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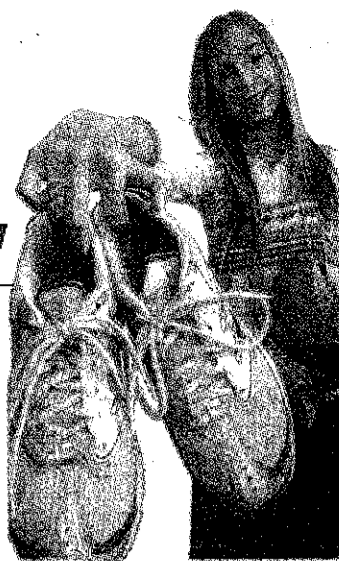


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**SUNDAY**  
April 6, 2008

# WESTLAND Observer

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## Plugging a '\$3 million hole'



Mayor William Wild (right) and his finance director, Steve Smith, talk about the administration's newly proposed, \$60.6 million budget.

## Budget proposal: Economic times force painful changes

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland Mayor William Wild, combating what he called "a \$3 million hole" in the city's finances, has proposed a new budget that raises water-sewer rates, trims or leaves vacant 14 full-time jobs, anticipates a \$1.8 million surplus, and piles more work onto directors and their employees.

The new spending plan, painful though it seems, reflects an economic climate of rising expenses, declining income, shrinking investment earnings and a worsening housing market that harms tax revenues.

Wild submitted his \$60.6 million proposal Tuesday to the Westland City Council, which will hold talks with department heads

**'We're trying to run as lean and mean as we can.'**  
WILLIAM WILD, mayor

before approving a spending plan in early June. Wild, flanked by Finance Director Steve Smith and Deputy Mayor Courtney Conover, conceded during an interview Thursday afternoon in his office that his administration has drafted a budget remarkably different from those in years past.

"We're trying to run as lean and mean as we can," the mayor said.

Wild hopes the new budget will help Westland avert a much deeper financial crisis that some cities are facing. That, he acknowledged, could hinge on whether the council accepts spending cuts or balks at paring certain jobs.

**'FINANCIALLY PRUDENT'**

On Friday, council President James Godbout indicated he will question some aspects of a budget that he said appears financially prudent, overall.

"Considering the cards we were dealt this year, I think the mayor did a good job of presenting a budget that's well thought-out and well planned," Godbout said.

Residents could see their water-sewer rates jump by 8.2 percent, climbing 46 cents from the current \$5.58 per thousand gallons, Smith said. The increase, only partly tied to price hikes from Detroit and Wayne County,

would help pay for employee costs and repairs to an aging water system.

A typical household using 22,000 gallons of water every two-month billing cycle would pay \$60 more a year, Smith said. Administration officials did a five-year analysis of water-sewer rates before proposing the increase.

However, the rate hike would be somewhat offset by reductions in the city's trash-disposal tax and drain debt. The owner of a \$150,000 home with a \$75,000 taxable value would save \$30 a year due to those cuts.

To trim employee costs, Wild has proposed laying off two building department workers,

Please see **BUDGET, A2**

## Beheading trial takes center stage

BY BRAD KAORICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With co-defendant Alexander Letkemann having accepted a plea to second-degree murder, Jean Pierre Orlewicz will stand alone in the Wayne County Circuit courtroom of Judge Annette Berry when his trial begins Monday morning.

Orlewicz, of Plymouth Township, faces first-degree and felony murder charges, along with a charge of mutilation of a corpse. If convicted, Orlewicz faces life in prison without parole.

Letkemann, the 18-year-old former Livonia Churchill High School student from Westland, took a plea Monday and is expected to testify. Letkemann is among more than 80 people who appeared on the prosecution's initial witness list.

Orlewicz defense attorneys James Thomas and Joseph Niskar presented an initial witness list of nearly 50 individual names.

They'll all be taking the stage in a case that has already drawn national media attention and figures to draw more. Court officials said Thursday a crew from the cable television network TruTV (formerly Court TV) is scheduled to be on hand to cover the proceedings.

The case centers around the murder, beheading and burning of 26-year-old Daniel Sorensen of River Rouge. Orlewicz is charged with killing Sorensen and beheading him, then, along with Letkemann, dumping Sorensen's body in a Northville Township field, burning it and tossing the head into the Rouge River.

Thomas told Berry in a hearing last week he would use self-defense as a trial strategy, but Berry dealt that defense a possible blow by excluding evidence of Sorensen's criminal past, plus evidence of personal protection orders taken out by four people unrelated to the case.

Berry also granted a prosecution motion prohibiting the testimony of three mental health professionals because Orlewicz isn't claiming the insanity



Jean Pierre Orlewicz

Please see **TRIAL, A2**

## Authority hosts hazardous waste collection

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A chance to safely dispose of unwanted cleaning solvents, pesticides, smoke detectors and other household hazardous materials is being offered Saturday, April 12, at City Park in Garden City.

Sponsored by the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority, the drop-off will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's open to residents of the five member communities — Garden City, Westland, Inkster, Wayne and Dearborn Heights.

Proof of residency must be shown. No materials will be accepted from nonresidents or

commercial/industrial operations. Materials dropped off must be in closed containers inside a box and placed in the vehicle trunk. Site personnel will remove the materials from the trunk. Materials may not be mixed since different items will be taken to specially designed disposal sites.

Among the items that will be accepted are oil-based paints and varnishes, cleaning solvents, household and automotive batteries, mothballs, lead found in shot and sinkers, gasoline, used motor oil in a container, mercury from thermometers and thermostats and fluorescent light bulbs, wood preservatives, pesticides and weed killers, oven cleaners, trans-

mission fluid/antifreeze, pressurized cans, smoke detectors and propane tanks.

Computer monitors, CPUs, keyboards, mouse devices, printers, copiers, fax machines and cell phones also will be accepted for disposal.

Latex paint will be accepted but requires no special disposal. It can be put out for normal trash collection as long as it is not in liquid form. Either let it dry out or put kitty litter, dirt or sand into the can to soak up the liquid.

Items not accepted during the drop-off are explosives and any recyclables, such as metal, cans, plastics and newspapers, that can be turned in at local recycling

drop-off centers. In Westland, battery drop-off sites are the Department of Public Services on Marquette east of Newburgh; the Dorsey Center on Dorsey east of Venoy, CATV on Warren west of Venoy; on the south side of Westland City Hall on Ford west of Central City Parkway; Central City Parkway north of Ford; senior Friendship Center on Newburgh south of Ford and Fire Station 3 on Annapolis east of Middlebelt.

For more information about the drop-off program, call (734) 722-9980, Ext. 13.

lrogers@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2103



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Under the hood

Caught looking under the hood of a GMC Yukon is Westland firefighter Kevin Gilliam who found the hybrid's battery pack. The up close look was part of training on dealing with accidents involving hybrid vehicles. For story and more photos, see Page A3.

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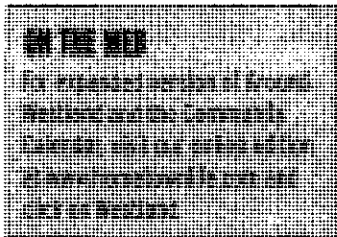
**AROUND WESTLAND**

**Pancake breakfast**

Westland's Senior Resources Department will host its monthly pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. Thursday, April 10, at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, south of Ford. Enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes - choice of buttermilk or multi-grain pancakes - with regular or sugar free syrup. Breakfast also includes bacon, sausage and choice of beverage, all for \$4. The breakfast is open to all ages.

**Open house**

Risko-Ferguson-Ziomek Funeral Home and Cremation Services which recently opened for business at 2401 S. Wayne Road, Westland, is holding an open house 2-6 p.m. today (April 6). Guests will have an opportunity to tour the facility and get information about the services it offers. Appetizers and desserts



also will be served.

The 11,000-square-foot funeral home on Wayne Road north of Glenwood offers personalized and full service funerals, burials and cremations. It has two chapels with theater sound systems.

For more information, call the funeral home at (734) 728-1900.

**Card party**

Ss. Simon and Jude Church will hold a Happy Days luncheon and card party 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, April 18, at the church, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland. The cost of the

non-smoking event is \$7 per person and there will be table and door prizes and 50/50 raffles. For ticket reservations, call (734) 722-1343.

**Voter deadline**

The last day to register to vote in May 6 school board elections in Westland is Monday, April 7, City Clerk Eileen DeHart confirmed. For more information, call the clerk's office at (734) 467-3185.

**Mom to Mom sale**

St. Damian School in Westland will hold its spring Mom 2 Mom Sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at the school, 30055 Joy, Westland. For more information, call Dawn at (734) 983-0221.

**Free Dump Day**

The Westland Department of Public Service is holding a "free dump day" 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

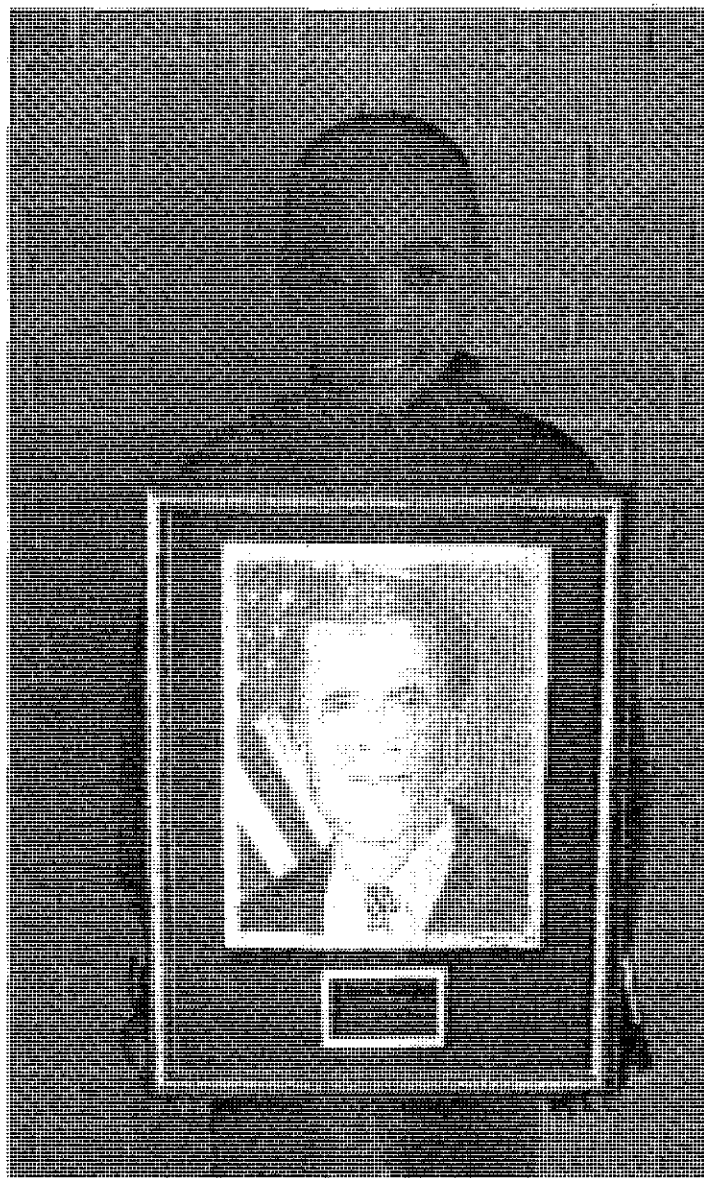
Saturday, April 12, at the transfer site at 37137 Marquette, east of Newburgh and west of Wayne Road.

Only residents of the City of Westland will be permitted to use the Transfer Site, and identification must be presented for verification of Westland residency.

Residents with questions can call the office at (734) 728-1770.

**Garden Club**

The Westland Garden Club will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 12, at the Collins House, located in the Westland Historic Village Park on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill. There will be a discussion on landscaping plans for the park and on the plant and seed exchange, which will be happening on May 15. Everyone is invited. For more information, call (734) 522-3918.



Schweitzer Elementary fifth-grader Juwan Jamison shows off his drawing which has been sent to President George W. Bush.

**BUDGET**

FROM PAGE A1

including the deputy director and an inspector. The mayor said new construction and other activity have taken a hit due to economic woes.

**VACANT POSITIONS**

Moreover, Wild would leave vacant 12 full-time positions, including two police officers; two firefighters; the computer services director; the senior center's deputy director; two hourly water-sewer workers; and four hourly secretarial or clerk posts. One union, the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Local 1602, would take the biggest hit, with one

layoff and six vacancies. Some positions will be moved from one department to another.

The new spending blueprint also calls for eliminating part-time and temporary workers who perform such jobs as maintenance at the Mike Modano Ice Arena and the city golf course, and grass-mowing in special economic-development districts. Wild's plan calls for Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski and Public Service Director Kevin Buford to figure out a way for their employees to carry out the tasks.

A year ago, the ice arena lost about \$300,000, the mayor said. Within a year, Wild hopes the facility will turn a \$30,000 profit - without any rate increases for those who use the building.

Wild's plan calls for performing more jobs in-house. Just last year, Kosowski saved the city \$30,000 by developing a five-year parks and recreation master plan rather than hiring an outside consultant.

While the new budget contains minimal new spending, it does contain money to replace several aging vehicles, mostly police cars, and it sets aside \$700,000 in the sanitation fund to start a curbside recycling program that hundreds of residents demanded by signing petitions last year.

"I'd like to get that started by the fall," Wild said.

The budget also allocates an additional \$120,000 compared to last year for rising fuel costs. Even so, that doesn't approach a \$260,000 bud-

get amendment that the city had to approve in the current spending cycle to cover fuel-related cost increases.

In a letter to council President Godbout, Wild wrote that the city has tended to respond to situations by having a mindset that "we've always done it that way." The mayor said Westland cannot afford to continue such an approach amid a sour economic climate.

In his office, Wild conceded that economic times have forced painful changes. Still, he said his budget maintains services while keeping a \$1.8 million surplus, down from an earlier \$2 million mark.

To that end, he said, "I feel good about it."

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**TRIAL**

FROM PAGE A1

defense, didn't raise the issue of competency to understand his Miranda rights and there's been no request for a competency hearing.

While a slew of police officers and medical professionals dot the prosecution's witness list, Letkemann and another of Orlewicz's friends, Isam Ayyash (who friends call Izzy),

figure to provide the key testimony. In a statement played in the preliminary hearing, Letkemann told Canton police Orlewicz lured Sorensen to the garage of his grandfather's Canton home and killed him.

Letkemann, in his conversation with police, said he entered the garage first, followed by Sorensen, with Orlewicz bringing up the rear.

"(Orlewicz) shut the door behind us and then just did it," said Letkemann, who said in a written statement that

Orlewicz cut Sorensen's throat from behind, then stabbed him. "I don't know why he killed him."

Ayyash testified at the preliminary hearing he got a phone call from Orlewicz to come to the garage and help load Sorensen's body into a truck.

The hearing also featured the first public appearance of "Izzy," the third "person of interest" worthy mentioned at her press conference. "Izzy" is a nickname for Isam

"(Orlewicz) asked me to come to his grandfather's house because he needed help lifting a body into a truck," Ayyash testified. "I walked in and asked, 'Is this a joke?' and they said, 'no.'"

Ayyash, granted immunity by the Wayne County prosecutor for his involvement, testified Orlewicz asked him to give him his clothing. When asked why, Ayyash testified, "Because his were covered in blood."

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Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 1034- Ricky Lee Nedrow- boxes,bags,totes
- 139- James Davis - boxes,bags,totes
- 165- Jason Neu - boxes,bags,totes
- 327- Natalie Rose Chrapko - boxes,bags,totes
- 328- James Brenda- boxes,tv,dresser
- 345- Don Smith- box,bbq,dresser
- 422- Rikki Manning - boxes,bags,totes
- 642- Angela Manning- sofa
- 658- David Zimmerman- boxes,metal
- 710- Craig Murphy- - boxes,bags,totes

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<b>US #1 PRODUCE</b> Fresh <b>BROCCOLI</b> 99¢ ea. 10 lb Bag <b>IDAHO POTATOES</b> \$2.69 ea. Fresh <b>HEAD LETTUCE</b> 89¢ ea.	<b>USDA GRADE A</b> Tender-Juicy <b>TOP SIRLOIN STEAKS</b> \$3.49 lb. Lean - Boneless <b>ENGLISH CUT ROAST</b> \$2.29 lb. Ground <b>BEEF PATTIES</b> \$2.99 lb. Fresh <b>GROUND TURKEY</b> \$1.89 lb.	<b>USDA GRADE A</b> Tender <b>DELMONICO STEAK</b> \$5.99 lb. Lean - Tender - Boneless <b>SIRLOIN TIP ROAST</b> \$2.89 lb. Family Pack Fresh <b>GROUND BEEF FROM SIRLOIN</b> \$2.39 lb. Fresh Homemade <b>ITALIAN OR POLISH SAUSAGE</b> \$2.19 lb.	<b>DELI SPECIALS</b> Sahlens <b>SMOKEHOUSE HAM</b> \$3.99 lb. Lipari Old Tyme Deli <b>HARD SALAMI</b> \$3.49 lb. Lipari <b>COLBY/JACK CHEESE</b> \$3.09 lb.

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**CITY OF GARDEN CITY WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

To all residents and interested parties, the Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at:  
[www.gardencitymi.org](http://www.gardencitymi.org)

You can access this information at City Hall or the Garden City Library during regular business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day.

Allyson M. Bettis, City Clerk/Treasurer

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**Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.**

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Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 3032 Jacquelyn Cicotte clothes crib car seat
- 3097 Thomas Lippford bags boxes totes
- 4043 Jacqueline Yurkovich bags boxes totes
- 6056 Robert Winter Jr. Matchbox collectibles boxes scooters
- 6129-Tony Stanley-- boxes,bags,totes
- 7017-Vikki Hood-- boxes,bags,totes
- 7049-Elise Vann - boxes,bags,totes
- 7112-Renee Boyea -- boxes,bags,totes
- 9057-Jane Lopez-- boxes,bags,totes
- 2025-Tami Hamzeh-- boxes,bags,totes
- 3026-Jennifer McGeogh-- totes,bags,totes
- 3088- Kiauna Lewis- sofa,tote,bag
- 4049-Antoine Williamson-- boxes,totes
- 4051-Antoine Murry-- boxes,bags,totes
- 4083-Claude Ross-- boxes,bags,totes
- 5037-Flowers by deavila-- boxes,bags,totes
- 5093-Danielle Carney-- boxes,bags,totes
- 6009-David Baldwin-boxes,totes
- 6026-Patricia Kowalski-refrigerator,box,tote

Publish: April 6 & 13, 2008

# Foreclosure crisis hits home: Seminar offers options

BY DAVE VARGA  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The foreclosure process isn't a vague concept to Robert Willey of Livonia.

The Willeys have no problems with their own home, but their rental property in Westland is in foreclosure, a process where the bank or mortgage company can take back a property to satisfy a loan owed to them. Often the process begins after three missed payments.

As they sat at a Town Hall meeting on foreclosure prevention and options hosted Tuesday by Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, Willey and his wife wondered if they could lose their Livonia home due to the rental property foreclosure.

"We're trying to learn everything about it. We're just trying to see how burnt we can get," he said.

Another couple was also trying to figure out their options. The Redford residents want to save their home, which is in foreclosure. They didn't want to share their names, but the man said he'd been laid off from General Motors. "We're just trying to keep our home," he said. They've lived there seven years, renting for the first three of them.

The forum got them "more organized" about organizations to contact, his wife said. "Hopefully we can get some help," she said.

The seminar featured seven different speakers, offering various options for people who are in different stages of having missed mortgage payments or having not paid their real estate taxes. Metro Detroit's foreclosure numbers reached a "crisis proportion," Anderson said, citing statistics that show more than 72,000 foreclosure filings last year and nearly 5 percent of the area's households in foreclo-

sure. "What you'll see tonight is you're not alone," he told the small audience.

## RESCUE PLANS

Among the speakers was Ben Robertson of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, a state organization that offers two new low-rate rescue refinancing plans through new legislation called "Save the Dream." The criteria includes having an adjustable rate mortgage that's increasing, a good credit history and an income of up to \$108,000. The new loan programs also require counseling; "I say it's an opportunity," Robertson added. (More information is at <http://www.michigan.gov/mshda/>)

The nonprofit Michigan ACORN offers a financial justice center and has a Home Equity Loss Prevention Program that connects families in need with housing counselors. Of the Save the Dream legislation, ACORN's Carrie Guzman said, "It's not going to be as helpful as we'd wish it would be because so many people are already past three months delinquent."

A big message from presenters was for people not to be afraid to seek help, including calling their lender right away. "It's almost easier for people to talk about sex than money," she said.

ACORN can help get a sheriff's sale stopped, Guzman said. They can be reached at [www.acorn.org](http://www.acorn.org) or (313) 963-1840.

Other organizations represented included the Michigan Legal Services, (313) 964-4130, and Wayne County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz, (313) 224-5990 or <http://www.waynecounty.com/treasurer/>.

Wojtowicz and others also offered advice Wednesday during a foreclosure meeting in Westland organized by a

task force formed by Mayor William Wild. As many as 75 people attended.

"We thought it was a success," Wild said. "We think we were able to help the folks that came out that night. We'll continue to look for ways we can help the residents."

For Westland residents who couldn't make that meeting, it is expected to start airing Tuesday on city cable station WLND. Deputy Mayor Courtney Conover also said copies soon will be available on DVDs at the Westland public library.

## AVAILABLE RESOURCES

At the Livonia event, a representative of the United Way 2-1-1 program explained the numerous resources available 24-hours a day by dialing that 2-1-1 number. Those include food, job training, prescription drugs, foreclosure references and payment of utility bills.

Among the last resorts, but a potent one, is Chapter 13 bankruptcy, according to John Holler III, an attorney and representative of Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan, (313) 964-1975, Ext. 1007.

For certain people who want to keep their house, filing bankruptcy can halt a foreclosure process — as long as it's filed before the sheriff's sale.

The process requires a lawyer (at an estimated cost of about \$3,000) but Holler said that isn't paid up front. Instead, it's added to a payment plan set up based on income and it's spread over the three to five years of the payback.

"When all else fails, you can get the protection of the court and save your home," Holler said.

Asked if that was one of his options, Willey said: "We're not quite that desperate but we're getting there."

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland Assistant Fire Chief Scott Neal (right) teaches firefighters how to protect themselves when responding to emergencies involving hybrid vehicles. With him are firefighters Anthony Pizzini (from left), Jeff Lachowicz, Kevin Gilliam and Red Holman Pontiac GMC salesman Craig Timko.

# Hybrids pose challenge for firefighters

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As rising gas prices and tougher fuel economy standards nudge consumers and automakers toward hybrid vehicles, Westland firefighters are learning new accident-scene skills that could save their lives.

Eco-friendly hybrids, which use both electric-powered motors and gasoline engines for better mileage, contain high-voltage power lines that could prove deadly, if rescuers sever them.

"If we ever cut the power line at any time, we'd kill ourselves," said Westland Assistant Fire Chief Scott Neal, who is training the city's 76 firefighters on the new technology.

Hybrid vehicle sales rose about 35 percent in 2007 compared to the previous year, according to the global marketing firm J.D. Power & Associates, and experts predict a growing number of consumers will buy the fuel-efficient cars.

One Westland dealership,

Red Holman Pontiac GMC, loaned local firefighters a hybrid, four-wheel drive, 2008 GMC Yukon for their training classes. Salesman Craig Timko helped arrange the loan and provided emergency response manuals to help with the training.

"It was very generous of him to do that for us," Neal said.

Standing inside the city's main fire station on Ford Road, Neal revealed a 300-volt battery pack concealed under the second row of seats in the white Yukon. He showed firefighters how to properly cut off power to ensure their own safety when responding to an accident.

Neal explained how the battery pack powers a hybrid when gas mileage is at its lowest, such as during stop-and-start situations. He said the vehicle starts using gasoline when a driver reaches a steady speed "or anything over 25 mph."

Fortunately for firefighters, hybrid vehicles are labeled as such, so rescuers know what they dealing

with when they arrive on accident scenes and face the possible task of extricating drivers and passengers. They have to use caution when using tools to cut into hybrids to save people, and it's critical that they know where power lines can be severed.

Firefighters also may have to cut power lines to avoid having air bags suddenly deploy while they are removing accident victims.

"That can cause a neck injury or leave someone paralyzed," Neal said.

Firefighters also are learning that hybrid battery packs contain potassium hydroxide, which can cause burns or hazardous spills during an accident. They have to be mindful of that when they arrive at accident scenes.

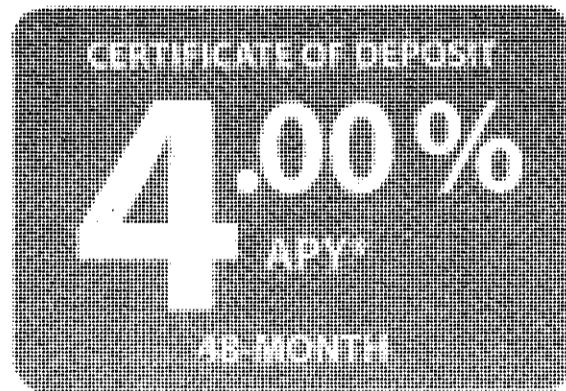
Firefighters aren't opposed to efforts to make vehicles more fuel-efficient and environmentally friend.

But, Neal said, "as rescuers, it is creating more challenges for us."

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# Rep. McCotter takes Fed chairman Bernanke to task on Bear Stearns deal

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, and other Republican House leaders met Tuesday with Ben Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve.

McCotter wasn't happy with Bernanke's answers to his questions about recent actions by the Fed.

"He's in a difficult position," McCotter said in a phone interview Wednesday. "I don't think the bailout of Bear Stearns was a good idea."

He said Bernanke was in a "game of poker and he put in way too much."

Last month, the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department arranged a deal to lend JP Morgan Chase \$30 billion to purchase the investment bank at a greatly reduced price per share. The Fed accepted \$30 billion in mortgage-related assets as collateral.

The investment bank was on the verge of collapse because of mortgage bond investments. According to press reports, Bear Stearns chairman James Cayne sold off his shares in the company in March, lost nearly \$1 billion but still was left with \$61 million.

"People need to know that prices go up and down and someone shouldn't walk away with \$61 million," McCotter said.

McCotter said he asked Bernanke how he could go back to the people of Michigan and explain to them how this deal will help them.

"It just makes others who do what they did say it's all right because the government will bail them out," McCotter said.

On Wednesday, Bernanke began two days of hearings before a joint Congressional economics committee. He continued to support the Bear

Stearns deal and said it was not a bailout, but necessary to prevent an economic collapse.

## MORTGAGES TOP CONCERN

The mortgage crisis was the major concern this week in Washington. Senate leaders announced Wednesday a bipartisan package to help lenders and borrowers in the wake of record foreclosures.

McCotter said that he hadn't seen details, but he expected the plan to include creation of state run credit banks that would provide funding to let people with adjustable-rate mortgages to convert to more stable fixed-rate mortgages.

On Wednesday, Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed into law a bill that enables the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to refinance adjustable-rate mortgages into 30-year fixed-rate loans.

"People were taken advantage of and put in this situation by a predatory lending class," McCotter said. "We're not bailing out someone who thought they could afford more than they could."

McCotter said he supports regulatory reforms that would prevent this situation in the future.

"Some people who argue you can't regulate banking have no problem with the government bailing them out when they fail," he said. "In a classic system, you don't regulate something unless it needs to be regulated. How do you look people in the eyes? If you want a free market, accept the consequences."

On another issue, McCotter introduced a bill Tuesday that would restrict all government officials and employees from attending the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. The bill is aimed at preventing President George W. Bush



McCotter

if the president is sitting next to them."

McCotter is a long-time critic of China for its monetary and trade policies and for its violations of civil liberties.

China has been widely criticized recently for its military crackdown in Tibet and for its support for the Sudanese government in the Darfur crisis.

"The presence of athletes doesn't make a political statement. They all go," he said.

from attending and does not apply to athletes.

"I'm trying to change his mind; he will regret it," McCotter said.

"Nothing is going to change if the president is sitting next to them."

"This is a deviation from the past. No president has attended opening ceremonies in a foreign country before."

McCotter blamed the influence of corporate money.

"They are making a lot of money, but it's a short-term gain," he said.

McCotter had commended House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., for her criticism of Bush's plans to attend the opening ceremony and sought her support for his bill.

## WILL HE RUN?

McCotter is expected to announce his candidacy for a fourth term, but Tuesday he said he was still undecided.

"I have to talk with my wife," he said.

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## SEMCOG forecasts slow growth for southeast Michigan

Southeast Michigan's forecast is one of slow growth from 2005-2035, according to the 2035 Forecast for Southeast Michigan: Population, Households, and Jobs for Counties, Cities, Villages, and Townships, 2005-2035, just published by SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

The region is currently experiencing an extended period of decline in jobs and population, led by significant decrease of manufacturing jobs and increasing out-migration of working-age population. However, in the long-term to year 2035, Southeast Michigan's overall forecast is one of slow growth:

- 3.5 percent population growth by 2035 (to 5.1 million people);
  - 9 percent household growth; and
  - 7 percent increase in jobs
- Households will increase faster than population because the average number of persons per household will decline, and all the increase in households is in households without children. Nearly four in 10 households will have at least one person over age 65 in 2035, this due to the aging of the baby boom generation (who will all be age 70 or older in 2035) as well as longer life spans.

Job growth will be less

robust than in the 1990s. Future job growth depends on more older people staying in the labor force, with many in part-time jobs.

"There are both challenges and opportunities of a slow-growth environment and an increasingly older population," noted SEMCOG Executive Director Paul Tait. "This forecast will help local governments understand and shape the brightest future possible."

This 2035 Forecast will provide a base for SEMCOG's long-range planning.

The report, 2035 Forecast for Southeast Michigan: Population, Households, and Jobs for Counties, Cities, Villages, and Townships, 2005-2035 is available in PDF on SEMCOG's Web site - [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org) (under Reports on the home page). To request a printed copy, please contact SEMCOG's Information Center at (313) 324-3362 or [infocenter@semco.org](mailto:infocenter@semco.org). Additional data, in five-year increments, can be found at [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org) (under Programs and Projects, Planning, Regional Forecast).

SEMCOG is a regional planning partnership of local governmental units serving 4.9 million people in the seven-county region of Southeast Michigan striving to enhance the region's quality of life.

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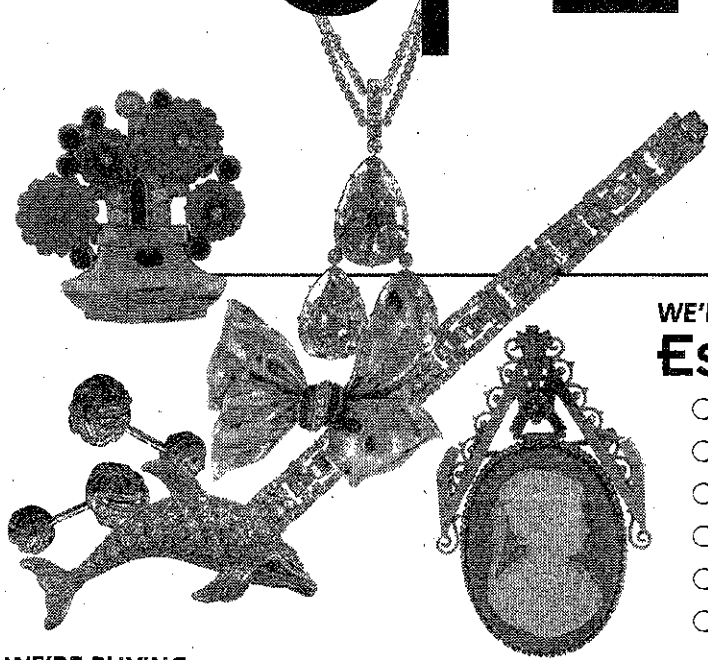
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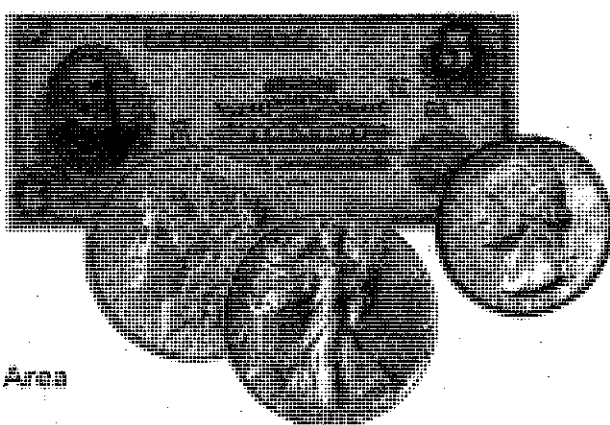
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  - Broken Jewelry, Class Rings, Old Mountings, Dental Gold, Fraternity & Sorority Jewelry
  - Victorian, Edwardian, Art Deco, & Retro Modern Jewelry
- \*We usually do not buy costume jewelry*

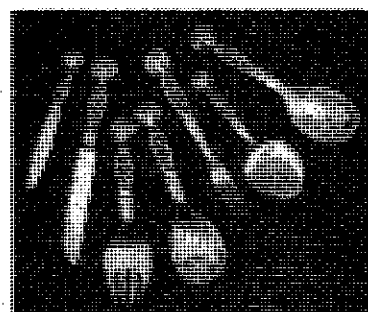
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  - Flatware Sets
  - Coin Silver
  - Antique English Silver
  - Broken Sterling Items
  - Tiffany, Georg Jensen, Kalo, Spratling items
  - Full-Size Souvenir Spoons
  - Bowls, Baskets, Water Pitchers
- \*We do not buy silver plate*



## WE'RE BUYING Watches - Pocket & Wrist

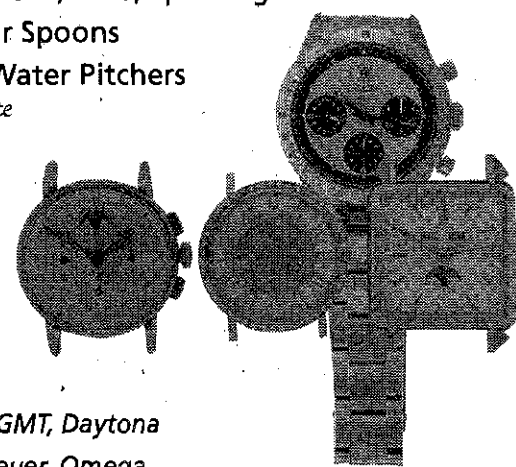
### Pocket

- All Railroad-Approved Watches especially, Ball, Hamilton, Howard, Illinois
- All Gold-Cased Pocketwatches
- Chiming watches
- Military watches
- Fancy-Cased Watches (enamel, multi-color gold, diamonds)

### Wrist

- All Patek Philippe, Cartier, Audemars, LeCoultre, Vacheron
- All Rolex - especially Submariner, GMT, Daytona
- All Chronographs - Breitling, Heuer, Omega
- Ladies Watches With Platinum & Diamonds, Covered Faces
- Gents Vintage Gold Case - Hamilton, Omega, Longines, Etc.
- Gents Diamond Dials

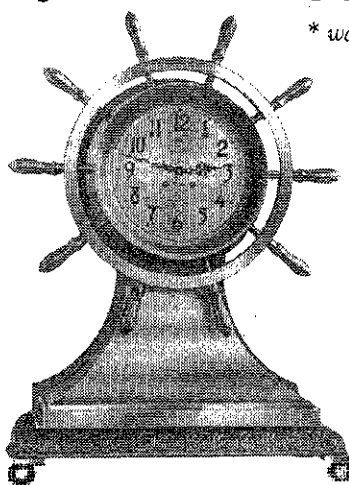
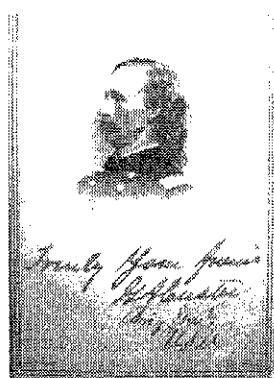
*\*watches need not be running*



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*\*we typically do not buy modern-day sports figures*



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- Militaria - War Souvenirs, Medals, etc.
- Tiffany Art Glass

**\*DON'T SEE IT LISTED HERE? BRING IT IN, OR GIVE US A CALL.\***



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# Retiree shouldn't wait to sell house on hope prices will rise

Dear Rick: I have just retired. My plan is to sell my house in Michigan and move south. My problem is selling my house. Does it make sense to sell the house for less than I think it's worth or wait for another year until housing prices are higher?



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

I don't believe home prices will be significantly higher a year from now. I believe prices in the metropolitan area will remain flat, at best. It is more likely than not, a year from now, that real estate prices will be lower than they are today.

In reviewing your situation, if your decision is whether you sell today or a year from now, I would sell today. Yes, your house is worth less today than it was five years ago. I do not believe, however, that it will be worth more a year from now. Since you will purchase a new house down south, you will get a significant discount on that home. I'm not sure a year

from now you would get that same discount. Other parts of the country will recover faster than Michigan. People make the same mistake with their house that they do with their investment portfolio. They look at the account's highest balance and use that as the new base. People do the exact same thing when it comes to their home. They use the highest value of the home as its base. This is a mistake. Just like your stock portfolio, your home value is fluid and to select one arbitrary point in time and use that for value doesn't make sense. If you have a fluid investment such as stocks and bonds or real estate, when you consider the value, you need to look at a

range over a few-year period. This will give you a better picture of the value of your portfolio or your home.

Dear Rick: I am a new investor and I just invested \$50,000 through a financial adviser. When I multiply the number of shares by the share price, it did not equal the \$50,000. When I called my adviser, they said that is a normal charge when it comes to mutual funds. I was stunned at the amount that I paid in fees. Is this right?

You purchased commissioned mutual funds. In commissioned mutual funds, also known as loaded mutual funds, you pay a fee every time you purchase new shares. In your situation, you probably paid a 5.74 percent commission. What this means is that more than 5 percent went right off the top to pay the commissions. I am not a fan of commis-

sioned mutual funds for a number of different reasons. First and foremost is the fact most commissioned mutual funds underperform. If you are a commissioned mutual fund, you have two things to sell — your performance and your commission structure. On the other hand, if you are a commission-free mutual fund, also known as a no-load mutual fund, you only have one thing to sell and that is your performance.

I believe no-load funds concentrate more on what ends up in an investor's pocket than commission-based funds. In fact, all independent surveys say no-commission funds outperform commissioned funds. Another reason why I am not a fan of commissioned mutual funds is in many cases the commission is hidden. In your situation your financial adviser, or in reality your financial sales person, did not disclose the fees. For them to

take nearly \$3,000 without discussing it is wrong. I have encouraged investors to be proactive when it comes to fees. Before purchasing a mutual fund, know what it costs to buy, sell and hold the fund.

Every mutual fund, commissioned and non-commissioned, has management fees. No-load funds have lower management fees than commissioned-based funds. In addition, commissioned-based funds also have a variety of other fees that do nothing but erode the return to an investor.

Fees do matter. To be a suc-

cessful investor, one who ends up with more money in their pocket, focus on fees. Whether or not you deal with a professional adviser, never hesitate to ask about costs and fees.

When people use a professional adviser, use one who is a fee-only adviser or who fully discloses fees so there are no hidden surprises.

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

# Precautions can save lives in public places

It was a cold November night in Boston in 1942. As usual on a weekend night, the Coconut Grove Night Club was packed beyond capacity with patrons enjoying shows, a relaxed atmosphere, and some good food and some great times with friends.



Tom Kiurski

A fire started in the decorations and quickly spread. The customers in the basement and the main floor dining area crowded to the main entrance/exit. It was a revolving door. Imagine what happened when hundreds of people all pushed to get out on both sides of the revolving door. It didn't move, trapping many of the people within arms reach of clean

air and safety. Within minutes, 492 of the approximately 1,000 patrons had died in the deadliest nightclub fire in American history.

This tragedy led the way for safety improvements in businesses throughout America. We tightened building and fire codes in an attempt to better control overcrowding, lack of exits, and the marking of exits in buildings. What can you do to be better prepared in the event of a fire while enjoying dinner, a movie

or shopping? Plenty!

Notice and tell your family about the different exits located within buildings. In larger buildings, a lighted "Exit" sign should be clearly visible. These doors swing outward, and are equipped with panic hardware, so all you have to do is push on the bar on the inside of the door to open it. If you are ever in a building and feel crowded to the point where you feel your safety is in jeopardy, leave! It is not worth the consequences. Tell the management or call our fire prevention division to report any suspected overcrowding situations.

In a fire, never use the ele-

vators in a building. They go to the main floor (usually a lobby area) and stay put. Upper floors have stairwells, so locate them before venturing out to explore the rest of the building or head out. If you are going to split from your group, determine an outside meeting place in case of an emergency.

The few moments it takes to come up with a plan may save much pain and suffering later when searching for a loved one. Keep safety a part of the picture while dining, watching shows or while on vacation. What better legacy is there to pass along?

Tom Kiurski is a Livonia firefighter.

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

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Amateur radio exams**  
The Garden City Amateur Radio Club will hold an amateur radio license examination session from 6-9 p.m. Monday, April 14, at the Maplewood Center in Garden City. Walk-ins accepted, if sufficient exams are on hand. Preregistration guarantees an exam will be available for you. To preregister, call Fred Comps at (734) 261-6441 or contact him by e-mail at fcomps@aol.com.  
**Explore EMU**  
Eastern Michigan University will hold an Explore Eastern program 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5, for high school students and transfer students to learn about university and how an EMU education can launch their future careers.

The free program will be held at the EMU Student Center, 900 Oakwood St., EMU's main campus in Ypsilanti. The program provides students with an opportunity to meet with representatives from various academic programs, housing, dining, career services, financial aid, scholarships and other areas. Campus tours of a classroom building, the Halle Library, the Olds-Robb Recreation and Intramural Building, and a residence hall room run every 15 minutes. All students attending Explore Eastern will be able to apply for admission, free of charge - a \$20 savings. One high school senior who enrolls at EMU will receive 12 free credit hours of in-state equivalent tuition. One transfer student who enrolls will receive six free credit hours of in-state equivalent tuition. To register for Explore Eastern or for more information, go to www.emich.edu/explore/  
**Fish Dial-A-Ride**  
Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other neces-

sary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive. For additional information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.  
**Orchid Festival**  
The Ann Arbor Orchid Society will present its 2008 Ann Arbor Orchid Festival noon to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 12, and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 13, at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road. There will be displays with thousands of orchid blooms set up in the auditorium by area orchid societies and growers. There will be free informative talks and demonstrations: Neal Fosteron - Orchid Growing: Not Difficult, Just Different at 1 p.m. Saturday, Supattra Joy Sloup - Tutorial on Making Clay Orchids at 2 p.m. Saturday, Don Garing, Insect and Disease Control at 3 p.m. Saturday, Rob Halgren, Orchids 101 at noon Sunday, Alex Challis, Miniature Orchids at 1 p.m. Sunday and Erich Michel, Orchids of Madagascar at 2

p.m. Sunday. Admission to the festival is free, however, there is a \$3 admission to conservatory on both days. For more information, send an e-mail to AnnArborOrchids@aol.com or call (734) 418-2055.  
**Lincoln/Reagan Dinner**  
The Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican Committee will host Saul Anuzis, Michigan party chairman, and Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop (keynote speaker) at its annual Lincoln/Reagan Dinner at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 17, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft. Cash bar reception begins at 6 p.m. Dinner is \$50 per person, \$90 per couple, or \$450 for table of 10. Call (248) 474-3525 for menu choice and reservations by April 11.  
**Love of Lace XV**  
The Great Lakes Lace Group Inc. will present Love of Lace XV 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington, in Livonia. The event is a day of lace making, with demonstrations, try-it tables, vendors and displays. Admission is free, public is welcome. For more information, go



**Wish You Were Here**

Warm and sunny Cancun, Mexico, provided the backdrop for a photograph by Steve Bodnovits of his wife, Linda (left), and Diana Rorewicz with their Garden City Observer. The trio were vacationed in the popular resort town on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula during midwinter break. Word is they tried 'to bring back warmer temperatures, but it didn't work.' If you go on vacation, be sure to take a Wish You Were Here picture with your Garden City Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

# Garden City Hospital programs focus on wellness

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

**Monday, April 7**  
**Exercise Express 12:30 p.m.**  
Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information  
**Childbirth Education** (sixth of six classes) at 6 p.m. This six-week course prepares the expectant mother and coach for labor and delivery. Class is 2½ hours and there is a \$60 fee. Medicaid is accepted. 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, April 8**  
**Get Up and Move** at 9 a.m., 3 and 4 p.m. This is an invigorating exercise program is designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.  
**Diabetes Self-Management Education** (second 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. 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 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. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.  
**Yoga** (fourth 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, April 9**  
**Exercise Express 12:30 p.m.**  
Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information.  
**American Heart Association's**

**free CPR "Family & Friends" Course** at 1 p.m. All you need are your hands and a few hours of training to learn how to save someone's life. The Family and Friends course is a community CPR course and does not meet CPR certification requirements of employment or required professional credentials. Garden City Hospital is offering this American Heart Association CPR course two times during the month of April to enable members of the community to use CPR effectively and with confidence. There is no fee to attend this 3 1/2 hour course, but pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Susan Karasinski at (734) 458-3403 or by e-mail skarasin@gchosp.org.  
**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? Visit the Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland, 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. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the lower level classrooms of the Alien 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 (SHHHH)** at 7 p.m. Are you or someone you know hard of hearing? You're not alone. A free support group for people who are hard of hearing is held every third Wednesday of the month. Call (734) 458-3381 for more information.

**Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans.** Call (734) 458-3481 for more information or to register.  
**Yoga** (fourth 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, April 11**  
**Exercise Express 12:30 p.m.**  
Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information.  
**Daily Programs**  
Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center offers daily programs Monday through Friday in Phase II and III Cardiac Rehabilitation/Cardiac Wellness, a Peripheral Vascular Disease Exercise and Strength Training Program, and a Diabetes Exercise Program. These classes are presented and monitored by certified exercise physiologists. Contact the Health Enhancement Center at (734) 458-3242 to select an exercise program specifically designed for you.

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## Replace regressive fuel fees with fairer graduated income tax rate

The fact that taxes are the price we pay for a civil society notwithstanding, most of us flinch when the taxman cometh. Good schools, a corrections system, adequate public infrastructure and many other good things done with public dollars do not mitigate the resentment engendered by an unfair tax code and by way or example, the gasoline tax.



Al Churchill

In Michigan the federal gasoline tax is 18 cents per gallon while the state levies an additional 19 cents per gallon. Add to that 16 cents of sales tax when the retail price of gasoline is \$3.08 a gallon and the total tax extracted is a whopping 53 cents per gallon or 21 percent of a \$2.50 wholesale price. According to the Tax Foundation, Michigan levies the fifth highest gasoline tax in the nation.

Gasoline is no longer a luxury. It is a costly necessity because people do not generally live close to where they want to go. They do not walk to work; they drive. School districts spend enormous amounts of money on buses and gasoline because children live far from schools. Children require transportation to sporting events, libraries and other after-school activities. Shopping and entertainment opportunities are often present only beyond walking distance.

We no longer live in small, self-sufficient communities where our friends and life's amenities are close by. Modern existence is dependent upon energy and gasoline, like food, is essential to survival. Like food, it should be free of all forms of taxation.

Beyond that, the gasoline tax is regressive in that low and middle income taxpayers pay a higher portion of their income for gasoline and sale taxes than high income taxpayers. At a time when gasoline seems headed for

\$4 a gallon, a burdensome tax on gas and a tax system that is regressive to begin with is intolerable.

Let's provide some context. Today, fewer and fewer are pocketing a larger and larger share of the nation's income and wealth. Between 1974 and 2004, the most affluent 20 percent has seen its income grow by 64 percent. During the same period, middle America has seen its income modestly grow by 23 percent. The lowest 20 percent has grown only 3 percent. Since 1979 the richest 1 percent has seen its income grow by 184 percent.

By way of contrast, the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy finds the Michigan tax system to be a matter of "soak the poor and middle class, spare the wealthy." According to the ITEP, "the state and local tax rate on the wealthiest 1 percent of Michigan families, with average incomes of \$828,000, is 5 percent." The average tax rate on middle income families, those making between \$29,000 and \$48,000, is

10.8 percent and the poorest among us, those making less than \$16,000, pay over two and a half times the rate of the very wealthy, 13.3 percent. All in all, Michigan's tax system is among the 10 most regressive in the country.

Few would call a tax system fair if middle class and low-income citizens paid a higher portion of their income in taxes than the wealthiest among us. Yet, that is exactly what we do in Michigan and doing so reduces the standard of living of those taxed the most. Even an alleged fairness built into Michigan's flat rate income tax is illusory. Those who argue that an equal share across the board is reasonable ignore the fact that doing so has different consequences for different income groups.

Low-income families spend most of their income just to attain a minimum level of physical and mental comfort. Even middle-income families spend most of their earnings to achieve a reasonably comfortable standard of living with, perhaps, a couple of weeks

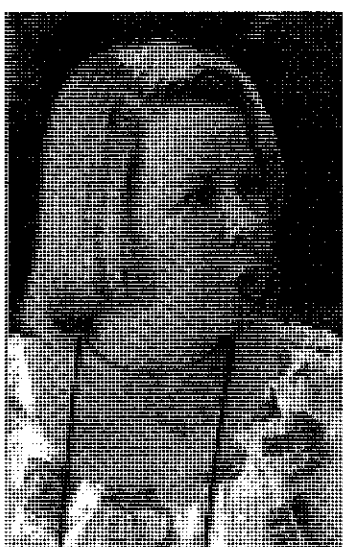
of vacation thrown in. A tax on these groups can directly diminish their quality of life. By comparison, the same tax rate will scarcely affect the daily life of the wealthiest families. Unlike low- and middle-income families, the impact on the quality of life of wealthy families is minimal.

On the other hand, a fair tax system maintains that citizen contributions to government services be based on an ability to pay. Low-income people can be exempted entirely and rates can be graduated higher as income rises. The level of taxation that citizens experience would be relate to what they can afford, not necessarily what they earn. Clearly, discretionary income has been shifting dramatically upward and away from America's middle class. That reality ought to be incorporated into the tax code. A graduated tax rate, like a consumption tax on luxuries, is not only fairer, it's immensely more logical.

Al Churchill is a Livonia resident.

### COMMUNITY VOICE

How has the sub-prime mortgage meltdown affected the way you do business? We asked this of Realtors at the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' annual Realtors luncheon.



"It's killed a lot of deals and you're limited on mortgage programs. People who come in with zero down are very limited and there's a lot more requirements."

Becky Johnson  
RE/MAX Classic



"The flood of foreclosed homes has killed the regular market. Banks have reduced them so much that people are busy buying those instead. All we're selling is foreclosed homes."

George Costa  
National Realty Center



"We're working 10 times harder for probably one-tenth of the money. And documentation has turned out to be critical. Banks are covering themselves tremendously."

Judy O'  
GMAC Kee Group



"A lot of houses are getting bombed on appraisals. Foreclosures are dragging down the nice homes. And a lot of the foreclosures are a mess."

Jon Breckon  
Coldwell Banker

### LETTERS

#### Bush bashing supports terrorism

Folks, we are in a war! Like it or not, we are where we are and there is no way to turn back.

There is no turning back because this is not a Vietnam military adventure worried about domino theories, but a real war where the enemy is willing to die blowing up planes, buildings, cars, shopping malls, etc., and they have no qualms about doing it right here on our shores.

Under the circumstances, the vitriol thrown at the president of these United States of America is only helping our enemies. The gross exaggerations, outright lies, misguided rallies, misquotes and conspiracy theories about Iraq, Hurricane Katrina, along with the news media's (for example — Dan Rather) unconscionable past attacks on the president's character and legal standing can only be seen by our enemies as a house divided.

We need to return to some level of civility and decency for fear of providing our enemies with morale-building sound bites or video footage, let alone encouraging them in the belief that they are winning. Perhaps you can stick to economic policy and protest with your votes or is that too novel a thought?

We do have the right to free speech and I am not suggesting it be taken away, but that you think before you speak because those words are heard by our enemies and our own troops with equal impact.

E. Alfred Johnson  
Royal Oak

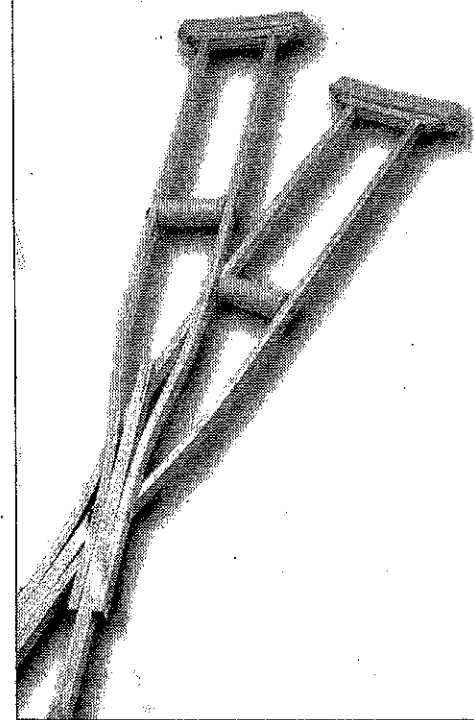


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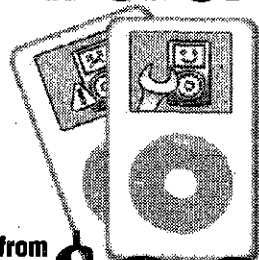
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# Proposed tax would help to fund Detroit Zoo operations

BY JOE BAUMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Leaders of the Detroit Zoo are hoping local residents will pitch in to help fund its operations by approving a new tax. But before residents in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties can vote on the 20-year, 0.1-mill tax, the three, individual county commissions first have to vote to

establish taxing authorities. The process to establish the taxing authority is well under way in Oakland County and is receiving wide bipartisan support. The picture is a little less clear in Wayne and Macomb, where commissioners have yet to vote to establish taxing authorities. Zoo officials argue the new tax is needed to plug an estimated \$8 million annual oper-

ating shortfall created when the city of Detroit, which owns the zoo, terminated its annual subsidy and turned operations over to the Detroit Zoological Society. If approved, the new tax would generate about \$14 million annually and cost the owner of a \$200,000 home \$10 a year. Oakland County Commissioner David Potts,

R-Birmingham, said he supports the zoo and the new tax, and hopes county voters will as well. "The money is needed and necessary, and the zoo is a regional jewel," he said. "Nobody likes to support new taxes, but sometimes they are truly necessary and this is one of those times." Potts predicted the Oakland County Commission will approve a

resolution placing the tax question on the August primary ballot, which was the request of zoo officials. "It is my understanding that if all three counties do not approve the tax, then it won't be levied," he said. One of Potts' counterparts on the Wayne County Commission said she also supports the zoo and letting voters decide, but she strongly opposes holding the election in August. "I think it's fair to put the question before voters, but it makes much more sense holding the election in November when turnout will be much,

much higher than for a primary election," Commissioner Laura Cox, R-Livonia, said. "I don't support stealth elections, and I don't buy the argument that the election has to be in August to allow for necessary time to put the tax plan in place." Cox said she personally supports the zoo, "but if a resolution comes before the commission to establish the taxing authority includes the August vote date, then I will be voting no." Cox said she expects the commission will vote on the issue before the end of May.

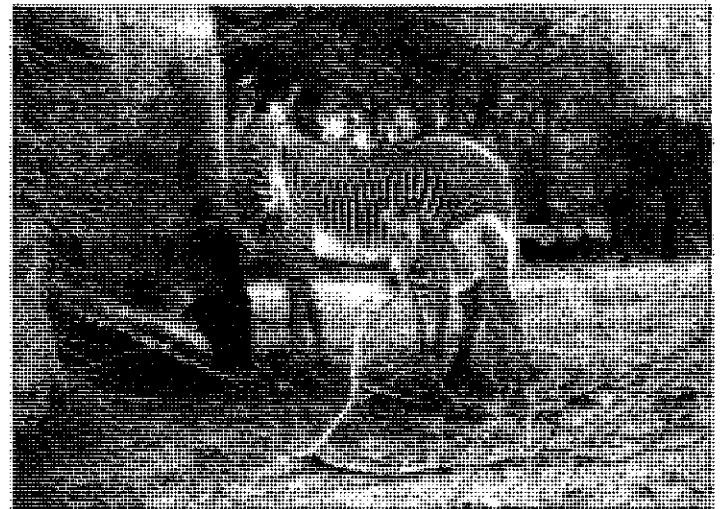
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The new zebra foal born in January at the Detroit Zoo, shown here with mother Elvira, will be named Zahara, which means 'flower' in Arabic.

## Nomads enjoy travel, fun, good company

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Got the travel bug? The Detroit-based Nomads travel club may be your answer. "We do fun stuff," said John Wilson, a trip director who's been active with the Nomads for 10 years. "That's really what we're all about." The club has a terminal on Middlebelt with its own plane at Detroit Metro Airport. The travelers fly in a Boeing 727, and have enjoyed Amazon cruises, Bangkok, Thailand, and closer to home, Yosemite. Wilson shared his stories with Westland Rotary Thursday, April 3. "See how many of these places you recognize," he said in showing a travel film. The Nomads club was founded in 1965 by Joe Benich, with the first trip to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. The club has owned five planes since its inception. Trip directors like Wilson go along on trips to handle problems that arise. He recalled several travelers getting sick on a small sailing ship last year in Greece. "We're there to help out with any of the things along the way." The cockpit door's open during Nomads flight, with the volunteer pilots welcoming travelers in. "It's a very friendly, enjoyable atmosphere," Wilson said of the private travel club. "Of course, the kids love it." Meals are served on longer flights; the plane has been refitted with fewer and larger seats. Luggage is taken care of, something travelers appreciate. "The most enjoyable part for me is simply the people. It's a fun group," Wilson said. "We really want to have a good time." The groups sometimes take "mystery trips" with travelers going to an unknown destination. Wilson recalled being stuck in Vienna, Austria, right after 9/11 when air travel was halted. "They were very empathetic," he remembered of their hosts, who accommodated the American travelers. It's \$500 to join the Nomads, with \$180 yearly membership dues. There are 6,000 members, and you can find out more online at [www.nomadstravel.org](http://www.nomadstravel.org). "All of you like to travel," said 20-year Nomads member Earl Ludwig, who introduced Wilson April 3. "If you've got a problem, John takes care of it." One quirk of Nomads? When the plane takes off or lands, all travelers applaud: "It's just part of our tradition," Wilson said.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The winner in the 200-meter dash was Glenn's Larry Dawkins (far right) followed by Wayne's D.J. Freeman (left) and Glenn's Keshaw Martin (middle).

## Orbiting to victory

### Rockets lift off season with win vs. rival Wayne

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland John Glenn's season-opening 102-35 boys track victory Thursday over rival Wayne Memorial came as no surprise.

Glenn already had a scrimmage meet in against Dearborn and competed in an indoor meet just five days earlier at Eastern Michigan University.

Wayne, meanwhile, entered with a lineup of mostly newcomers without any time spent yet in the field events due to shot put and discus throwing area being under water, along with jumping pit areas that are still considered under repair.

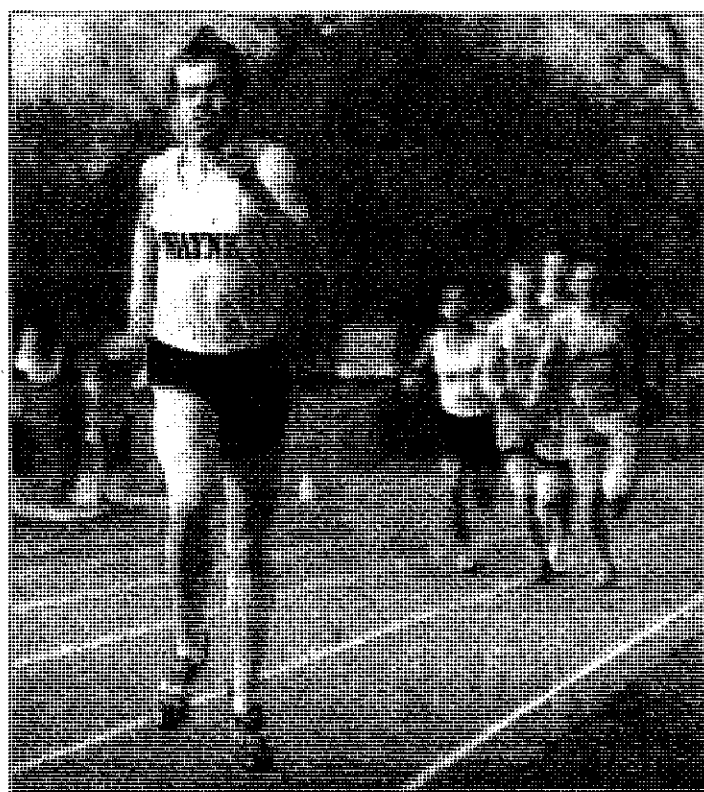
As a result, Wayne did not field any competitors in the shot put, discus, long jump, high jump and pole vault, giving Glenn a 45-0 point advantage.

"It has not been easy with the weather, but we still had to get ourselves ready to go and ready to perform," Glenn coach Jess Shough said. "From my perspective we had to get ready because it was our first official meet outdoors and it was Wayne."

"Even though it was disappointing to go that way and it put a damper on things, I felt we would have been competitive in the field events, too."

Glenn had the upper hand in the sprints and middle distance events.

The Rockets' Larry Dawkins, a state placer last



Wayne Memorial's Jacob Schofield was a runaway winner the 1,600-meter run.

Please see **TRACK, B5**

## Crusaders' extra work yields win

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

On Thursday morning, the Madonna baseball team participated in extra hitting drills to recover from getting blanked by Aquinas in Wednesday's second game of a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference double-header.

Those swings paid off in quick order Thursday afternoon, as the Crusaders rattled 19 hits around Ilitch Ballpark in an 18-0 mercy-rule shortened victory over Rochester College. The game was called midway through the seventh.

"It's great to bounce back," said MU head coach Greg Haeger, whose team is traveling to Chicago,

Ill. for a weekend set against St. Xavier. "We were really disappointed in how the team played yesterday, especially at (our) house. We don't want to play like that here at home."

"I'm happy with the way we swung the bats and we pitched reasonably well. The results were what we were looking for."

The Crusaders (17-7) scored five runs in the first and three in the second to set the tone and give starting pitcher Richard Hammer (Garden City) a comfortable lead to say the least.

But Hammer struggled with control (he walked four and hit a batter) and was replaced in the third by Canton native Carl McDevitt, who pitched two scoreless innings and picked up the victory.

Finishing the shutout with an inning each were Eric Wendling, Pat Kenny and Bret Spencer (Northville).

Rochester (0-7) managed just two hits, by Jordan Ackerman and Mark Albertson.

Madonna really broke things open with a six-run fifth, to make it 16-0.

"Just about everyone in the lineup swung it," Haeger said. "If they didn't get multiple hits they were on base all day long."

Sparking the attack were Farmington junior first baseman Kevin Zerbo (3-for-4, three runs), senior third baseman Kenny

COLLEGE BASEBALL

COLLEGE BASEBALL

COLLEGE BASEBALL

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Please see **CRUSADERS, B2**

## Sidelines

### Glenn fund-raiser

The Westland John Glenn High boys and girls track teams will hold a fund-raiser on Tuesday, April 8 at Max & Erma's, located on 6601 Newburgh Road (at Warren) in Westland.

Twenty-percent of all dinners, lunches and carry out will go toward the Glenn track program.

For more information, call (734) 419-2301.

### Free football clinic

The Livonia Stevenson Youth Football clinic, focusing on fundamentals for grades 2-6, will be from 8:30 a.m. (check-in) to 12:15 p.m. Saturday, May 17 in the school's gymnasium.

Camp instructors included the Stevenson varsity football staff and players.

All participants must wear gym shoes.

Optional clinic T-shirts will be available by pre-order only (must be received by May 6). Adult sizes small through extra-large are \$6.

For more information, call the Stevenson athletic office at (734) 744-2894.

### LJAL football

Football and cheer-leading registration for the Livonia Junior Athletic League will be on a first-come, first-serve basis from 9-10 a.m. Saturday, April 12 at the Frost Middle School Cafe.

The cost is \$165 (tackle football), \$110 (cheerleader) and \$85 (flag football).

Football teams will be made up based on the following ages and weights: flag (ages 6-7); freshman (ages 8-9; up to 125 pounds); JV (ages 9-11; up to 140 pounds); varsity (ages 10-13; up to 170 pounds); 14-year-olds; up to 135 pounds).

Cheer squad age groups include freshman (grades 3-4); JV (grades 5-6); and varsity (grades 7-8).

For more information, visit [www.ljal.com](http://www.ljal.com); or call Phil Adkins at (734) 425-4098.

### Titan track dual

The University of Detroit-Mercy will celebrate its first home men's and women's track and field competition since 1964 with a meet beginning at 4:30 p.m. against Oakland University at the new Titan Field.

Among the special events planned include: a kid zone with games at midfield; free tailgate style food; fastest man on campus 100-meter competition; Tommy Titan vs. the Grizzly 100-meter kids' race; and the alumni-student mile; along with Senior Day for both teams.

For more information, visit [www.detroit-titans.com](http://www.detroit-titans.com).

## Chargers earn split against state-ranked Farmington

First-year Livonia Churchill girls softball coach Lou Kuratko came away encouraged by his team's performance Thursday in a split of a doubleheader with pre-season state-ranked Farmington High.

The Chargers won the opener, 2-1, behind the three-hit pitching of freshman Natalie Hiser, but visiting Farmington returned the favor in the nightcap, 5-2, behind Dana Velzy's 16 strikeouts.

"I think it was a good start to the season for both teams," Kuratko said. "I think Natalie (Hiser) did O.K. for the first time out. She got the ball over the plate and we played good defense behind her."

Churchill turned a pair of double plays in the opener as Hiser struck out eight and did not walk a batter in going the distance.

Katina St. Pierre had the game-winning RBI in the bottom of the sixth, while Emily McShane collected two hits, scored a run and had an RBI. Jordan Kerr also doubled and scored in the first.

Farmington junior starter Chrissy Albrecht took the loss.

In the second game, Velzy allowed just four hits and one walk.

The Falcons, who scored three times in the top of the seventh, collected nine hits off Hiser and Jordan Kerr.

Churchill got its only two runs in the bottom of the seventh on RBIs by Taylor Kerr and Kerri Miazgowicz.

Amanda Blaker led Farmington, ranked No. 10 in Division 1, with four hits.

**STEVENSON 10, ALLEN PARK 4:** A 10-run first-inning carried Livonia Stevenson (1-0) to a season-opening victory Wednesday over the host Jaguars (0-1).

Kristina Vaclavek, who went 2-for-4, sparked the first-inning surge with a two-run triple.

Amanda Paison also went 2-for-4 with a double and two RBI. Kathleen Hoehn also added two hits, while winning pitcher Jamie Johnson went

Please see **CHARGERS, B5**



Churchill's Taylor Kerr tries to make a throw to first after falling down trying to field a bunt during Thursday's game against Farmington.

## Livonia's Lerg inks entry-level contract with Oilers

The Edmonton Oilers announced the signing Wednesday of Michigan State University senior captain Bryan Lerg of Livonia to a two-year NHL entry-level contract.

Terms of the contract were not disclosed.

Lerg joined the Oilers' American Hockey League affiliate Springfield Falcons.

"This is every hockey player's dream - to have an opportunity to play in the National Hockey League," Lerg in an MSU press release. "It's been my dream since I first put on skates at two years old, and I'm very excited about the opportunity to go out and prove myself.

I'd like to thank the Oilers for giving me this chance, and I could not be happier to be in their organization.

"I'd also like to thank everyone at Michigan State - not just within the hockey staff, but everyone at the University. My career at Michigan State allowed me not only to win a National Championship, but also to be a part of one of the best college experiences and hockey programs in the nation. I cannot imagine a better place to have spent my last four years."

The 5-foot-10, 175-pound forward was a four-year player and two-year captain for the Spartans.

The 22-year-old finished second on

the team in scoring list and ranked 11th in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association with a career-best season that featured a team-best 20 goals along with 19 assists for 39 points. Lerg tallied a team-best 10 power play goals and set a career high in points as a senior.

Lerg and his classmates have been a driving force behind one of the most successful eras in MSU hockey.

The team is coming off its third-straight NCAA Regional Final appearance, and captured Michigan State's third NCAA title in 2007. Lerg twice earned MSU's Outstanding Offensive Player award, and bagged a career-high 23 goals and led the NCAA with eight

game-winning goals in his junior season.

Lerg wrapped up his career last weekend with a 68-60-128 scoring line in 169 career games in the Green and White.

Prior to joining MSU, he played two seasons with the U.S. National Under-18 Team and was a member of the U.S. National Junior Team that captured the silver medal at the 2004 IIHF World Under-18 Championship.

MSU completed the 2007-08 season with a 25-12-5 record, and advanced to the NCAA regional final in Colorado Springs, Colo. where the Spartans defeated the WCHA regular-season champion host Tigers before falling to Notre Dame, 3-1.



**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**PREP BASEBALL**  
**Monday, April 7**  
 Lutheran South at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday, April 8**  
 Churchill at Garden City, 4 p.m.  
 W. Bloomfield at Franklin, 4 p.m.  
 Ply. Christian at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.  
 Clarenceville at S'field-Lathrup, 5 p.m.  
**Thursday, April 10**  
 Luth. Westland at Canton Agape, 4:30 p.m.  
 Mt. Carmel at Huron Valley (2), 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, April 11**  
 Plymouth at Churchill, 4 p.m.  
 Franklin at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
 Stevenson at Northville, 4 p.m.  
 Wayne at Salem, 4 p.m.  
 Luth. Westland at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 12**  
 (all double-headers unless noted)  
 Churchill at Carleton-Alpport-Inv., 10 a.m.  
 Huron Valley at Clarenceville, 11 a.m.  
 Franklin at Milford, 11 a.m.  
 Southgate at Stevenson, 11 a.m.  
 Garden City at John Glenn, 11 a.m.  
 Wayne at RU Klotz Invitational, noon.  
**GIRLS SOFTBALL**  
**Monday, April 7**  
 Churchill at Ladywood, 4 p.m.  
 Lutheran N'west at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday, April 8**  
 Garden City at Churchill, 4 p.m.  
 Luth. Westland at S'field Christian, 4:30 p.m.  
 Mt. Carmel at Huron Valley (2), 4:30 p.m.  
 Clarenceville at S'field-Lathrup, 5 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 9**  
 Ladywood at Divine Child (2), 4 p.m.  
**Thursday, April 10**  
 Luth. Westland at Canton Agape, 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, April 11**  
 Churchill at Plymouth, 4 p.m.  
 John Glenn at Franklin, 4 p.m.  
 Stevenson at Northville, 4 p.m.  
 Salem at Wayne, 4 p.m.  
 Luth. Westland at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 12**  
 (all double-headers unless noted)  
 Stevenson at Adrian Invitational, 9 a.m.  
 Huron Valley at Clarenceville, 11 a.m.  
**GIRLS SOCCER**  
**Monday, April 7**  
 John Glenn at Wayne, 4 p.m.  
 Luth. Westland at Rom. Summit, 4:30 p.m.  
 Det. Chavez at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.  
 Churchill at Northville, 7 p.m.  
 Stevenson at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
**Tuesday, April 8**  
 Bishop Foley at Ladywood, 5:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 9**  
 Northville at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
 Lutheran South at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.  
 Franklin at Churchill, 7 p.m.  
 Wayne at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
**Thursday, April 10**  
 Ply. Christian at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.  
 Marian at Ladywood, 5:30 p.m.  
**Friday, April 11**  
 F.H. Harrison at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
 Churchill at Grosse Pte. South, 7 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 12**  
 Ladywood at Salem, 2:30 p.m.  
**BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD**  
**Tuesday, April 8**  
 Clarenceville at Whitmore Lake, 4:30 p.m.  
**Thursday, April 10**  
 Churchill at W.L. Northern, 3:30 p.m.  
 Franklin at Northville, 3:30 p.m.  
 W.L. Central at Stevenson, 3:30 p.m.  
 Salem at John Glenn, 3:30 p.m.  
 Wayne at Canton, 3:30 p.m.  
 Clarenceville at Hazel Park, 4:30 p.m.  
 Franklin Road, Annapolis, Roepert,  
 Luth. South at Lutheran Westland, 4:30 p.m.  
**BOYS SOCCER**  
**Monday, April 7**  
 John Glenn vs. Edsel Ford  
 at the Woodlands (Van Buren), 3 p.m.  
 Huron Valley vs. Macomb Christian  
 at Maple Lane G.C., 3:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 9**  
 John Glenn vs. New Boston Huron  
 at the Woodlands (Van Buren), 3 p.m.  
**Friday, April 11**  
 Pinckney Invitational, 9 a.m.  
 Huron Valley vs. Macomb Christian  
 at Hawthorne Valley, 2:30 p.m.  
**GIRLS TENNIS**  
**Monday, April 7**  
 Churchill at Farmington, 4 p.m.  
 Ladywood vs. Andover at Schoolcraft, 4 p.m.  
 Clawson vs. Clarenceville  
 at Bicentennial Park, 4:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday, April 8**  
 Ladywood vs. Marian at Schoolcraft, 4 p.m.  
 Ferndale vs. Clarenceville  
 at Bicentennial Park, 4:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 9**  
 Howell at Stevenson, 4 p.m.  
**Thursday, April 10**  
 Ladywood vs. Regina at Schoolcraft, 4 p.m.  
 Clarenceville at Hazel Park, 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, April 11**  
 Franklin at Churchill, 4 p.m.  
 Stevenson at W.L. Northern, 4 p.m.  
 W.L. Western at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
 Wayne at W.L. Central, 4 p.m.  
**GIRLS LACROSSE**  
**Monday, April 7**  
 Ladywood at Brighton, 7 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 9**  
 Ladywood at Troy, 7 p.m.  
**Friday, April 11**  
 Grosse Pte. North at Ladywood, 6 p.m.  
**MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL**  
 (all double-headers)  
**Sunday, April 6**  
 Madonna at St. Xavier (Ill.), noon.  
**Wednesday, April 9**  
 Madonna et Concordia, 1:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 12**  
 Indiana Tech at Madonna, 1 p.m.  
**Sunday, April 13**  
 Madonna at Indiana Tech, 1 p.m.  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL**  
 (all double-headers)  
**Tuesday, April 8**  
 Madonna at Saginaw Valley State, 3 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 9**  
 Madonna at Rochester College, 3 p.m.  
**Friday, April 11**  
 Indiana Tech at Madonna, 3 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 12**  
 Concordia at Madonna, 1 p.m.  
**Sunday, April 13**  
 Madonna at Indiana Tech, 1 p.m.  
**INDEPENDENT WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
**Saturday, April 12**  
 Detroit Demolition vs. Columbus Phantoms  
 at Livonia Franklin H.S., 7 p.m.



Stevenson's Jennifer Gateley (left) tries to beat Canton's Rachel Kain to the ball, but to no avail as teammate Megan Staub tallied her second goal of the game.

# Staub's 2 goals lift Canton past Stevenson in crossover

Canton's Megan Staub supplied the offensive punch Friday to knock off visiting Livonia Stevenson, 3-0, in a Western Lakes Activities Association girls soccer crossover.

Staub, a junior forward, had a pair of goals and Tracey Rymph, also a junior forward, added the other to catapult the Chiefs to their first win of the year.

Assists went to senior Rachel Kain, senior Laura Daniels and junior Lisa Pierce.

Canton scored at the 10-minute mark of the first half and led 1-0 at intermission.

The Chiefs added their second goal at the 55-minute mark when the Stevenson back line was caught out of position and the Chiefs played the ball through to the middle to a cutting forward. Canton put it away with another goal at the 65-minute mark.

Senior goalkeeper Bryanne Bellovary, who made four saves, posted the shutout for Canton.

"It was kind of a back-and-forth game, but Canton created more offensive opportunities, and finished when they needed to," said Stevenson coach Chris Pinta, whose team dropped to 1-2 overall. "We didn't create

## WLAA GIRLS SOCCER

much offensively and really struggled on the grass to connect with one another."

Canton (1-1) was coming off a 1-0 loss Wednesday at home against Novi as Jenna Carosio scored the game-winning goal on a penalty kick with 18 minutes to go.

"I felt my team responded well after losing to Novi," Canton coach George Tomasso. "We did a good job of stopping Stevenson's attack and we eliminated the breakdowns. Stevenson is a good, tough team and when their girls get healthy, they'll be even more competitive late in the season."

**CHURCHILL 2, PLYMOUTH 0:** Alyssa Mira had two assists Wednesday as Livonia Churchill (1-0) earned a WLAA crossover win over the host Wildcats.

Hannah Otto's goal from Mira made it 1-0 at halftime. Callie Mack added an insurance goal from Mira in the second half.

Goalkeeper Stefanie Turner, who made a couple of key came up big to post the shutout.

"Overall it was a good effort, the girls played really well on the grass field," Churchill coach Dave Hebestreit said. "I thought our fitness coming off of spring break would be an effort, but we had multiple chances and reacted well."

**A.A. PIONEER 4, STEVENSON 1:** In a non-

league battle Wednesday, host Ann Arbor Pioneer (1-0-1) broke away from a halftime deadlock to beat Livonia Stevenson (1-1).

Alex Harbowy scored from Molly McConnell for Stevenson's lone goal for the Spartans to make it 1-1 at halftime. The play started when McConnell took a heel pass from Wendy Hoots.

"It took us awhile to get comfortable," Stevenson coach Chris Pinta said. "We may have come out nervous because it was our first real game against a good opponent."

Lauren Fearday, Hallie Pournier, Molly Stansik and Mikki Dennis scored goals for Pioneer.

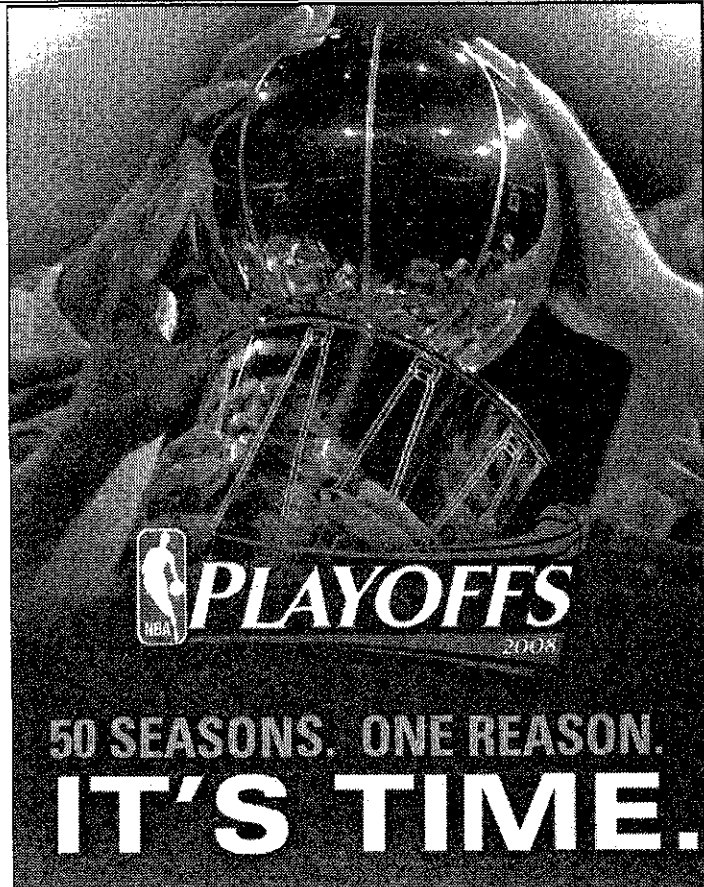
Goalkeeper Alex Richert had four saves for the Pioneers.

**W.L. NORTHERN 7, FRANKLIN 1:** In a WLAA crossover Wednesday, visiting Walled Lake Northern rolled to the win over Livonia Franklin (0-1).

Senior forward Molly Perkins scored seven minutes into the second half for the Patriots, who fell behind 4-0 at halftime.

"It was an awfully rocky first half for us and that really made it difficult to come back," Franklin coach Jen Barker said. "It almost took us the first half to get out of the nerves and become comfortable so we could finally settle in. We were a whole different team for the final 40 minutes, which we can positively build off of..."

"Courtney Smith, Renee Berger and Brooke Killeen stepped up their game and helped lead the team through our more successful second half."



50 SEASONS. ONE REASON. IT'S TIME.

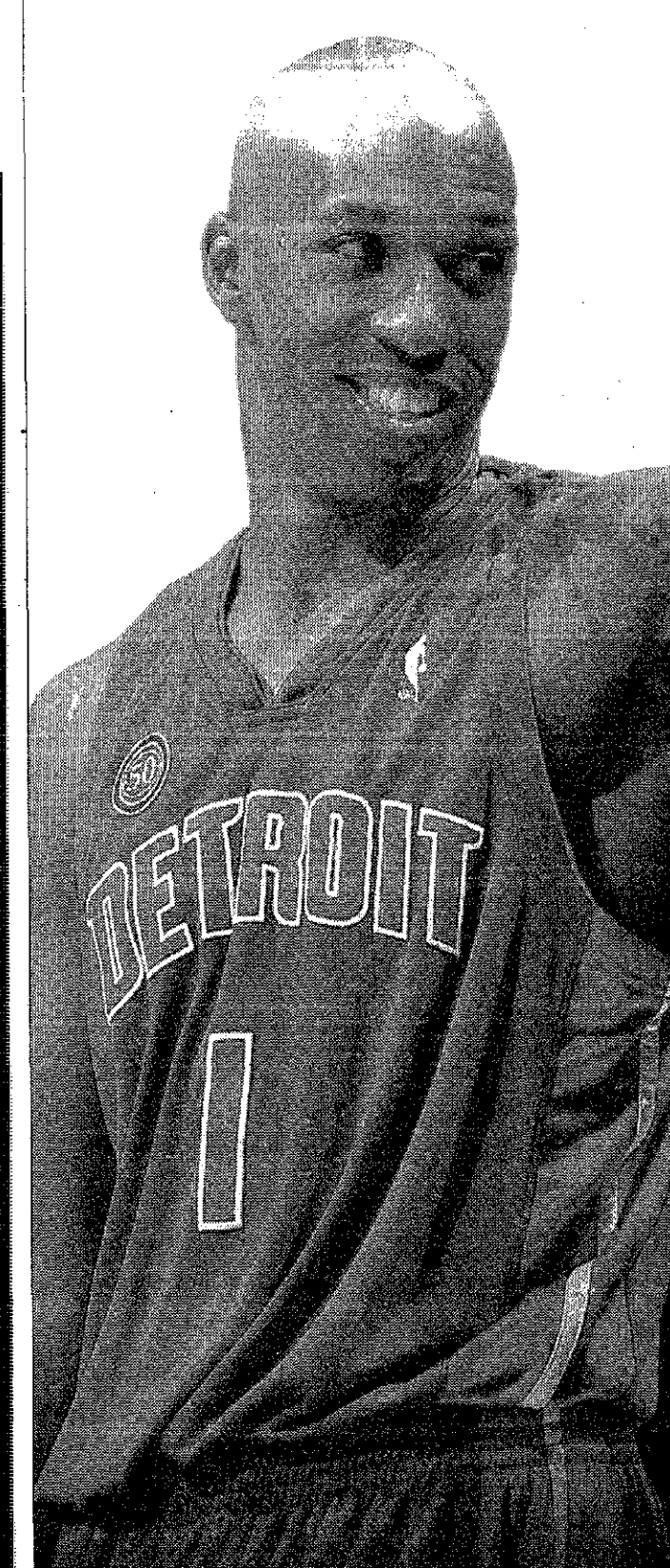
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GIRLS TENNIS CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Denise Grant, 14th year.
League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division).
2006 finish: Tied for eighth place (WLAA Tournament and Division I regional).

Katie Roberts, Sr.; Paige McNamara, Jr.; Gabrielle Sabatini, Jr.; Carl Marschner, Soph.
Promising newcomers: Ashley Benvenuti, Fr.; Shannon Dwight, Fr.; Laura Gumpfer, Fr.; Melissa Martinez, Fr.; Calla Miller, Fr.

League affiliation: Metro Conference.
2006 finish: 7-5 dual meet record; fifth (Division 4 regional).
Notable losses to graduation: Becky Simpson, Jenny Kanyo, Gina Alessandrini.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Lori George, fifth year.
League affiliation: WLA (Western Division).
2006 finish: Tied for eighth (WLAA Tournament and Division I regional).

Head coach: Kirk Conner, seventh year.
League affiliation: WLA (Lakes Division).
2006 finish: 10th (Division I regional); 12th (WLA Tournament); 3/12 overall record.

Head coach: David Guziatsek, fourth year.
League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).
2006 finish: 5-9 overall; fourth (Division 2 regional).

George's 2008 outlook: "The team is experiencing a rebirth with returning players moving from doubles to singles. Many first-year varsity returns will be making doubles teams at varsity. Our team is small by numbers, but lean and enthusiastic. Last season we won seven-of-10 thirds sets in our conference season. We look to win matches in two sets this season."

Wayne Memorial
Head coach: Joe Nowaske, first year.
League affiliation: WLA (Western Division).
2006 finish: 11th (WLA Tournament and Division I regional).

Head coach: Megan Tallman, Jr., No. 4 doubles; Alaina Wygant, Fr., No. 5 doubles; Corey Shattuck, Soph., No. 5 doubles; Carol Beasley, Fr., doubles.

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Kathy Ladd, 10th season.
League affiliation: WLA (Lakes Division).
2006 finish: first (Lakes Division); second (WLA Tournament); third (Division I regional); qualified for state.

Head coach: John Kanyo, fourth year.
League affiliation: WLA (Western Division).
2006 finish: 11th (WLA Tournament and Division I regional).

Head coach: David Guziatsek, fourth year.
League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).
2006 finish: 5-9 overall; fourth (Division 2 regional).

Notable losses to graduation: Amanda Moccia (first-team All-Area singles); Corinne Pasley (first-team All-Area singles); Julie Francisco (first-team All-Area doubles); Amelia Lepping, Laura Dulude, Courtney Bunna.

Notable losses to graduation: Chelsey Odom, Monica Stafford, Nicole Woodard.

Notable losses to graduation: Katie Schesky, Lauren Butwill.

GIRLS TENNIS RESULTS

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 5 GARDEN CITY 3
April 3 at Garden City
No. 1 singles: Rebekah Pummill (GC) defeated Samantha Giles, 6-2, 6-1; No. 2: Sara Pruett (WJG) def. Paige Scott, 6-3, 6-2; No. 3: Amanda Rummel (GC) def. Jenny Bone, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5; No. 4: Louisa Villaroman (WJG) def. Ashleigh Johnson, 6-2, 7-6 (7-2).

April 2 at Wayne Memorial
No. 1 singles: Jessica Novack (WM) defeated Rebekah Pummill, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3; No. 2: Brianna Yankosky-Andrea Crist (GC) def. Kara Windsor-Madelynn Beville, 6-1, 6-4; No. 3: Bethany Jacobson-Jessica Gemuend (GC) def. Jessica Gregg-Ashlee Szabo, 6-1, 6-2; No. 4: Kaitlyn Schack-Samantha Nesbitt (GC) def. Nancy Watson-Ki Yan Wang, 6-1, 6-2.

ARCHERY RANGE OPENING

Registration for the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation archery range season pass is ongoing at the Parks and Recreation desk at the Livonia Community Recreation Center.
Archery range hours will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, April through October; and 4 p.m. until dusk, September through Oct. at the range, located on Glendale Avenue off Farmington Road between I-96 and Plymouth Road.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

WYAA girls fast-pitch

The Westland Youth Athletic Association is seeking girls ages 10-16 to play fast-pitch softball Western Wayne County League, which begins in June.
Openings remain for all age groups including 12-, 14- and 16-and-under.
Registration is from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays at the WYAA Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Boys-Girls slowpitch

The Dad's Athletic Club of Westland will stage registration for boys and girls slow-pitch softball (ages 6-18 as of March 1, 2008) season which runs from early May through July at Adam Middle School, located on Palmer Road (west of Venoy).
The fun league does not include tryouts. Everyone plays.

Ballplayers wanted

The 12-and-under Westland Warthogs travel baseball team needs two players for the 2008 season, which starts April 23.
The Warthogs are members of the Kensington Valley Baseball-Softball Association.
If interested, call Gary Vroom at (734) 748-5966.

Storm needs players

Tryouts (weather permitting) for the Livonia Storm 12-and-under girls softball will be from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at Bicentennial Park, located at Seven Mile and Wayne roads.
You age must be as of Jan. 2, 2008 and under to qualify.
For more information, call Ken Jewell at (734) 266-9109; or e-mail kjewell@livoniastorm.com. You can also visit www.livonias-torm.com.

Youth baseball signup

The Wayne-Ford Civic League baseball registration for youths ages 4-10 will be from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. each Saturday at the Civic League hall, located at 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland.
Registration fees are \$65 for T-ball and Coach-Pitch leagues; \$80 for Mustang League.

Women's golf league

The Livonia Women's Golf League, in conjunction with Livonia Parks and Recreation is seeking members for its 8 a.m. Thursday 18-hole, 20-week league, which begins May 1.
The cost is \$25 per week (includes greens fees and cart). Non-residents are also welcome.
For more information, call Alethea VanGorp at (734) 464-2712.

Stevenson needs coaches

Livonia Stevenson is seeking coaches for the following sports: girls assistant swimming and diving (experience necessary to coach diving); boys assistant swimming and diving (experience necessary to coach diving); JV cheerlead-

Girls basketball league

The Livonia Community Recreation Center spring basketball league for girls ages (10-13) will start the week of April 21.
Team placement tryouts will be from 5-6 p.m. Monday, April 14 at the LCRC gym, which is located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).
The registration deadline is April 14 at the LCRC with practice dates on April 25 and May 2. Game dates at May 9, 16, 23, 30; June 6 and 13.
Fees are \$49 (LCRC pass holders), resident, \$58; and non-resident, \$65.
For more information, call (734) 466-2900.

Boys basketball league

The Livonia Community Recreation Center spring basketball league for boys ages 9-11 (Division I) and 12-14 (Division II) starts the week of April 21 at the LCRC.
Team placement tryouts will be from 6-7 p.m. (Division I) and 7-8 p.m. (Division II) Tuesday, April 15 at the LCRC gym, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile road).
The registration deadline is Tuesday, April 15 at the LCRC.
Division I practice dates are Tuesday, April 22 and 29 followed by games May 6, 13, 20, 20, 27; June 3 and 10.
Division II practice dates are Thursday, April 24 and May 1 followed by games May 8, 15, 22, 29; June 5 and 12.
Fees are \$49 (LCRC pass holders), resident, \$58; and non-resident, \$65.
For more information, call (734) 466-2900.

Advanced archery

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer a six-week advanced archery class (ages 10 and up) from 6-7:30 p.m. Mondays, June 2 through July 2, at the archery range, located on Glendale Avenue off Farmington Road (between I-96 and Plymouth Road).
The fee is \$30 with registration opening on Monday, April 7 at the Parks and Recreation desk located in the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).
You must have completed the introduction to archery class to participate.
For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Advertisement for Motor City Moms.com. Text: "It's time for a little mom talk." Features a list of services: Mom-to-mom discussions, Photo galleries, Local calendar of events, Editor's blog. Includes logos for Motor City Moms.com and WeightWatchers.

Advertisement for Joe of Joe's Produce & Gourmet Market. Text: "Our customers love our ads!" Features a photo of a man and a testimonial: "We are having great success with our full page advertising. Each week our customers look forward to seeing the numerous prepared foods, deli and specialty items we have to offer..."



## Cooking methods affect nutrients of vegetables

Carol from Ferndale recently read that a microwave oven can cook vital nutrients right out of vegetables. Is this true?

Carol, you are probably talking about a recent study on cooking broccoli in microwaves. Researchers cooked 2 cups of broccoli along with 10 tablespoons of water using various methods. They included steaming, pressure cooking,



Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

boiling and of course the microwave. They then compared the flavonoid content in the cooked broccoli. (Flavonoids are antioxidants that are proven disease fighters.) The final results were pretty amazing: steamed broccoli lost 11 percent of its flavonoids, pressure cooked broccoli lost 54 percent, boiled lost 81 percent and the microwave broccoli lost an incredible 97 percent of its flavonoid content! They found that water exposure is a key factor. The less exposure the broccoli had, the more flavonoids remained. Frozen broccoli usually requires little or no added water and retains high levels of most nutrients.

Mike from Harper Woods emails that progress with his bench press workout has stalled. He is looking for some help.

Mike, the answer to your problem may be taking a dip and I don't mean in a pool! Try adding parallel bar dips to your workout. The dips can build deltoids, triceps and fore arm muscles, all areas that are critical for a successful bench press workout. Begin the exercise in the upright position on the bars supporting your weight with arms fully extended. Lower yourself to mid chest level, then push back up to the starting position. The exercise is even more effective when you hang weights from your workout belt for maximum resistance. You will get a boost in your bench press if you do 3 sets of 5 to 8 reps per day, using as much weight as you can. As always, don't over do it! Start with a little weight and work your way up.

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.

## Charity gala to provide AEDs to high schools

Randall and Sue Gillary are determined that another parent never go through the pain of losing a child because an automated external defibrillator (AED) wasn't available to save their life.

The Gillarys' 15-year-old daughter, Kimberly, died of cardiac arrest in April 2000 in a water polo game at Groves High School in Bloomfield Hills. Kimberly had an undetected heart condition which took her life. She may have survived if the school had been equipped with an AED.

Since her death the couple has raised more than \$883,000 and donated more than 400 AEDs to high schools in Michigan through the Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation.

On Friday, April 11, they'll host Kimberly's Gift Gala so they can raise enough money to provide AEDs to the 68 schools still remaining on their waiting list. The charity event runs from 6-10 p.m. at the Detroit Athletic Club and features guest speaker Jiri Fischer, a former Detroit Red Wing. Fisher suffered a cardiac arrest during a Red Wing's game at Joe Louis Arena in November 2005. He survived because medical personnel were trained to use an AED and saved his life.

Proceeds from Kimberly's Gift Gala will be used to provide Michigan high schools with at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) and staff trained in CPR and the use of an AED.

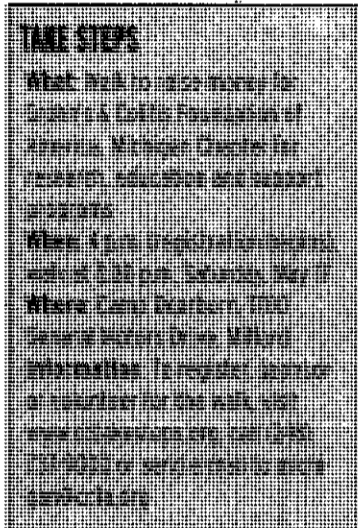
For more information, send e-mail to rgillary@gillarylaw.com, call (248) 528-0440 or visit the Web site at www.kimberlysgift.org. All administrative costs of the Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation are paid by the Law Offices of Randall Gillary in Troy. 100-percent of the donations from the public are used to purchase AEDs and training. Tickets for the charity event are \$150 and include a cocktail hour, gourmet dinner and dessert, open bar, and live and silent auctions. The Detroit Athletic Club is at 241 Madison Ave. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, April 9.

# Taking steps

## Walk to raise money for cure

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Madison Elkow isn't standing still while waiting for a cure. The 15-year-old Mercy High School student is leading the way to raise awareness about the digestive diseases collectively known as IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease).



Elkow was only 9 years old when doctors diagnosed her ulcerative colitis after she started having severe abdominal pain and stopped growing. On Saturday, May 17, Elkow gathers her Camp Oasis team for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation's Take Steps Walk at Camp Dearborn in Milford. The group consists of kids who attend the CCFA summer camp and the 18 girls on her synchronized ice skating team at the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills.

Elkow has been participating in the walk since it began raising money for research, education and support programs for the Michigan Chapter of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation in 2003. Medication made it possible for the Farmington Hills girl to recently travel to Sweden to compete with her ice skating team without worrying if she'd have a flare-up. Three years ago it took 11 months to control the ulcerative colitis after Elkow began hemorrhaging. Today, she's able to train 14-hours a week and teach catechism at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington Hills while remaining on the honor roll at school. Elkow also speaks about colitis for the Foundation.

"I really think it's important to find a cure so other people don't have to go through what I went through or the kids that go to the camp," said Elkow.

Laura Elkow, Madison's mother, is especially grateful for research which continues to develop new drugs.

"Once they found a medication that worked she grew 7 inches in about 6 months," said Laura Elkow. "She's never let it get her down."

Dr. Michael Duffy is hoping for an even brighter future for patients with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. The gastroenterologist has been treating IBD for about 25 years. He serves on the Foundation board.

"There's been dramatic improvement. Diagnostically we now have better imaging techniques, blood tests, but the biggest advance is in therapy. There are a number of new drugs to modify disease and pre-



Madison Elkow, 15, of Farmington Hills proudly displays some of the interests in her active lifestyle after recent advances in the medical field helped control her ulcerative colitis.

vent some of the complications," said Duffy who is on staff at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and practices at Gastrointestinal Specialists in Troy. He regularly sees patients suffering with the diarrhea, abdominal pain, weight loss, and rectal bleeding which are symptoms of IBD.

"They're considered chronic diseases. The goal is to keep people healthy, get them in remission and keep them there. Crohn's is the most difficult one which sometimes requires multiple surgery and leads to complications," said Duffy. "Drugs in the last 10 years have dramatically improved the approach to these diseases. There's a tremendous amount of research into genetics, a number of new compounds."

So far scientists don't know what causes the inflammatory diseases, but suspect genetics and the immune system play a role. "As we understand the immune system and the abnormalities better we'll be better able to target therapies," said Duffy of Bloomfield Hills. "I don't think they'll cure these diseases, but we'll have more effective therapies. In the last 10 years we've had one or two new drugs come out. The outlook in the next 10 years is an additional 10 or 15. I think there's a lot of hope in that regard."

Last year's walk raised \$200,000 to fund research at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University as well as CCFA education programs. On May 6, the Foundation coordinates a live teleconference with Dr. Edward Loftus, Jr. on the lat-

est medication from 8-9:15 p.m. Loftus is associate director of Irritable Bowel Disease at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. For information, visit www.ccfaf.org.

On Sept. 13, the Foundation presents an education program in conjunction with the U-M Medical Center at St. John's Conference Center in Plymouth. Call (248) 737-0900.

This year's Camp Oasis for kids ages 7-17 takes place July 13-19, at Camp Copneconic in Fenton. The list of CCFA services goes on and includes support groups which meet throughout the state. That's why the walk is so important. This year the event is moving from Maybury State Park to Camp Dearborn to accommodate the growing number of walkers. bd's Mongolian Grill in Novi is donating the food once again. Any walker who raises \$100 receives a free T-shirt.

"The walk is really a fun day," said Bernie Riker, Executive Director of the CCFA Michigan Chapter in Farmington Hills (www.michiganccfa.org). "We have a Kiddie Corral with games and activities. We have 90 teams signed up so far. There's still plenty of room. On April 8 we're having a kickoff party at bd's Mongolian Grill beginning at 6 p.m. It's open to anyone who is registered to walk. There's no charge. We'll be having dinner and a lot of fun. If you haven't registered yet it's not too late."

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

### MEDICAL DATEBOOK

- APRIL**
- Bocce for Bucks**  
A fund-raiser for Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan 2-6 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at the Palazzo di Bocce in Orion Township. Featuring indoor bocce tournament play, Italian dinner fare, folks songs by the Italian American Cultural Society's Coro Italiano, silent auction and more. Prizes will be awarded to top teams. Tickets are Guest \$100; Patron \$150; and Benefactor \$200. Call (248) 967-9600 or visit www.vna.org.
  - Divorce support group**  
Group discussion 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 8. Attorney Patricia Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions on a first come, first served basis, in the Women's Resource Center (room 225) of the McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443.
  - Ovarian cancer**  
One-to-One Ovarian Cancer Support Group for women with ovarian cancer 4-5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at Beaumont Cancer Center, first floor classroom, 3601 W. 13 Mile, west of Woodward, Royal Oak. For information, call (248) 597-2710.
  - Cure gala**  
The 16th Annual Commitment for a Cure Gala presented by the Join the American Diabetes Association 6-10 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at the Ritz-Carlton Dearborn. Gala tickets \$200 per person. For more information, contact Kelli Dobner at (888) DIABETES, Ext. 6688 or kdobner@diabetes.org.
  - Sarcoidosis support**  
Meets 1 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at Beaumont Hospital, Administration Building first floor conference dining rooms A & B, 3601 W. 13 Mile, west of Woodward, Royal Oak. For information, call (248) 545-0320.
  - Genetically modified foods**  
Allergies, digestive problems, headaches, personality changes, and other unexplained health problems may be caused from genetically modified foods (GMO's). Find out which foods in your cupboard have been genetically modified at a workshop 3 p.m. Friday, April 18 with Dr. William Karl, D.C. at the Alfred Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth Rd. between Meriman and Farmington Rd. To reserve a seat, call (734) 425-8588.

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# All-Observer gymnasts vault to head of class

**EMILY QUINT, SOPH., LIVONIA BLUE:** The sophomore enjoyed an outstanding individual state meet with a third in the Division I all-around (37.65) along with a second on floor exercise (9.55), third on vault (9.6) and fifth on beam (9.475).

At the regional, Quint was runner-up in the all-around (37.65), first on floor (9.625), second on vault (9.4), third on beam (9.55) and fifth on the uneven parallel bars (9.075).

"Emily has a great attitude when she's in the gym," Livonia Blue coach Lisa Fierk said. "She's always smiling and showing off her hip-hop dance moves. She's very important to our team and is willing to improve on each event to get her team where they want to be at the end of the season."

Her top performances for the season included vault (9.625), uneven bars (9.5), beam (9.55) and floor (9.7).

"She knows she's a team player and she gets along with all her teammates," Fierk said. "I have high hopes for her the next two years."

**PAULA GUZIK, JR., LIVONIA RED:** The senior was sixth all-around at the Division I state individual finals in Division 1 along with taking a fourth on vault and a fifth on floor.

"Paula is an amazing gymnast and fantastic leader," Livonia Red coach Kelly Grodzicki said. "She has determination, which she uses to challenge herself further each year. She shows extreme focus in her gymnastics and does not lose concentration. She'll be returning as a senior and captain next year. She acts as a great role model in the gym and out."

Guzik was regional all-around champ, while taking the vault, uneven bars and balance beam. She added a six on floor.

In the WLAA meet, Guzik finished first all-around. She earned a first on bars; second on vault; third on beam; and fourth on floor.

Her high scores for the season included: all-around (38.025); beam (9.7); floor (9.65); vault (9.575) and bars (9.55).

"Balancing her studies, softball and gymnastics, Paula has proven to succeed in all," Grodzicki said. "Positive energy and motivation are the characteristics Paula demonstrates to the other athletes."

**MEGHAN POWERS, JR., LIVONIA BLUE:** The junior earned an eighth on floor exercise at the Division I individual meet.

Her top performances this season included 36.875, all-around; 9.7, beam; 9.475, floor; 9.4, uneven

bars; and 9.2, vault. At the regional, Powers was third all-around; second on beam; fifth on floor and vault.

"When Meghan puts her mind to something there is no stopping her," Fierk said. "She shows great determination and drive. She had been fighting a knee injury and sickness throughout the season, but that did not stop her from competing at any meets."

"She's a real motivator to her teammates and herself. Meghan's unique character always brings fun and smiles into the gym. Next year she's going to be one of our captains."

**ALICIA DIMAURO, JR., LIVONIA RED:** The junior earned Division I state qualifying berths in both the vault and beam after placing eighth at the regional in both events.

In the WLAA meet, DiMauro was sixth all-around after taking fourth on vault; sixth on floor; eighth on beam and ninth on bars.

"Alicia is a quiet and consistent gymnast," Grodzicki said. "She could always be counted on to step up when we needed her. Alicia does not give up and her motivation for success shines. "She'll be a senior next year, as well as captain."

DiMauro's top scores for the year include: all-around (35.65); vault (9.325); floor (9.25); beam (9.0); and bars (8.85).

"She demonstrates positive characteristics in the gym and is very encouraging," Grodzicki said. "Alicia remains focused on her studies and achieved Scholar-Athlete in her third year. Alicia has shown great promise and will continue to do so."

**LAURA NOMURA, JR., LIVONIA BLUE:** The junior was a Division II state qualifier who took third on floor, fourth on vault and 12th in the all-around.

At the regional, Nomura finished first on beam (9.3) and was second all-around (35.55). She also added a third on bars and fourth on vault.

"At 'states,' Laura tried a new floor tumbling pass and stuck it like she was doing it all season long," Fierk said. "Her coaches were so excited for her."

"Laura always came to practice ready to try new skills and improve her old ones. She is already thinking about what skills she wants for next season."

Her top scores for the season included a 9.55, vault; 8.8, bars; 9.3, beam; 9.5, floor; and 36.75, all-around.

"She has been a great captain this year and always knows how to motivate her teammates," Fierk

said. "She was voted Most Valuable Gymnast this season."

**MARGARITA LAZAREVSKA, SR., LIVONIA RED:** The senior earned Division II state individual qualifying spots after placing second on the beam and sixth on the vault at the regional.

She added a second in the vault at the WLAA meet with a personal best 9.05.

Her other high scores for the fourth-year letter winner and three-time Scholar-Athlete included a 9.25 (beam) and 8.8 (floor).

"Margarita brings a lot of energy to the gym," Grodzicki said. "She's a dynamic leader and a focused gymnast. It was thrilling to see her add her back-tuck to her beam routine for the finals."

"She shows strength and poise in her athletics. She definitely completed her best year in gymnastics and I'm confident Margarita will continue to succeed as she plans to attend the University of Michigan-Dearborn."

**JESSIE MURRAY, SR., CANTON:** The senior's extraordinary career was capped off in fine fashion when she was named the state's "Senior Gymnast of the Year" by the Michigan High School Gymnastics Coaches and Judges Association last month. The team captain placed ninth in the all-around at the 2008 Division 1 state meet and set a school record on the balance beam with a score of 9.7.

"Jessie was first team varsity the first day she walked in the gym as a freshman," said Canton coach John Cunningham. "She's been a 36-point all-arounder all four years. She was one of the team leaders even last year when she was a junior and we had seven seniors. Jessie's been a big part of this program for the past four years and she will be missed."

**ROBYN PIWOWAR, FR., CANTON:** The ninth-grader burst onto the local gymnastics scene this season and made an immediate impact on the Chiefs' fortunes as she was the lone freshman to finish in the top 10 all-around (she tied for 10th) at the Division 1 state meet.

"Robyn was out of club gymnastics for about a year-and-a-half before this year, but she re-learned everything very quickly," said Cunningham. "The one event she feared the most at the beginning of the year — the vault — proved to be one of her best by the end of the year as she placed fifth at the state meet with a 9.55 against a very good group of girls."

**KATIE KOETTING, JR., SALEM:** Koetting enjoyed her third consecutive strong season for the Rocks gym-

nastics team, closing the year by placing tied for 10th in the all-around at the Division 1 state meet. Koetting, who is also one of the area's best divers in the fall, placed sixth in the vault at the state meet with a score of 9.525.

**AUTUMN COLLINS, SR., SALEM:** Collins polished off a stellar career for the Rocks by placing 34th in the all-around at the Division 2 state meet. Her best event was the balance beam as she placed 18th with a 9.20.

**BRITTANY YOUNG, SR., SALEM:** Young combined with Katie Koetting and Autumn Collins to give the Rocks a solid 1-2-3 punch. She placed 16th in the all-around at last month's Division 2 state meet where she placed 11th on the uneven bars.

**JORDAN BRODEHL, SR., PLYMOUTH:** The senior captain will graduate as the school's best all-around gymnast. Brodehl, who has starred for the Wildcats since her freshman year, placed sixth on the uneven bars at last month's Division 2 state meet.

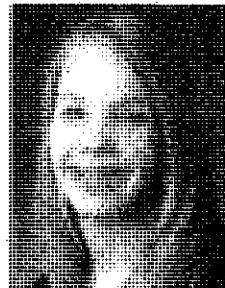
**LISA FIERK, LIVONIA BLUE, COACH OF THE YEAR:** The second-year coach guided the squad made up of Stevenson and Franklin high gymnasts to a third-place finish at the state teams with a score of 144.725.

Livonia Blue also captured the Plymouth regional with a season-best 145.625, along with the WLAA meet (142.5). Fierk also led her squad to a 10-1 dual-meet record, as well as a first-place finish at the Troy Athens Invitational and a pair of thirds at the Farmington and Canton invitationals.

"The girls have worked hard this season to achieve all the goals that they set out for themselves," Fierk said. "As their coach, I'm extremely proud of how united our team is. All the girls were improving their skills throughout the season to improve the team score and the chance to be top three at 'states.' I'm proud of the team and excited to see what the gymnasts bring next year."

The 24-year-old Fierk never competed as a gymnast, but fell in love with the sport while working at the YMCA. She is currently majoring in math, reading and elementary education at Eastern Michigan University.

"When a coaching opportunity opened up, I stepped in not knowing much about the sport, but willing to learn," said Fierk, who has been coaching at the Y for four years. "Coaching is a big part of my life. I would do anything for the gymnast to ensure that they have a safe and enjoyable environment to practice in."



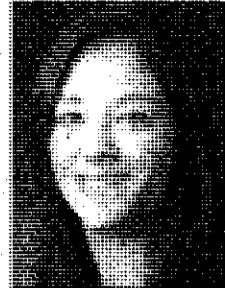
Emily Quint Franklin



Paula Guzik Churchill



Meghan Powers Franklin



Laura Nomura Stevenson



Margarita Lazarevska Churchill



Jessie Murray Canton



Robyn Piwowar Canton



Katie Koetting Salem



Autumn Collins Salem



Brittany Young Salem



Jordan Brodehl Plymouth



Coach Lisa Fierk

### 2007-08 ALL-OBSERVER GYMNASTICS TEAM

Emily Quint, Soph., Livonia Blue  
Paula Guzik, Jr., Livonia Red  
Meghan Powers, Jr., Livonia Blue  
Alicia DiMauro, Jr., Livonia Red  
Laura Nomura, Jr., Livonia Blue  
Margarita Lazarevska, Sr., Livonia Red  
Jessie Murray, Sr., Canton

Robyn Piwowar, Fr., Canton  
Katie Koetting, Jr., Salem  
Autumn Collins, Sr., Salem  
Brittany Young, Sr., Salem  
Jordan Brodehl, Sr., Plymouth  
**Coach of the Year**  
Lisa Fierk, Livonia Blue

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## We so often resist change that we need

**D**o I want to change or not? This is a question I hear all the time in my psychotherapy practice. Actually the way it more often is shared it comes out "I don't want to change, but I don't like the way things are." But most often what brings an individual or couple or family to our agency is the awareness that the way that things are cannot continue the way they are.



Chat Room

Paul Melrose

There is too much emotional or psychological or spiritual pain in the family. It is expressed by verbal, and in some cases, physical fighting, sadness at being home or with yourself, change in pattern of normal behavior, a malaise. Sometimes a request for therapy

comes from someone who reports that a friend or spouse sees them as "not there" somehow.

There is at the root of this struggle a fear of change. Regardless of how bad things are at least the present pattern is familiar. There is an acceptance of what is; it is predictable and there are no surprises, or not too many.

Besides, you say, I can handle this on my own. As one therapist has formulated the question, "Have you ever resolved to 'do better,' only to find yourself reverting to familiar destructive patterns?" The fear of change is in conflict with the need to change. What aids in this struggle is if a person can achieve a balance between the seeking change part of you and the resistant part of you. When a reasonable balance is arrived at a person, or couple or family find they can consider enough change to adapt and grow and alter the present situation but not change so much as to make themselves unrecognizable to self and others. A person will survive as who that person is.

Change is not about becoming such a new person as to unhinge you from your roots and history. What may happen though is that through the therapeutic process one can find out that there was more to him/herself than was known so that this one can feel like a new person.

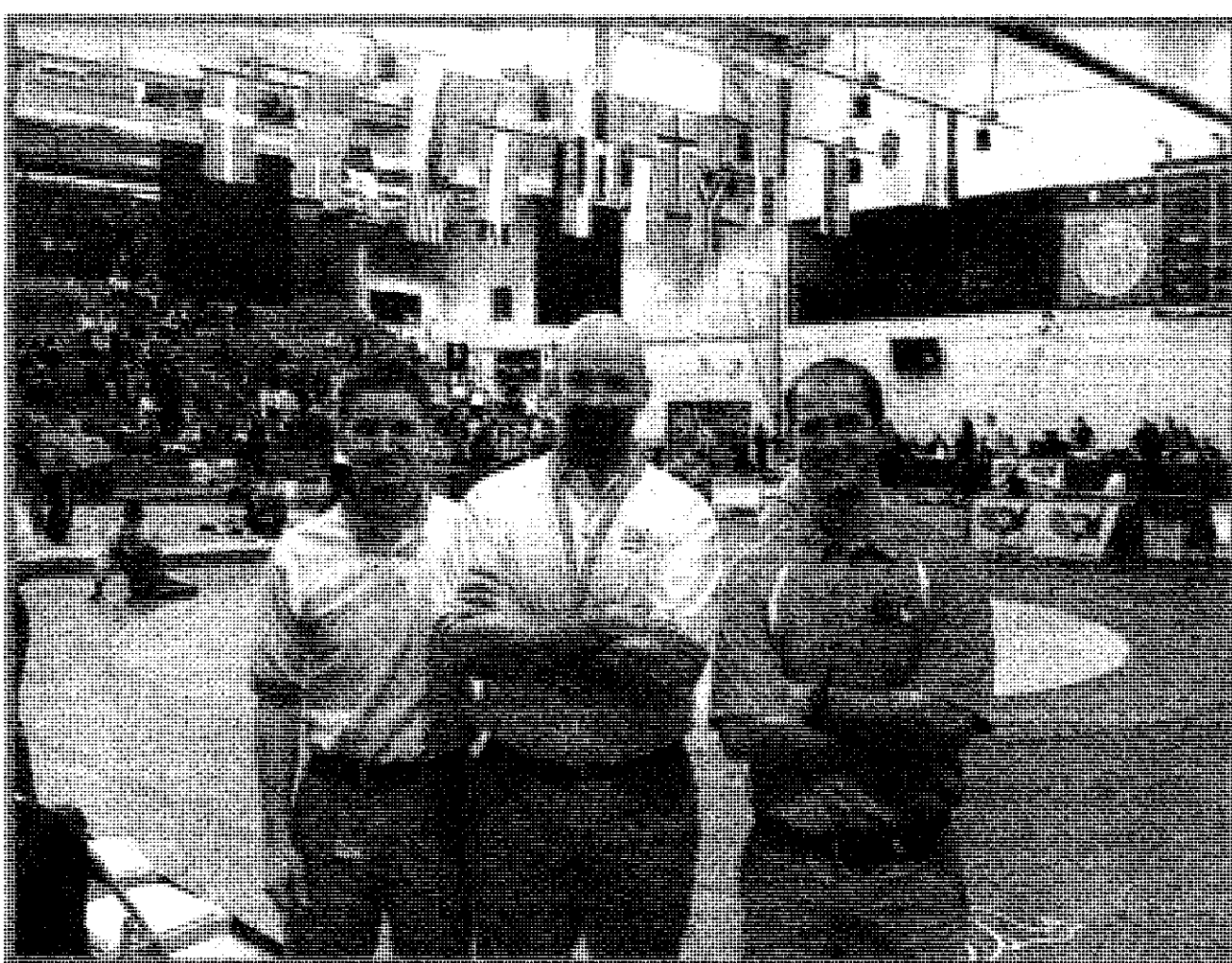
Change is a process. I referred to a balance above, a balance between seeking and resisting change. It can happen that if these two forces are out of balance not enough change might occur or there could be too much change too soon and failure might occur. That is why therapy is a process. So that the kind of change one is looking for, needs, and hopes to find can be worked with enough until a reasonable balance is found.

One writer sees the therapeutic process as including becoming aware that change is needed, coming up with a plan for change, and acquiring new skills and techniques. Some of the ways that a client in therapy will start to become aware that change is occurring might include: motivation and readiness ("I was desperate to get back to my old self"); tools and strategies ("It's the changes in behavior that I learned"); learning ("I would take a lot of stuff home to read about assertiveness"); interaction with therapist ("...they don't judge your character or think they know you"); perceived aspects of self ("I am a strong person mentally"); and the relief of talking ("Let me get everything out, let me relieve myself of everything").

Understand that writing about a process of change is not as dynamic as the process itself.

Often the above ways just listed are not sequential but the therapy pro-

Please see MELROSE, C3



Dr. Steven Karageanes (center) and Olympic trainers Joe Cygan (left) and Jody Hill (right) at the Dave Schultz Memorial International Wrestling Invitational, one of the largest wrestling tournaments in the world. Wrestlers from 21 countries competed in the competition in February.

## Going for the

Competition at heart of physician's life

# gold

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

**C**ompetition is at the heart of Dr. Steven Karageanes' life whether it's treating athletes at the Olympics Training Center in Colorado Springs or going for the gold at the Cannes Film Festival in France. It won't be long until the Plymouth resident is on the road again this time to have his first short film, *American Piety*, screened at the Monaco Charity Film Festival and then at Cannes in May.

In early February Karageanes took the

first step toward winning a spot on the team of physicians who care for the wrestlers, weight lifters, swimmers and competitors in a variety of sports including gymnastics at Olympic Games. For two weeks he treated back injuries, knee sprains, and an outbreak of flu that hit the German wrestling team at the Olympics Training Center in Colorado, one of three in the country. Karageanes has a nearly 10-year history of caring for patients in the area of sports medicine at Annapolis Hospital in Wayne and the

Please see GOLD, C7

## Violinist focuses on spirit of music

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

### SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE EVENING RECITAL SERIES

**What:** Continues with Yehonatan Berick, violin, and John Ellis, piano, performing Brahms' sonatas

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 18

**Where:** Presentation Room in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia

**Tickets:** \$20 (\$10 student), available at [www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation/events](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation/events) or by calling (734) 462-4403.

Yehonatan Berick delves deep inside when playing classical music. It's no wonder the Evening Recital Series Committee selected the Ann Arbor violinist to share his talents in an all-Brahms program April 18 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Berick was born in Israel and came to America when he was barely 22. He is an award-winning violinist who has performed throughout North America, Europe and Israel.

"Violin for me is the range of expres-

sion coupled with the potential to be mesmerizing and touching," Berick said. "It's one of the most versatile instruments. You can play fast notes or long and beautiful. It's almost like being an actor when you play the music. You forget you have hands, eyes, and use the violin as your vocal chord."

Although Berick began playing violin at age 6, the instrument was not his first love. Berick wanted a piano, but there was no room in the 750-square-foot home he shared with four other family members. Eventually, he picked



Spirit is very important for Yehonatan Berick when it comes to playing classical music. On Friday, April 18, he performs an emotion-filled recital at Schoolcraft College.

up the violin, following in the footsteps of his father. Later, when he was

Please see VIOLINIST, C2

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# Club to host critiques by award-winning artist

From 7-9 p.m. Monday, April 7, Three Cities Art Club members will have an opportunity to have their work critiqued by an expert - award winning artist Elbert (Al) Weber of Canton. The free event takes place in a lower level meeting room at Canton Township Hall, 1150 Canton Center Road S., south of Cherry Hill Road. Enter via the southeast entrance and the attendant will direct you to the room.

Each member is encouraged to bring several pieces that they have questions about or would like a fresh viewpoint on. Weber will answer questions, point out the work's strong points and try to make suggestions to make the piece

stronger where applicable. Everyone who attends will benefit from the helpful tips that Weber provides as his insightful analysis of a variety of styles of art. They will also have the opportunity to vote on their favorite artwork submitted by members in the club's monthly Popular Vote competition.

Weber uses watercolor, acrylic, pen and ink, and mixed media to create landscapes, florals, and paintings of automobiles and people. Weber has had solo exhibits at the Scarab Club, Southfield Cultural Center, Dearborn Chamber of Commerce, Shiawassee Arts Center, Livonia Civic Center Library Gallery,

Coach House Gallery, Plymouth Community Arts Council, and the Village Theater in Canton. Weber studied at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California; Purdue University and Indiana University, and has taken many watercolor workshops. His work is in collections throughout the United States, Brazil, Canada, England, Scotland and New Zealand.

If you are an artist or a want-to-be artist, you will find this to be an informative event. For more information, contact Marilyn Meredith weekdays at (248) 557-3800 ext. 123 or by e-mail at threecitiesartclub@hotmail.com.

# VIOLINIST

FROM PAGE C1

required to serve his one year in the army, Berick was happy to learn the general, a decorated war hero, shared his passion for music. Berick completed his army stint playing in a quartet. Today, he is an associate professor of violin at the University of Michigan School of Music.

On April 18, Berick and John Ellis, also an associate professor at U-M, perform Johannes Brahms' complete cycle of sonatas for violin and piano.

"It's a beautiful set of works," Berick said. "Brahms is probably my second favorite composer. Bach is my favorite - never a note out of place. It's like a diamond - it's perfect. Brahms captured the meticulousness of Bach, but combined it with emotion. Spirit for me is very important. I like to put my heart into my music, not crafts-manship."

Committee members Carol Bonamici and Gail Mondry are especially looking forward to being drawn into the music.

"I want to see a performer pull me into the music," said Bonamici of Livonia.

Mondry and Donald Morelock, who leads the recital series committee, heard Berick play at Kerrytown in Ann Arbor last summer.

"He's fabulous," said Mondry of Franklin. "My middle son, a music theater major, was very moved. He had some tears in his eyes. Yehonatan's playing brought some emotion in him."

Mondry is a strong supporter of classical music. She and her husband, Ira, donated pianist

James Tocco's performance fees to kick off the Schoolcraft College Evening Recital Series last fall. Gail also serves on the board of the Great Lakes Chamber Festival, which held a fund-raiser that featured the Tocco performance as an auction item. Mondry continues to support the Evening Recital Series. Last week, Mondry turned over \$1,400 in checks she collected from friends to purchase future concert tickets for senior citizens and music students. Mondry's youngest son, Nathan, 15, has studied piano with Morelock for five years.

"The more we can support each other the better, especially since I have three children who are so artistic. I want to see this grow and prosper," Mondry said.

Morelock is "extremely pleased" with the success of the 2007-08 series so far. The series features only internationally acclaimed artists.

"The performers have enjoyed being here and there's been a good turnout with an afterglow to meet performers," said Morelock, chairman of Schoolcraft's music department. "There's going to be an afterglow so people get a chance to informally chat with the performer and get to meet other people in the community, people who share a common interest. We wanted the series to be an opportunity in the community to hear performance of this caliber."

The Friday Night Recital Series concludes May 9 with pianist Angela Cheng.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

# Michigan Jazz Society presents evening to remember

The Michigan Jazz Society presents the All About Jazz Café featuring the Tony Ruda Quartet 8 p.m. Saturday, April 12, 2008, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill at Ridge Rd., Canton.

The Village Theater features a wooden dance floor. There will be an open mike session for all the cool cats who got chops.

Bring your axe, pipes, and dancin' shoes.

Tickets are \$12 adults, \$20 couples, and available at the door. For more information, contact Tony Ruda at acrada@comcast.net or Edwin Bugai at (734) 394-0148.

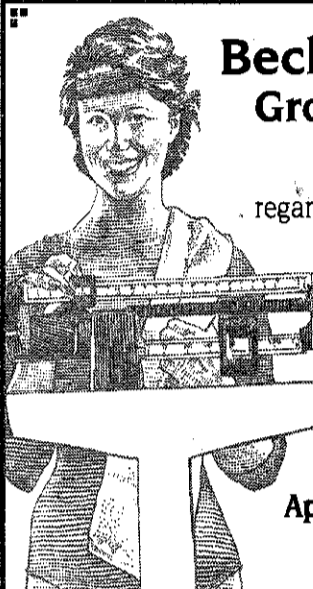
The Michigan Jazz Society was created by Bugai of Canton and is open to anyone who

enjoys interesting people and exciting music, and especially for those who appreciate vintage jazz and Big Band. The Society features discussion topics such as the partnering of our youth with local jazz artists and the development of benefit concerts for local hospitals and assisted living facilities.

Bugai was born of Polish immigrants and grew up on Detroit's west side where he attended St. Andrew's grade school and Chadsey High School. At Chadsey, his interest in individual jazz and Big Band was sparked. He studied saxophone with Ernie Anderson and Larry Teal, Sr., and played for many Polish weddings and other cultural events. He later moved

to northwest Detroit where he attended Cooley High School. He formed a Big Band called Buddy Bruce which played for dances and parties and later, larger fraternity dances. While employed as a record distributor in the late 1940s, he found the Jazz in Detroit Theater at the Alvin Theater with Robin Seymour.

The Detroit club hosted jazz musicians such as Tommy Flanigan, Kenny Burrell, Pepper Adams, Rudy Rutherford, W. Anderson, Lucky Thomson, Todd Rhodes, Candy Johnson, and Huckelbuck Williams. Now retired, Bugai has become a student of jazz history and devotes his time to preserving this timeless music.



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CT imaging is in order if x-rays failed to reveal the cause for your pain. However, your doctor must be confident from taking your history and performing an examination, that the problem resides as an abnormality in the bone. The disadvantages of CT are the large radiation dose and that CT does not uncover damage in tissues such as ligaments or tendons. The cost of CT ranges from \$200-\$400.

MRI captures both bone and surrounding tissue. Sometimes it sees too much, uncovering abnormalities that are irrelevant to your case. Also, MRI is very expensive, costing \$1200 or more. Your doctor decides how to proceed on imaging based on his understanding of your problem and the likelihood a particular form of imaging will prove valuable.

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# JOIN THE MOVEMENT

## Greenmead hosts spring events

If you haven't been to Greenmead Historical Park lately it's time to revisit the past. The staff and volunteers are presenting two upcoming events related to years gone by.

A Victorian Tea takes place 3-5 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at the Simmons/Hill House in the village located at the crossroads of Newburgh and Eight Mile in Livonia.

Tickets are \$25 per person and available in advance only.

The tables at Hill House are being set with the fine china, good silver and vintage linens. A menu of delicious tea sandwiches, mouth-watering scones and irresistible desserts is planned to delight the senses. Spend a relaxing afternoon with friends at the Tea.

On Tuesday, April 15, the historical park hosts the second of three lectures, the History of the 17th Michigan, at 7 p.m. in the Alexander Blue House. Gary Pritchard talks about the 17th Michigan Civil War Re-enactors for the informative program. Space is limited so call to reserve a seat. Donations accepted.



Greenmead Historical Village hosts another of its popular Victorian teas Saturday, April 12.

For more information about either event, call (248) 477-7375.

A New Volunteer Orientation is scheduled for 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 26, for anyone interested in helping to

preserve Livonia's legacy for the future. The programs and events at Greenmead offer a variety of ways to share time and talents.

To register for the volunteer orientation, call the Greenmead Office at (248) 477-7375.

## MELROSE

FROM PAGE C1

cess is a journey in and back and through and amongst these areas, and maybe others, until the right balance for that person, couple, family is achieved.

When you experience such a conflict between whether or not change is needed in your life that may be a good time to talk to a professional, so that you can assess whether the kind of change you are looking for requires therapy, a good book, a self-help group or some other means. Don't stay stuck where you are. You may just be giving into the fear of change when something new in your life is needed and will make your life fulfilling.

Dr. Paul J. Melrose is executive director of the Samaritan Counseling Center of SE Michigan. He can be reached at [www.paulmelrose.com](http://www.paulmelrose.com) or through 248-474-4701. The Staff of the Samaritan Counseling Center can be reached through [www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com](http://www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com) or through 248-474-4701.

## Exhibitors wanted for Northville Art in the Sun

Artists are being sought to display their work in Northville Art in the Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 21, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 22.

The juried arts festival is now celebrating its 20th year of featuring all mediums of art and lively music throughout the festival. A highlight of the festival are the murals visitors can paint.

Afterwards the works will be donated to St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

More than 20,000 visitors will enjoy the sights and sounds of this popular event showcasing over 100 juried fine artists. Prizes are awarded for Best in Show and Runner Up.

For an application, log onto [www.northville.org](http://www.northville.org). The First Round Jury is April 18. For more information, visit the Web site or call the Northville Chamber of Commerce at (248) 349-7640.

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~ Jen W. ~

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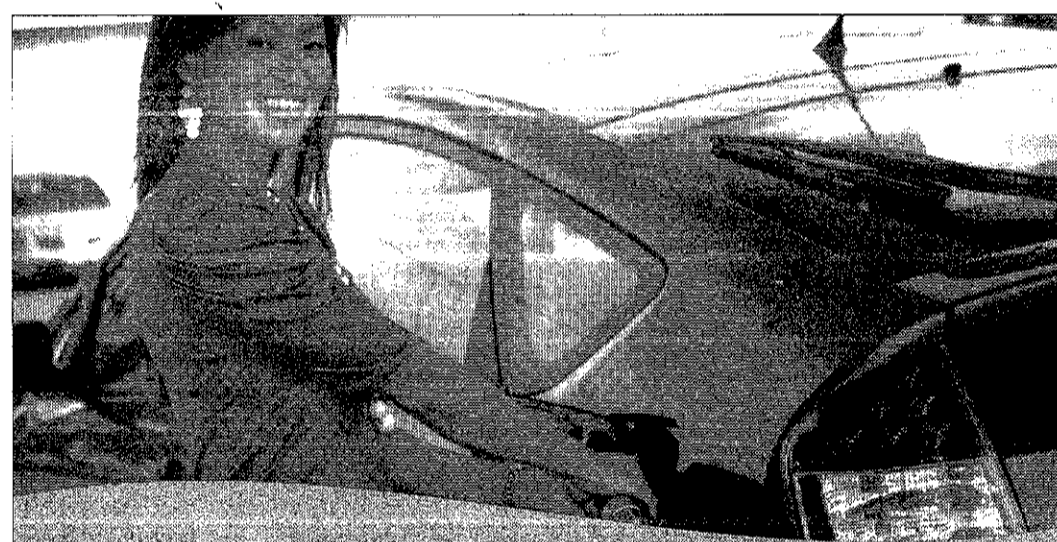


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The Madonna University Lyric Theatre Performers present an updated version of Godspell April 12-13, in Kresge Hall.

## Production updates '70s musical

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

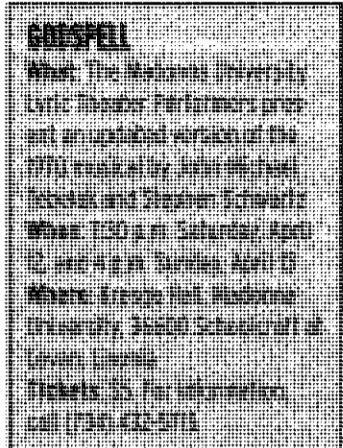
The 1970s musical *Godspell* fit the bill perfectly when Barbara Wiltsie was looking for a spring production for the Madonna University Lyric Theatre Performers last September. All she had to do was make it relevant to the lives of today's audiences.

New Orleans sprang to mind. A troupe of evacuees, volunteers, rescue workers, residents, and tourists would gather to learn the teachings of Jesus as they rebuild the city. Wiltsie set the story line in the Lower 9th Ward and French Quarter, and splits the stage in half for the performances Saturday-Sunday, April 12-13, at Madonna University.

*Act I* opens in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The cast is comprised of students and actors from the community. Members include Errin Brooks of Detroit as Jesus; Danielle Desmond, Westland; Amy Loskowski, Livonia; Lawrence Kallie, Plymouth; Steven Mexicotte, Canton; and Kelly Ryan, Farmington Hills.

This is the first time the university's Lyric Theatre Performers are doing a full show with licensing rights since Wiltsie began the program six years ago.

"I chose it mainly because it's a type of show that can be put into present time. The message never changes of the parables, of spreading good will and learning moral and ethical values," said



Wiltsie, a Madonna University voice teacher and director of The Lyric Theatre Performers.

"I had seen the movie years ago, but it was not a favorite of mine until now because of being able to approach it outside of the box, setting parables in the everyday life of New Orleans."

Jordan Herbert wasn't born when the original production opened off-Broadway. The Madonna University nursing major plays the dual role of John the Baptist and Judas.

"It was written that way," said Herbert, 21, who lives on the Livonia campus but is originally from Lapeer. "Jesus has these beloved friendships with John when he blesses him and built this friendship and later becomes Judas. It took a lot of research. I had to brush up on parables, even though I grew up going to church."

"I had never seen this before, although I've seen the movie."

The setting is awesome. It brings a very different feel to it. At the time of Hurricanes Katrina and Ivan I was living in Pensacola, Florida, and it kind of hits home. I was at Pensacola Christian College at the time and the school set up an alternative spring break to go to Louisiana. We did roofing, went through and volunteered to clean up glass."

One of the most touching moments in the production is a New Orleans-style funeral. During one of the songs audience members can donate to a fund so Madonna University students can return to the Gulf Coast in 2009 to help with recovery efforts. Any checks should be made payable to Madonna University. Earlier this year, Madonna University's Gulf Coast Service-Learning Fund made it possible for 32 students and two staff members to go to Biloxi, Miss., to work through the Diocesan Office of Long Term Recovery to repair five homes, deliver furniture and supplies, and help maintain files for the DOLTR which has a case load of 700 families still waiting for housing, according to Kevin West, the university's director of Service Learning.

"It will be during We Beseech Thee, the gospel song we'll go through the audience with hats collecting funds. If they want to make a contribution those funds will go to help New Orleans," said Wiltsie.

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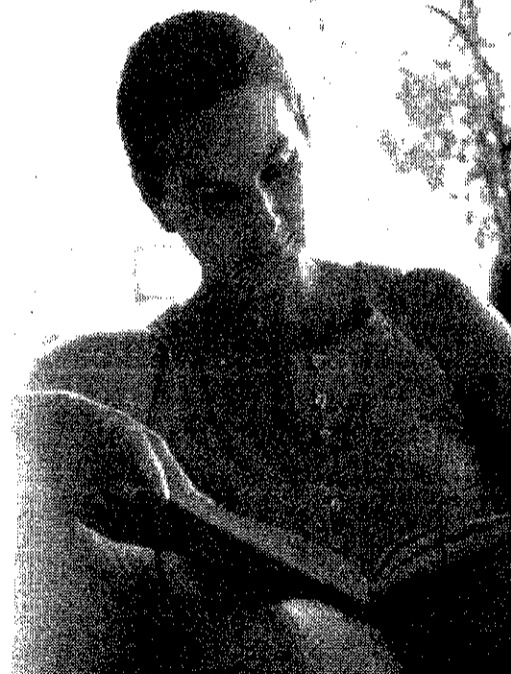
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# GOLD

FROM PAGE C1

Oakwood Healthcare Center in Canton. He is team doctor for Wayne State University where he oversees the health of about 380 students in the athletics department. Before that he was team physician for the Detroit Tigers for a couple of years.

Karageanes was responsible for the medical care of about 500 Olympic athletes in Colorado including those wrestling in an international tournament with competitors from 21 countries.

"I put my name in several years ago and they go through all the applications and select a handful a year. It doubles as an audition to do more work with the Olympic team. You're actually graded. They tell me I did very well."

Karageanes worked in the clinic a minimum of 12-hour days.

"It was fun for me. They're going through a lot of transition as far as organizing sports medicine, but the most interesting aspect was that no matter how elite the athlete is, they're top in their whole sport in the country, they still get hurt and sick like everybody else does. They're so dedicated and determined they'll do anything to get better."

The weirdest highlight of his trip according to Karageanes was watching the women's ribbon gymnastics, a very feminine sport, in the same arena and at the same time as men's boxing.

"It gets pretty heated with all these boxers. With gymnastics it's classical music and Kenny G and blaring so loud while these guys are sparring," said Karageanes. "I was kidding with one of the boxers you want to dance. It was so wild, they can't focus."

Karageanes said he hadn't

**'I put my name in several years ago and they go through all the applications and select a handful a year. It doubles as an audition to do more work with the Olympic team. You're actually graded. They tell me I did very well.'**

DR. STEVEN KARAGEANES

relived his college dorm experience in 19 years, but the cafeteria was nothing like those earlier days. He stayed on the same floor as the boxers where he heard a lot of Rocky Balboa-like yo's exchanged in the halls.

"In the cafeteria they have executive chefs who made the most delicious food, the most nutritious food. All the milk is hormone free from special farms, extremely healthy. They had crab legs and filet mignon for Valentine's Day. The athletes burn a lot of energy and need certain foods," said Karageanes who uses a lot of calories chasing his son Miller, 8, and daughter Isabella who's almost 5. His wife Cynthia is very proud of him but Karageanes said the two weeks she spent alone with the kids was really a challenge.

While Karageanes won't be volunteering at the Olympics in Beijing, China in August, he may be asked to care for athletes at the Pan Am or future Olympics Games in Vancouver in 2010 and London in 2012.

"With the Olympics you're gone more than a month. It's a large commitment, but it's definitely a positive experience," said Karageanes. "I was a little wary before but it ended up being a great experience. I recommend it to other doctors."

Right now, Karageanes is too busy concentrating on his award-winning film to even think about the Games. *American Piety* premiered

in March in Royal Oak. At 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, the comedy will be part of CinemaSlam, a monthly independent film showcase (cinemaslam.com) at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. From there *American Piety* will be shown at The Indie Spirit Film Festival in Colorado Springs. Karageanes then travels to Monaco and Cannes for the festivals in May.

"It's pretty surreal right now," said Karageanes who wants to make more films. "I don't have much of a social life, but gladly gave it up cause it's a fun thing to do."

"Cannes is huge. In Monaco they're showing only nine short films and it's up for best short film. It's definitely made me more confident about submitting (to film festivals)."

Karageanes not only wrote the screenplay, which has won awards, but directed, produced, composed the music, and even played a Buddhist monk in the film. *American Piety* was shot almost entirely on location in Plymouth and shows Kellogg Park, his backyard, and the exterior of the former Daisy Gun factory. The story revolves around a man who is hit by a car and ends up in purgatory where he is made to choose a religion, either Islam, Buddhism or Christianity.

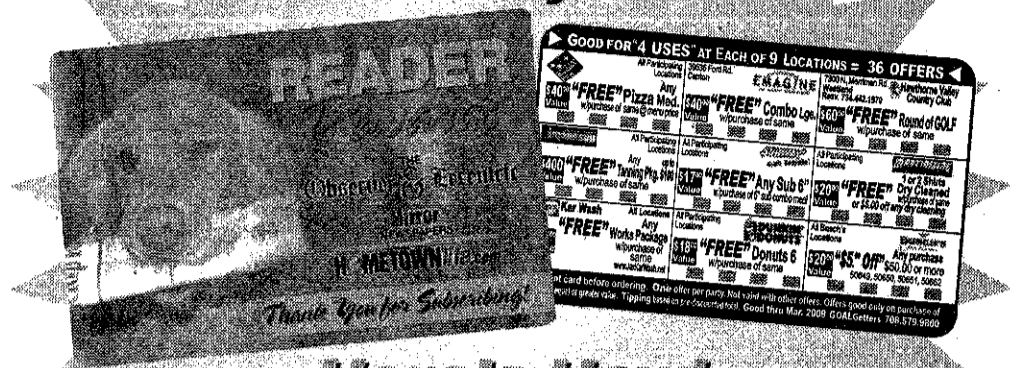
"It was filmed on virtually no budget," said Karageanes. "It tells a solid story with a good message at the end. The goal was to make a comedy without insulting religions. I went to De La Salle (Collegiate Catholic) High School (in Warren) so I researched it so if you pay close attention the basic tenets of each religion is in the dialogue. I wanted to handle it in a comic way. That's probably why it's been accepted."

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# Back in the 'D'

## Music Hall director honored by high school

BY SUE BUCK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With Vince Paul's accomplishments and recent return to the metro-Detroit area, he was considered the "perfect choice" for North Farmington High School's Distinguished Alumni award. There's only one recipient each

year and Paul, who now resides in Grosse Pointe, will be recognized at the 5 p.m. Sunday, June 8, graduation ceremony at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township. "He fit perfectly with this year's interdisciplinary study, "Our Town Detroit — There's no Place Like Home," said Principal Rick Jones. The North Farmington High School students have spent this year studying the strengths of Detroit and how famous people and events have affected the entire metro-Detroit area.

At age 44, Paul, a 1981 North Farmington graduate, is considered one of the country's outstanding performing arts managers. He now serves as President and Artistic Director of the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Detroit. He is experienced in the artistic and operational sides of the business. Paul earned his theatrical arts degree from Michigan State University before moving to New York City. He spent more than 20

years working on Broadway shows and world-recognized dance companies. He has traveled to more than 40 countries and to all 50 United States. He is devoted to maintaining Music Hall's position as a national leader in jazz and contemporary dance and runs eight performing arts educational programs that engage more than 35,000 students annually. Paul said that he is honored with the alumni award.



Vince Paul, a 1981 graduate of North Farmington High School, will be honored with the school's Distinguished Alumni award in June. Paul, 44, works as the president and artistic director of the Music Hall Center for Performing Arts in Detroit.

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**Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind**

Dr. Sheldon Smith fits special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other eye conditions keep reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi

Most of us take things like reading, watching TV or playing cards for granted. But poor vision from conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetes or cataracts makes these tasks difficult or even impossible. When people have insufficient vision to do the things they want to do, they have low vision.

Today Michigan Optometrist Dr. Sheldon Smith has the answers many of these people have been seeking. Dr. Smith, a Low Vision Specialist, helps people with these types of eye diseases see better. A Fellow of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, Dr. Smith is one of a select group of doctors serving the visually impaired.

"People don't know there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "Many people are told by their own doctors that nothing more can be done for their eye condition, but there are ways to improve vision" says Dr. Smith. "We fit special devices to help patients meet their various visual goals."

Patients often end up using weak, clumsy hand-held magnifiers trying to help themselves see better. Conversely, Dr. Smith prescribes hands-free devices that are easier to use. "We use the same telescopic devices surgeons use during operations," says Dr. Smith. "That's how powerful and convenient they are. Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Telescopic glasses primarily focus on distance objects like TV, passing neighbors or scenery. Telescopes can also be adapted to closer tasks like playing cards or computers. "Telescopes can even help people meet the driver vision requirement" Dr. Smith explained.

Michigan is one of 46 states that allow bioptic telescopic glasses for driving.

Mr. Leo Hakola, age 85 of Livonia, Michigan saw Dr. Smith last May. Macular degeneration, cataract, stroke and double vision were causing reading and driving problems. Dr. Smith prescribed a complete low vision system which included telescopic glasses for driving and special prismatic glasses for reading. The entire cost was \$2789. Leo said "the telescopic driving glasses really help me see traffic lights and street signs down the block. And reading is much easier and single now with these special reading glasses. I am glad I found you, Dr. Smith."

In addition to the spectacle vision aids, Dr. Smith offers training to help people accomplish their daily activities. Visual aids help patients use their remaining vision to its fullest capacity while rehabilitative training improves the patient's

ability to carry out necessary independent activities. And of course safeguarding present vision levels is crucial. Sun filters and nutritional supplements can improve vision and prevent further loss.

"Each patient has a unique amount of vision and their own goals," says Dr. Smith. "I am committed to helping patients do what matters most to them and improving their quality of life."

Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes can cost from \$1800 to \$2,500.

If you or someone you know is struggling with their vision, call Dr. Smith to find out how low vision care can help. There is help available. You just need to know where to find it.

You can reach Dr. Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at **1-877-677-2020**. Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, Warren, Shelby Township and the Lansing area.

Visit Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at [suburbaneyecare.com](http://suburbaneyecare.com) or find out more about the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists at [ialvs.com](http://ialvs.com).

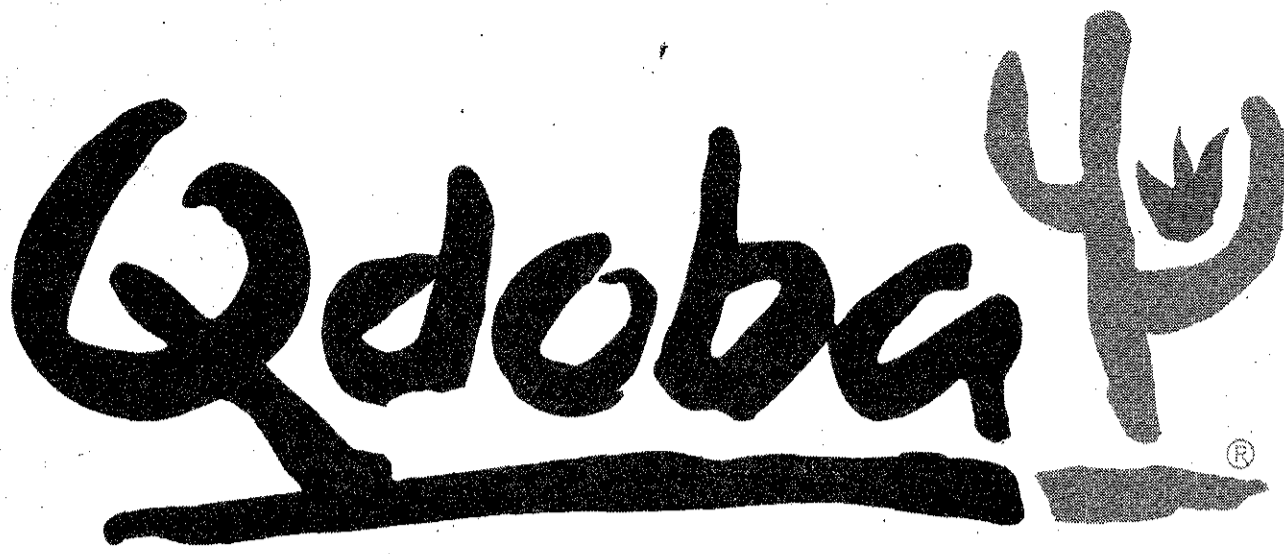
Leo Hakola wearing telescopic driving glasses

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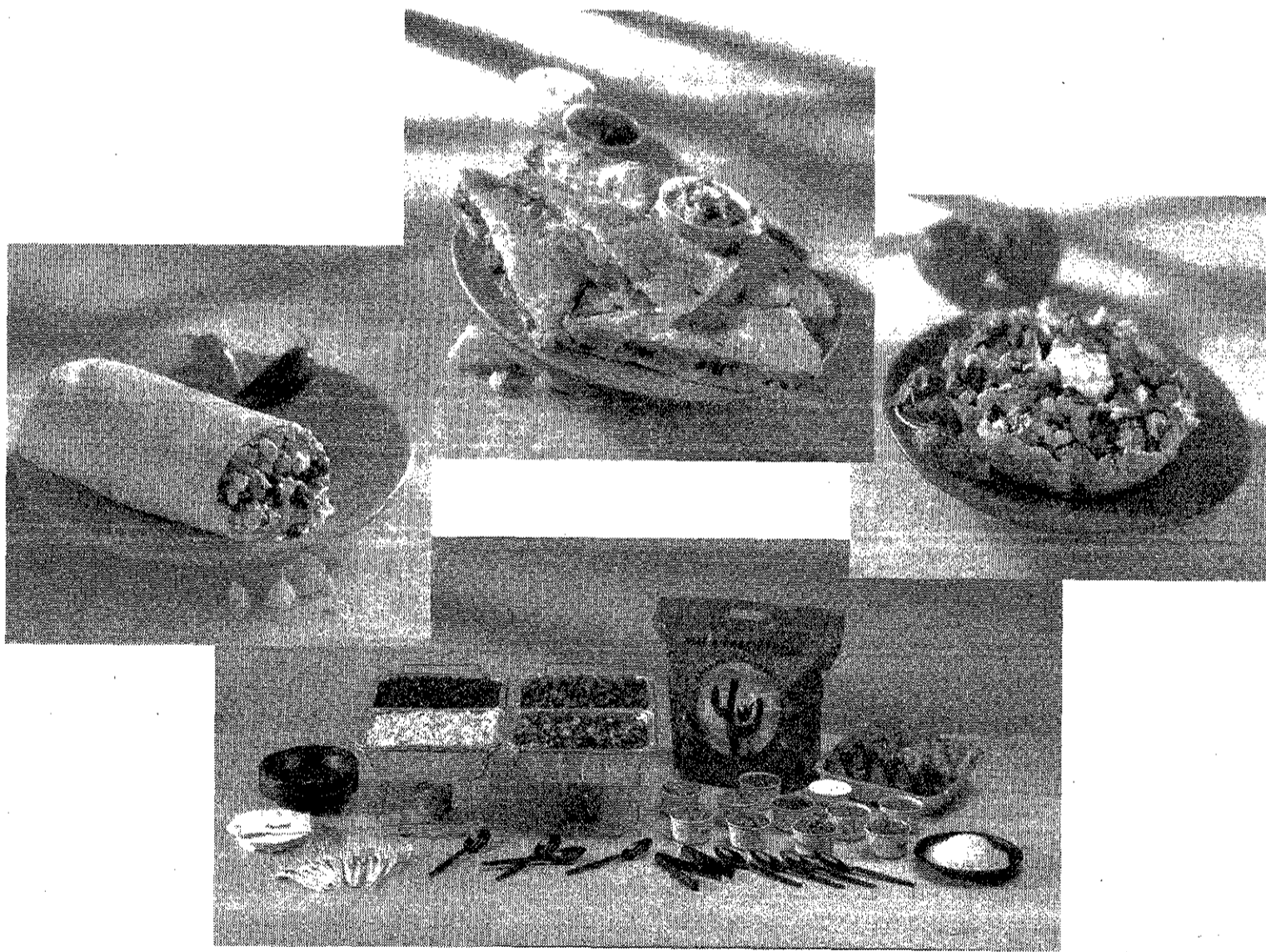
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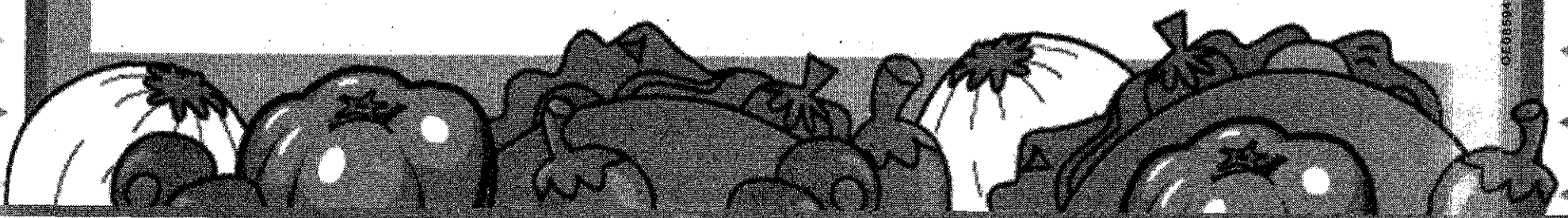
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