smiling and laughing uncontrollably. Two seconds later, the both of them are nearly stone-faced with their small violins tucked underneath their tiny chins.

As they finish playing a classical tune, the two kids look at each other, grin and start hopping around again.

"I like playing the violin," Elbert says in between laughter while Anna chimes in, "I do, too."

The children are members of the Little Stars Foundation, which was created by Anna's older sister, Amy Sun, 13. The Canton-based group began performing at area nursing homes and senior centers last year around Thanksgiving.

"Playing (for the seniors) makes me feel good," said Amy, an eighth-grader at East Middle School.

The group, whose other members include Alan Sun, 8, Ann Zhang, 9, Bob Zhu, 12 and Paul Shen, 13, has a dozen songs in its line up, including a little Beethoven and Bach.

"Some of the seniors have little chance to see children, so they

really seem to like (the performances)," said Yihong Tong, the mother of Amy, Alan and Anna. "Some of them said they couldn't hold their tears back."

While the entire group plays the violin, Paul and Amy also dabble on the piano.

"I enjoy seeing the seniors enjoy what we do," Alan said.

Bob agreed.

"I joined the group because I thought it would be a good experience and I think it's fun when we perform in front of people," he said.

Matt Young, activity director at Four Season Nursing Center in Westland, where the group recently performed, said the center's residents really appreciated the performance.

"They really enjoyed it. It brightens their day. It's something for them to look forward to and talk about amongst themselves," Young said.

As the group practiced two songs in Tong's living room, she looked at the group and grinned.

"They get to feel like they are helping others so that makes them happy," she said, adding that the group is trying to raise money so that they can buy gifts for senior citizens this holiday season.

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GODBOUT

FROM PAGE A1

getter in the August primary — a coveted spot that he hopes is an indication of broad support in this city of 86,600 residents.

Godbout, account manager for Rockwell Automation, has served on the council long enough to work with three different mayors — Robert Thomas, Sandra Cicirelli and William Wild.

"I've demonstrated my ability to work with people on the council and in the city administration," he said.

Godbout has chaired committees that continue to seek ways to improve recycling efforts and upgrade technology. He also has been involved in agencies ranging from Nankin Transit, which provides transportation for seniors and disabled residents, to the Michigan Municipal League, which helps cities improve services and programs.

During an interview, Godbout said he believes his work on council isn't done. The city still needs to find a viable curbside recycling program. It needs to make strides toward becoming more technologically efficient. Its infrastructure is aging, and he said someday decisions will have to be made on how to improve facilities like the ice arena and City Hall.

Of course, everything comes with a price tag, and Godbout said his years of budgetary experience can only help as officials grapple with how to stretch dollars and improve services.

Responding to questions, Godbout said the city must be ready to bring in a new trash hauler but only if the current company, Midwest Sanitation, fails in its attempt to reorganize in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. He remains hopeful for a curbside recycling program, possibly by next spring.

"But until we know the status of (Midwest), we can't do

much at this point," he said.

As a stopgap measure, Godbout said Westland has expanded recycling opportunities at the city's public service yard on Marquette east of Newburgh.

Like other city leaders, Godbout remains worried about possible cuts in state-shared revenue. Fortunately, he said the city in recent years has managed to keep its budget surplus at \$2 million — money that could help forestall cuts in services and programs in case of worsening finances.

"In spite of cuts in state-shared revenue, we've been able to build our fund balance," Godbout said.

The challenge will be to maintain the level of services that residents expect if deeper revenue cuts become necessary, he said. As has happened in the past, the city may have to look at delays in filling positions that become vacant while avoiding layoffs of current workers, he said.

Godbout said improvements

in technology could allow the city to make inroads in better utilizing its employees. He singled out the city clerk's office as one department that has embraced such advances, but he said some departments still need to make strides. In some cases, however, employees have had to work with antiquated technology.

As for sharing services with other communities, Godbout cited a joint emergency dispatch system involving Westland and Inkster. He said it's possible the city could work out other arrangements with neighboring communities.

"We've got a very good garage and mechanic pool in our DPS (Department of Public Service)," he said.

Godbout said he believes the current council has a healthy political balance, and as an incumbent he hopes voters will realize that he has accumulated knowledge that can help move the city forward.

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JOHNSON

FROM PAGE A1

became friends and November running mates.

Earlier, he didn't really have political ambitions for city office.

Johnson said he was encouraged by supporters like council members Cheryl Graunstadt and Robert Stottlemeyer, and state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland.

Since winning the appointment, Johnson said, "I have found that I like sitting up there and helping people."

Johnson — the brother of City Clerk Eileen DeHart — hopes to capture one of four council seats at stake in the Nov. 6 election. Eight candidates are in the race.

Johnson has previously said he would abstain from any vote that might pose a conflict of interest involving DeHart. In his first year in office, it hasn't emerged as an issue.

Johnson, a United Auto Workers Local 900 leader, is plant chairman for the Wayne Assembly Plant. As such, his supporters note that he has tapped into a network that has

brought financial support for city projects, such as restoring the Westland Historic Village Park.

Johnson also hopes to mobilize UAW workers to campaign for him and Reeves in the Nov. 6 election.

He said he wants to remain a voice in city government for people like "the little guy in Norway" who have, at times, felt forgotten.

Responding to questions, Johnson said he is hopeful that the city's trash hauler, Midwest Sanitation, can emerge in better financial shape following a reorganization in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Otherwise, he said, local leaders will have to try to negotiate a contract — one that likely would be costlier — with another company.

For now, Johnson said, the city may need to temporarily hold off on pushing ahead with a curbside recycling program, at least until officials know what will happen with the trash hauler.

"We need to have a stand-alone (curbside) program," one that residents won't have to pay to use, Johnson said.

Attempts to start curbside

recycling with user fees have twice failed, and Johnson noted that only a tiny fraction of residents now are involved in recycling — another reason he said the city must strive for a curbside program without fees. That, he said, may be the only way to boost participation.

Although the city has more than \$1 million in its sanitation fund, Johnson said he would be reluctant to dig deep into those reserves until the issue of the city's trash hauler is resolved.

When asked about how Westland could cope with potentially deeper cuts in state-shared revenue, Johnson said the city will need to try to tap into new revenue sources, hopefully by drawing new businesses into vacant strip malls and big box stores, such as the former Sam's Club and the old Best Buy on Central City Parkway.

Johnson also indicated that the city may need to offer tax breaks to businesses that agree to come to Westland.

"Half a tax bill is better than no tax bill," he said.

If cuts become necessary, Johnson said he would fight

any attempts to cut police and fire services.

"We cannot sacrifice the safety of the city," he said.

As much as possible, however, Johnson said any budget sacrifices will need to be spread as evenly as possible among city departments.

When asked whether Westland could combine resources with other communities to save money, Johnson said the city could eventually try to work with Garden City, Livonia and other cities to save money on trash-hauling services, among others.

However, he said officials need to be careful not to pit unions against each other in trying to combine services — a move that he said would be detrimental for working people in Westland.

Johnson cited several goals he hopes to achieve if elected. He hopes to get contracts settled with police and fire unions, improve after-school programs for youngsters, lobby to protect state-shared revenue and work diligently to resolve the contamination issue in Central City Park.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Offices closed

City offices, as well as the 18th District Court and William P. Faust Public Library in Westland, will be closed Monday, Oct. 8, for the Columbus Day holiday. However, the Bailey Recreation Center, located behind Westland City Hall, will remain open.

Pancake breakfast

The community is invited to eat flap jacks prepared just the way you want them at the Friendship Center 8:30-11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 11. Choose from buttermilk or multi-grain pancakes, regular

syrup or sugar free. Breakfast also includes bacon, sausage and choice of beverage, all for \$4. The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh Road, south of Ford.

Railroadiana

Buy and swap toys and trains at a fund-raiser put on by the Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at the church hall, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman, Westland. Admission is \$2 per person or \$4 per family.

There will be more than 140 Dealer tables, and food and refreshments will be available.

KEHRER

FROM PAGE A1

seats that voters will fill in the Nov. 6 election. He is one of eight candidates.

Aside from his elected position, Kehrer also has accumulated nearly 30 years as a community volunteer with such organizations as the Westland Jaycees, in which he became a U.S. international senator. He also has served as the city's chairman for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Kehrer, an excavating site inspector, pledged that he will continue to bring a common-sense approach to his position by studying the issues at length and making decisions based on what is best for the entire community.

"I have proven that I do a lot of hard work up there on the council," Kehrer said during an interview.

Kehrer first sought a coun-

cil seat because he wanted to have a voice in city government after helping Westland in many volunteer capacities.

"I still think we need a common-sense voice up there," he said.

In response to questions, Kehrer said he hopes the city's trash hauler, Midwest Sanitation, is able to get its financial problems resolved because of the much-higher costs that the city would face by switching companies. He also voiced concerns that the bigger companies, such as Waste Management, could eventually have a monopoly in the area.

"I'm a little wary of monopolies," Kehrer said.

Kehrer voiced relief that the city didn't reduce its trash-disposal tax, in the event that officials have to make a decision to switch to a higher-cost company.

He also expressed confidence that the city still can move ahead soon with a curbside recycling program,

but he said the plan will work only if a substantial percentage of residents participate. If they do, he said, the city could start to see a reduction in its trash-disposal costs.

Kehrer indicated that the potential for new cuts in state-shared revenue is worrisome because the city already has trimmed spending and only has a \$2 million budget surplus — an amount that could easily be used up.

"We're not very far in the black, and I think our city has done a good internal job looking at waste," he said.

Kehrer cited a reduced number of city-provided cars for employees as one way costs have been cut. He also noted that council members have routinely turned down pay increases for themselves in recent years. The latter measure didn't save huge amounts of money, but Kehrer said it indicated that the council is willing to share in the sacrifices that many residents have faced.

Kehrer said he is concerned that the city might not be able to maintain current levels of services if deeper budget cuts become necessary. He said local officials have explored additional ways to share services with other communities — such as fire protection — but he said some combining of services might not be feasible, particularly in the area of public safety.

Kehrer cited several ongoing projects that he said he would like to be involved in getting resolved. One priority is the cleanup of lead and other contaminants in Central City Park.

He said he hopes voters will re-elect him because he is willing to do his homework on issues and honestly vote for what he believes will improve the quality of life for Westland residents.

"I think I've proven that I care about my city and the citizens," he said.

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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On October 16, 2007 the Westland Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin promptly at 11:00 am at Westland Car Care, 375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1988	FORD	RANGER/PUTRK	BLACK	1FTZR15X6WPA88315
1989	FORD	ESCORT/2DR	RED	1FAPP93J7KT183613
1994	MERC	MARQUIS/4 DR	RED	2MELM75W6RX606366
1992	MERC	MARQUIS/4 DR	SILVER	2MRCM75W4NX649797
2002	CHEVY	CAVALIER/2 DR	RED	1G1JC524327134478
1989	CHRY	NEW YORKER/4 DR	WHITE	1C3BC4632KD509060
1993	PLY	VOYAGER/ST WGN	WHITE	2P4GH4535PRI145337
2006	FORD	EXPLORER/ST WGN	TAN	1FMEU73E362A03811
1990	FORD	F150/PUTRK	RED	1FTEP15N3LLA30045
1991	BUICK	CENTURY/4 DR	WHITE	1G4AF54N1M6449721
1989	FORD	ESCORT/4 DR	WHITE	1FAPP9591KW224745
1999	DODGE	RAM/PUTRK	YELLOW	1B7HF13Z3KJ579975
1993	CHEVY	CAVALIER/4 DR	MAROON	1GLJC5441P7268376
2001	DODGE	NEON/4 DR	WHITE	1B3ES46C61D205326

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION
Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle(s) listed below will be auctioned after NOVEMBER 6, 2007 unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time.

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1994	GEO	PRIZM/4 DR	BLACK	1Y1SK5387RZ035740

Publish: October 7, 2007

PETTICOAT LADIES

The Westland Historic Village Park will present the historic-minded Petticoat Ladies in a program called "Charmers & Cranks" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, at the city's senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. It's a program about Victorian-era women. Cost is \$6 per person or \$5 for seniors. Call Jo Johnson at (734) 522-3918, Georgia Becker at (734) 729-1605 or the Friendship Center at (734) 722-7628.

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY

The Department of Public Service will be street sweeping Monday, 10-8-07 & Tuesday, 10-9-07, on Balmoral to Krauter from Central to Harrison. Please no street parking.

Publish: October 4, 2007 and October 7, 2007

Operation rounds up sex offenders

Working out of Westland, a team of law-enforcement officials last week started rounding up Wayne County sex offenders wanted on felony warrants.

The three-day effort, dubbed Operation LASSO (Locating and Securing Sex Offenders), has targeted 300 registered sex offenders on parole and probation, along with more than 200 people who have warrants for their arrest for felony sex crimes, according to the Wayne County Sheriff's Department.

The sheriff's department and a team of suburban, state and federal agencies carried out the crackdown with morning roll calls out of Westland's Bailey Recreation Center, Westland Police Chief James Ridener said.

"It's important for these offenders and the public at large to understand that each police agency involved in this operation is taking a proactive approach here," Ridener said. "By making these types of arrests, we may be preventing future victimization from occurring."

The effort also included making sure that offenders who are on probation or parole are playing by the rules, Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans said.

The suburban effort followed a

similar roundup last month in the city of Detroit.

"Unfortunately, history has shown that this is a specific criminal population that requires intensive supervision because they tend to re-offend more frequently," Evans said. "It's up to us in the law enforcement community to remain vigilant and to use all of the resources at our disposal to protect citizens."

During the first two days, officers arrested 46 individuals on felony warrants, many of them on criminal sexual conduct charges. Some of them failed to register as a sex offender at a new address.

Among those arrested was Larry Shortridge, 32, of Redford, who was wanted on a probation violation warrant stemming from a 2006 conviction for assault with intent to rape. According to investigators, he had tried to force himself on an adult female victim who was able to escape. The offense allegedly occurred in the city of Taylor.

Officers also arrested Charlie Yearly, 30, of Canton, who is registered as a sex offender in Canton but was found living at a new address in Ypsilanti. He faces a new felony charge and possibly up to four years in prison.

Sheriff deputies and Michigan Department of Corrections agents

also conducted unannounced visits to the homes of registered sex offenders on active parole and probation to make sure they were in compliance with the terms of their supervised release.

While most were found to be in compliance, deputies did find several significant violations, which included the possession of pornographic materials, which is strictly forbidden for all such offenders.

In the first two days of the operation, officers visited nearly 300 homes and 28 of the targets were found to be in significant violation of their probation, which will result in requests for arrest warrants.

"At the home of one sex offender, we found 12 sexually explicit DVD movies and at another home, we found pornographic material on the person's computer," Evans said. "This clearly indicates the compulsive nature of most sex offenders to continue their behavior, which is the very reason we created Operation LASSO in the first place."

Other agencies involved in Operation LASSO are the U.S. Marshals Service, the Michigan Department of Corrections, Michigan State Police, and police in Canton, Livonia, Melvindale, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Taylor and Wayne.

Chief reminds residents to be prepared

Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy has issued a reminder for residents to develop and practice their escape plan in case of fire.

Reddy and the local fire department have joined with the non-profit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to issue guidelines during Fire Prevention Week, which starts today and runs through Oct. 13.

During this year's fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates are spreading the word about the dangers of home fires and teaching residents how to plan and practice ways to escape.

According to the latest NFPA research, 3,030 people died in 2005 in home fires.

That's roughly eight people every day. Still, only 23 percent of households actually have an escape plan that residents have practiced.

"Many times when we speak to

residents who have experienced a fire in their home, they recall becoming confused and disoriented by the conditions and severity of the situation, but they realized they needed to get out fast," Reddy said. "Sometimes there are only seconds to escape, but there's no question that having a plan in place that has been practiced saves precious time and makes survival more likely. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will prompt folks in our community to plan and practice their escape."

Reddy issued a prepared statement recommending the following steps:

- Install working smoke alarms on every level; and inside and outside of each sleeping area.
- Develop a fire escape plan that identifies two ways out of each room and a family meeting place outside.
- Make sure your plan allows

for any specific needs in your household. If everyone knows what to do, everyone can get out quickly.

■ Practice using the plan, at least twice a year.

■ Some studies have shown that some children and adults may not awaken to the sound of a smoke alarm; they may need help waking up.

■ If the smoke alarm sounds, go to your closest exit, and if you run into smoke, turn and use another way out.

If you must exit through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit. Don't take time to pick up belongings; just get out and help others get out. Move fast but stay calm.

For 85 years, fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest-running public health and safety observance on record.



TONY HANAUER / SHUTTERSTOCK

Picking a winner

Two-year-old Terrence Crawford of Livonia tries to lift a pumpkin he's selected at the Wilson Barn pumpkin patch. Behind is Alyssah Lohman, 5, of Farmington. The barn offers a large selection of pumpkins and much more daily. It's on the corner of Middlebelt and West Chicago.

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Bar and Grill

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Calendars will be available for purchase after October 1, 2007 for \$14.95.

Calendars can be ordered from HAVEN's website at www.haven-oakland.org, by calling 248-334-1284, ext. 340 or by email at calendar@haven-oakland.org.

They can also be purchased at participating retail locations including all Hollywood Market locations, Oliver's Trendz in Birmingham and the Print Gallery in Southfield.

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Plymouth Community Veterans' Memorial Park
Dedicated July 4, 2005

The Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park Committee wishes to thank the Plymouth community for your support of the Veterans Park. We especially want to thank each and every one of you who purchased either an engraved gray Veterans paver or an engraved red commemorative paver. Pavers are now being installed twice yearly; in the Spring before Memorial Day (end of May) and in the Fall before Veterans Day (November 11). It takes about 45 days to process and produce engraved pavers. To guarantee that your paver will be installed at one of those times, it is necessary that your order for a paver be received at least 60 days prior to an installation date.

Thank you for your ongoing support. The city provided the park land but the establishment of the park was done solely with private contributions. Ordinary park maintenance is done by the city as is done for all other city parks. Your help is still needed to sustain and maintain the Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park. Through the engraved paver program we hope to raise additional funds to make additional improvements in the park such as replacing the badly deteriorating stone wall in the rear of the park and other future needs as they arise. To do this we want to establish a perpetual maintenance fund that will guarantee a pristine park into the future. Order forms may be downloaded from our website at <http://www.plymouthlibrary.org/pvcmpc> or you can pick up an order form at Plymouth City Hall, Plymouth Historical Museum and many businesses around town or in the park itself. This is a wonderful holiday gift for your beloved veteran. Remember, your purchase is tax deductible.

Our hope is that you see this park as a focus of community pride.

In order for us to verify your inscription, please complete all information including your phone number.

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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Payment
Indicate paver selection below:
 4"x8" paver quantity ordered _____ at \$100 = _____
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 Cash or Money Order
 Check (Please make payable to CANTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION write "Plymouth Veterans' Park" on memo line)
 Credit Card Visa MasterCard
Acct # _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____
Billing Address _____

Veterans Only Pavers
4" x 8" inscription area - max three (3) lines / 14 spaces per line

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4" x 8" inscription area - max three (3) lines / 14 spaces per line

8x8 Red Pavers Also Available

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INFORMATION CENTRAL

SOCIAL NETWORKS

Communication has, without a doubt, changed within even the last few years. At first glance it might seem as if the traditional art of letter writing (or even speaking, for that matter) is completely dead with "sentences" and phrases, such as GTG, BRB, and WYGOWM, running rampant electronically in text and instant messages. Such uses of Internet slang seemingly widen the gap between social networks and general day to day existence - or does it?

Virtual communities promote communication between peers through various online social networking tools, such as MySpace (www.myspace.com), Live Journal (www.livejournal.com), and Facebook (www.facebook.com). Although these are most popular with a younger crowd, there are, of course, no age limits to signing up, and basic memberships are generally free.

Compare these sites to letter writing and you may find fewer differences than anticipated, except for the medium through which correspondences are being sent and received. To offer book titles for information regarding this subject seems a bit counter-productive when urging people to be open minded about virtual practices, but "Generation MySpace" by Candice M. Kelsey may be useful to parents who have questions or concerns regarding their children's use of such sites.

If you find virtual communities a difficult concept to grasp, then brace yourself for a virtual world. Joining Second Life (secondlife.com) will enable you to create an entire virtual life in which an image of yourself that you created goes to work, spends money, and yes, even visits the library, should you choose to (and you should).

If these are foreign concepts to you, try to start out

small with instant messaging (think of it as an electronic telegram). Popular sites that offer these services are AOL Instant Messenger, AIM (www.aim.com) or Yahoo! Messenger (messenger.yahoo.com). After conquering that step, then work your way up to creating a profile on a Web site such as MySpace, and for the advanced social networkers, perhaps there is a second life in your future.

The Westland Library offers free Internet access to the public, so by all means check your blog and chat with friends on AIM.

It doesn't hurt, though, to balance out all of that social networking with a good old-fashioned book and a casual audible chat so you can be socially acceptable in both the virtual and actual world.

Highlighted Activities

Balancing Women's Hormones Naturally: 7 p.m. Oct. 8, Featured Speaker Dr. Brian K. Brackney, D.C., from the Foundation for Wellness Professionals, will be discussing "Balancing Women's Hormones Naturally: An Alternative Approach to Helping PMS and Menopause." Stop by the library or call (734) 26-6123 to register.

Baby Massage Class: 10:30 a.m. Oct. 13. Certified Infant Massage Therapist Carol O'Brien will teach infant massage techniques for your baby, from birth to 9 months old. Stop by the library or call (734) 326-6123 to register. Space is limited to 20 babies with parent/caregiver.

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

Hospital sponsors wellness programs

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

Monday, Oct. 8

Power Hour at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. An intense exercise class designed to take you to the next level in fitness. Every class will be different, but we guarantee that each one will be challenging and fun, with a variety of aerobic exercises to experience. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Childbirth Education (fifth of six classes) at 6 p.m. This six-week course prepares the expectant mother and coach for labor and delivery. Class runtime is 2½ hours and there is a \$60 fee. Medicaid is accepted. A refresher course also is available. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information or to register.

Heart Pals Cardiac Support Group at 7:30 p.m. Group support is offered to cardiac patients and/or their significant other. Discussion, education and camaraderie are the focus. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information.

Tuesday, Oct. 9

Get Up and Move at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

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

Strength and Stretch at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls,

balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Power Hour at 3 and 5 p.m. An intense exercise class designed to take you to the next level in fitness. Every class will be different, but we guarantee that each one will be challenging and fun, with a variety of aerobic exercises to experience. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

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

Wednesday, Oct. 10

Power Hour at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. An intense exercise class designed to take you to the next level in fitness. Every class will be different, but we guarantee that each one will be challenging and fun, with a variety of aerobic exercises to experience. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

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

Alzheimer's Support at 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, family members, friends and caregivers of persons afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders are invited to join this free monthly support group. The group will provide mutual aid, support and the opportunity to share problems and concerns. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the lower level classrooms of the Allen Breakie Medical Office Building (attached to the main hospital), 6255 N. Inkster Road, Garden City. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Eating Disorders Support Group at 7 p.m. This support group is for those individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Both males and females are invited to attend. This meeting is held in the

Garden City Hospital Auditorium. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

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

Thursday, Oct. 11

American Red Cross Blood Drive 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Garden City Hospital will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive in the Lower Level Classrooms of the Allen Breakie Medical Office Building on the Garden City Hospital campus, 6245 Inkster Road. Appointments may be scheduled by calling (734) 458-4259. Walk-ins are always welcomed.

Strength and Stretch at 11 a.m. This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls, balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Get Up and Move at 4 p.m. This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Yoga (second of four classes) at 6:30 p.m. Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind. This four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab. Call (734) 458-3242 for details and to register.

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

Friday, Oct. 12

Get Up and Move at 9 a.m. This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

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Extravaganza helps shoppers save cash

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

It's billed as a way to save shoppers money while promoting businesses at Westland Shopping Center.

It's called the 2007 Shopping Extravaganza, sponsored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce, the mall and Macy's.

Only the first 50 people who sign up will get to participate.

"With the economy the way it is, it's a way to give people a discount when they're shopping," chamber President Lori Fodale said.

Cost will be \$20 for the Friday, Nov. 16, event, and Fodale said it's intended to help shoppers get a jump-start on the holiday shopping season.

It will start at 9 a.m. with a continental breakfast just outside Macy's provided by Panera Bread, followed by a makeup presentation with some free products from Clinique.

Macy's and several other mall stores will offer discounts to those joining the Shopping Extravaganza, Fodale said.

Shopping will continue until 1 p.m. and end with a lunch and prize drawings at the Lakeshore Grill.

"The people who participate are going to have discounts available to them for the day that nobody else in the public is going to have," Fodale said. "The whole idea is to promote early shopping for the holiday season."

The chamber has offered the program in the past, but Fodale said the price has been reduced from \$25 to \$20 this year to help shoppers who are pinching pennies during tough economic times.

To reserve a spot, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

dclem@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2110

Staffers recognized by MPA for writing, photography

Three members of the *Westland* and *Garden Observer* staffs have been recognized for excellence by the Michigan Press Association.

Staff Writer Darrell Clem, Photographer Tom Hawley and Sports Editor Tim Smith collected six awards in the MPA's 2007 Better Newspaper Contest.

The awards were 23 received by *The Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* in the annual contest.

"The *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* are proud to be honored by the MPA," said Susan Rosiek, executive editor. "Staff members remain committed to producing the best community newspapers possible. The awards are a tribute to the hard work and passion we all have for the readers and communities we serve."

Clem received a second-place award for enterprise reporting for his ongoing coverage of the contamination of Central City Park. Judges said the stories had "very good people-focused leads" and were packaged well with good photos.

"He did a very good job of showing both sides of the story," they wrote.

Clem also received a second-place award for spot news coverage for his story about a Westland teen who had been involved in a fatal accident while on spring

break in Florida. Judges said Clem used "tight, interesting writing" and made "great use of local and not-so-local sources to give the complete story on deadline."

Hawley received a first-place award for a Garden City news photo for his photograph of Diane Arquette and her sister as they listened to testimony at the preliminary hearing of four men charged with killing her son Ricky.

"The pain on the women's faces says everything," judges said. "Technically, nice focus in foreground, with faces in background fading."

Smith received a first-place award for sports feature for Wild About Harry, a story about the impact rec bowler Harry Goldman had on a Garden City league despite having a developmental disability.

Judges wrote: "Wow!! What a fantastic story. It's what sports is all about - something for everyone. By far the best in the category. Extremely well-written and worth reading over and over again. Great job."

He also received an honorable mention in the same category for Tom Terrific, a story about a hearing-impaired Redford Unified hockey goalie. Judges said Smith did a "fine job of capturing a unique story and giving readers a masterpiece."

Smith's third award was first



FILE PHOTO

Photographer Tom Hawley won a first place award from the Michigan Press Association for this photo of Diane Arquette (left) and her sister Jean Harris while they listened to court proceedings related to the killing of Diane Arquette's son Ricky.

place for sports coverage. Judges said his examples showed an "excellent use of features in sports - going beyond the field, floor, mat."

Among the other awards received were:

■ General Excellence - *Canton Observer*, first place; *Rochester Eccentric*, second place.

■ Spot News Coverage - Larry Ruehlen, *West Bloomfield Eccentric*, first place; Hugh Gallagher, *Farmington Observer*, third place.

■ Enterprise Reporting -

Larry Ruehlen, *West Bloomfield Eccentric*, third place.

■ Editorial Writing - Gary Winkelman, *Rochester Eccentric*, second place; Dave Varga, *Livonia Observer*, third place.

In Class A, Julie Brown, *Mirror*, second place.

■ Local Columnist - Greg Kowalski, *Birmingham Eccentric*, second place; Sandy Armbruster, *Troy Eccentric*, third place.

■ Feature Picture - Lawrence McKee, *Southfield Eccentric*, second place.

■ Picture Story - Lawrence McKee, *West Bloomfield Eccentric*, third place.

■ Sports Writing - Marty Budner, *Birmingham Eccentric*, first place.

■ Sports Coverage - Mike Rosenbaum, *West Bloomfield Eccentric*, honorable mention.

■ Sport Columnist - Ed Wright, *Plymouth Observer*, first place; Brad Emons, *Livonia Observer*, second place.

■ Sports Coverage - Mike Rosenbaum, *West Bloomfield Eccentric*, honorable mention.

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Doing well, doing good: It's easy to find socially responsible investment options

What is socially responsible investing and where do I go to find more information about it?

A: There isn't one definition for socially responsible investing. Typically, socially responsible investing is focused on only investing in companies that achieve some social purpose. For example, some people define it as investing in companies that have good environmental records. Others avoid companies involved in the tobacco or alcohol business.

In the past, investment options for a socially responsible investor were very limited. That is no longer the case. There are many different types of investment vehicles, including mutual



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

funds that are considered socially responsible. For the individual who considers himself/herself a socially responsible investor, it is important to define the meaning. Once it's defined, you can narrow your search to look for the appropriate investment. The easiest and probably most productive way to become a socially responsible investor is to use mutual funds. That way you can get independent information about how the fund

has performed and review the prospectus which explains the funds.

In many cases, investors who are socially responsible sometimes forget to look at the performance of the fund or the fee structure. Just like any other type of fund, there are socially responsible funds that have very high fees and commissions and there are other ones that have solid performance and low fees. As a socially responsible investor, don't forget the basics about investing money. An informative and education Web site is www.socialfunds.com.

Remember, socially responsible investing does not does not necessarily mean underperform-

ance or lower returns.

My estate is approaching a million dollars and it has been recommended that I consider buying a life insurance policy to pay my estate taxes. I am 69, married and upon my death my wife will inherit our estate and then eventually it will go to our two children. Do you recommend that I buy life insurance?

A: It makes no sense to buy life insurance to pay your estate taxes. Based on the size of your estate, there would be zero estate taxes upon you and your wife's death and thus no need for life insurance.

It is important to understand

how estate taxes work. The estate is based upon the fair market value of your assets upon death.

In fact, many people will tell you life insurance is not subject to tax, but they are incorrect. The proceeds of your life insurance policy are included in your estate for estate tax purposes. There are ways of removing life insurance from an estate by establishing an irrevocable trust. There are other issues associated with your irrevocable trust such as significant costs.

According to the law today, the first \$2 million of assets is estate tax free. In 2009, the number will be \$3.5 million. In addition, whatever you leave to a spouse is estate tax free. A strategy that some people use is they purchase a life insurance policy, establish an irrevocable trust and use the proceeds to pay any estate taxes.

As far as I am concerned, there are only limited cases where this strategy is effective. First, by doing a living trust, the great majority of people

should be able to avoid all estate taxes.

Even if you were in a taxable estate situation, I am not sure that buying a life insurance policy and establishing the irrevocable trust is an effective strategy. After all, there are significant costs associated with the insurance policy and the irrevocable trust.

The need for life insurance is need-based and only in rare situations do I recommend purchasing it to pay estate taxes. I am not opposed to life insurance, because in many situations it's needed to provide liquidity in an estate.

Life insurance is not an investment, it is a means of covering risks. Before you buy any type of insurance policy, make sure there is a risk worth insuring.

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

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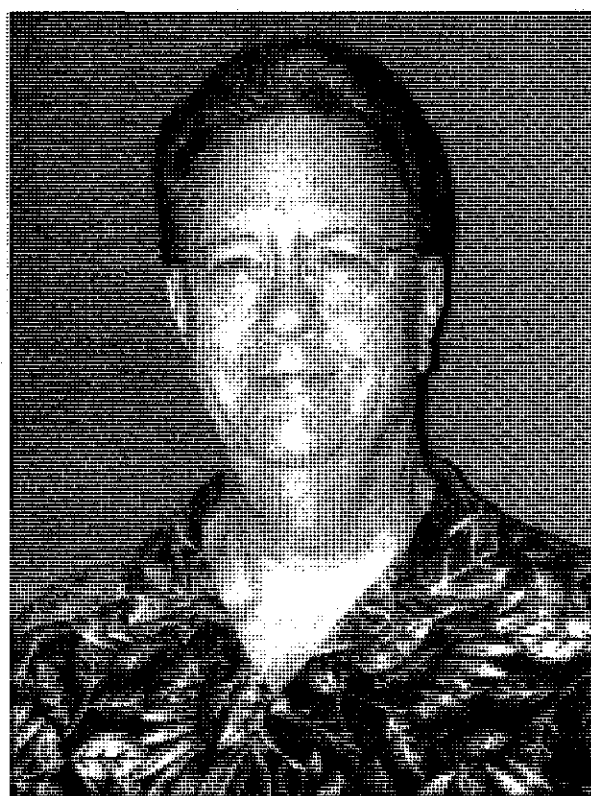
Key #1: Stress Enters the Body Through the Path of Least Resistance

For both children and adults alike, **the nerve system is the master control system of the body.** Some seventy trillion cells that make up the human body are under the direct control of your nerve system. When stress affects your nerve system, it can lead to virtually any kind of breakdown, anywhere in your body. In other words, **a healthy nerve system equals a healthy body.** And, equally an unhealthy nerve system equals an unhealthy body. When the nerve system is attacked by stress, it interrupts the master control system's ability to transmit wellness messages throughout the body. But, how do you know if your nerve system is experiencing abnormal stress?

Key #2: Posture is the Window to Your Future Because it's the Window to Your Health

When the body begins to experience abnormal functions like allergies, headaches, chronic pain, fatigue or lowered immunity, doctors know to look first at the nerve system for the answer. Posture is the window to your spine, which houses your nerve system. Put simply, if your nerve system is stressed, so is your spine and your posture. A careful evaluation of your spine could reveal the exact coordinate of where nerve supply may be "trapped" or interrupted due to stress or trauma.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Dr. Daniel Laframboise and my purpose in practice as a Chiropractor is to educate and adjust the families of Livonia back to optimal health and wellness using a completely unique and natural approach. I have been serving the health care needs of Livonia and the surrounding communities for 33 years and have received additional certification in pre-natal and pediatric Chiropractic care.



Dr. Daniel Laframboise

Tens of thousands of chiropractors, osteopaths and medical doctors understand this principle and apply it successfully to their own families. So, what does everybody else do? They throw drugs into their bodies and hope for the best. **Unfortunately, medications only mask the problem** while the original stress continues to produce negative results within the body. Now, you know the truth and can begin considering a brand new approach to the way you see your body recovering and healing. Here's what else they know that most other people don't...

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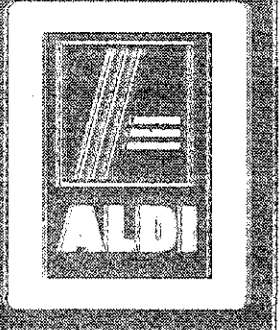
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Lawyer Fieger the latest 'Dining With Stars' guest

The *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* are teaming up with Buddy's to present "Dining With the Stars" featuring Southfield attorney Geoffrey Fieger.



Fieger

Fieger is one of the most successful and controversial trial attorneys in the country.

According to his Web site, Fieger has won more multimillion-dollar awards than any other attorney in the country.

A few of his most well-known trials include the defense of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, the *Jenny Jones Show* trial, and the defense of Nathaniel Abraham, the youngest person ever tried for murder as an adult in the state of Michigan.

Fieger has won record awards in Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania and Indiana, and many of his trials have generated national attention and set legal precedents.

In 100 words or less, tell us why you'd like to have lunch or dinner with Geoffrey Fieger at Buddy's Pizza.

Send your fan letter to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com and be sure to include your name, address, daytime phone number and e-mail address.

Deadline to enter the contest is 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15.

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

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

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Transportation & Limousine Services; a makeover from Beauty Salon by J.Lyle Ltd. featuring stylist and makeup artist Christine Fitzpatrick; a \$100 gift certificate to the Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield; and a dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

Other upcoming "Dining With the Stars" will feature Florine Mark of Weight Watchers, health and fitness guru, and *O&E* columnist Peter Nielsen, Ruth Spencer of WDIV's "Ruth to the Rescue" and Trudi Daniels of WRIF-FM.

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



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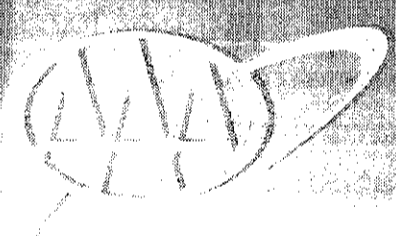
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OUR VIEWS

Protect your family: Learn and practice fire safety tips

Every year in early October, local fire departments across the country hold open houses to educate the public about fire prevention in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week.

The first observance coincided with Oct. 9, 1911, the 40th anniversary of the great Chicago fire of 1871 that killed 300 people, left 90,000 homeless and destroyed \$200 million in property. It has been acknowledged annually by the president ever since 1925.

And for good reason.

Though firefighting and prevention have come a long way since the first flame flickered inside Patrick O'Leary's cow barn on Chicago's West Side, more than 1.7 million fires continue to strike American homes, parks and businesses each year. In 2002, 2,670 people were killed and 13,650 were injured in home fires alone, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

The best way to prevent fires and save lives is through education.

The Plymouth Community Fire Department Plymouth Community Fire Department hosts its annual Fire Safety Open House 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Fire Station 1 on Haggerty north of Ann Arbor Road.

The well-run event features fire safety workshops for kids, tours, and a variety of demonstrations such as fire extinguisher, vehicle extrication, and kitchen fire. It's a great way for kids — and their parents — to learn about fire safety, and families should make plans to attend.

In the meantime, review these time-honored safety tips and put them into practice right away:

- Have a working smoke detector on each level of your home and outside of each sleeping area. Test smoke detectors at least once a month and replace batteries at least twice a year, or whenever a detector chirps to signal the battery is low.
- Keep all matches and lighters where children cannot reach them, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Plan with your family two ways to get out of every room, especially bedrooms. Make sure everyone can unlock all locks and open all windows and doors. Practice the escape plan at least twice a year. If you have a two-story house, consider buying a folding escape ladder for bedrooms on the second floor.
- Know what to do when you hear the smoke detector — treat it as real so you don't waste time checking, get down on the floor and crawl low to avoid high heat and toxic fumes, check the door before opening, open any door slowly and close it behind you.
- Plan an outside meeting place where everyone will gather. Plan to call the fire department from a neighbor's home. Once out, stay out. If someone or a pet is trapped, let the fire department rescue the pet because invisible toxic gases can kill you.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and/or workshop.
- Learn to identify and correct any fire hazards in your house.

Stop blaming teachers

I take great exception to the claim that the teachers unions are in some part responsible for the economic decline of Michigan. This is anti-labor, anti-humanitarian rhetoric that deserves no respect.

This great state which I was born in, educated in, and have worked in most of my life was built on the back of trade unions. The "great Republican" Reagan began dismantling the middle class and now the wheel has come full circle in this country.

The great success of American prosperity in the '50s and '60s was in large part a result of the Socialist movement created before World War II. It was an economy based on production and demand, not globalization and phony capital.

It is a shame that taxes have to be raised during these difficult economic times but get used to it because the federal government will soon have to realize that they can't keep paying for the "War on Terror" on our grandchildren's credit card account.

But don't worry, the teachers will always be around to blame for things going the wrong way. Just like the Nazis blamed the Jews and the homosexuals for their economic woes.

John Byk
Garden City

Embarrassing America

I wonder sometimes if I am the only one witnessing the events in Washington. The latest public resignation in the Bush administration, Alberto Gonzalez, demonstrated how disconnected the administration is with the country.

Alberto Gonzalez, former attorney general of the United States, was called before Congress to explain some not-so-legal or maybe questionable replacing of federal assistant attorneys across the country. Maybe I'm a little soft, but I don't consider it enjoyable when he is put before a committee for examination of actions. (I never enjoyed watching programs of embarrassing moments of others). There could not have been anyone in this country hoping more than I that some "intelligent insight" to the firings, right or wrong, would have come from the hearings.

Instead, we hope the people were treated to either an incomprehensible idiot without the common sense of a horse fly or someone knowingly lying about his involvement in an illegal effort to remove dedicated government employees of the jobs because it was

not politically advantageous for the administration for them to be in the position.

After all this occurred, Alberto Gonzalez stands in front of the American people and states that "my worst day as attorney general was better than the best day my father had working in this country." I thought, did I hear that right. It kept running through my head and then the next day I listened intently to his words and was sure. His father was a day laborer, a blue collar worker. I have been a blue collar worker, I can identify.

I had some pretty good days as a blue collar worker, even days spent sweeping a parking lot with a push broom from one end to the other. (As a matter of fact, I can't think of any job in this country that doesn't risk personal harm or illegal behavior that I wouldn't do, or another 100,000 people would do for just a living wage. This dispels Mr. Bush's insinuation that immigrants "will do the jobs Americans don't want." Even today, with two post-graduate degrees, I still sweep my driveway when needed, happily.

Immediately following Alberto Gonzalez' remarks, George Bush has the gall to state that Alberto Gonzalez is a good man that was "personally attacked" and politically driven from office. Did he watch the same embarrassing display before Congress? Does George Bush wear blinders? Could there ever have been a more public exhibition of real life dumb and dumber?

I was insulted by Alberto Gonzalez's remarks and equally by Mr. Bush. I have known and met hundreds of blue collar workers with more integrity, intellect, ability to lead and moral direction than Alberto Gonzalez. Pride of the Republican Party? Leader of the free world? More like the embarrassment of America.

Francis Meese
Westland

Repeal income tax

Repeal the income tax to keep cash in the pockets of consumers.

They can choose what services they need, and "volunteer" to pay the additional tax if they want to. To repeal the service tax is the wrong way to go. I do not know what the Detroit Chamber and businesses are complaining about, they will just pass that tax onto the consumer like any other purchased good where we pay sales tax.

In fact, the legislators need to expand the service tax to include games, movies and events to get the full potential of this tax, an estimated additional \$50,000,000 in

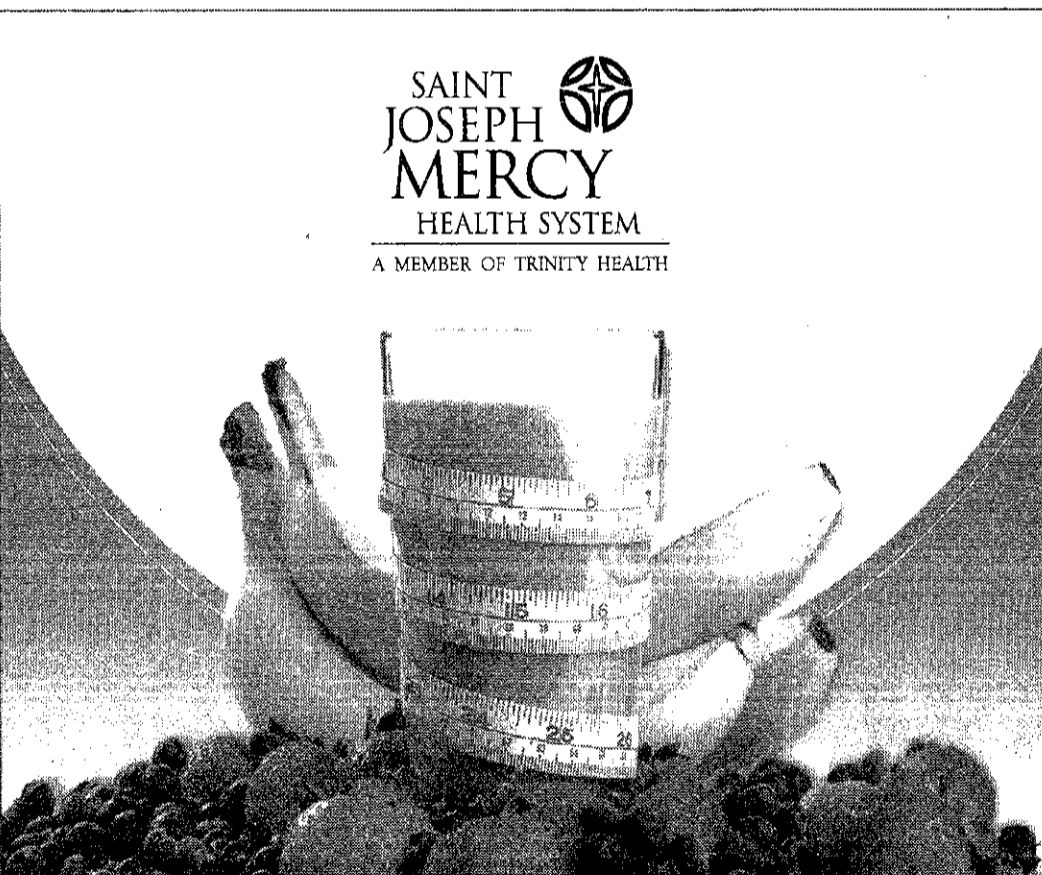
revenue.

If Lansing takes this action plus the following 11 they would be well on their way to repealing the income tax increase without impacting services to the citizens of the state of Michigan:

1. Make the political parties pay for the primary elections, not the citizens of Michigan = \$10,000,000
 2. Bid out the state health care programs at once every three years instead of using the same policy every year = \$500,000
 3. Cancel the new state police HQ project, it's not needed or wanted by the state police or Michigan State University = \$112,000,000
 4. Replace the state pension program with a 401(k)-style program managed by a third party nonprofit = \$52,400,000
 5. Reduce staff and expense accounts for legislators = \$550,000
 6. Eliminate paying for legislators' membership dues to organizations = \$103,000
 7. Eliminate lifelong health care and retirement for elected legislators = \$4,533,900
 8. Eliminate cars, housing and driving allowances for legislators and staff = \$20,000,000
 9. Overhaul the state's Information Technology Department = \$81,922,020
 10. Abolish the state Senate. We have no need for two sets of stagnant legislators! = \$36,192,200
 11. Building costs savings from eliminating senators and staff = \$967,900
- Add it all up for a grand total of \$369,169,020! And these are just estimates based on the House fiscal analysis of the legislative branch budgets. Imagine the combined savings when you throw in some cuts from the executive branch and judicial branch!
- No more taxes until the legislators make a real reform stand!
- And while we are talking real reforms, how about some campaign finance reforms?!
1. No contributions greater than \$50 from any contributor; including in-kind gifts
 2. No contributions allowed from nonconstituents
 3. No contributions from any companies or organizations including political parties and political action committees
- The time for rhetoric and shell games is over. Put Michigan first and do what is right for the citizens of the state, not your political careers!

Rich Ham-Kucharski
Canton

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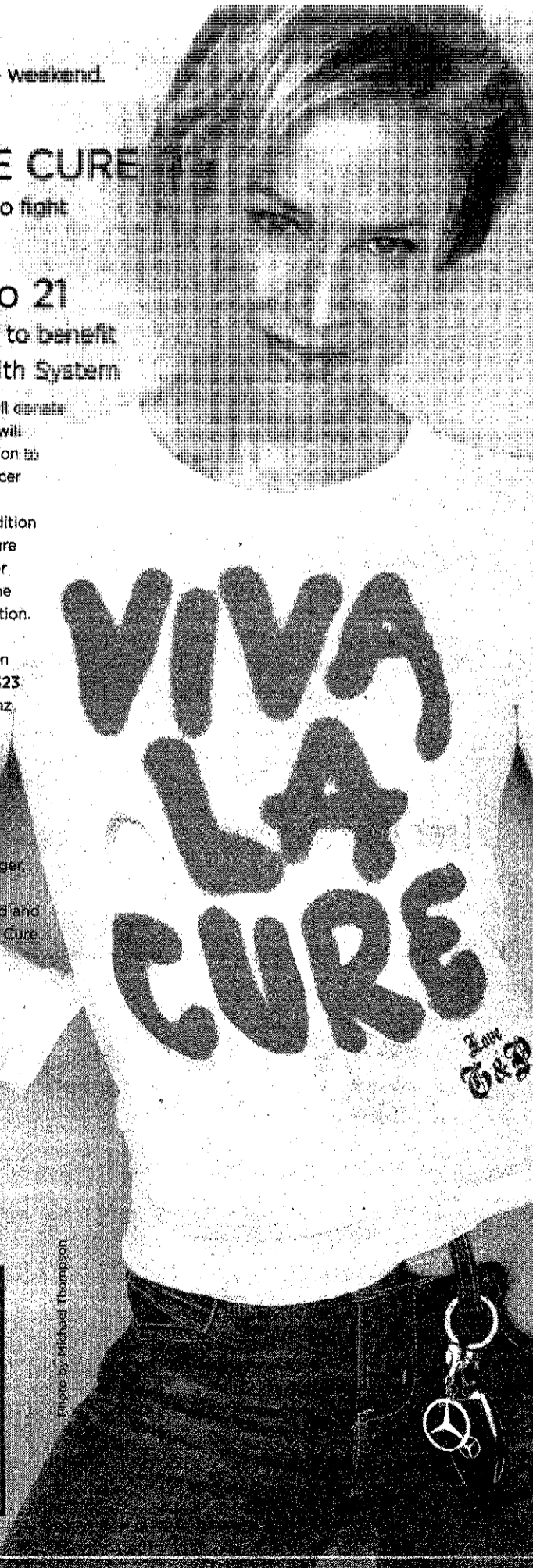
All Saks stores and saks.com will donate 2% of sales, and Off 5th stores will donate 1% of sales up to \$1 million to local and national women's cancer charities. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of each limited-edition T-shirt designed by Juicy Couture will benefit the Women's Cancer Research Fund, a program of the Entertainment Industry Foundation. Available in S, M, L, XL. \$35. To order or for more information about this event, call 888.771.2323 or visit saks.com. Mercedes-Benz USA will also make a generous donation of \$1 million to Saks Fifth Avenue's Key To The Cure through the sale of 1000 Special Edition 2008 C350 Sport Sedans. Special thanks to Renée Zellweger, the 2007 Ambassador for EIF's Women's Cancer Research Fund and Saks Fifth Avenue's Key To The Cure.



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They're in Churchill earns trip to playoffs

Livonia Churchill clinched a play-off berth and second place in the WLA A's Lakes Division standings Friday with a 37-14 football victory over winless Walled Lake Northern.

The Chargers (6-1, 4-1), who will make their third post-season appearance in school history and first since 2004, will play this Friday at Canton (4-3, 3-2) in a WLA A crossover game.

In the first quarter, Ryan Dolan returned an interception 21 yards for a touchdown, and a second Dolan pick-off set up the team's next score.

PREP FOOTBALL

Daran Carey and Jeff Ricketts had scoring runs of 5 and 47 yards.

The host Chargers led 27-7 at half-time following another TD run of 30 yards by Ricketts.

Ryan Whittum kicked a 23-yard field goal in addition to four extra points, and Carey capped the Churchill scoring with his second TD run from 1 yard.

Tom Ropek had a 96-yard kickoff return to pull the Knights (0-7, 0-5) within a touchdown in the first quarter, 14-7.

Northern's Joe Ventimiglia returned an interception 30 yards for a score with five minutes remaining in the game.

Churchill rushed for all but eight of its 368 total yards. Ricketts carried five times for 162 yards, Matt Kowalis 18-for-87.

"It was a sloppy game with lots of penalties, more than we would have liked," Chargers coach John Filiatraut said.

"The kids played pretty hard. The things we need to correct are fixable."

The Knights had 63 yards rushing and 34 passing. Collin Colegrove had six carries for 33 yards. Quarterbacks Gavin Sheridan and Jake Tucker were a combined 5-of-18 passing with two interceptions. Jared Rose made 10 tackles and Cameron Nash nine.



Canton's William Tidwell (with ball) eludes a diving Alan Freeman of Wayne Memorial on the way to a key first-half touchdown in the Chiefs' 35-22 victory Friday night.

Chiefs' QB sinks Wayne, 35-22

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

All-State Insurance should hire Canton quarterback Adam Powers.

That's because when the ball's in his hands, good things happen.

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound senior put up modest numbers in Friday night's 35-22 football win over visiting Wayne Memorial - eight rushes for 75 yards and 5-of-7 passing for 64 yards.

But it seemed every time the Chiefs needed a big play, Powers delivered with

either a key scramble or clutch throw, as Canton kept its postseason state playoff hopes afloat by improving to 4-3 overall and 3-2 in Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Wayne forged ahead 22-20 with only 10:03 left in the game when senior quarterback D.J. Freeman scored on 1-yard run on fourth down followed by his two-point keeper.

But Canton answered when Ryan Neu returned a short Wayne squib kick to the Zebras' 44. Six plays later and helped by a pass interference call, the Chiefs went

ahead for keeps on Nick Sweda's 5-yard touchdown run with 6:48 remaining.

The Chiefs' defense then stiffened as Wayne couldn't pick up a first down on fourth-and-3 at their own 44.

Canton put the game away with 2:47 remaining on Sweda's 2-yard TD run set up by Powers' scampers of 18 and 6 yards.

"Our defense did a great job the second half playing against the run," Canton coach Tim Baechler said. "And our offensive line played their guts out. The second

Please see **CHIEFS, B2**

Sidelines

Gabel saluted

The Detroit Lions have named Livonia Stevenson's Tim Gabel as the 2007 week six winner of the High School Coach of the Week Program presented by Motorola.

Gabel guided the Spartans to a 37-3 victory Sept. 28 over previously unbeaten Livonia Churchill to improve to 6-0 on the season.

The victory clinched the Spartans a state playoff berth for the eighth time in Gabel's 13 years as varsity football coach.

Gabel's overall record is 75-46. The Franklin High school grad served as an assistant at Stevenson for five years under Jack Reardon.

Each winning coach throughout the regular season will receive a \$2,000 donation to his school's football program.

All weekly winners will be honored at an awards ceremony during halftime of the Lions-Kansas City Chiefs game on Sunday, Dec. 23 at Ford Field.

During the ceremony, the Lions will announce the High School Coach of the Year. This year's honoree will receive a \$4,000 donation to his team's football program.

Grenier lauded

Mark Grenier, who guided Livonia Churchill to a 56-4-1 record and the 2007 (spring) Class A girls volleyball championship, will be honored Sunday, Nov. 4 at a luncheon in Lansing as Michigan High School Athletic Association Volleyball Coach of the Year.

Stickman 1st

Westland's Keenan Jones, a fifth-grader at Cooper School, was the overall winner in the elementary school 1-mile race with a time of 6 minutes, 23 seconds Tuesday at the Westland John Glenn Freshman-Sophomore Invitational.

Jones runs for Stickman United Club.



In hot pursuit

Churchill's Patrick Beier (left) controls the ball ahead of Franklin's Joel Boettcher during Friday's Western Lakes crossover. Churchill broke away from a 1-0 halftime lead to beat the Patriots, 5-1. See a roundup of area prep boys soccer games on page B3.

Happy homecoming

Woodford-Martin combination deliver for Glenn

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Midway through the first quarter of Friday night's John Glenn-Salem game, Rocket coach Todd Deluca ordered the "Homecoming Special," a razzle-dazzle play with everything on it.

The Rockets delivered when quarterback Keyshawn Martin - who lined up at wide receiver on the play - took a double-reverse hand-off from C.J. Woodford then launched a 50-yard, across-the-field pass off his back foot that Woodford caught and turned into a 68-yard scoring play to help spark the Rockets' 43-6 victory.

"We put that one in for the homecoming crowd," said DeLuca, referring to the Sports Center-caliber trick play. "That wasn't quite the way we drew it up, but it worked."

PREP FOOTBALL

As did just about everything else for the Rockets, who built a 26-0 advantage in the first quarter before getting neutralized for chunks of the final three quarters by the prideful Rocks.

"We're starting to get something going on offense," said Woodford, who slashed and dashed for 244 rushing and receiving yards, and four TDs. "Keyshawn's getting better at quarterback - he's making good decisions - and our blockers are giving us some big holes to run through."

"Keyshawn and I have been playing together since the seventh grade (with the Inkster Raiders), and we talk a lot away from practice, so we understand each other well."

The victory was crucial for

the Rockets (4-3 overall and 3-2 in the WLA A's Lakes Division), who need wins over Livonia Franklin next week and Wayne Memorial in the season finale to clinch a playoff berth.

"I thought we played well, except for the second quarter," said DeLuca. "We kind of had a letdown in the second quarter, but we talked about it at halftime. Overall, though, I was pleased with the way we played."

A trio of Rockets combined to give the Rocks fits - Woodford; Martin, who completed 5-of-6 passes for 118 yards and two TDs; and senior linebacker/running back/homecoming king Ryan Lopez, who scored on two of his four carries while serving as the eye of the storm for the Glenn defense.

"Ryan Lopez is a darn good

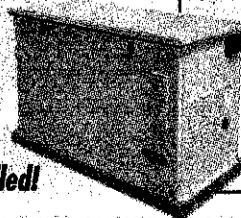
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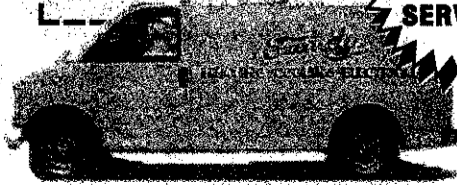
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SPARTANS pick off yet another WLAA foe, 39-8

FROM PAGE B1

football player," DeLuca said, with emphasis. "He had a great game tonight. He's our quarterback on defense."

Salem's offense showed flashes of brilliance, racking up 143 total yards, and the defense contributed some jarring hits, but the Rocks (1-6, 1-4) had a difficult time establishing consistency on either side of the ball.

Offensively, the brightest Rocks were reserve running back Marvin Thomas, who netted 37 yards and his team's lone TD on four carries; and senior wide receiver Jesse Poitner, who hauled in two Heath Parling passes for 46 yards.

After Josh Reed notched an interception on Salem's first play from scrimmage, Woodford sprinted virtually untouched from 20 yards out to start the rout. Victor Sanders' extra point made it 7-0.

Glenn salted the game away with TDs on their next three possessions -- a 4-yard run by Lopez, the double-reverse-pass play and a 15-yard scoring scamper by Woodford -- to go up 26-0.

Salem's defense, which was paced by senior linebackers Brandt Thomas and Justin Bader, stood its ground until Lopez darted for a 22-yard scoring run three minutes into the third quarter to make it 33-0.

Woodford gave the huge home crowd a Kodak moment when he nabbed a cross-field pass from Martin, split two defenders with a juke, then completed the 10-yard TD pass with a 340-degree somersault into the end zone.

"I kind of landed on the back of my head," said Woodford, explaining why it wasn't a 360. "(The somersault) wasn't intentional. I was falling forward and that's what I had to do to try and land right."

Salem's lone score came with no time left in the third quarter when Thomas sprinted 22 yards to paydirt. Sanders capped the scoring with a 37-yard field goal.

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Unbeaten and state-ranked Livonia Stevenson survived some anxious first-half moments Friday night before rolling to a 39-8 homecoming victory over visiting Walled Lake Central.

The WLAA-Lakes Division champions, who racked up 435 yards in total offense, improved to 7-0 overall and will face 6-1 Walled Lake Western, the Western Division champion, for the WLAA title. (Game time is 7 p.m. this Friday at Stevenson.)

Stevenson scored twice in the opening quarter as twins Mitchell and Myles White connected on touchdown passes of 53 and 38 yards. In between scoring plays, the Spartans fumbled the ball away at their own 10-yard line, but regained possession thanks to a Pat York interception in the end zone.

With 1:35 left in the half,

WLAA FOOTBALL WRAP

Central's Cory Davis teamed up with Justin Yeager on a 17-yard scoring pass. Cody Rzeznek ran in for the two-pointer to cut the deficit to 13-8.

But Stevenson responded with a hurry-up offense after a short Central kickoff.

Mitchell White, the senior quarterback, ran in from 7 yards out as time expired to make it 19-8 at the half.

The Spartans put the game away in the third quarter with a pair of TDs -- Emanuel Onwuemene on a 4-yard run and sophomore Austin White on a 2-yard run.

Mark Grisa's interception in the end zone set up Stevenson's final score, a 70-yard Austin White run with 7:49 to play. Jonny Myshock converted his third extra point

of the night to complete the scoring.

Mitchell White was 4-of-11 passing for 110 yards and rushed nine times for 65 yards.

Other leading rushers for the Spartans included Austin White (11-for-112) and Wade Stahl (5-for-55).

Central, which slipped to 2-5 overall and 2-3 in the Lakes, had 222 total yards, including 134 on the ground. The Vikings were 4-of-11 passing for 88 yards.

Stevenson's defense was led by stop stappers John Samaan and Wyatt Stahl.

Patriots corral Mustangs

It wasn't artistic, but Livonia Franklin emerged Friday with a 14-7 WLAA-Western Division victory at winless Northville.

Franklin had a total of 304 yards to Northville's 149.

Jesse Carpenter's fourth-quarter 23-yard touchdown pass to Brian Humenay broke a 7-all deadlock as the Patriots improved to 3-4 overall and 3-2 in the division.

Carpenter, a senior, completed 14-of-17 passes for 134 yards. Jeff McCullough caught four passes for 37 yards.

Franklin's leading rushers were Corey Tower (11-for-64) and Cole Kelly (10-for-61).

Mark McRobb's 24-yard interception return and Carpenter's extra point gave Franklin a 7-0 lead in the second quarter.

But Northville's Andrew Devine responded with a 60-yard TD run later in the period to make it 7-all at halftime.

Franklin was inside the red zone (20-yard line) three times, thwarted by a missed field goal, penalty and a fourth-down play just 20 seconds before the half.

half we started to finish our drives."

Trailing 14-13 at halftime, Canton took the lead with a 10-play, 55-yard drive kept alive when Powers took off and ran toward the left side of the Wayne defensive front out of punt formation for 16 yards. He added a 24-yard gain after momentarily losing the ball behind at the line of scrimmage. He then rolled out and took it in from 2 yards out on another keeper to make it 20-14 with 5:05 left in the third quarter (following Daniel Stoney's extra point).

"Offensively we were confident, but you've got to make some plays, it's a matter of executing," Powers said. "I just saw how the (Wayne) defense was reading it (the semi-fake punt) and I reacted. I saw it was open. It was not designed. Coach (Baechler) doesn't get mad -- as long as it works."

Baechler had no problem with Powers' improvising.

"Adam Powers is a player," the Canton coach said. "The fake punt was not my call. He just saw it and took off. Just make sure it's a first down and I won't be upset. It takes guts to see that was open and he had the smarts to go."

Wayne's playoff hopes took a severe hit with the loss. The Zebras are now 3-4 overall and finish 2-3 in the Western Division.

"Their quarterback runs their offense extremely well," Wayne coach Craig Hnatuk said. "He's a football player. And they're so solid fundamentally. They block and tackle. It's not one of their faster teams, but they trust each other."

With Sweda (21 rushes for 89 yards) carrying a bulk of the load, Canton's second possession of the first quarter resulted in a 15-play, 78-yard TD drive that consumed 7 minutes and 30 seconds of the clock. Powers' clicked on consecutive 7-yard passes to tight ends Todd Turfe and William Tidwell, the latter on fourth-and-goal as time expired to end the first quarter.

Wayne, however, came right back on just six plays, marching 64 yards in only 3:11 capped by Alan Freeman's 13-yard TD run. D.J. Freeman added the two-pointer on a run to put the Zebras ahead, 8-7.

Wayne, using its spread offense with five wideouts, scored again when Alex Bledsoe recovered a Canton fumble on the ensuing kickoff at the Chiefs' 26. The elusive and speedy D.J. Freeman scored five plays later -- with 5:33 left in the first half -- on a 3-yard keeper, but the Zebras failed to convert the two-pointer, leaving the count at 14-7.

Powers then went to work again just before the half, orchestrating a nine-play, 70-yard drive connecting on a pair of passes to the lanky Tidwell, one going for 13 yards and the other for 37 yards and a TD with only 0:47 to go.

But the point-after failed and Canton still trailed, 14-13, at intermission.

And when the Zebras went ahead on Freeman's early fourth-quarter TD and two-pointer, it appeared Canton was on the ropes.

But just like in setbacks to Jackson, Livonia Franklin and Walled Lake Western, the Zebras couldn't hold onto their second-half leads.

"The score was not an indication of the hitting in the game," Hnatuk said. "They (Canton) had to execute their passing game after they had to get out of the T-formation. They threw our coverage out the window."

"And if we hit a couple of passes when we had guys open, the score might have been closer and the game might have been more interesting."

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Lutheran North aerials stymie Warriors

Lutheran High Westland couldn't sustain its first-half momentum Friday night.

The Warriors took a 15-14 lead into the lockerroom against Macomb Lutheran North, but collapsed in the second half as the host Mustangs rolled to a 49-15 Metro Conference football victory.

"We had them on their heels, we had their foot on their throats, but it was our inability to stop their passing game," said Warriors' coach Paul Guse, whose team had six second-half turnovers. "It's frustrating."

North quarterback Robby Schneider hit 9-of-12 passes for 240 yards and three touchdown passes as the Mustangs improved to 6-1 overall and 6-0 in the Metro.

After North's Jesse Beebe capped a seven-play, 60-yard drive with a 1-yard TD run in the first quarter, Lutheran Westland's Eric Shoats countered with a 77-yard scoring

METRO FOOTBALL WRAP

run. Quarterback Billy Meier booted the point-after to make it 7-6 for the Warriors.

After North fumbled at its own 41, Lutheran Westland's Ryan Richter scored on a 2-yard run and Meier, who was lost to injury in the second half, ran in for the two-pointer to make it 15-6.

In the second quarter, Schneider hooked up with Steve Doerflinger on a 30-yard scoring pass and the North QB ran in for the two-point conversion to cut the deficit to one, 15-14.

The Warriors then had a 20-play drive stall at the Mustangs' 16 before the half expired, and things went quickly south from there.

To open the third quarter, the Warriors fumbled at their own 17 and four plays later, Schneider hit Andrew Fluegge on an 8-yard scoring play.

Schneider scored again on a 20-yard option run (followed a Warrior fumble) and Beebe scored his second TD of the night after a snap from center sailed over the Lutheran Westland punter's head -- also in the third period.

Two interceptions and another Warriors' fumble led to North's final two scores, a 5-yard run by Mitch Farrington followed by Eric Olivero's 10-yard run.

The Warriors had 311 total yards, including 247 yards rushing on 50 attempts. Shoats was 3-for-104, while Richter was 23-for-96.

North finished with a total of 407 yards.

Clarenceville falls

Livonia Clarenceville coach Ryan Irish saw some positives Friday despite a 26-14 non-conference setback at 6-1 Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, which sewed up a postseason playoff berth.

"We had only three or four penalties, and a couple were my fault when I was making personnel changes," said Irish, whose team slipped to 1-6 overall. "We became a more disciplined football team tonight. I wish we played that way the first three or four games and the season would have been totally different."

Clarenceville led 14-7 at the half on pair of touchdown runs of 1 and 3 yards by junior quarterback Jeremy Gainer. (Gainer also ran for a two-point conversion.) The Trojans, who did not have a turnover, had 195 total yards, including 189 on the ground. Levonte Brooks finished with 83 yards on 17 carries. Gainer added 26 on 13 tries.

Gainer led the defense with eight tackles and an interception.

Randy Aubrey, Daryl Witaker and Brad Pozniak each added six tackles.

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KNOW THE SCORE

check out the numbers in today's SPORTS section

No. 1 Spartans ground Pilots

Unbeaten Livonia Stevenson knocked off another quality opponent Thursday with a 1-0 boys soccer victory at Warren DeLaSalle.

The Spartans, who improved to 16-0 overall, got a goal early in the first half off a free kick from Dylan Green.

Goalkeepers Conner Burton (first half) and Justin Collins (second half) combined for six saves and the shutout.

"We got off to a good start to get the first goal," said Stevenson coach Lars Richters, whose team is ranked No. 2 in Division 2.

"But we were outplayed by DeLaSalle for quite a bit of the game. We did a nice job of finishing our one chance by showing some toughness to hold on when we had to.

"Burton was really good in the first half and Kendall Snow had a solid game in the back of the backline."

The loss dropped unranked DeLaSalle to 10-3-2 overall.

In a preview of WLA A championship on Wednesday, visiting Stevenson blanked the host Chiefs (11-2-4) as goalkeepers Collins (first half) and Burton (second half) combined on the shutout.

Collins stopped a penalty shot midway through the first half to protect a 1-0 Stevenson lead after Nate Sergison got the Spartans on the board at the five-minute mark off an assist from Adrian Fylenenko.

Chris Long's goal from Joey D'Agostino with 10 minutes remaining in the match sealed the victory.

Canton travels this coming Wednesday to No. 2-ranked Stevenson to meet in the Western Lakes Activities Association title matchup between division champions.

Game time is 7 p.m. at Stevenson. The two teams meet again in the first round of the Division I state district tournament on Oct. 15.

CHURCHILL 5, FRANKLIN 1: Ian Guerin tallied a pair of goals Friday as Livonia Churchill (8-6-3) downed host Livonia Franklin (3-13) in a WLA A crossover.

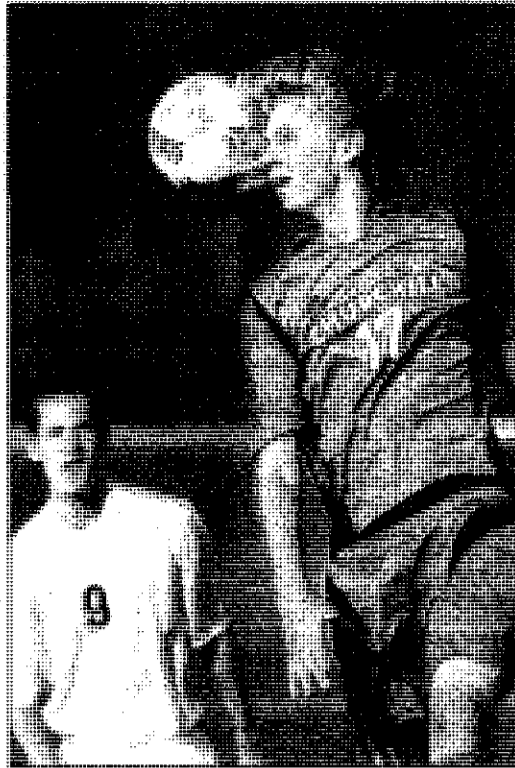
Adam Bedell chipped in with a goal and assist for the Chargers, who broke away from a 1-0 halftime lead. Kyle Schwarz and Matt Regan (from Erik Bird) also found the net.

Franklin's Mike Dobson scored off a corner kick from midfielder Steve Trapp, who stood out for the Patriots along with defender Travis Matthey.

JOHN GLENN 5, GARDEN CITY 1: Tomas Krasnowski scored a pair of goals and Khalid Suleiman added a goal and assist Friday as Westland John Glenn (3-12-1) clipped the visiting Cougars (7-6-1) in a non-league matchup.

John Vickery and Adam Patruno also scored for the rockets, who led 3-0 at halftime. Sergio Pavan and Nelson Kenne also drew assists.

Ron Berger's goal spoiled Glenn goalkeeper Zach



Churchill's Max Washko heads the ball towards the goal in front of Franklin defender Travis Matthey.

Redden's shutout bid.

WAYNE 1, EDSSEL FORD 0: Corey Taylor's goal proved to be the difference Friday night as Wayne Memorial (1-13-2) earned its first victory of the season against Dearborn Edsel Ford.

Aaron Nielson got the shutout in goal for the Zebras.

CHURCHILL 1, PLYMOUTH 1: Livonia Churchill (7-6-3) kept the high-scoring Colin Rolfe off the board in a WLA A crossover deadlock Wednesday against the host Wildcats (9-6-5).

Plymouth tallied an "own goal" with eight minutes remaining in the match, but Churchill's Adam Bedell countered moments later when he poked in ball that was knocked around the box off a corner kick.

Churchill goalkeeper Adrian Motta enjoyed a productive night, stopping Rolfe on a pair of breakaways.

Vinny Carozza, who committed to play at Schoolcraft College, marked the Plymouth standout.

"It was the best Vinny has played all year," Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs said. "I also thought Patrick Beier and Max Washko also played great games."

NOVI-DETROIT CC 6, FRANKLIN 0: Six different players scored Wednesday as Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (12-2-3) pulled away in the second half to beat host Livonia Franklin (3-12) in a non-league encounter.

David Bussey's goal with 2:25 left in the first half proved to be the game-winner.

Josh Gatt, Edwin David, Nick Pelon, Blake Miglio and Matt Bessen also scored for the Shamrocks.

"We had opportunities to put the ball in the net," lamented Franklin coach Vic Rodopoulos. "We did not win 50-50 balls. We had a total breakdown the second half."

Despite the loss, Rodopoulos singled out the play of his senior midfielder Steve Trapp.

"He played a great game," the Franklin coach said. "He was sending balls through but we did not meet them."

Cranbrook's free kick freezes Lutheran High Westland, 1-0

Senior Daniel Ko's left-footed free kick from 24 yards out proved to be the difference Thursday as host Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook escaped with a 1-0 Metro Conference boys soccer playoff victory over Lutheran High Westland in a battle of the fourth- and fifth-seeded teams.

Ko's game-winner came in the 53rd minute as the Cranes improved to 8-3-1 overall.

"It froze our goalkeeper, he (Micah Hausch) never had a chance," said Lutheran Westland coach Rich Block, whose team falls to 8-5-3 overall. "My boys played a lot better than the last time we faced them (a 2-1 loss at home

BOYS SOCCER

on Sept. 20). I'm very pleased with our possessing of the ball and our defense. We had cleaner opportunities in their offensive third of the field. We attacked the flanks and passed it through the middle. It was a complete turnaround from the first game. We'll be fine."

Do Young Na got the shutout in goal for Cranbrook, while Hausch stopped eight of nine shots for the Warriors.

LUTH. NORTH 4, CLARENCEVILLE 1: In the first round of the Metro Conference playoffs, host Macomb Lutheran North (7-5-4) turned back Livonia Clarenceville (4-11) as four different players tallied goals.

Adam Richardson, Jordan

Holmes, Drew Kidder and Brian Budchuk scored for the Mustangs.

Ryan Glass scored for the Trojans off an assist from Garett Hintzman.

CLARENCEVILLE 0, RU 0: In a non-league match Friday, host Redford Union and Livonia Clarenceville (4-11-1) battled to a scoreless draw.

Clarenceville goalkeeper Garrett Gregg made seven saves en route to the shutout.

BAPTIST PARK 8, HURON VALLEY 0: Senior Matt Tosh scored a pair of goals and added an assist, while junior Andrew Reid also tallied two goals to lead Taylor Baptist Park (10-3-2, 6-1-1) to a MIAC-Red Division triumph Tuesday over host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (0-11-1, 05-1).

Cody Simerly, Andrew Bruck and Matthew Reid each added goal for the victorious Wildcats.

Junior Mike Kilburu made 3 saves for the shutout.

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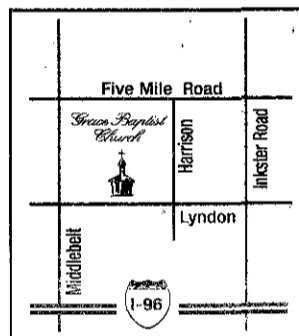
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Rowe paces S'craft win Dynamic boxers take stage

Salem grad Ryan Rowe is quickly making his presence felt in the Schoolcraft College men's soccer lineup, providing spark up-front for the Ocelots. Rowe assisted on Brad Spencer's game-winning goal Wednesday against visiting Delta College, giving him a goal and two assists in the three games since being inserted into the lineup on a regular basis.

"Michael Iyoha is still playing the bulk of the minutes in that lone forward position, but Ryan is allowing us to not miss a beat offensively," noted Schoolcraft assistant coach Eric Scott.

Spencer knocked in the rebound of Rowe's shot during the fifth minute of the Michigan Community College Athletic Conference tilt.

About 30 minutes later, the Ocelots made it 2-0 when Brandon Horvath drove a shot home after taking a slick pass from Brent Kempster, who had maneuvered through the Delta defense.

COLLEGE SOCCER

"Brandon is such a hard working, blue collar forward," Scott added. "It was nice to see him score such a calculating goal."

The Ocelots continued to apply heavy pressure in the second half, but came away empty handed.

Chris Riley and Sean Simney combined to make 4 saves in the shutout.

This conference victory puts the Schoolcraft men at 4-0 at the midway point of league play and 8-2-2 overall while Delta dropped to 2-7-2, 2-2-0.

CORNERSTONE 3, MU 0 (WOMEN): Jessica Brussee scored a goal and assisted on another to spark host Cornerstone to a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference women's soccer victory Wednesday.

The Golden Eagles (6-3-1, 4-2-1) also received a two-save effort by goalkeeper Julianne Bruining, who posted the shutout.

The defeat dropped MU's record to 6-4-2 overall and 5-2-1 in the WHAC.

September proved to be a busy month for Westland's Dynamic Boxing Club.

And October promises even more action with an amateur card of 16 bouts scheduled for the club's Fight Night, beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13 at the DBC, located at 28212 Warren Road (just west of Inkster Road).

There will be a donation of \$10 at the door.

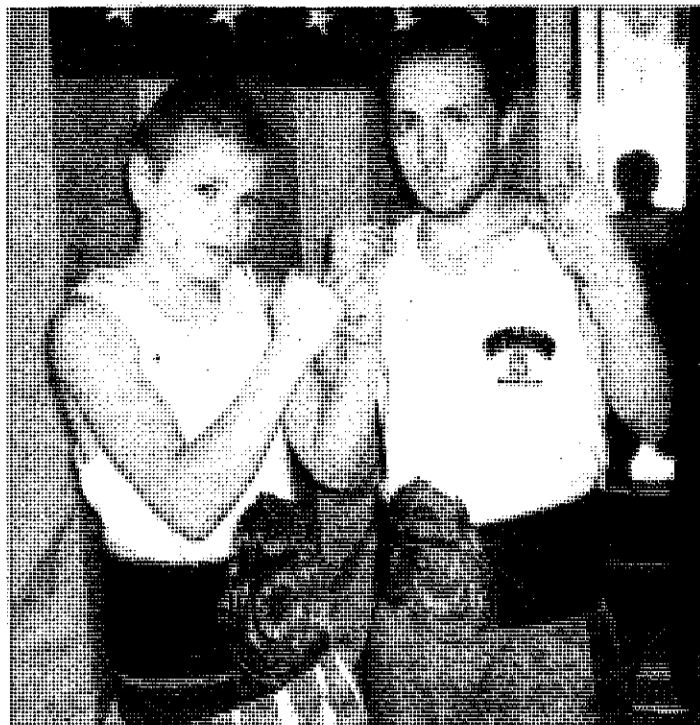
"Our fighters are doing great, we're traveling a lot and winning some great fights," said Dynamic's trainer and manager Paul Soucy of Livonia.

On Sept. 29, two Dynamic heavyweights, Sean Sedgeman of Romulus and Walter Burns of Inkster, took to the ring for the ninth annual Michigan Golden Gloves Extravaganza in Houghton Lake.

Burns earned a victory on a second-round knockout when he dropped his opponent three times, while Sedgeman put up a battle before losing to Thomas Lewis of Belding.

On Sept. 21, Dynamic's up-and-coming 119-pounder Dustin Brewer (New Boston) improved his record to 5-2 when he defeated Yousif Ghaleb of Lincoln Park's Casa De Boxeo Gym.

"Dustin works very hard on



Josh Ivezaj (left) of Livonia and Giovanni Medoro of Canton are expected to be featured on a 16-bout amateur card beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Dynamic Boxing Club in Westland.

his training regimen and does not cut corners," Soucy said.

Livonia's 112-pounder Josh Ivezaj, meanwhile, lost a close decision to Jorge Rosario of Pontiac's Unity Boxing Club in a rematch. The two met Sept. 15 on a card hosted by the Big Dog Boxing Club in Port Huron with Ivezaj earning the decision.

Giovanni Medoro of Canton (145) decisioned Nathan Cremiens of Sault Ste. Marie to give Dynamic two victories on the night.

Ivezaj, Medoro, Burns and Sedgeman will be among those featured on the Oct. 13 Fight Night card.

More information, call Dynamic at (734) 422-3277.

Blazers settle for deadlock

Sophomore goalkeeper Sara Burnosky made eight saves Thursday as Livonia Ladywood settled for a 2-2 tie with visiting Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day in a Michigan

High School Girls Field Hockey League Division II match.

Ladywood is 4-3-3 overall and 1-2-3 Division II, while Country Day is 3-3-3 overall and 2-3-3 in Division II.

PREP BOYS TENNIS RESULTS

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 5 FARMINGTON HILLS HARRISON 3 Oct. 2 at F.H. Harrison

No. 1 singles: Tim Smolen (WJG) defeated John McDonald, 3-6, 6-0, 6-4.
No. 2: Rob Fraser (WJG) def. Ben Samoylov, 6-2, 6-1.
No. 3: Alex Colosimo (WJG) def. Naveed Carim, 6-2, 6-2.
No. 4: Gordie German (WJG) def. Cole Tritt, 6-0, 6-0.
No. 1 doubles: Masahiro Hatsuda-Chris Guennewig (FHH) def. Zach Ernat-Nick Hubbard, 6-3, 6-1.
No. 2: Trevor Kasson-David Gee (FHH) def. Jeremy Proffit-Jacory Frowner, 6-4, 7-5.
No. 3: Khari Stargell-Shahid Hussain (WJG) def. Dan Marvicsin-Paras Garg, 6-1, 6-7 (5-7), 6-4.
No. 4: Dan Anthony-Dong Birshir (FHH) def. Zach Edwards-Matt Starkey, 6-2, 7-5.
Glenn's dual meet record: 2-11 overall.

LIVONIA STEVENSON 7 WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 1 Sept. 28 at John Glenn

No. 1 singles: Gino McConathy (LS) defeated Tim Smolen, 6-0, 6-1.
No. 2: Chris Martin (LS) def. Rob Fraser, 6-4, 6-0.
No. 3: Anthony Hage (LS) def. Alex Colosimo, 6-3, 6-4.
No. 4: Gordie German (WJG) def. Paul Franchina, 6-4, 6-2.
No. 1 doubles: Chris Orlos-Clayton Northey (LS) def. Zach Ernat-Nick Hubbard, 6-0, 6-0.
No. 2: Matt Nguyen-Evan McWilliams (LS) def. Jeremy Proffit-Jacory Frowner, 6-2, 6-1.
No. 3: Lukas Rudis-Paul Vanilder (LS) def. Khari Stargell-Shahid Hussain, 6-1, 6-0.
No. 4: Kyle Fan-Jeff Sondergaard (LS) def. Zach Edwards-Matt Starkey, 6-1, 6-0.
Dual meet records: Stevenson, 9-2-1 overall, 8-2-1 WJG; John Glenn, 1-11 overall, 0-11 WJG.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 6 WALLED LAKE WESTERN 2 Sept. 28 at Churchill

No. 1 singles: Nick Payne (LC) defeated Mike Chou, 6-1, 6-2.
No. 2: Aniket Patil (LC) def. Garek Ng, 6-2, 6-2.
No. 3: Akshay Moorthey (LC) def. Brad Stone, 6-2, 6-4.
No. 4: Alex Cios (LC) def. Arjun Mahajan, 6-1, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3.
No. 1 doubles: Robert Fortney-Daniel Landstorm (LC) def. Adam Goldman-Blair Globerman, 6-2, 6-3.
No. 2: Lenny Kugel-Dan Wang (WLW) def. Erik Newman-Eric Siusarski, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.
No. 3: John Tabor-Mike Appel (LC) def. Tom Deloy-Scott Goldstein, 6-1, 7-6 (7-2).
No. 4: Michiro Wantabe-Josh Preston (WLW) def. Tim Deng-Vishal Joshi, 6-0, 6-2.
Churchill's dual meet record: 9-3-2 overall, 7-3-1 WJG.

WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 7 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 1 Sept. 27 at W.L. Central

No. 1 singles: Eric Hamann (WLC) defeated Walter Woods, 6-0, 6-0.
No. 2: Derek Mitchell (WLC) def. Chad Dorton, 6-1, 6-0.
No. 3: Ryan Hulteen (WLC) def. Garrett Gumm, 6-0, 6-0.
No. 4: Kyle Yanalunas (WLC) def. Joe Kosinski, 6-1, 6-1.
No. 1 doubles: Dan Camilleri-Tony Semonick (LF) def. Matt Mueller-Kyle Smiley, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).
No. 2: Jake Paulson-Paul Gregory (WLC) def. Erik Robertson-Nick Wegela, 6-1, 6-2.
No. 3: Vinnie Vouchard-Kevin Walker (WLC) def. Nate Warrick-Ryan Henderson, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.
No. 4: Mustafa Khan-Jared Goltz (WLC) def. Skene Milne-Walt Alfonso, 6-0, 4-6, 6-2.
Franklin's dual meet record: 2-11 overall, 2-9 WJG.

SALEM 8 WAYNE MEMORIAL 0 Sept. 27 at Salem

No. 1 singles: Lawrence Washington (Salem) defeated Kevin Erdmann, 6-2, 6-1.
No. 2: Brett Foster (Salem) def. Mike Hicks, 6-1, 6-0.
No. 3: Dion Walker (Salem) def. Eric Robertson, 6-1, 6-0.
No. 4: Salem wins on walkovers.
No. 1 doubles: Brock Foster-Eduardo Diaz (Salem) def. Andrew Morton-Kanav Mahotra, 6-0, 6-0.
No. 2: Tyler Jeleniewski-Ryan Aubert (Salem) def. Josh Phillips-Josh Harnos, 6-0, 6-0.
No. 3: John Kang-John Bills (Salem) def. Austin Hassen-Jesse English, 6-0, 6-1.
No. 4: Carl Dunn-Parth Patel (Salem) def. Daylen Thurmond-Kevin Samples, 6-0, 6-1.
Dual meet records: Salem, 11-1 overall; Wayne, 3-10 overall, 1-10 WJG.

SALEM 7 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 0 Sept. 26 at Franklin

No. 1 singles: Lawrence Washington (Salem) def. Steve Trapp, 6-1, 6-0.
No. 2: Brett Foster (Salem) def. Walter Woods, 6-2, 6-4.
No. 3: John Bills (Salem) def. Chad Dorton, 7-5, 6-3.
No. 4: David Benson (Salem) def. Garrett Gumm, 6-0, 6-0.
No. 1 doubles: Brock Foster-Eduardo Diaz (Salem) def. Dan Camilleri-Tony Semonick, 6-0, 6-1.
No. 2: Tyler Jeleniewski-Ryan Aubert (Salem) def. Erik Robertson-Peter Lee, 6-2, 6-0.
No. 3: Yuvi Rajeev-Andy Steinman (Salem) def. Nate Warrick-Joe Kosinski, 3-6, 6-3, 6-0.
No. 4: Surya Nagarajan-Bobhan Pelekh (Salem) vs. Skene Milne-Walt Alfonso (LF), 4-4 (third set match suspended).
Dual meet records: Salem, 10-1 overall; Franklin, 2-10 overall, 2-8 WJG.

GIRLS GOLF RESULTS

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 193 WALLED LAKE WESTERN 204 Oct. 1 at Links of Pinewood

Churchill scorers: Shannon Warner, 40 (medalist); Lexi McFarlane, 49; Amanda Dobos and Danielle Lesniak, 52 each; Jessica Burdette, 53; Stephanie Panaretos, 61.
Western scorers: Marni Weinsten, 47; Michelle Cha, 51; Amanda Schwandt, 52; Melanie Wilkerson, 54; Leah Carlson, 57; Rodney Ravel, 62.
Churchill's dual meet record: 10-0 overall, 10-0 WJG.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

WYAA girls fastpitch

The Westland Youth Athletic Association Lightning will stage registration for its fastpitch girls softball program (ages 8-18) from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays at the WYAA Compound, 6050 Farmington Road, Westland.

Birth certificates are required. Call Bruce Iannicello at (734) 729-7736; or visit www.wyaa.org. You can also call (734) 421-0640.

MU fall baseball games

Fans of the Madonna University baseball program will be able to get their first look at the 2008 team by attending any of four home dates to cap the fall schedule at Hlitch Ballpark. The Crusaders will host a pair of scrimmage contests plus the annual Blue & Gold intra-squad series. On Oct. 12, Madonna will host Mott Community College. MU will also play its annual intra-squad Blue & Gold series in October. Games 1 and 2 will start at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11 and Tuesday, Oct. 16. Games 3-5 will cap fall practices at 2 p.m. Friday through Sunday, Oct. 19-21.



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Blubbering: Face to face with my 'growing-up' coach

Tears trickled down my cheeks and onto my well-worn copy of *Blubber*. Sophia rolled her own dry eyes and inched away, mortified that her mother was crying in public.

My 7-year-old's only awareness of the woman standing in front of us was through *Freckle Juice* — a fun read, but hardly life-changing. I, on the other hand, began my Judy Blume Experience three decades ago, and have lived in awe of the author ever since.



Mom's the Word

Rebecca Kavanagh

I literally shrieked when I heard Judy Blume would be visiting the Novi Borders bookstore earlier this month to promote her new illustrated chapter book, *Soupy Saturdays With the Pain and the Great One*. The sentiment was shared by several of my thirty-something friends, all of whom cut their literary teeth on Judy Blume. We relied upon the prolific author to demystify puberty, divorce and puppy love, doing so with humor and style. Now, we all had elementary-aged daughters who would serve nicely as an excuse for attending a children's book event.

I shaped my entire day around our trip to Borders. It began with a frantic search through the house for the stack of "Judy Blumes" I'd packed up before moving from my childhood home. When I finally unearthed the books, it was like coming across a trove of diaries. Each cover evoked distinct memories of those days when boys made me blush, sleepovers were the highlight of my social calendar, and braces were my biggest problem.

I devoured my first Blume book the summer after my parents got divorced and I was sent to spend a week with my mom's sister in Wisconsin. Aunt Judy (no relation) answered my bratty question, "What's there to do in Elkhorn?" by handing me a copy of *Blubber* and pointing to the sun porch. I spent hours swaying in the hammock, too immersed in Jill's problems to think about my own.

For the next several Christmases and birthdays, Judy Blume books topped my wish lists. Margaret taught me about beginner bras and What Every Girl Should Know. Deenie taught me about scoliosis and junior high angst. Sally J. Freedman taught me about World War II-era Miami Beach and Jewish grandmothers. But above all, every book that Judy Blume cranked out taught me how well-crafted prose could transport readers to a different world. Judy Blume inspired me to write.

Which is why I couldn't help but cry when I saw her for the first time in person. After gobbling up her every word during the Q&A (and surreptitiously swiping away tears), I waited in line for the better part of an hour to shake her hand. With one eye on the autograph table and one eye on Sophia — giggling and wriggling with two book-loving pals we'd brought along — I made mental notes for a novel of my own, inspired anew.

Regardless of whether the day does in fact kick-start my higher literary ambitions, it was a roaring success for one reason: It kick-started Sophia's interest in quality children's fiction. Before our Blume encounter, Sophia had been content with Barbara Park's grammar-challenged Junie B. Jones. (Side note: When a young fan at Borders asked Blume how old Junie B. Jones was, the author graciously responded that she does not pen that series, adding, "I'm Judy B., not Junie B.")

Upon our return from the bookstore, Sophia tore into her autographed copy of *Soupy Saturdays*, and has been alternating between it and Blume's *Superfudge* ever since.

I have my '80s-era paperbacks handy for when she's ready for her next selection, including my newly signed copy of *Blubber*. I hope my daughter gleans from each book everything I did: That growing up can be gut-wrenching and embarrassing and bewildering, but that we're never in it alone.

Rebecca Kavanagh is a Farmington Hills writer and mother of two. Write to her at momsthecolumn@gmail.com.

POP art



Pat Bohn and Jim Tait are masters of balloon art.

Event showcases temporary medium of balloon twisting

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Just last Monday, Pat Bohn's living room was filled with witches and ghosts who since have disappeared from the Livonia home. The place wasn't haunted, but a temporary showcase for the creations sometimes called Pop Art because the balloons eventually either shrink or bust. Like ice sculptures and sand castles, the latex sculptures are fleeting, but that's part of their charm.

On Thursday, Oct. 11, patrons of the Canton Coney Island can see how much fun the art can be when members of the Michigan Twisters Group make Halloween-themed decorations and hats as part of the 8th Balloons Around the World event. Last year, balloon artists blew up and twisted sculptures in nearly all 50 states as well as France, England, Germany and several more countries including Thailand and China.

Pat and Mike Bohn, and Jim Tait twisted up spiders, spirits, pumpkins, Dracula, and the witches and ghosts to illustrate some of the art they'll craft from balloons during the event founded by Jeff Brown of Juneau, Alaska.

"We're expecting at least 50 artists to



Pat Bohn and Jim Tait can spend minutes or days on a balloon sculpture.

come in from the area and from as far as Port Huron, Battle Creek," said Jim Tait of Canton. "It's for anyone interested in the art of balloon twisting. We'll be going around to the tables. We will have a 50-50 raffle and free door prizes. After we'll be meeting in the back room, trading ideas. We meet every six to eight weeks in restaurants around

the Detroit area. We can twist a gift, decorations or decor for Halloween and can do the same thing for Christmas or St. Patrick's Day.

"We have a lot of fun. When you go up to a person and make something it creates a smile, a warm fuzzy feeling.

Please see **BALLOONS, C3**

BALLOONS AROUND THE WORLD

What: Artists demonstrate the art of balloon twisting and decorating
When: 4-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11
Where: Canton Coney Island, 8533 N. Lilley and Joy in Golden Gate shopping center
Details: Visit www.geocities.com/michigantwistersgroup or call (734) 788-3050

Actors tackle Ken Ludwig comedy about Hollywood

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

SHAKESPEARE IN HOLLYWOOD

What: Schoolcraft College Theatre presents Ken Ludwig's comedy
When: 6:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 19-20, and Oct. 26-27 (dinner theater), and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 2-3 (performance only)
Where: Liberal Arts Theater on campus, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia
Tickets: \$24 dinner theater, \$12 performance only. Call (734) 462-4596.

Professor James Hartman has been laughing hysterically ever since rehearsals began for Ken Ludwig's *Shakespeare in Hollywood*.

Hartman selected the comedy to open the Schoolcraft College Theatre season Friday, Oct. 19, never having read the play about Shakespeare's fairies Oberon and Puck. Hartman directed Ludwig's *Moon Over Buffalo* last year and drew sellout audiences.

Set in 1934, *Shakespeare in Hollywood* follows the two fairies who magically materialize on the Max Reinhardt set for *Midsummer Night's Dream*, an actual film which came out in 1939.

"This is not a Shakespeare play. It's a modern comedy," said Hartman,

Please see **COMEDY, C3**



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brenda Lane, as Olivia, rehearses a scene with Brian Taylor, as Oberon, during a dress rehearsal for Schoolcraft college's production of *Shakespeare in Hollywood*.



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Local celebrities model fall fashions to help autistic students

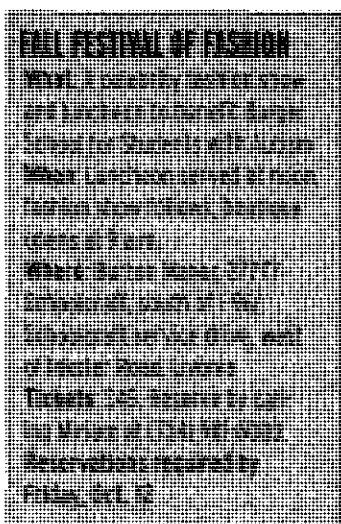
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Cynthia Jamieson's favorite part of the Redford Suburban League's Fall Festival of Fashion is working with the celebrity models in the show. The 34th annual fundraiser takes place Wednesday, Oct. 17, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Proceeds benefit the Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City.

This year's fashions come from the Dress Barn in downtown Farmington.

"They can be so funny," said Cynthia Jamieson, a Redford resident who's served as show chairperson for about 17 years. "It's so fun to work with somebody who says they've never been on a runway before. Our audiences are so supportive that they come back and say this is great. This year we have a nice lineup of celebrities to model, and it's hosted by Rich Fisher with a surprise co-host."

Channel 7's Glenda Lewis, Erin Nicole and Dennis Neubacher join Channel 4's Paul Gross and Dr. Frank McGeorge on the runway along with Channel 2's Ron Savage. Jo-Jo Shutty-MacGregor returns again



...this year as does Chief Larry James, Nancy McCauley, Beth Fisher, Terry T. Brown, Krystle Klein, Tracy Gary, Colleen Burcar, Audrey Sommers, and Tom Schoenith are among the rest of the familiar faces. New this year is Wensdy Von Buskirk, fashion editor, and Linda Ann Chomin, health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Also modeling are Sheila Sigrow, 1993 Mrs. Michigan International, and Ashlee Baracy, the 2007 Miss Wayne County.

The fashion show follows a luncheon and craft boutique.

At the end of the afternoon the League raffles off more than 100 prizes including an inlaid chest valued at \$2300 by Jonathan Charles, Fine Furniture by Wildwood, donated by Chris Furniture, Livonia; a 14-karat gold amethyst and rose quartz pendant and earring set donated by Orin Jewelers, Garden City; \$500 cash from the Redford Suburban League, and 30 theme baskets typically worth several hundred dollars. League members contribute money to purchase items for the baskets. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

"The craft boutique will have everything from children's items to toys, clothes and jewelry, some unique things, fantastic Christmas decorations. If any crafters want to join we can make room for more crafters," said Jamieson.

Last year's event raised about \$20,000 for the Old Village School in Northville. Past beneficiaries have included Penrickton Center for Blind Children and the Northwest ARC.

The Redford Suburban League was founded in 1955 by eight bridge club members who wanted to help children. Today the 150-member organization not only includes Redford residents, but women from Farmington, Canton, Plymouth, and Port Huron.

Burger School for Students with Autism is the largest public school program in the country to specialize in educating students with autism, a developmental disability that affects functions of the brain and development of social interaction and communication skills. A 2007 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report



Last year members of the Redford Suburban League created these theme baskets to raise funds for children.



Doris Biscoe, Rich Fisher and Cynthia Jamieson enjoy last year's Fall Festival of Fashion. Biscoe and Fisher have been the fashion show's commentators for years.

Like Jamieson, Lynn Dailey is excited about working with the models. She began fitting the local female celebrities with outfits last Wednesday. "They're going to be modeling one dressy outfit and a casual outfit," said Lynn Dailey, assistant manager at the Dress Barn in Farmington. "We're very excited to let people know what we have. This isn't your mother's or grandmother's Dress Barn. We have more trendier styles. We have Tahari, Kasper, and Seven7, a European stylish jean. This fall we're seeing a lot of purples, grays, rusts and browns, a tweedy look with houndstooth. The men's wear look is still in with vests and shirts."

For information about joining the Redford Suburban League, call (248) 960-0853.

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Mary Mabe - C156 - household items
Brandy Dalton - D114 - household items
Iris Vera - C127 - china cabinet, speakers, TV, lamp, ice skates, totes, chandelier.

Published: October 7, 2007 & October 14, 2007

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Wine tasting to benefit people with developmental disabilities

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

One day Livvie and Jim Lutfy's teenage daughter Margaux may no longer want to live with mom and dad so the Livonia business owners want to do everything they can to make sure the Community Opportunity Center will still be there to help people with special needs.

The nonprofit management corporation provides housing and support services for people with developmental disabilities in Plymouth, Livonia, Garden City, Westland and Redford.

Jim helped out with the COC golf outing fund-raiser for the last four years, and this spring suggested the Wine Tasting Benefit and Auction to take place on Friday, Oct. 19, at Burton Manor. He and Livvie are donating 5 baskets of wine and goodies each valued at between \$150 and \$250 to raise money for the organization. It was easy to assemble the black cherry cognac sauce, olive oil, chocolate, and wines such as Chateau Noel St-Laurent 2003 Cotes Du Rhone and Anselmo Cabernet Sauvignon 2003 from Napa Valley as they walked around their store, The Fine Wine Source on Middlebelt, south of Six Mile, in Livonia.

"We like the area in where they're located, what they offer kids, depending on their needs," said Livvie Lutfy. "It gives her independence. It's hard but you want to see them have independence. Being a mother you want to do everything for your child."

"We help people with a lot of charity events," said Jim Lutfy who has done more than 50 wine tasting benefits during the past three decades. "I know this a great cause. I'm going to be giving more time and energy."

The Community Opportunity Center serves nearly 100 residents who live in 21 homes and 9 apartment settings in western Wayne County.

"COC gives adults with disabilities a chance to be mainstreamed and live in the community. They feel so independent," said Kathryn DeGeorge, chairperson of the COC fund-raising committee. "COC teaches them to do their own laundry if they're capable of it. We try to mainstream everyone."

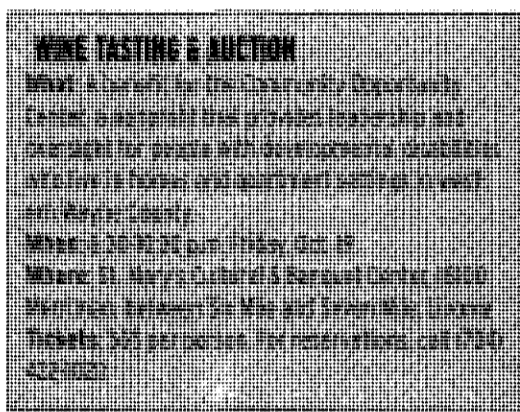
Supporters at the Oct. 19 event will be able to taste more than 100 wines ranging in price from \$10 to \$150 a bottle. The Fine Wine Source specializes in wines from around the world.

"We have different vendors come and show their different wines - cabernet, pinot, chardonnay, sauvignon blancs from Napa



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livvie (left) and Jim Lutfy, and Kathryn DeGeorge recently gathered to discuss the Oct. 19 Wine Tasting Benefit & Auction for the Community Opportunity Center. The Lutlys donated five baskets of goodies from their Fine Wine Source business in Livonia.



Valley (Calif.), Italian, French, Chilean," said Livvie. "When they walk in they get a sheet with wines by each vendor. 10 percent of every bottle sold goes to COC, and you can order what you like after tasting it."

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COMEDY

FROM PAGE C1

who's producing his 51st play at Schoolcraft College. Hartman recently released his book, *An Actor's Edition of Shakespeare Revisited*. A fan of Shakespeare, Hartman began editing the five plays in the book 12 years ago to make Shakespeare accessible to modern audiences.

"I like the way Ken Ludwig writes. He has some real life people — Jimmy Cagney, Groucho Marx, Dick Powell. It's an added challenge for the actor. The audience will see some resemblance of them. Some of the older people will recognize some of the characters. People who know Shakespeare will like it because there's a lot of reference to Shakespeare lines. The average person will like the fast-paced action and physically funny things. There is jumping around and chase scenes. Some of it is bawdy."

The story line revolves around a magical flower which casts a spell on anyone who

ends up with a piece of it in their eye.

"They fall in love with the first person they see," said Hartman who cast the 28 actors after auditions in September.

"I added extras and I'm calling it an ensemble. We needed extras because there's a scene with a big Hollywood party being given by Warner Bros. The actors are a mixture of people, several returning actors, a lot of new people, community people as well as students. Some are very experienced. Some are making their stage debut."

Benjamin Karl has been on the stage of the Liberal Arts Theater many times before. The Redford actor plays Max Reinhardt.

"I'm a big fan of Shakespeare," said Karl. "The last few shows were heavy drama. This comedy gives us an opportunity to bring Shakespeare to the masses although this is not a Shakespeare play. A lot of people are afraid of Shakespeare. My character is an eccen-

tric who's almost comic relief within a comedy. He's the stereotype of a director who turns into a tyrant."

Brenda Lane plays Olivia, a love interest of at least two of the characters.

"The audience is going to enjoy all the different story lines going on and how their relationships change during the play and how the comedy brings that out," said Lane, who like Karl has been on the Schoolcraft stage several times over the years. "The era is so interesting as far as building a character. You can have an innocence. My character might be based on Katharine Hepburn."

Oberon is one of the characters who falls in love with Olivia. Brian Taylor of Plymouth plays the king of the fairies.

"We get cast in the movie as ourselves," said Taylor, who's appeared in many of the college's productions. "I'm jealous of another character. It's a hoot."

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BALLOONS

FROM PAGE C1

When I go to a restaurant I frequently leave the waitress a tip and the Teddy Bear."

Tait became interested in twisting when he joined Clowns Around Redford. He's since left the makeup and costume behind.

"People associate balloon animals with clowns but it goes beyond what clown balloon artists can do," said Tait. "For me it evolved over time. We've twisted at the Canton Fishing Derby, Ann Arbor Art Fairs, Plymouth Art in the Park, Tapper's Jewelers, company picnics, parties as well as festivals at places like NorthRidge Church. We're

twisting for entertainment a couple of times a week during summer."

Balloon twisting is becoming big business. Tait recently went to a two-day convention in Illinois to learn everything from how to entertain with balloons to the business aspect.

It's amazing the sculpture that can be made by twisting balloons. *Balloon Magic*, a magazine on the art, showcases life size dinosaurs and motorcycles.

And it's an inexpensive art. A bag of 100 twisting balloons costs under \$10.

Bohn's been twisting almost eight years. She originally wanted to be a clown.

"We have a lot of fun," said Bohn.

Members of the Michigan Twisters Group range in age from 9 to 73, but there is no age limit. And there are no dues.

"We have members from Port Huron to Holland, Livonia to Westland to Garden City," said Tait. "We usually end up popping what we make because we're creating, experimenting and teaching each other."

For more information about balloon twisting, visit www.BalloonsAroundTheWorld.com or www.balloonhq.com, or send an e-mail through the Michigan Twisters site at www.geocities.com/michigantwistersgroup.

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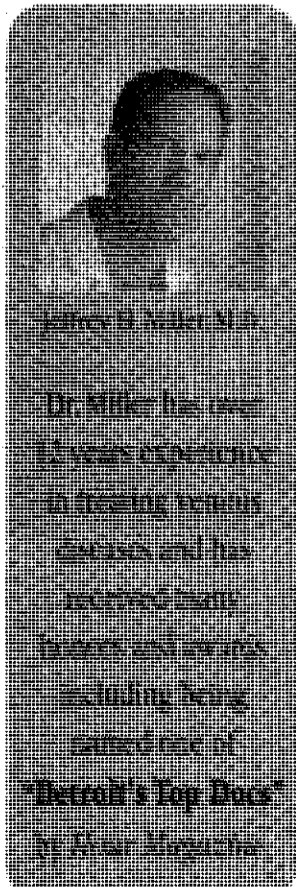
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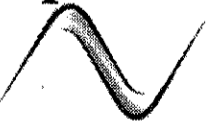
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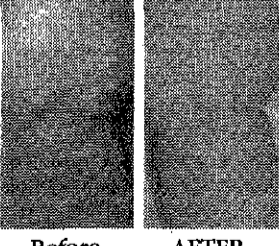


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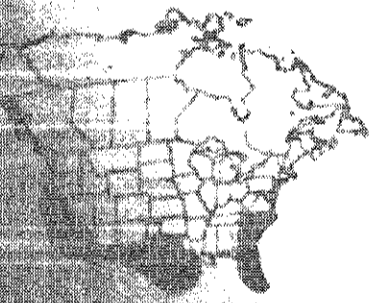


OFFICE BUNNY

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Cheer for the hometeam, read today's **SPORTS** section

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



Dave Steingold, on left, entertains his guests at his Farmington Hills home during Monday night's quarterly redraft meeting for their Fantasy Football league, which started 28 years ago.

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A touchdown tradition

Friends keep 28-year-old Fantasy Football league running

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Back in the day, Pat Brown and his friends would scour the Monday morning newspaper for NFL football stats and standings so they knew which players to keep and which ones would get the boot.

That was 28 years ago and the start of one of Michigan's very first Fantasy Football leagues.

"Commissioner" Brown, of Farmington, and his best friends since childhood, Bob Parent and Tom Nemes, formed the league in 1979 and remain devoted to the quest for the coveted Ray M. Shilson Memorial Trophy.

Of course, there's a story behind this trophy.

No one actually knows who Ray M. Shilson is or why he was deemed special enough to receive the silver, engraved bowl.

Apparently, it didn't mean as much to Ray M. Shilson as it did to Pat Brown when he spotted it at a garage sale in 1979.

It's been polished and mounted on a wood base, where engraved plates boast the names of each Fantasy Football winner since the league's inception.

"The winner gets to keep it for a year, kind of like the Stanley Cup," said Brown. "You wouldn't believe how important it is to everyone to get their name on the trophy."

It took current champion Steve Papcun 20 years to win the trophy.

Others have never experienced this thrill of victory — only the agony of defeat.

"I'm the Detroit Lions of Fantasy Football," said Tom Nemes of Farmington Hills.

Brown, Nemes and Parent played football at St. Agatha Catholic School in Redford Township, where they attended grade school and high school, graduating in the class of 1973.

Brown was the team's captain, and, you guessed it — Parent and Nemes were co-captains.

Another longtime friend, Mike Rex, who has been in the Fantasy Football league for 22 years, was the quarterback on their St. Agatha football team.

"And, here we are, still playing football," said Brown.

Except now, it's a little more relaxing.

The Heinekens dot the meeting table at Dave Steingold's Farmington Hills home during the monthly redraft sessions. Pizza, chips, M&Ms and plenty of friendly jibing are staples at any redraft meeting.

"It's all about the camaraderie," said Steingold. "And, to be a part of history — who knows how long this will go on."

The league, which always consists of 10 teams, has

already sparked the interest of the next generation.

Bernie Brown, 24, of Farmington, who is Pat Brown's son and Ian Pardonnet, 24, of Farmington, who is Mike Pardonnet's son, joined the league a few years ago. They won the trophy the first year they joined the league.

While there are now thousands of Fantasy Football leagues in the area, the younger guys said this one is different.

"This is very old school," said Bernie Brown. "We only count the scoring in this league."

Other Fantasy leagues consider lots of stats on the NFL players, including running yards, passing yards, pass completion percentages, and so on.

"It's more basic, but a lot harder," said Ian Pardonnet, noting that a player can get one yard and touchdown and it would be worth more than the player who ran for 200 yards in a game.

Keeping track of their picks is much easier these days, said Pat Brown.

"Back then, you had to research everything by hand," he said. "Now, you just go online and pull up all of the players. And now, we have our own Web site, so we can pull up the scores."

Commissioner Brown has a thick folder, stuffed with pages and pages of hand-written rosters and those he typed on a typewriter, much to the amazement of the young guys.

Some of the best picks back in 1979 included San Diego quarterback Dan Fouts; San Francisco's Joe Montana; Pittsburgh's Terry Bradshaw and Dallas' Tony Dorsett.

This Fantasy Football league has been going on so long, some of the players included on the early rosters are in the Hall of Fame, including Franco Harris, Dan Fouts and Larry Csonka.

Nowadays, top picks include New England's Tom Brady, Dallas wide receiver Terrell Owens, Dallas quarterback Tony Romo, San Diego's running back LaDainian Tomlinson and Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning.

But, it's actually not all about football. This group of husbands, dads, friends, attorneys, salesmen and even a dentist know it's a good excuse to hang out and have fun.

"All these guys are really great guys and great friends," said Brown. "It gives us an opportunity to get together once a month during the football season, kid around with each other and keep in touch."

And to that, they all say, "cheers."

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Researchers followed more than 4,500 people aged 60 to 80. Those who ate foods full of the nutrients lutein and zeaxanthin had a 35-percent less chance of developing macular degeneration. Age related macular degeneration affects 1.2 million Americans, mostly 65 years old and over.

The condition gradually worsens, robbing victims of their vision.

Mary from Southfield e-mails concerned about her sister. She is pregnant and still smokes!

Mary, as shocking as it may sound a new study found that one in ten pregnant women smoke, even though they know it is harmful for their baby. Researchers followed more than 1,500 pregnant women. A surprising 22-percent smoked during their pregnancy and about 12-percent were nicotine dependent.

Experts believe depression may be a factor. They found pregnant smokers were three times more likely to have a mental health disorder than those who did not smoke. They are now pushing for mental health screenings for all pregnant women. Smoking while pregnant increases the risk of miscarriage, premature birth, low birth weight, death from SIDS as well as learning and behavioral disorders.

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

Breast cancer update

Experts talk about latest in caring for patients

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Scott Schell never realized how difficult it was for breast cancer patients to make their way through the treatment process until his wife was diagnosed with the disease. Her experience is changing the way Beaumont Hospitals care for patients.

On Saturday, Oct. 13, he and wife Dr. Dawn Schell speak on the Physician Team: Practitioner and Survivor at a symposium presented by Sharing & Caring, the breast cancer education and support group affiliated with Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Dawn is an anesthesiologist in southeast Michigan, and a five-year breast cancer survivor.



Schell

Beaumont Hospitals launched its Patient Care Advocate (PCA) program in July 2007.

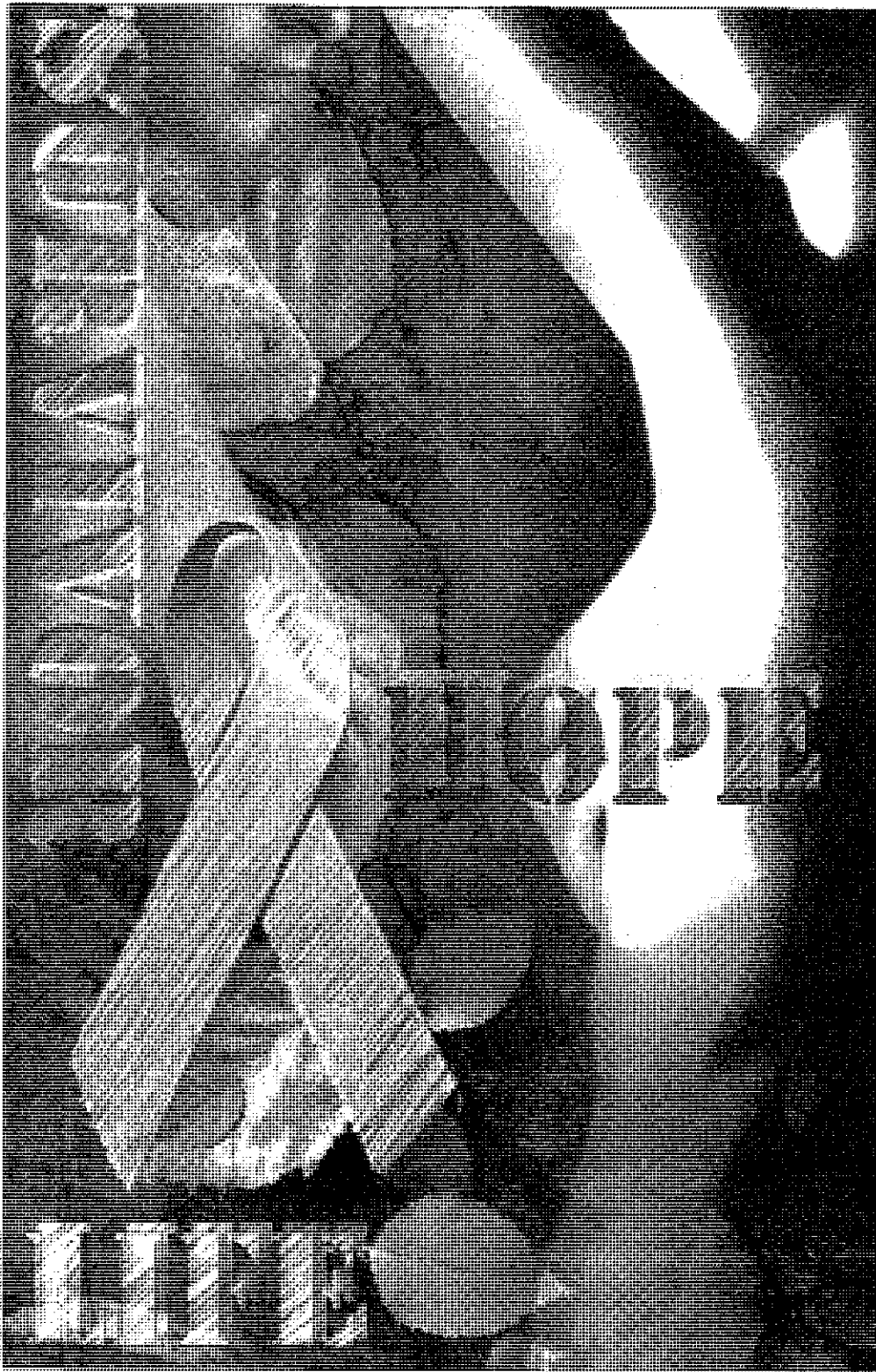
Staff with registered nurse degrees and additional oncology training act as mentors and advocates to guide patients through every step of care. Schell, as corporate director of Beaumont's Comprehensive Breast Care Centers, used Dawn's experience and models of nurse navigators in different areas of the country to create the hospitals' PCA program with the help of Dr. Frank Vicini, corporate director for oncology services.

"I used Dawn's focus as a breast cancer survivor to provide some insights," said Dr. Scott Schell of Oakland Township. "It's difficult for a physician to fully understand what it's like going through treatment. It's rather difficult to navigate the treatment for successful outcome. Dawn's experience crystallized how patients feel. We do a good job taking care of patients but sometimes the people get left behind. I wanted to provide a platform where patients weren't distracted from their primary mission to get better."

In addition to speaking on the physician-patient relationship, Scott Schell focuses on what's new and on the horizon to treat breast cancer patients as well as how to prevent the disease through screening, evaluation and genetic counseling.

PROGRESS MADE

Please see BREAST, C9



Bricks, mortar and other giant leaps in the treatment of cancer.



Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center >

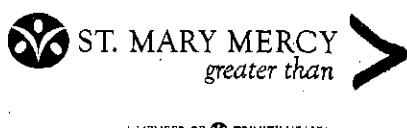
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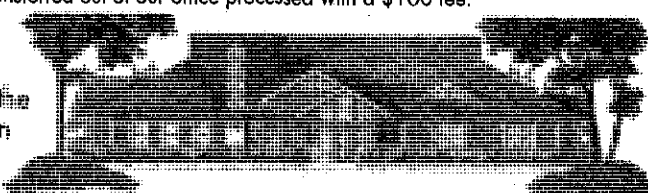
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BREAST

FROM PAGE C8

"In the last five to six years we've seen advances in diagnosis, digital mammography and breast MRIs, and successful treatments," said Schell, a surgical oncologist who's been treating breast cancer patients for two decades. "We can uniquely treat each patient's cancer focusing on genetic or molecular characteristics and use medication to target patients' cancers. We can use life style changes, medications, pre-emptive surgeries to eliminate or prevent breast cancers."

"Back in the mid-1980s when I started medical care patients had a mastectomy and their lymph nodes removed and had the same chemotherapy. We've gone from one size fits all for chemo to using unique molecular and hormonal to tailor treatment. We've learned the vast majority of women can have their breast preserved. For those with mastectomies we have a wide array of reconstructive procedures."

Dr. Jeffrey Smerage is excited about the Medicines of the Future, the topic he talks about at the symposium. Smerage is an assistant professor of internal medicine at the University of Michigan medical school and a breast oncologist in the cancer center.

Also on the program is Dr. Larissa Korde of the National Cancer Institute speaking on Innovations in Prevention. "I think some of the big change to occur in the last five or more years is the introduction of aromatase inhibitors, a class of anti-estrogen drugs," said Smerage. "Arimedex, Femera (letrozole) and Aromasin are slightly better at preventing breast cancers from coming back. Tamoxifen is still a good drug and we still use it. Traditional treatment length would be five years of Tamoxifen. Now patients might take 2 1/2 years of Tamoxifen and 2 1/2 years of one of the aromatase inhibitors, or five years of one of the new drugs. It's adjuvant therapy or treatment given in addition

to surgery for someone who's had their cancer cut out. It's intended to keep the cancer from coming back. The other big change in adjuvant treatment is the use of Herceptin in patients after surgery. This only applies to patients with HER2 positive (gene), about 25 to 30 percent of patients. After surgery, chemo, hormonal therapy, Herceptin cuts the remaining risk by as much as a half."

RESEARCH ONGOING

Smerage says while there are "multiple other drugs coming down the pipeline, most are still being investigated in patients with metastatic disease" which has spread from the original site. The University of Michigan has "a very large, active breast cancer group of clinical trials treating patients with new drugs."

"In the last several years we've learned a great deal more about breast cancer," said Smerage. "We're finding a large number of subtypes of breast cancer that behave differently. The genes, expressed or non-expressed, appear to be different and provide us with opportunities to identify new targets. I think there's a lot of reason to be hopeful. Chemo is much more effective. We're finding new ways to give older drugs, plus new drugs. Because of a combination of better screening, a larger number being screened, and better treatments we've had a change in the prognosis in women diagnosed. In the last 10 years, breast cancer deaths have actually declined. In the '70s and '80s the death rate increased but over the '90s declined. We're finding this earlier than we would have found before and we're individualizing treatment. We're identifying patients at higher and lower risk. Oncotype DX takes a patients tumor and tests for a specific set of genes. These appear to predict which patients are at higher or lower risk of having it come back. It's helping to avoid the toxicities of chemotherapy."

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Cancer Society makes strides to eradicate disease

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

According to Kady Davenport, breast cancer is the No. 1 reason people call the American Cancer Society even though lung cancer is the No. 1 cancer killer.



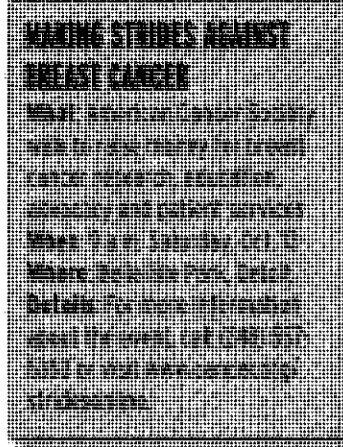
Dr. Murray Rebner

Education has been key to reducing death rates for breast cancer. That's why it's important to continue supporting ACS which provides education and patient services as well as money for research. On Saturday, Oct. 13, anyone interested in helping to eradicate the disease can take part in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5-mile non-competitive walk to save lives.

"Making Strides is at Belle Isle again," said Davenport, ACS spokeswoman. "It's our 10-year anniversary and we want to keep continuing to raise more money."

The battle against breast cancer has come a long way since Dr. Murray Rebner began treating patients 23 years ago. Today Rebner is a Beaumont Hospital radiologist, director of the hospital's Vattikuti Digital Breast Diagnostic Center and chief of the Section of Breast Imaging which offers mammography, breast ultrasound and MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), and associated procedures.

"Back then mammography and breast ultrasound were very primitive," said Rebner of Ann Arbor. "MR had been used for breast imaging primarily to look at rupture of breast implants in the 1980s. Starting in the early '90s people started to get interested in benefits of MRI for detection of breast cancer. Since then there has been more and more research done as far as what role MR should play."



In March 2007, the ACS released new MRI guidelines which recommend some high risk women receive MRI scans along with a yearly mammogram. Together the tests improve the chances for finding breast cancer earlier. Rebner agrees with the guidelines, but says more research is needed.

The recommendation for MRI screening in addition to annual mammograms is for women who have at least one of the following: a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation; a parent, sibling or child with a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation even if they have not been tested themselves; their lifetime risk of breast cancer was scored at 20 to 25 percent or greater; they had radiation to the chest between the ages of 10 and 30, they have Li-Fraumeni syndrome, Cowden syndrome or Bannayan-Riley-Ruvalcaba syndrome, or one of these syndromes based on a history in a parent, sibling or child.

Beaumont Hospital is in the process of opening up a high risk clinic for women who fall into these categories. It will offer comprehensive genetic counseling and appropriate imaging for women at high risk for breast cancer sometime in 2008.

"We've been doing breast MR for multiple years, but dedicated breast MR imaging since 2000," said Rebner. "We're going to have a dedicated magnet almost exclusively for breast problems in



PHOTO BY CLARENCE TABB, JR.

Last year Megan Adams (left), Pam MacEachern and Tricia Dooley walked in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer in remembrance of Brenda Dooley who died from the disease.

Troy in November and Royal Oak in spring."

Rebner is excited as well about future advances in technology.

"Tomosynthesis is coming down the road," said Rebner. "It's a mammographic technique that functions like a CT scan of a breast to take thin slices throughout the breast. We're hoping to get a machine next year to be part of a big trial to find small cancers."

Rebner stresses in spite of all the advances, it's most

important for women to know their family history and to have a lifetime risk calculated either by a primary care physician or a facility like Beaumont that specializes in scoring.

Jody Dodge had no family history of breast cancer when she discovered a painful lump in September 2001. She was diagnosed in October 2001 after her primary care physician sent her to a surgeon at Garden City Hospital. Dodge underwent a lumpectomy and was diag-

Arthritis Today

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Where a physician has difficulty making a diagnosis is when trochanteric pain mimics sciatica. In both conditions the pain can go down the outside of the leg, into the back and below the knee. At times, your doctor must follow how your pain changes with time and when it occurs, before he can decide the correct diagnosis.

Treatment for trochanteric bursitis ranges from medicine for pain, to physical therapy for heat and massage or steroid injection into the joint. Trochanteric bursitis may re-occur so no doctor can state with certainty that once you are cured the problem won't happen again.

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