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Randy Scott at Jazz on the Grass

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WESTLAND Observer

THURSDAY
June 19, 2008

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Council gives go-ahead for senior village

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A proposed senior citizen community has gotten the green light for development despite protests by residents who claim their quite neigh-

borhood will be damaged and their property values diminished.

A divided Westland City Council approved Monday evening the rezoning of a 24.21-acre parcel on Joy east of Newburgh from single-family

residential to a planned unit development and a preliminary site plan which allows developer Glenn Shaw Jr. to build what he describes as a senior village.

"I believe this is a step above what you normally get in Westland," Shaw said about his

Nankin Mills Village development. "That's been my dream."

Shaw has proposed constructing 54 single-family detached condominiums, 20 duplex condominiums and a 147-unit senior independent and contracted living facility

on a site to the east and south of Sts. Helen and Constantine Church. He also envisions offering such amenities as a barbershop, hair salon, theater and restaurant to create a village atmosphere.

But residents maintained

that the development isn't suitable for their neighborhood. They held up picket signs outside Westland City Hall before the meeting. Sixteen others pressed their case for keeping

Please see **VILLAGE, A2**



Kathleen Waldo, executive director of Marquette House, presents Thelma Lemmons with a bouquet of roses during her 100th birthday celebration.

Centenarian shares day with 'beautiful people'

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Thelma Lemmons, 100, smiled sweetly as she brought up a sour subject. "I love pickles — sour pickles," she said.

Lemmons couldn't offer a surefire reason why she lived to celebrate such a milestone birthday.

"I just eat," she said, during a party last Thursday at Marquette House, an assisted living center in Westland.

Her daughter, Loretta Lemmons-Johnson of Livonia, offered another theory to her longevity. "She's had good treatment," Lemmons-Johnson said.

So, there it is: pickles and proper care.

Whatever the reason for Lemmons' long life, she became the center of attention during a birthday party that actually came one week after she marked her 100th year. She smiled amid applauding friends and family, and she sang along as a band, Family Affair, played *When The Saints Go Marching In*, one of numerous songs in a nearly hour-long set.

Lemmons wore a corsage on her right arm and a



Loretta Lemmons-Johnson watches as Westland Mayor William Wild presents her mother, Thelma Lemmons, with a special proclamation in honor of her 100th birthday.

tiara on her head. She held a dozen roses and a teddy bear in her arms, but she put them aside to enjoy a piece of birthday cake.

Mayor William Wild brought Lemmons a proclamation and told her, "Happy birthday from the 86,000 people who live here in the city of Westland."

Lemmons was born

in Memphis, Tenn., but moved to Michigan with her late husband, Franklin, in 1941. They had one daughter, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Lemmons formerly worked sorting mail for the U.S. Post Office.

Lemmons-Johnson welcomed the attention paid to her mother in honor of

her 100th birthday.

"I think it's wonderful," she said.

Lemmons didn't have any sour pickles during her party, but she still enjoyed herself. When asked what she most liked about the celebration, she said, "the beautiful people."

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GC man arraigned in exposure case

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Garden City man with a history of indecent exposure and inappropriate contact with children is facing a charge of being a sexual delinquent.

Steven Brian Smith, 46, was arrested Sunday by Westland Police in the Venoy-Cherry Hill area. Smith was "found standing totally naked and posing for traffic," Westland Police Sgt. Debra Mathews said.

Smith was arraigned before Westland 18th District Court Judge C. Charles Bokos on indecent exposure, a one-year misdemeanor, with an enhanced charge of being a sexually delinquent person.

Indecent exposure is a one-year misdemeanor. However, if found guilty, Smith could face up to life in prison under enhancement.

Smith faces the additional charge based on indecent exposure conviction

dating back to 1984 and a prior criminal sexual conduct conviction.

Smith entered a guilty plea to a charge of second-degree criminal sexual conduct for a 1994 assault on a boy and was sentenced to prison. He served 12 years in prison and was released without supervision in 2006.

Last December, Smith was charged with indecent exposure after police officers reportedly saw him masturbating by the roadway in the Venoy-Cherry Hill area. While out on bond in that case, police detained Smith after he was spotted hanging around two Garden City elementary schools, which led Westland 18th District Court Judge Sandra Ferrence Cicirelli to revoke his bond and sentence him to 89 days in jail.

"He'd just got out of jail in April," Mathews said.

Smith, who is being held in lieu of a \$1 million cash bond, faces a Thursday, June 26, preliminary hearing. A not guilty plea has been entered in his file.

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Police vs. fire in annual blood 'feud'

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's a blood feud with history.

For the past two years, the Westland firefighters have out-pumped their police counterparts, laying claim to the American Red Cross's Golden Blood Bag Award.

This year, they're trying a new tactic to give the police a running chance at capturing the Battle of the Badges award. They're encouraging the people to tell workers at the annual blood drive they're there to support the police.

"Don't tell them you're for the fire department, tell them you're for the police department, please," said Fire Capt. John Adams, who showed off the award at a Westland City Council meeting Monday.

The fourth annual Battle of the Badges will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, June 23, at the Bailey Recreation Center, located in the civic center complex on Ford Road at Carlson. Police officers and firefighters are lining up donors who will roll up their sleeves and give blood on their behalf.

Donors will have the opportunity to submit a blue or red chip for police or fire, respectively. The department with the most chips collected will be

the recipient of the Gold Blood Bag Award.

"We really have a good-natured rivalry," said Deputy Police Chief Gary Sikorski. "Our main goal is to get everyone to donate so we can set the standard for Wayne County."

Summer is historically a time when the chapter's blood supply comes very close to running dry, so the Red Cross uses promotions like the Battle of the Badges to encourage donors to make an appointments and to attract new ones.

"If you give a single unit of blood, you help two-three people," Adams said.

In Westland, there's a lot at stake. In addition to bragging rights, which has gone to the fire department for two consecutive years, organizers are hoping to post the best donation numbers for all of the Battle of the Badges competitions in not only Wayne County but also five southeast Michigan counties.

People can sign up for a blood donation appointment online to at www.givelife.org. Walk-ins also are welcome. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in general good health to donate.

"Let the battle begin, support your local police department," Adams said.

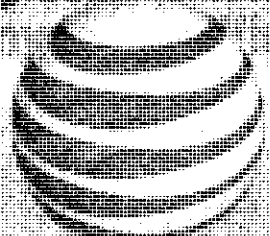
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Coming Sunday in Health



Working and walking to raise awareness about psoriasis

Pomp and Circumstance: Here's the Franklin Class of 2008

Coverage of the Livonia Churchill High School graduation will appear in the Sunday, June 23, issue.

Franklin High School's Class of 2008 held its commencement ceremony June 7 at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

Here's the list of graduates: Saidah Patricia Abdullah, Jake Douglas Abraham, Garrett R. Abramson, Amanda Hanna Abukhader, Olompia Y. Ackall, Brittany Paige Adams, Jennifer Nicole Adams, Justin E. Adams, Amber Marie Allen, Justin Edward Allen, Rebecca Ann Allen, Denzel William Taylor Anderson, Michael Thomas Anderson, Anthony Michael Andrus, Georgena N. Ansara, Nicholas A. Anthony, Alicia Rae Armstrong, Grayson Mark Aronhalt, Thomas Devin Avery, Ibironke Oluwabonkola Ayorinde, Heather Lynn Bacon, Ryan Michael Bailey, Stacey Rose Baker and Brandon Lewis Balluff.

Courtney A. Barron, Paige S. Barylski, James Fredrick Bearden II, Robert P. Beattie, Kristine Ellen Behrend, Jake R. Bellew, Anastasia Leigh Bending, Cornell Michelle Benjamin, Anthony J. Berna, Paige Marie Bernard, Bradley A. Bianchi, Tiffany Crystal Bigger, Michael Francis Birney, Renee Lashay Blake, Joel Steven Boettcher, Benjamin E. Boice, Peter Anthony Boice, Ashlyne N. Boitos, Jessica Marie Borowski, Dwight Emanuel Boudreaux Jr., Diann Nabil Bourj, Devon Charles Bower, Lea S. Bowers, Macie Renee Bowman, Joseph Penales Boycott and Kyle William Boyd.

Nicholas Michael Brooks, Brooke A. Broudecker, Craig Price Brown, Joshua David Brown, Richard John Burg, Christopher Edward Bush, Jonathon William Byrne, Gregory Rendal Cadwallader, Michelle R. Callahan, Daniel Steven Camilleri, Miguel Christopher Cancel, Cori Renee Carlin, Jesse Glenn Carpenter, Rose Michele Carpenter, Briana Lynn Carras, David Patrick Case, Jonathan Kyle Cauchi, Miranda M. Cauchi, Nicole Marie Cavaliero, Patrick R. Cecile, Timothy Marvin Chappell, Dominic Dolorian Charles, Cara Childers, Gabriel Cid, Angelo Michael Ciotta, Dontai Clark and Michael R. Clay.

Chelsea N. Clevenger, Thomas Arthur Cline, Ashley Lyn Clough, Michelle Irene Cohl, Douglas Edward Cole, Shantell Ruth Cole, Andrew Paul Coletta, Stephanie



Chad Perkins (left) watches his brother, Corey, attack his tassel as the two graduates prepare for Franklin's graduation ceremony Saturday at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township.

Margaret Colucci, Linda Ann Katherine Comini, Michelle Kathleen Conner, Steven Zackery Conway, Nathan Paul Cooke, Allison L. Coughlin, Jamie Marie Crockett, Araena Boots Crossley, Kevin Michael Crouson, Lorenc Dashi, Melissa Marie Davies, Lisa Marie Davis, Rebecca Ann Davis, George Leslie Defenthaler, Brian P. Derus, Tory June Dietiker, Adam Christopher Dionysopoulos and Michael Joshua Dobson.

Alexander T. Dominguez, Garrett M. Domke, Shannon Lee Domzalski, Katie Lyn Drury, Derek Allen Duke, Samantha Jo Dunn, Lauren Justine Durkin, Kaitlynn L. Dwyer, Brianna N. Echols, Joshua Harrison Edwards, Katlyn Alexandria Ellerby, Jennifer Margaret Eskildsen, Christopher B. Eskin, Anthony Douglas Evangelista, Caitlin Rose Fagan, Saver M. Farhat, Mitchell E. Farrell, Brandon Lee Fedosky, Kaitlyn Joan Feeny, Nicholas Charles Fenner, Jamie L. Ferella, Elizabeth Ann Finkey, Robert Wayne Fisher, Bradley Ryan Fitzsimmons, Timothy Joseph Flores Jr., Samantha Kay Floyd and Tiffany A. Fopma.

Patrick M. Forsythe, Stephen John Fotiu, Brooke Brittany Fox, Rachel Lee Frederick, Devin Wayne Gammons, Brittany Amanda Gardocki, Sachin Ramesh Garshesh, Dallas James Garvin, Becky Ann Gatzka, Vito D. Geluso, Ashley Nichole Geraghty, Lori Anne Gerstenbrand, Christopher W. Ghanayem, Amanda Bonnie Giangrande, Eric Michael Gibbons, Brian Anthony

Glab, Steven Michael Glab, Cody Lee Gots, Michael Christopher Goudreau, Susan M. Goy, Michael K. Grant, Eric Michael Green, Stuart A. Gregory, Jonathan Alan Grims and Andrew Lee Bruce Gunter.

Ethan Cole Gurski, Melissa A. Haapala, Keii Jean Habicht, James T. Haley, Carrie Lyn Hancock, Emily L. Hand, Krystle L. Handliah, Juni'ka Letrese Hardy, Maia F. Hardy, Melissa Ann Harris, Jimmy Robert Hart, Ryan William Henderson, Kodie May Hengtgen, Darcy N. Henrikson, Dean Thomas Herron, Jesse William Hess, Jacob Joseph Hewitt, Matthew M. Hintz, Alecia J. Hiebeckuk, William Ernest Howell III, Brian David Humenay, Rebecca Emma Jacoban, Jillian Marie Iglodan, Meghan Irene Iglodan, Myrosiava Ilyashevych, John William Ingham, Samantha J. Isbell, Tod Allen Jaggi, Jessica Marie Jajko, Chet W. Jamrog, Jennifer Lynn Jankowski, Ryan Keith Jayska, Daniel T. Jenkins and Amie Marie Jennings.

Jose Jimenez, Aaron N. Johnson, Cameron Phillip Johnson, Jennifer A. Johnson, Ashley L. Jones, Taylor N. Jovaisa, Marcus B. Kadrich, Amie Lynn Kaleidas, Joseph E. Kalinski, Robert P. Kalish, Dane M. Kanowski, Kelsey Samantha Kaplan, Shereen J. Kassis, Cole Nee Himmie Kelly, Catherine Lindsay Kent, Kyle B. Kieselbach, Kelly Nicole Kile, Gregory Charles Killen, Jr., Derek J. Kinnell, Ryan Michael Kiseda, Robert Frank Kleimist, Tia L. Kline, Timothy M. Kolliker, Daniel A. Kosmalski,



Franklin High School graduate Rebecca Allen receives her diploma from School Board Trustee Tom Bailey during graduation ceremonies Saturday.

Kenneth Michael Kosmowski, Shannon Nicole Kozara, Bryan Patrick Kozlowski, Michael Thomas Krcatovich, Cory Dwight Kreuzfeld, Samantha Marie LaBruzzy, Matthew Wayne Lambdin, Lauren Melissa Latour, Derek Alan LeBlanc, Ryan Andrew Leright, Stephen Michael Less, Jessica Lynn Levey, Eric M. Lewandowski, Meghan Ann Linville, Samantha Lin Loomis Lonsdale, Ronald W. Looney and Paul Jacob Lovely.

Jennifer Marie Mabe, Stuart Andrew Macheske, Torrey E. Machowicz, Michael Anthony Madgwick, Drew L. Maloney, Sara Lynn Mardeusz, Amber Marie Mathieu, Ryan Michael Matthey, Ashley Marie Mays, Rachel Garnett Mizeppa, Brendan A. McCaffery, Jeffrey Brian McCullough, Dylan T. McEvilly, Ray Anthony McFarland, Jr., Amy Catherine McGaughy, Stephanie M. McGilvray, John Philip McKaig III, Katelyn M. McKindles, Brian T. McKinley, Kristen Diane Mehl, Justin Scott Meriedeth, Austin Scott Mesler, Melina Caroline Mill, Cody William Miller, Marissa Marie Miller, Samantha S. Millisor, India K. Milne, Christen Maureen Minnick, William Cody Miracle, Jamie Marie Mishowski, Nicholas Jay Mondella, Tiffany C. Moore, Cierra Carlie Morgan, Jake Morgan, Ashley Elizabeth Morris, Joseph Michael Morris, Dexter G. Mosley, David Paul Muller IV, Chelsea M. Murawski, Patrick J. Murphy II, Darell Robert Myree, Emily Anne Nadeau and Ranjit S. Nagi.

Alicia Marie Naser, Jennifer Neamtu, Michael J. Nestor, Margaret Pauline Nicholls, Christopher Robert Noffze,

Gabriel G. Nye, Brittany Lynn O'Bryan, Alec Michael Olson, Troy J. O'Neil, Robert Orr, Lauren B. Osiwala, Daniel Patrick Ostrosky, Joshua Benjamin Ouvry, Katelynn Patricia Painter, Chelsea Lynn Palmer, Stephen James Craig Fulton Parnell, Erica L. Parrott, Ashley Elizabeth Pascas, Morgan Lea Passino, Roshni M. Patel, Samir Natvar Patel, Frank L. Pencola, Kelly Danielle Pennington, Lauren Elizabeth Pennington, Erica A. Pepper, Kevin Francis Percin, Marian A. Perez, Ronald C. Perian III, Chad M. Perkins, Corey A. Perkins, Molly E. Perkins, Janina Elizabeth Pesis, Jared Walter Pieknik, Acacia Charisse Pinkard and Mark S. Pisaneschi.

Maria T. Podonowska, Keith Michael Polinski, Laura Elizabeth Pope, Heather Lynn Portis, Brandon Mathew Poits, Kelly Marie Powers, Leah A. Powers, Justin Priami, Ashley Margaret Rose Price, Brandon Scott Pump, Nicholas Edward Quaig, Mark Thomas Rajt, Jr., William Raymond Rathburn, James Christopher Reetz, Elizabeth Mary Reinke, Nika M. Reyes, Rachel Arlene Reynolds, Courtney Jean Rhodes, Alicia M. Richard, Pamela Louise Richardson, Jonathan M. Rickard, Corie E. Ringe, Nicole D. Roach, William James Roberts, Daniel Alexander Robinson, George Michael Rossi, Melissa Marie Roumyah, Roland R. Rubago, Lindsay Kaye Ryan, Robert M. Sabbadin, Lauren Caitlin Sadowski, Elizabeth Michike Satoh, Ashley N. Sawyer, Paige Marie Scarpace, Meghan Kathleen Schemanske, Patrick Ryan Schou and Kristen M. Schultz.

Michael Paul Schwartz, Quaezana Kenyale Scott, Stefanie Michele Secco, Anthony David Seluk, Anthony Joseph Semonick, Lynn Margaret Seppanen, Stephanie M. Shade, Shane Allen Shelton, Lauren S. Shomsky, Jordan G. Short, Alissa Rae Shrewsbury, Jagdeep K. Sidhu, Iesha C. Sims, Evan James Sirena, Kyle A. Skulina, Sara Marie Slack, Nicholas Ryan Slayton, Bryan E. Smigielski, Brandon George Smith, Brent W. Smith, Jasmine Jeanine Smith, Krista D. Smith, Sarah E. Smith, Lara Corinne Solt, Chloe Ann Songalewski, Adam R. Spaeth, Allen Norman Sponenburgh, Emma Catherine Stack, Jessica Lynn Staley, Ryan Micheal Staniszewski, Denise Nicole Stec, Brittany Bianca Stevenson and Elizabeth Ashley Stevenson.

Joshua David Stokes, Tara Lynn Stoltz, Joshua Edward Svok, Amanda L. Swan, Chad Austin Swank, Kyle Travis Swims, Sarah Renee Szczerbaty, Kelly L. Tapella, Matthew Jeffrey Tatro, Christina L. Taylor, Shantanique T. Taylor, Mark David Theisen, Denielle R. Thomas, Ryanne E. Thomas, Casey A. Thomas, Stephanie Marie Thomas, Elizabeth Marie Thompson, Joseph Michael Thompson, Michelle T. Thompson, TaJuanna Marie Thornton, Pavan K. Thyagaraj, Victoria Lynn Todd, Adam D. Toner, Katherine Marie Trudell, Samantha Marie Tullio, James J. Turrin III, Heather Rose Umerjik, Kyle Anton Vallely, Whitney Marie Assunta Van Orden, Linzy Ann VanBerke, Rebecca L. Vandevelde and Stefano P. Varisto.

Mary Katharine Vetula, Angela Ann Vicini, Christina Joy Vickstrom, Erik J. Volk, Bridget Marie Walker, Carrie A. Walker, Crystal Ann Wallace, Sarah N. Warren, Eric K. Watson, Alleah Jeanne Webb, Sarah Elizabeth Weber, Jessica Rose Weiss, Samantha Candice Wensing, Nicholas R. Wey, Nicholas T. Whalen, Alyssa D. Wilkinson, Christina Renee Williams, Lindsay Rose Wilson, Sean A. Wilson, Amanda E. Wincel, Sara Marie Winowiecki, Amanda M. Wixon, Matthew S. Wojnar, Zachary M. Wojnar, Alexander Wood, Rachel Elizabeth Wood, Daniel W. Woodall, William Jordan Woodington, Sarah Marie Woods, Israel M. Woolfork, Elizabeth Anne Wright, Alexander D. Wypych, Robert Richard Yates, Dayna Leigh Zanger, Kyle C. Zurawski and Eric Daniel Zwilling.

VILLAGE

FROM PAGE A1
the area zoned for single-family homes, saying the development will affect their property values, increase traffic flow on Joy Road and pose a threat to children who must walk along the shoulders to get to and from school.
"This is one of the best single-family home sites left in the city," Patrick Kobalarz said. "The Nankin Mills theme doesn't fit in with the surrounding homes, it cheapens

the area. It ruins the character of one of the city's finest residential areas."
"This will hurt our property values, it will take away everything we've worked for," said Maria Grantham, whose Gray Street home abuts the development on two sides. "You're going to take away our dream. I'm disappointed you didn't hear us. It's sad you couldn't stand up and see this should stay R-1."
"This is all about money, not about the city," her husband Charles added. "This is going to ruin our neighborhood."
Shaw said he is willing to lis-

ten to residents and based on their comments made at last month's Planning Commission meeting has made the apartment building smaller and moved it to the west to create a 25-foot strip along the edge to serve as a buffer between the neighborhood and the village.
"I'd like to meet with the residents," he said. "I understand their concerns and I'm willing to work with them. I'm open to all suggestions and if I can accomplish them, I will."
But Councilman Charles Pickering said that after walking the property and visualizing what would happen, he was convinced it "should not and cannot be rezoned."
"I believe that area should be preserved for R-1 (single family) and it should stay that way," he said.
Joining him in criticizing the proposal was Council President Pro Tem Cheryl Graunstadt, who questioned if such a development is needed, considering there's a similar facility "down the road."
"You're not old enough to understand what senior citizens want," Shaw said.
"I'm old enough to know what residents want," Graunstadt said. "I'm glad you have a plan and care about this city, but this isn't the right

plan and this isn't the right site."
Council President James Godbout pointed out that most residential development coming before council is requesting a planned unit development that allows of mixed use because of the "changing dynamics in the marketplace."
"This was a tough decision, but you have to weigh a lot of factors," Godbout said. "Yes, there's going to be an impact on residents, six or eight homes on Gray Street, but this is a significant development in an area that could use additional development."
The council voted 4-3 to approve the rezoning and preliminary site plan with Pickering, Graunstadt and Councilman Robert Stottlemeyer dissenting. The approvals came with urging that Shaw move the high-rise away from the existing residential area.
"I want you to move it as far away from the residences as possible, I want it to be residence to residence," Councilman Michael Kehrer said.
"I think it's doable with a little creativity," Godbout added.

AROUND WESTLAND

Baby contest

The Westland Civitan Club will sponsor the a tot contest at this year's summer festival. The rules are simple. The tot must not reach a third birthday before July 1 and must be a Westland resident. Entries should include a picture no larger than 4-by-6 inches with the tot's name and phone number on the back. Pictures and parents' comments will be attached to a canister and displayed at the Civitan tent during the festival.
Tots will collect one vote for each penny dropped into a canister. Six boys and six girls with the highest totals will become finalists, and their contact persons will be notified on July 3 before 9 p.m. Finalists will parade before the judges at noon Tuesday, July 4, and a Tot of the Year will be chosen. Certificates for participants will be available at the Civitan tent.
Proceeds will help fight mental retardation and related disabilities. For more information call Pat Quinn at (734) 729-1993. Entry deadline is June 25.

In concert

Westland's summer concert series continues Sunday, June 22, with a 6 p.m. performance by the Novi Concert Band, under the

ON THE WEB

For an expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at www.hometownlife.com and click on the Westland home page.

direction of Diran Kochyan. The band will perform pop, classical and marches during the performance presented at the William P. Faust Public Library's pavilion. The library is on Central City Parkway north of Ford.

Helpful Hannah

It appears that young Hannah Bourdeau may be following in the footsteps of her father, Westland Library Board President Daniel Bourdeau, in her efforts to support the city's library. Hannah will be giving the library about a dozen children's books given to her by friends and family instead of birthday gifts this year. She turned 7 on May 23.
"I'm proud of Hannah as a father because she loves books and reading so much that giving the books up is hard for her," Daniel Bourdeau said. "I expect she'll be one of the first to check a few of them out so she can read them herself."

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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE
The City of Westland summer 2008 tax bills will be mailed on or about July 1, 2008. The Summer Tax Bills are payable through August 15, 2008, without additional interest.
Publish: June 18, 2008

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 36001 Warren Rd Westland, MI 48185-6591 (734)729-7095 on 6/27/08 at 10:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.
Personal property described below in the matter of:
1134 - Dominique Gray - 2 TVs, 1 Tote, Night Stand
1255 - Gregory K Merritt - 20 Bags, 4 Trunks, Misc Items
3090 - Tim Sedgewick - Dresser, Table, Sofa
3180 - Marilyn Zachery - Aquarium, 5 Boxes, 5 Bags
4016 - Christina Hughes - China Cabinet, Love-seat, Chair
4054 - Robert D Holt - 12 Totes, Tool Box, Mattress
4096 - Claudia E Barber-Martin - 50 Boxes, 2 Totes, Misc Items
4124 - Tameka Roberts - Wardrobe, Dresser, Head-board
5026 - Terry Darnell Knox - Bicycle, Aquarium, 4 Chairs
5066 - Claire Joslin - 10 Boxes, Couch, Armoire
5134 - Fred Croft - 2 Dressers, Office Chair, Mattress
5176 - James Flatt - 5 Boxes
5182 - Roseitta Jones - 30 Boxes, Suitcase, 2 Totes
6062 - Janice D Garrett - 10 Bags, 10 Boxes, Table
Publish: June 12 & 19, 2008

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
The Westland Department of Public Service will conduct an online public auction of miscellaneous items from the City of Westland Senior Friendship Center. The auction will begin on Thursday, June 19, 2008 and end Thursday, July 3, 2008. Interested persons should:
1. visit www.auctanton.com
2. click on the "Auctions" tab
3. in the right column, click on the "Click here for live auctions!"
The following items can then be viewed and are offered for sale to the highest bidder:
1. Weslo Cadence 3260 Treadmill
2. HP Officejet Pro 1150c Printer, Scanner
3. Sharp SF-2216 Copier, Scanner, Printer
4. OKI B4100 Printer
5. HP Officejet T65i Fax, Copier, Printer, Scanner
6. Epson LQ-870 Printer
7. Sewing Machine in Stand
8. Sewing Machine in Stand
9. RCA VHS Video Camera
10. Volt 400 GR Gravity Rider
11. Orbit Synthesizer
12. Schwinn Treadmill
13. Vitamaster Fitness Treadmill
14. Universal XT 1600 Treadmill
15. TV
16. Desk
All items are sold in "as is" condition. Items may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.
Publish: Thursday, June 19, 2008

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for Children.
Free meals will be made available to children 18 years of age and under or persons up to age 26 who are enrolled in an educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by a State or local public educational agency. The meals will be provided without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.
Meals will be provided at the sites listed below:
Jefferson-Barnes Elementary 32150 Dorsey Westland, MI 48186
Lincoln Elementary 33800 Grand Traverse Westland, MI 48186
Elliott Elementary 30800 Bennington Westland, MI 48186
Taft-Galloway Elementary 4035 Gloria Wayne, MI 48185
Lunch Service will start June 23 through August 8, 2008 (no service on July 3 & 4th) at all sites.
Lunch service times will be 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at all sites.
For more information, please call 734-419-2118.
In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.
To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Obama: We must put Michigan back to work

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



DETROIT FREE PRESS PHOTO

Former Vice President Al Gore (left) and Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm joined Barack Obama on-stage at this rally Monday at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena.

Barack Obama's message to a raucous crowd of supporters at Joe Louis Arena was loud and clear. Michigan is mightily important if he is to win the White House in November. In return, Obama promised to put the state back to work and make it a critical player in his vision of a greener, more energy-efficient America.

Obama, who was making the second of two Michigan campaign stops on Monday (he visited Flint in the morning), said his presidency would concentrate on developing alternative fuels and power generation, and that Detroit's manufacturing experience would play a major role in the effort. For example, he said "old steel mills in Michigan would start making windmills" and the Big 3 would be enticed to start cranking out a new generation of cars that could help America break its dependence on foreign oil.

He recognized that Michigan residents have been particularly hard hit by the changing economy.

"In Detroit and in Michigan, there's a quiet desperation across the land. I've seen it time and

introduce two of the biggest heavy-weights of the Democratic Party.

Obama praised Granholm's efforts for heading state government through some rocky waters that were beyond her control. He also recognized the efforts of nearly every prominent state Democrat, from U.S. Sen. Carl Levin to Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano. There was one notable exception, however. He failed to mention embattled Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, who was nowhere to be seen at the event.

Obama also had kind words for Hillary Clinton, who he defeated in a somewhat bitter campaign for the Democratic nomination. The large Joe Louis Arena crowd booed several times when her name was mentioned, but Obama chastised the crowd, saying Clinton was a fighter who is deserving of the admiration of every Democrat and is an inspiration to woman across the land, including Obama's two daughters.

"She has shattered the glass ceiling into 18 million pieces," Obama said. "She is going to be at the forefront in our battle for change."

Although Obama praised John McCain, his Republican opponent, for his military service and time in

the U.S. Senate, he said there was a clear distinction between his candidacy and McCain's, which Obama said would continue the policies of President Bush.

In addition to a cleaner environment, Obama said he would concentrate on making college affordable, help people struggling with home foreclosure, fix public education, and solve America's health care crisis. He said he has a plan for universal health care that would make sure the 47 million Americans currently without health insurance would be able to get affordable health care. He said the plan would also benefit those who already have health insurance.

"If you have health insurance, I will lower your premiums. If you don't have health insurance, you will have the same insurance I have as a U.S. senator ... by the end of my first term as president," he told the diverse crowd.

"We can't afford to wait to fix our schools. We can't afford to wait to fix our health care system. We can't afford to wait to bring back good jobs and wages to Michigan. And that's why I'm running for president of the United States of America," he said.

again," the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee told the crowd of more than 20,000.

Obama shared the stage with former Vice President Al Gore, who showed up to offer his endorsement of the Illinois senator. Gore, who has spent his time since his failed 2000 bid for the presidency sounding the alarm about a warming planet, said

America needs "to find the moral courage" to change course and help elect Obama.

"With our votes this November, we need change," Gore said.

President George W. Bush was a constant target of Gore and Obama, as well as Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who received a cool reception when she took the stage to

Salvation Army leaders leave with warm memories

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Four years ago, Capts. Matt and Mindie (Malinda) O'Neil arrived at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army for their first assignment as corps officers. They're headed to Midland next week to serve as corps officers there.

"I give God all of the honor for all we do," said Matt O'Neil, 33. He credits God for what the church has accomplished. "We've sent out leaders."

Church members Chris and April Clarke were just commissioned as officers, and will serve in Hillsdale County. Former Wayne-Westland staffer Margaret Gaster and her husband, Terry, are corps administrators in Detroit, pursuing officership.

"At first, we thought it was a little big for a first appointment," Matt O'Neil recalled of their arrival in Wayne-Westland after Salvation Army training. "It's measured up to exactly where God wanted us to be."

Mindie O'Neil, 30, concurred.

"We had a great time," she said. "I think we were successful in the goals we set."

They have no regrets as they head north.

"The community's been very supportive," she added. "We appreciate what we've had. People are very friendly and helpful."

As a first appointment, she's learned a lot about community relations, working with others in the community to common goals to improve life for all.

"Even personally, I think I've grown," she said. She's learned to slow down, "not take things so seriously but take life as it comes and make the world a



FILE PHOTOS

Capt. Matt O'Neil gives "God all the honor for all we do" at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Corps.

better place.

The O'Neils, Wayne residents who have children ages 2, 8 and 10, agree their faith has been a vital part of their work at the church that also functions as a social service center.

"What I'm doing would be pointless without that," Mindie O'Neil said of her belief in God and Jesus Christ.

They're proud of the Friday evening coffeehouse at the corps center, offered the second and fourth Fridays, but tip their hat to the Clarkes and other church members in getting that going.

"It is a very inviting and friendly community," he said. "I feel well supported in this community. We've definitely been taken care of here in whatever we do."

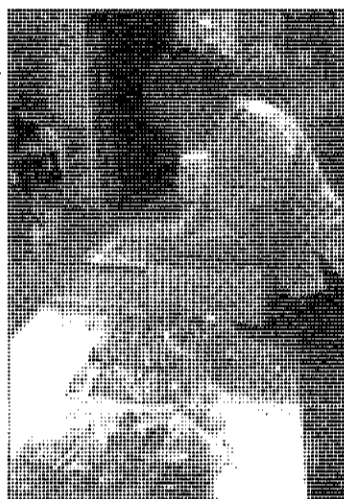
It could be reluctance to be set apart for beliefs that makes people hesitant to worship, he noted.

In Midland, they'll be involved in large programs for children. Their successors are Capts. Derek and Joanna Rose, who come from Livingston County.

"I feel very comfortable with the officers coming in," said Matt O'Neil, who expects a smooth transition. "It's exciting," he added of their Midland work, which starts June 25.

"Really, it'll only be as successful as the local people make it," Mindie O'Neil added of their successors' need for support.

A reception to honor the O'Neils will be noon Sunday, June 22, at the Wayne-Westland corps, on Venoy south of Palmer in Westland. It will follow Sunday morning worship. For information, call (734) 722-3660.



Capt. Mindie O'Neil says that "personally, I think I've grown" during her time here at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Corps.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

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

JUNE

Jerusalem marketplace
Vacation Bible School continues 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, June 19-20, at Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Laverne, between Inkster and Beech Daly, and West Chicago and Plymouth Roads, Redford. All ages welcome. For more information, call (313) 937-2424.

Sprout time
Preschoolers and Toddlers ages 1 to Pre-K and their parent are invited to join Bell Creek Community Church for bible stories, music, crafts 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, June 19 and 26, and July 10 and 17, at McKinley Elementary School, 9101 Hillcrest, Livonia. Bring a lunch and have fun. For information, call (734) 425-1174 or e-mail jen@bellcreek.org.

Summer music ministry
Thursday, June 19 (People's Ringers from Milan), and July 10 (Sci Ridge Brass Quintet), dinner at 6 p.m. for \$6, concert at 7 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730. Hymn sings July 6, Aug. 10, Sept. 7. Family Choir all ages are invited to sing at 9 a.m. rehearsal and then morning service June 22, July 27, Aug. 24, and Sept. 7. All are welcome to music events.

Third Un-Annual Art Show
Does art have Buddha nature? 7-10 p.m. Friday, June 20, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday June 21, at Still Point Zen Buddhist Temple 4347 Trumbull Ave. (at Canfield), Detroit. A portion of proceeds support Still Point. All welcome. Artists include Still Point members, invited guests and juried artists. Poetry reading opening night 9-10 p.m. under the stars (weather permitting). For details, call 313 645 9860 or (313) 580-6825, or e-mail stillpointart08@gmail.com.

Bethany Suburban West
Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9:30 a.m. Saturday June 21, at Leon's 30149 Ford Road, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Call (734) 513-9479.

50th anniversary celebration
Former members and friends are being invited back to Grace Moravian Church in Westland 10:30 a.m. Sunday,

June 22. A pot luck dinner will follow the service at 31133 Hively. If you are planning to stay for the meal, call Beverly Moore at (734) 722-4102. The Moravian denomination celebrates 550 years since it was founded in 1457. On July 13 former pastor Rev. Allen Bergmann will be guest speaker. A pot luck follows that service as well.

Ordination
Paul Undlin will be ordained and installed as pastor of Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church and School 4 p.m. Sunday, June 22, at 9600 Laverne, between Inkster and Beech Daly, and West Chicago and Plymouth Roads, Redford. For more information, call (313) 937-2424.

Prayer in America
Seventh annual Worldviews Seminar, Detroit Public Television and Interfaith Partners of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion present Prayer in America 4-8:30 p.m. Monday, June 23, at University of Michigan-Oearborn. For reservations, call (313) 870-1500 or send e-mail to Tanaya Parker at tparker@miroundtable.org.

Rain forest adventure
Vacation Bible School invites all children, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, June 23-26, a light supper each night leads to an evening of games, crafts, songs, skits, stories, no charge, Garden City Presbyterian Church, on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford. To register, call (734) 421-7620.

Vacation Bible school
Friendship Trek 9-11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, June 23-27 (for ages 3 through completion of fifth grade), at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. Bible learning via Wilderness Crafts, Survivor Games, Backpack Snacks, and Bible songs. Suggested donation \$10 per child. To register, call (734) 522-6830 or online at www.christsaviors.org.

Water works park
9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 23-27, at Ward Church, Northville. "Uncle Jerry" Jacoby, nationally known for his Good Stuff school assemblies, will share humor, stories and songs. Other activities include inflatables, crafts, games, music. Free and open to children entering grades K-7.

For families needing all-day activity, Ward offers SHINE daycamp with drop-off hours available as of 7 a.m. and lasting until 6 p.m. SHINE day camp is \$115, and requires pre-registration. Information at wardchurch.org.

Summer day camp
Performing arts camp for grades 1-6 with lunch included, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, June 23-25, at First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile, Northville. Cost \$50. Call (248) 348-7600.

Family concert
Deano and the Dynamos bring their beach boy style worship music all the way from California 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, at First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile, Northville. Call (248) 348-7600. No charge, no registration required.

Ward Church car show
Featuring classic, custom and just plain hot cars and motorcycles 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 26, in the parking lot at Six Mile and Cross Roads, just west of Haggerty. To enter a vehicle, send e-mail to Dan Jones at danjones@live.com by Monday, June 23.

Summer day camp
Offered by Ward Church in Northville for children entering grades 1-6, continues to Aug. 24. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with extended care available at an extra cost. Campers will participate in one field trip per week with additional local outings and weekly water days. Daily elective classes will include sports, drama, music, and foods. SHINE is a fully-licensed daycare through the State of Michigan Department of Human Resources. Weekly full-time registrations range from \$135 to \$165. Information available at wardchurch.org, or by calling (248) 374-5975.

Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank is switching its hours for this month only to 2-4 p.m. Saturday, June 28, at the church, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy, between Haggerty and Lilley. The Clothing Bank is open to everyone in the community who is in need of new or like-new clothing and is held on the fourth Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon. Donations are also accepted. For information, call (734) 404-2480 or visit www.CantonCF.org.

Fall craft show
Applications are now being accepted for the Fall Craft Show noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. For details, call (734) 464-0990.

Seekers of spiritual Intelligence
Beacon Hill Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) examines the disciplines of spirituality in action during the 1 p.m. Sunday worship service in June at St. Michael Lutheran Church Chapel, 7000 N. Sheldon, south of Warren, Canton (enter through the south double doors next to the play area) For information, call (313) 402-6900 or (313) 806-PRAY, send e-mail to beaconhillccdoc@aol.com.

Summer camp
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Program for Summer Camp continues to Aug. 22. The center is open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday for ages 18 months to 12 years. For more information, call (734) 513-8413 or drop 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia.

UPCOMING

Mom's retreat
St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia invites all Catholic Moms in the area to join in an occasional morning off this summer to enjoy some personal time for prayer and relaxation, coupled with some adult discussion of topics relevant to your daily faith life. 8:30-10:45 a.m. Wednesday, July 2, July 16, Aug. 13, and Aug. 27. A Children's Ministry will be offered while moms enjoy Mass, a continental breakfast, and conversation and discussion with other moms

at St. Michael's on the southwest corner of Hubbard and Plymouth Road, Livonia. Moms may register for as few or many sessions as their schedules permit, cost is \$8 per session with an additional \$2 per child for Children's Ministry care. Call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200 or on-line at www.livoniastmichael.org.

Monthly dance
Hosted Bethany Suburban West which provides peer support to divorced and separated of all Christian faiths, 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, July 5, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago, at Inkster Rd., Redford. No dance lesson this month. Cost \$10. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Call (734) 261-5716 for details.

Vacation Bible school
This Royal Adventure teaches students about the character of God through Kings and Queens of the Bible 6-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 7-11, at Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile, Plymouth. No charge.

Rummage sale
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 10-12, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Bethany Suburban West
Fireworks at Heritage Park in Taylor Friday, July 11. For details, call Elsie at (313) 563-1142.

Red Cross blood drive
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, July 13, in the parish hall at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Walk-ins welcome. For information, call (734) 464-1222, ext. 309.

Vacation Bible school
9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, July 14-18, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Cost \$25 for the first child, \$20 for each child thereafter. Call (734) 464-0211.

Vacation Bible school
July 14-18, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$25 for first child, \$20 thereafter, includes music CD. Call (734) 464-0211.

Open house
For Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran School 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, and Thursday, Aug. 14, at 9600 Laverne, between Inkster and Beech Daly, and West Chicago and Plymouth Rds., Redford. The school offers infant day care, preschool for 3-4-year olds, full day kindergarten and 1st-8th grades. For more information, call Laura Goodman at (313) 937-2233 or send e-mail to lgoodman@hosanna-tabor.org.

Eucharistic adoration
St. Michael the Archangel Church, located at the southwest corner of Plymouth and Hubbard, Livonia,

Please see CALENDAR, A5

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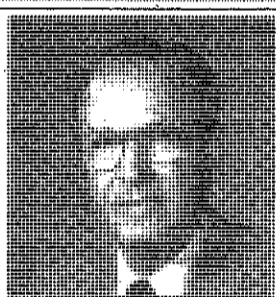
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MICHAEL F. LASKO
Age 99, Northville, MI, passed away June 13, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI



ROBERT E. WICKHAM

Age 84 of Glenview, IL a former longtime resident of Farmington Hills, MI died on Friday, June 13, 2008 in the Lake Forest Hospital, Lake Forest, IL. Bob was born November 23, 1923 in Detroit, MI to Howard and Dorothy M. Holloway Wickham. Bob was a graduate of Albion College in Michigan, and served our country as a Naval Officer during WWII. His career spanned over 40 years in the Automotive Industry serving in Executive roles for Johns-Dabney and Celanese before retiring from the BASF Group as Vice President and the Executive Director of the Automotive Coatings Division. Mr. Wickham also served as the former President of the Automotive Paint Association. Bob had served as President of the Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club. A true American sportsman; a sponsor of many trips with lifelong friends and family members through-out North America for hunting, camping and deep sea fishing. Bob was a true dog lover, raising and caring for many throughout his life, most recently Strider; his trusted "weekend" companion for the last few years. Bob was the devoted husband of the late Mary Wickham (who died in 2005), whom he watched over with loving care every day throughout her long struggle with Alzheimer's. He is survived by his son Steve R (Ellen) Wickham of West Bloomfield, MI; daughter Patricia L. (James) McLaughlin of Winnetka; grandchildren Scott, Mary, Kyle, Justin, Daniel, Anne, Jay and Scott. Besides his wife Mary, Bob was preceded in death by his son Frederick "Fritz" Wickham in 1987, and his brother Richard (Betty) Wickham. Services and interment private. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 8430 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60631 or the American Cancer Society, 820 Davis St, Suite 400, Evanston, IL 60201. Info: 847/675-1990 or www.donnellanfuneral.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

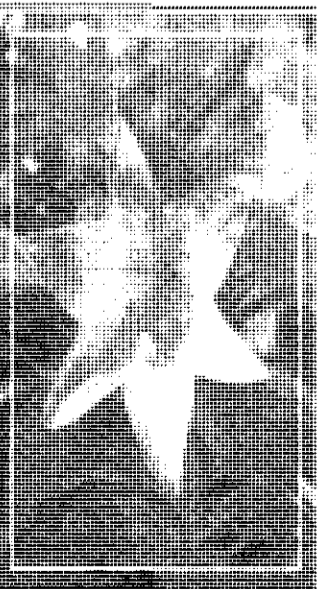
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Children's book brings Bible teachings to life

CALENDAR
FROM PAGE A4

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

David Kraai knew he had to find a better way to teach children about God than having them memorize Bible stories. The fifth grade boys in his Sunday School class could already spout tales like Jonah and the Whale by heart. After praying about this dilemma, Kraai realized he had to change his perspective to make the subject more interesting not only for his students but the masses.

I Have to Save My MiniBot! is episode one of the Solomon's Quest series he plans to write and self-publish. The brightly colored cartoon illustrations by Tom Roy immediately attract children of all ages. Roy is a Lathrup Village artist who wrote a comic strip, *The Pitts*, for the Detroit Free Press.

The pair set publishing history by printing their first non-denominational Christian children's book in English, Spanish and Braille all at the same time. The graphics and text are both in Braille so many blind children are seeing an angel for the first time.

"You don't change the story," said Kraai, former children's pastor at Ekklesia Detroit in Westland. "Each story, character and event were carefully



David Kraai has been involved with children's ministries for more than 30 years.

placed there by God so you could understand your creator, savior, your enemy, and yourself. The story of David and Goliath is really about you. The lead character is patterned after me. Like me he's adopted and has a hard time seeing himself as lovable. The adoption process makes us feel unlovable. He still has issues and is on a journey to discover God."

Kraai uses a giant computer brain to entice Danny Abel just as he did with his Sunday School students at Brightmoor Christian Church in Novi. Every week he built a time machine, space shuttle

or plane to keep the children's attention. Qubirt was an 8-foot-tall computer which had faces to talk to the kids. In the book Goliath is smarter than its creator and installs the Bible in its memory.

"I felt it was necessary to reach out to kids and give them the message," said Kraai who's been in children's ministries for more than 30 years. "I wanted to come at it from the perspective of how I approach things, if it's not fun why would I want to be there?"

Rev. David Boyd, formerly in charge of children's ministries for Assembly of God, suggested Kraai write a devotions book to go along with *I Have to Save My MiniBot!* so children would spend more time interpreting what they read. A coloring book is also in production for the youngest set.

"We're losing the children," said Kraai. "The coloring book helps me reach the smaller churches who probably don't have children's ministries."

Kraai said he'd like to schedule book signings at area churches no matter what the denomination. In the meantime he's busy at work on episode two due out this fall. In the back of the first book is a poster announcing "I've Waited My Whole Life For This."



A new Christian storybook teaches children about the Bible by making it all about them.

The books cost \$19.95, \$12.95 for the devotions now under the imprint of Earnest Publications which is named after Kraai's father. A portion of the proceeds go to Center for the Blind of the Assemblies of God (www.blind.ag.org) based in Missouri. Paul Weingartner, director of the center, encouraged Kraai to publish in Braille. Sarah Sykes spent 120 hours transcribing the text for the first book. For more information, visit www.solomonsquest.com or call

(810) 569-5396.

"There's strife. It's reality based but it's not boring," said Kraai. "I've done a lot of focus groups and had kids coming back and saying 'we couldn't stop laughing in Chapter 2. It's just the way we talk.' You won't ever find a swear word or questionable things in the book. My whole goal is for kids to love the story line. We need to reach the kids when they're still reachable."

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

continues its monthly program of Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration on the third Wednesday of each month. The church will be open for prayer and private worship from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Benediction service in the evening. All in the area are welcome to participate. For details, call (734) 261-1455.

Bethany Suburban West
Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9:30 a.m. Saturday July 19, at Leon's 30149 Ford Road, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Call (734) 513-9479.

Jazz worship
11 a.m. Sunday, July 20, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church conducts a special Jazz Worship service featuring instrumentalists and singers leading hymnody and liturgy in a format that will be easy and very uplifting to sing, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia.
For information, call Mark Lohmeyer at (734) 522-6830.

Grandparents/kids weekend
July 25-27, at FaHolo Camp & Conference Center, Grass Lake, sponsored by ReMarried Ministries of Ward Church. The event is a retreat for grandparents and grandchildren, and includes two nights lodging, five meals, inspirational teaching by Barbara George-Howard, a wagon ride and bon fire, water blob and trampoline, go carts, initiatives, and lots of fun.
Costs are \$283 per grandparent couple or \$154 per person. Grandchildren ages 6-17 \$90 each, 5 year olds free. Call (248) 374-7400.

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<p>CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 28310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121</p> <p>Mass Schedule: First Fri. 7:00 p.m. Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>		<p>EVANGELICAL COVENANT</p> <p>FAITH COVENANT CHURCH 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191 Sunday Worship and Children's Church 9:15 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 a.m. Traditional Child Care provided for all services Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups</p>		<p>"More than Sunday Services" Summer Worship Service 10:00 a.m. thru August 31st • Dynamic Youth and Children's Programs • Excellent Music Ministries • Small Groups For Every Age • Outreach Opportunities Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert</p> <p>First United Methodist Church of Plymouth 45201 North Territorial Road (West of Sheldon Road) (734) 453-5280 www.pfumc.org</p>	
<p>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</p> <p>Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-0880 Pastor: Eddie Petreaca Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class 8 a.m. Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m. Bible Studies English & Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.</p>		<p>NON DENOMINATIONAL</p> <p>BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m. 734-425-1174 Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!</p>		<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9801 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 www.rosedalegardens.org Chapel Worship Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH</p>	
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 48601 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 453-3195</p>		<p>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</p> <p>First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church. Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970</p>		<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org</p>	
<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided</p>		<p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 Mile W. of Sheldon) (734) 453-5252 Summer Worship 9:30 am Memorial Day through Labor Day Weekend www.risenchrist.info</p>		<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>St. Paul's Ev. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734) 261-1366 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org</p>	
<p>EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</p> <p>Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. (Nursery Available)</p>		<p>For information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8365 or e-mail: dhart@hometownlife.com</p>			

Small investment pays off big for HVL graduate

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For Amy Helwig, the \$50 used to open an annuity account with the Foresters Financial Partners paid off in a big way with a scholarship for her daughter, Emily.

The Huron Valley Lutheran High School graduate has been awarded an \$8,000 scholarship, one of 350 awarded this year by the organization.

"It's an honor for me to be recognized for my community service," said Emily Helwig. "I didn't think that they would, but I'm glad they did. It means I don't have to pay as much."

The Livonia resident plans to attend Wisconsin Lutheran College and major in chemistry with a minor in criminalistics. She plans to go into forensic science.

She had considered Madonna University and Wayne State University, but was seriously leaning toward the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, when the WLC recruiter visited the Helwig home a third time.

"I told him she was 99 percent sure she was going to Platteville, but he urged her to apply. She did it online that night and was

accepted a week later," said her mother. "They even put her on the volleyball team. That was the icing on the cake."

The Foresters Scholarship Program provides recipients with \$2,000 for up to a maximum of four years or until their first degree is obtained. It can help pay for tuition, books, supplies, residence, clothes, food and other expenses.

The scholarship was based on academics and community service, something Helwig has plenty of. She has taught Sunday school at Peace Lutheran Church in Livonia for two years and has been a member of the Westland Police Explorers, learning about what police do and helping with events like the D.A.R.E. golf outing, the Westland Summer Festival and its parade and fireworks.

She also been busy at school playing soccer, basketball and volleyball. She was in the band and Hawk Choir, performed in the school plays and served on the Student Council.

"I love it all, it's so much fun," she said. "I was busy, but I figured it out to get my work done."

Winning the scholarship is good news for the family which weathered financial difficulties last year. Her father, who left his job in late 2006, now works in Wisconsin and the family is preparing to move there. They will be about 25 minutes from the

college, her mother said.

"This scholarship is pretty important," said Amy Helwig. "We'd gone through a tough year, we struggled financially in 2007. Unfortunately, we had to put the burden on her, but she has some scholarships and grants."

"We have a lot of family there that we don't get to see a lot," added Emily Helwig.

Happy to have the scholarship, Emily Helwig admits she had forgotten she applied for it until she got the letter in March. It will help offset some of the \$27,000 yearly cost, including room and board.

"It's going to be fun for her," her mother said. "She's excited. It's a smaller school and it doesn't have the content for her minor, but they're going to help her work toward her achieving her goal."

"I'm enrolling in the fall and I plan to be in band and choir," Emily Helwig said. "I'll try those and see how it goes."

Founded in 1874. Foresters shares its financial strength with its members, who are customers, through complimentary life, health and education benefits that help its eligible members and their families in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. For more information, visit www.foresters.com.

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



Helwig

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

Citizens for Peace

The Livonia-based Citizens for Peace, which covers the entire 11th District, invites residents the chance to join in study-discussion groups on the topic, Beyond War, during its June and July meetings. Using a study guide, the topic will be discussed in four group sessions each meeting. The June meeting will include social change; how to talk to people who think war is a good idea or inevitable; war is obsolete; and the concept that we all live on one planet. In July, the topics focus on alternatives to war, such as non-violent conflict resolution processes and appropriate humanitarian foreign aid; international law and cooperation between nations; practical experience about what people and nations can do instead of war; and applying effective advocacy. Citizens for Peace meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at Unity of Livonia, on Five mile road between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. A small donation is requested for the use of the church facilities. For details, call Colleen Mills at (734) 425-0079.

Free workshop

Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, a holistic physician, wellness consultant and clinical nutritionist, is presenting "Eat Your Way Thin" 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, at the Alfred Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Learn why diets will not work, ways to avoid weight gain and how to lose weight with diet/nutrition and exercise. When to eat, what to eat and how to eat also will be discussed at the

free workshop. Seating limited to the first 30 callers. For reservations, call (734) 756-6904 or go online to www.TLCHolisticWellness.com.

John Glenn reunion

John Glenn High School Class of 1988 will hold its 20 year reunion on Saturday, Aug. 23, at Roma's of Garden City on Cherry Hill east of Venoy. Tickets are \$30 per person. For tickets and more information, visit the reunion Web site at jghs88reunion.com.

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 necessary 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 more information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Higher Rock Cafe

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands. Check out Higher Rock on the Web at www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660.

EDUCATION

St. Raphael

St. Raphael Catholic School, located on Merriman just north of Ford in Garden City, is now accepting open enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year for preschool through eighth-grade. Programs include 3-4-year-old preschool, technology updates and a host of extra-curricular activi-

ties. Computer labs, new classroom technology, Japanese class, and chess club are some of the school's newest additions. The school has a strong academic program and also offers religion class, weekly Mass and sacramental preparation including Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. Latchkey and bussing is available, and all faiths are welcome. For registration information or to learn more about St. Raphael Catholic School, contact the school office at (734) 425-9771 or visit the Web site at www.straphael-gc.org.

St. Damian

St. Damian Catholic School at 29891 Joy, Westland, offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8. For more information or to schedule a tour, call (734) 427-1680 or check out the school's Web site at www.stdamian.com.

Academic Pathways

Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool at 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia, is currently enrolling for 2008-2009 school year. Morning sessions for the 3- and 4-year-old programs are available. Potty training is not required. There is a certified teacher. The 4-year-old program runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The 3-year-old program runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday mornings. For more information, call (734) 459-6689 or visit the Web site at www.academicpathwayspreschool.com.

YWCA preschool

The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2+ to 5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available. For more information on these programs, or to enroll your child, call the YWCA's Education Department at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10.

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Macy's 'Bag Hunger' benefits Starfish

Starfish Family Services is getting a helping hand the Macy's store at Westland Shopping Center through the retailer's employee "Bag Hunger" campaign.

Now through June 30, Macy's "Partners In Time" volunteers will collect food and gift cards for Starfish families and members of the community in need.

This is the second year that Macy's Westland has participated in the program and has set a goal to collect 3,900 pounds of food. The store is encouraging employees to collect 15 pounds of food each. To assist with store associates' collections, Macy's Westland has coordinated internal special events, such as special employee clothing days, a silent auction and an on-line auction. In addition, restaurant customers who donate \$1 will receive a special red Macy's star with their name on it.

Nationally, Macy's Inc. associates provided more than 10.4 million pounds of food for hunger relief agencies across the country. Since Bag Hunger started 11 years ago, food and equivalent donations have been given to provide nearly 47 million meals nationwide.

"We are very pleased with Macy's generosity in helping collect food for needy families in the community," said Ann Kalass, CEO of Starfish Family Services. "This is a time when many families struggle to put food on the table and it's comforting to know we can alleviate some of that stress."

"We chose Starfish because it is an organization that has an excellent reputation as a family service provider for our local community," said Chris Schechter, Macy's East Westland Furniture Selling Manager. "Helping families in our communities is vitally important to who we are at Macy's nationwide and right here in our community"

The food and gift cards collected will be donated to the Gleaners Food Bank at Starfish Family Services, which is located in its Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center in Inkster. It will be distributed to hundreds of vulnerable families in the surrounding community.

Starfish Family Services is the largest private, nonprofit human service agency in western Wayne County. The agency offers 12 specialized programs to help educate and empower vulnerable families and children in Southeastern Michigan. The agency has served more than 8,000 children and their families at its 18 services sites last year. For more information, visit the Starfish Web site at www.starfishonline.org.

Livonia Public Schools

Open Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students

Ten seats are open to students entering 3rd grade in fall 2008.

Limited Registration window: June 24-July 8

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (ACAT) program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2008-09 school year.

This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience.

Registration will be open from June 24-July 8 at the Department of Instruction, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia 48154 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All candidates MUST meet the ACAT selection testing criteria.

For complete information on the application process, visit www.livonia.k12.mi.us or contact Charlotte Worthen, Director of Instruction at 734-744-2589.

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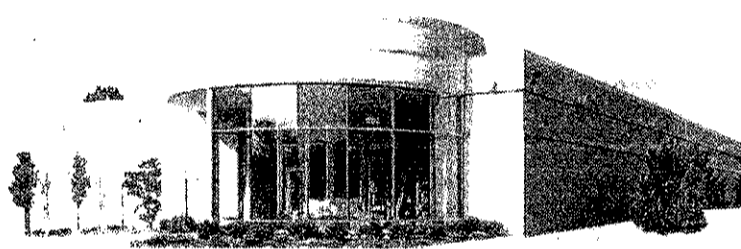
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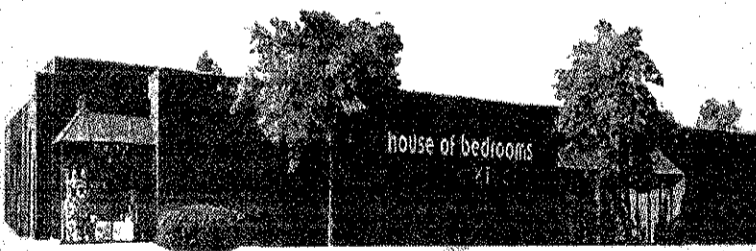
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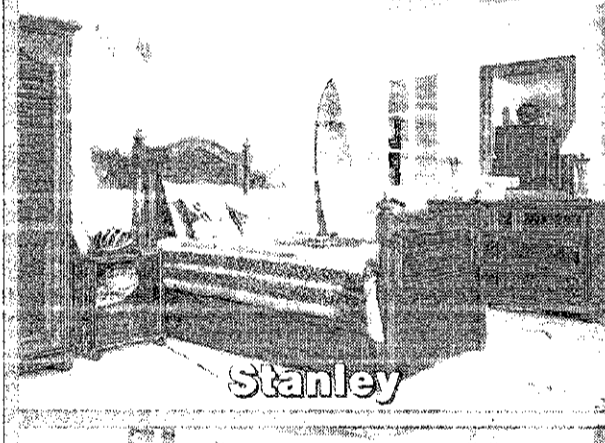
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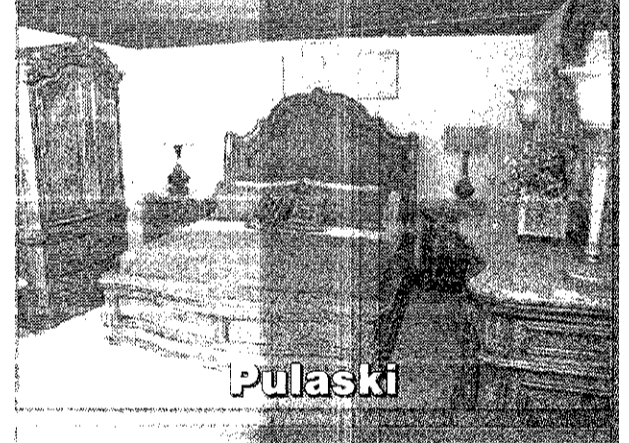
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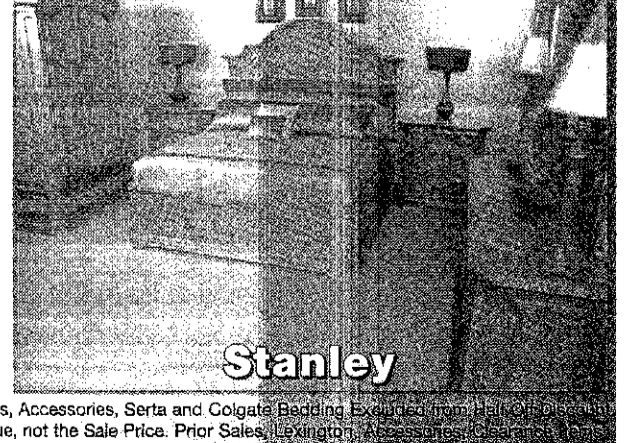
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OUR VIEWS

Neighbors need to get involved

It wasn't what north end residents wanted to hear when Mayor William Wild said opposition to Nankin Mills Village as an example of what happens when a community is almost fully developed. They wanted to hear him say he would veto the rezoning that clears the way for an over 55 senior community in one of the city's more unique residential areas.

The mayor declined and instead told residents that the "at the end of the day, the plan is pretty much compatible with the area."

Monday evening residents bombarded the council with facts and figures while the land should remain zoned for single family homes and begged council members to consider such things as the increased traffic flow and the effect on their already declining property values in making their decision. Many liked the idea, but said their neighborhood wasn't the right location.

In listening to residents, it's apparent that the bone of contention isn't development of the property. They are amenable to single family homes and pleaded with council to retain that zoning. What they don't like is the three-story building that will abut residential properties on the east side of the development.

In listening to residents, it's apparent that the bone of contention isn't development of the property. They are amenable to single family homes and pleaded with council to retain that zoning. What they don't like is the three-story building that will abut residential properties on the east side of the development.

Developer Glenn Shaw Jr. claims the city deserves to step up something better and his Nankin Mills Village is just that when it comes to senior housing. His plan is to offer seniors everything they need in within the confines of his village - transitional housing, including contracted living, a restaurant to a theater, styling salon and barber shop. He also equates it with Canton Township's Cherry Hill Village, designed to reproduce a small town feeling.

To his credit, Shaw has said he is willing to work with residents. He plans to come up with three different buffers that residents can look at and decide which would be the best to separate his development from their neighborhood. But let's face it, there's not much other than mature trees that can screen a view of three-story building.

It's been stressed that what the council approved Monday evening was a preliminary plan, that the development may look a lot different when it comes up for final approval. We hope so. We believe the residents do have a beef about the high-rise and that Shaw should take up the council's suggestion and move it further west away from the residential area.

Residents also must accept the fact that the land will be developed and take this opportunity to help shape its final outcome. Shaw is savvy enough to understand that it's better to have the neighbors with you than against you.

Michigan in summer, always a special place

Michigan is always a great place to spend the summer. In the warm season, Michigan becomes a magical place of yellow sand beaches, deep green forests, sparkling blue lakes and bustling resort towns.

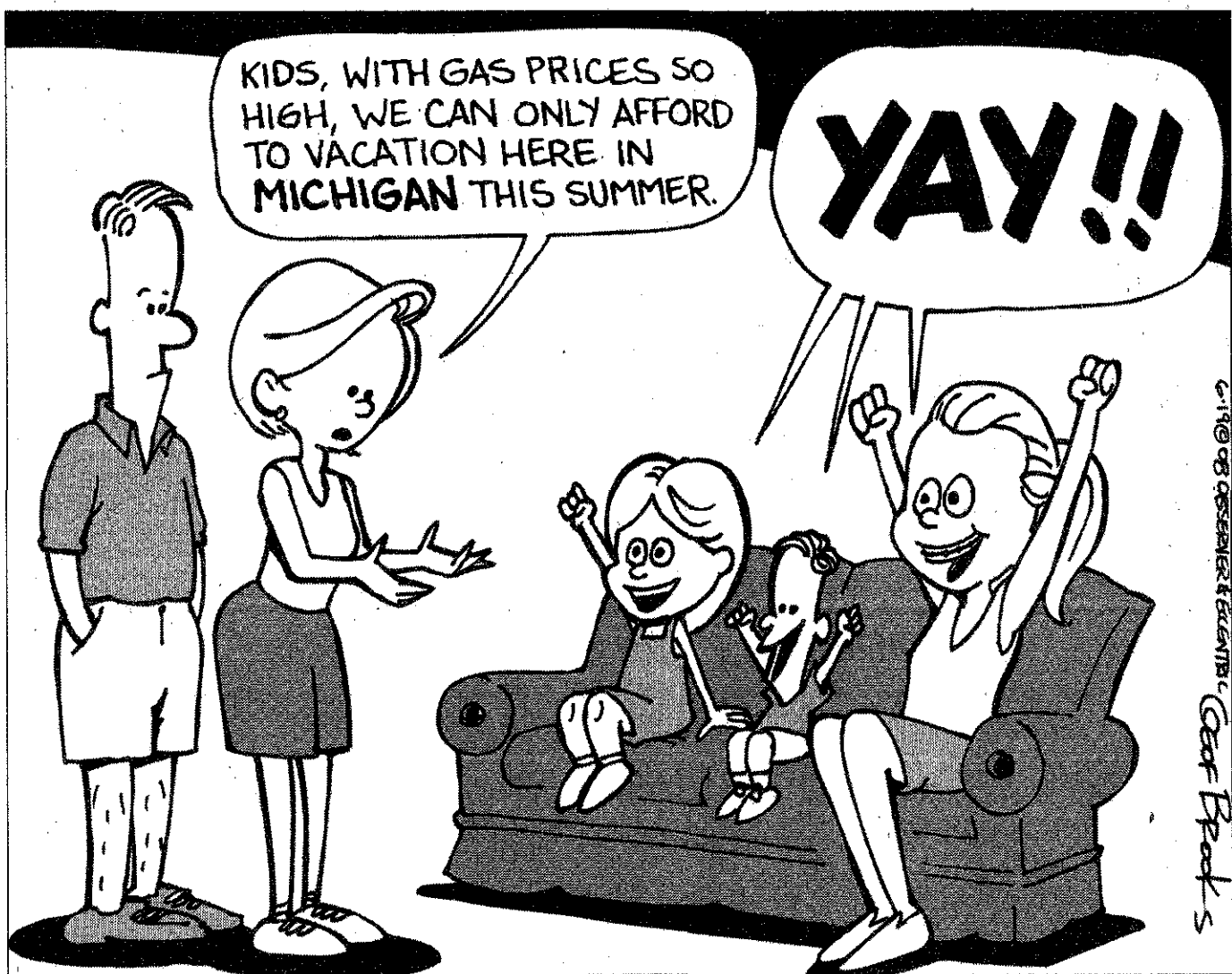
It's a paradise for on-road and off-road bicyclists; canoers, kayakers and speedboaters; trout and bass anglers; antique lovers; sunbathers; golf devotees, no matter what their handicap; fudge fans; bird watchers and woods walkers; and for those who just love to sit by a campfire late at night.

This summer, Michigan should have special appeal for state residents who had been considering trips to ocean shores, mountain parks or other distant destinations. Gasoline prices have gone over the \$4 a gallon threshold and threaten to move closer and closer to \$5. Airlines are also feeling the fuel pinch and are raising fares and surprising fliers with add-ons when they arrive at the airport.

Staying in state will seem like a bargain, and it will be. Michigan's resorts in the western and northern parts of the state have everything a family needs to enjoy quality time together and to split up and enjoy some quality time alone. There is so much to do and so many options.

But you don't even have to leave town to enjoy a Michigan summer. Our local communities have a variety of recreational activities, musical events and annual festivals. The summer is a great time to get reacquainted with your own hometown and all it has to offer.

Michigan and summer have always been a great combination. This year, it's better than ever.



LETTERS

Good average

A recent study found the average American walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found Americans drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year. That means, on average, Americans get about 41 miles to the gallon. Damn, we're good! Makes you proud to be an American.

Mari Squire
Westland

We've feathered this nest

I am writing this letter in response to an editorial article by Mr. Ruehlen, printed in the June 5 issue of the *Observer*. Your editorial contained the following statement: "I don't know what the executives at the former Big Three were thinking when they decided to roll out one behemoth after the next while gas prices soared." The thinking was the same as with any other business: Give the customers what they want.

Our Asian competitors built smaller, fuel efficient cars and did quite well in that market niche. Then they expanded to the luxury car field and again had excellent results. Now they want a piece of the large truck market. Why? Because a majority of the American public still buys these "behemoths" and in per unit cost terms, they are more profitable. But while they are attempting to break into this field, the American auto companies are making inroads into their sedan market, both here and abroad. Also bear in mind that when there is a drastic shift in the marketplace, design and production of a totally new vehicle is three to five years, unless you're willing to settle for another Pinto or Vega.

When you first bought your vehicle, did you walk into the dealership with gas mileage economy on your mind, or were you looking for something with more "bragging power." GM, Ford and Chrysler all have vehicles that are designed to be dependable, stylish and economical, but if the American public continues to buy trucks and SUVs, then it's foolish to tell the customers they're wrong. That is not a sales tactic normally taught anywhere. I would also like to point out that there are trucks and SUVs that have been developed and sold using hybrid technology along with the fuel saving systems that "turn off" half the cylinders when you attain cruising speed. Economy is still an option.

Face the reality. You bought what you wanted in the size you wanted, despite what you knew was going to happen. Did anybody really believe gas would go down when there is war in the regions of our main suppliers? Do you also complain to Westinghouse when the price of food in your refrigerator goes up? Or rile at Microsoft about the lack of electricity during a blackout? Like it or not, this is the nest we've feathered.

Brian Doyle
Livonia

Any leaders out there?

First, the citizens of Michigan were faced with their taxes being raised — both in paying higher payroll taxes and property taxes (even though their property values plummet).

Then, when the businesses learned how much their taxes went up based on the new and "improved" (cough, cough) Michigan business tax — they passed that additional burden onto the consumer in higher prices — so the Michigan citizens pay AGAIN for the legislatures "wisdom."

Then these legislators gave themselves a raise for a job well done (cough, cough again).

Then, they start to pass legislation giving tax breaks to companies who are going to suck food out of the food supply for ethanol which is translating into higher food prices (on top of the drought and disease and fuel costs that are pushing up food prices).

Then, fuel prices soar (this one is no fault of our Legislators but they should have enough foresight to realize that "life" happens and leaving some degree of wiggle room in the taxpayers' budgets).

So now — the family has to decide if they are going to drive to work for what little is left of their paycheck — or feed their families off of a welfare check.

But wait! Our Legislature is not done with us yet!

Their most recent "wisdom" is to transfer electric costs to those who STILL HAVE A PLACE to live from the backs of the business owner — who was already passing on the cost to us through their product price increases anyway. And off the backs of the public schools systems who all have a health insurance plan that needs plenty of gutting before pushing even more costs on to the taxpayer.

If you are on welfare or work for the government in any way — you have health insurance that either is far superior to the ones paying for that insurance (the taxpayer) or at least you have health insurance which most taxpayers do not. Congratulations, Lansing. You are the worst Legislature this state has ever seen.

Not ONE of you deserve to be re-elected! Reason: I have not heard or seen any of you in the news speaking OUT against these incredibly BAD policies except in your little newsletters to your "supporters."

Michigan needs a leader — are there any out there?

Valerie Earle
Livonia

Back Obama

Consider the dramatic ideological and policy positions between John McCain and Barack Obama ... and get ready for "shock and awe."

John McCain wants to keep us in Iraq into perpetuity while ignoring his responsibilities to returning soldiers in need of health care (especially mental health), employment and housing

opportunities. He is consistent in his votes against S-CHIP, the bill necessary to provide health care to millions of uninsured children. He is vulnerable to the flip-flopper label on tax issues and favors tax cuts for corporations. He has no knowledge of economic issues and has little if any empathy for America's dying middle class and burgeoning population of poverty-ridden families and especially single mothers. He is against pro-choice, global warming initiatives, stem cell research and mental health parity.

Barack Obama will work to get our soldiers out of Iraq and a war we never should have been in and will focus our security efforts in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria and Iran where they belong. Like Moshe Dayan, he understands "when you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends, you talk to your enemies." He will use America's resources in America (instead of Iraq) to fix our crumbling roads, highways and bridges. He has and will increase support for our returning soldiers so they don't flood the ranks of our homeless population, prison systems and hospitals.

He believes our children are our nation's responsibility and opportunity and will work to overhaul, fund and mandate the No Child Left Behind and believes our 6.7 million students with disabilities deserve equal educational opportunities and more federal funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

He pledges to fund pre-school and provide \$4,000 college scholarships to all students willing to make a commitment to community service. He will invest in you, if you invest in America. What a concept. He supports tax cuts to the middle class and only tax increases to the wealthiest of our citizens. We will finally see stem cell research. Pro-choice will remain choice and our children will have health care.

Any more questions? Michigan must go blue on Nov. 4. America and especially Michigan can't afford four more years of failed Bush policies. Barack Obama offers not only a hope missing in politics for almost 40 years, he represents intelligence, ethics and a passion for "We the People" of Michigan and our United States.

Marcie Lipsitt
Franklin

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"Every time you get into a car, we should realize we have an obligation to be a safe driver. We should realize that a car is a dangerous weapon."

— Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy about Daniel Andreassi of Livonia who has been charged as an adult in connection with the death of Westland resident Anthony Cosenza

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

Don't factor Social Security into retirement equation

A few weeks ago on my radio show I had a discussion regarding retirement planning. A man who was in his early 50s wanted to retire in a couple of years. The issue was did he have enough to enjoy a comfortable retirement? After reviewing his current cost of living and what it would cost to live in retirement, he was convinced he could retire in a couple of years. However, there were two issues I raised that made him think twice.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

The perks his employer had paid for and the future of Social Security.

When someone looks at what it's going to cost in retirement he/she starts with what it presently costs them to live and uses that as a base. In most situations, people assume there would be fewer expenses in retirement.

COST OF WORK

The general consensus is there is a cost to go to work. I agree. In most cases not going to work does lower some costs, but not always and in this case, it wasn't.

It turns out the individual who wants to retire in a couple of years receives a variety of perks from his employer including cell phone, Internet connection, automobile and insurance.

He didn't factor this into whether he can retire.

The other issue is Social Security. In this case, the plan for retirement is predicated on being able to receive Social Security. My question to him is: What happens if you don't receive Social Security? His answer is without Social Security he can't retire in his early 50s.

This issue is difficult to resolve and one that

should be of concern to many individuals. The government has made certain promises to us regarding Social Security, however, the reality is we have no idea what the future will bring. Because of that, I do not factor Social Security into the equation.

ALTER PLANS

My advice in this man's case is to change his plans and not retire in the next couple of years. I have no idea what the future of Social Security is, however, I am confident there will be significant changes that will impact benefits. Because of this great unknown and because I want to be safe, not sorry, my advice for most people is don't depend upon Social Security.

I don't mean to frighten people, but facts are facts. Social Security has been so mismanaged over the decades, that as baby boomers enter retirement, more changes will be necessary. What those changes are is anyone's guess but change is coming.

The individual who is a few years away from collecting Social Security or who is presently collecting Social Security, should have no worries. However, people who are at least a decade away from receiving benefits can expect changes. If I am wrong, all that means is more money to live on during retirement.

The bottom line is you and I are responsible for our own retirement and it is important to plan. For those in your late 40s and early 50s who are beginning to do some retirement planning, my advice is don't factor Social Security into the equation or deeply discount it.

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

Educational journey needs to begin early and last a lifetime

Recently, my grandson proudly walked across the auditorium stage to accept his diploma. He had fulfilled all the requirements for his diploma and was now officially a graduate — of preschool.

A couple of weeks earlier, his father had graduated summa cum laude from law school.



Hugh Gallagher

Both events are significant markers along an educational continuum. As we are constantly being told in this ever-shifting global economy, this brave new world, education is a lifelong process that begins very early and never really ends.

Aidan's graduation from preschool and his advancement to the rigors of kindergarten are in recognition of the need to engage young minds at the earliest possible time. Very young children absorb information and are able to fit that information into the most abstract associations more easily than adults.

That's why so much emphasis is being placed on early childhood education, preschool and kindergarten. While some parents wonder about "pushing" children into education too early and not letting them "just have fun," educators and experts on child development see these trends as vital to a child's future. They also know that while play itself is an important kind of learning, learning is also an important kind of play.

Play and learning go hand in hand and they are most encouraged in homes where parents take the time to engage their children and actively participate in the educational process, at school and at home. This seems so obvious, but we lose generations of children to parental neglect, which is often in turn a product of a broader social neglect.

We know that children from low-income neighborhoods often do not have the opportunities that other children have. Many come from one-parent homes, where the parent is stressed and has little time, or personal resources, to help. Drugs, crime and other problems feed on themselves. Children who emerge from these conditions are often stronger for it, but far too many are lost.

Early childhood education for all children, that is cognizant of the special problems in low-income neighborhoods, is essential.

A report by the Center For Michigan, a public policy organization founded by Phil Power, looks at a broad range of issues important to Michigan's economic survival. Michigan's Defining Moment's Principle No. 1 is "A talented and globally competitive workforce" and its first goal is "dramatically

We know that children from low-income neighborhoods often do not have the opportunities that other children have. Many come from one-parent homes, where the parent is stressed and has little time, or personal resources, to help. Drugs, crime and other problems feed on themselves. Children who emerge from these conditions are often stronger for it, but far too many are lost.

improve learning and completion rates from early childhood to K-12 through high education."

Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Lt. Gov. John Cherry, who chaired a task force on education, have emphasized Michigan's failure to increase the rate of college graduation compared to other states. Our problem, as they also know, actually begins in those early childhood years. The Center for Michigan report says it clearly, "Emphasize school readiness by expanding high-quality pre-kindergarten education that recognizes the importance of both academic and social development. Build a culture of education by increasing parents' and students' recognition that education is essential for prosperity." Its Web site is www.centerformichigan.org.

On Tuesday, the *New York Times* ran an ad for a "Broader, Bolder Approach to Education," signed by a distinguished task force of educators, social thinkers, medical doctors, journalists and others. The group advocates for small classes in the early grades; improved teacher training; and making college preparatory classes available to all. But there is also a focus on the roadblocks to better early childhood education, advocating for high-quality early childhood education that promotes "not just academic readiness, but positive lifetime social, economic and behavioral outcomes for low-income children." It advocates for better children's health, better access to pediatricians and dentists. And it advocates for better quality out-of-school time with summer and after school enrichment programs.

More on this group can be found at www.BoldApproach.org.

Aidan has taken his first steps on that long journey his father and mother have taken before him. He's enjoyed his time in preschool and he's ready for whatever kindergarten has to throw at him.

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

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's SPORTS section

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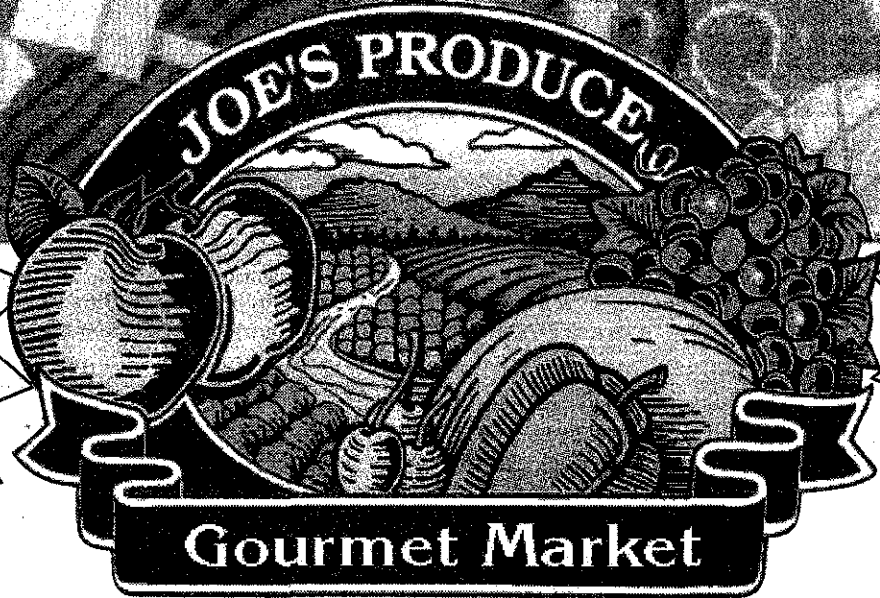
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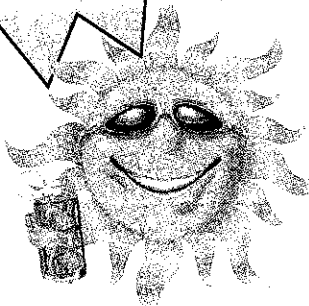
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SPORTS

B (LW)

Thursday, June 19, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Warriors fall a run short in D-4 title game

Lutheran Westland strands 10 runners

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER SPORTS WRITER

Lutheran High Westland's baseball team experienced what the Tom Hanks character Chuck Noland felt after his plane crashed leaving him deserted all alone on a remote Pacific island.

Cast away.
The Warriors stranded 10 baserunners as Bay City All Saints held on for a 2-1 victory Saturday in the Division 4 state championship game held at Battle Creek's C.O. Brown Stadium.

Lutheran Westland's magical post-season run ends with a 25-8 overall record, while All Saints garnered its second state title in school history and finishes 28-12-1.

All Saints sophomore pitcher Adam Pijaszek, despite a modest 6-9 record, managed to keep the Warriors' bats quiet while working out of sticky situations in the sixth and seventh innings. He scattered seven hits, walked only two and struck out six.

"We had guys in scoring position and could not get the big hit," Lutheran



Lutheran Westland's Nate Bachert slides safely into home ahead of the throw to Bay City All Saints catcher Marc Kwapiszewski scoring the Warriors' only run during Saturday's Division 4 state final at C.O. Brown Stadium in Battle Creek.

Singles

Olympian wins 5K

Livonia Stevenson High grad Sheila Taormina, who will make history this August by competing in her fourth Summer Olympic Games in three different sports when she competes in the modern pentathlon, captured the women's 5-kilometer race in 18 minutes, 37 seconds at the Run Drugs Out of Town held Saturday in Hines Park.

South Lyon's Thomas Preiss was the overall 5K winner in 16:58.

In the 10K run, James Cahill of Livonia was the overall and men's winner in 39:55. Cathy Young (Livonia) was the women's winner in 46:35.

Hawks fall, 2-1

The Michigan Hawks fell Sunday to the Cleveland Internationals, 2-1, in a United Soccer Leagues W-League match held at Livonia Stevenson.

The Hawks don't return to W-League action until Friday, June 27 to face the host Fort Wayne (Ind.) Fever at Hefner Stadium.

Demolition romps

Kiana Dennis was a standout on both sides of the ball as the Detroit Demolition wrapped up a wildcard berth in the Independent Women's Football League playoffs with a 37-0 victory Saturday over the Wisconsin Warriors in a game played at Livonia Franklin High School.

The Demolition finished the regular season at 7-1 and will travel Saturday, June 28 to face the first-place Chicago Wolves (8-0), winners of the Midwest Division of the IWFL.

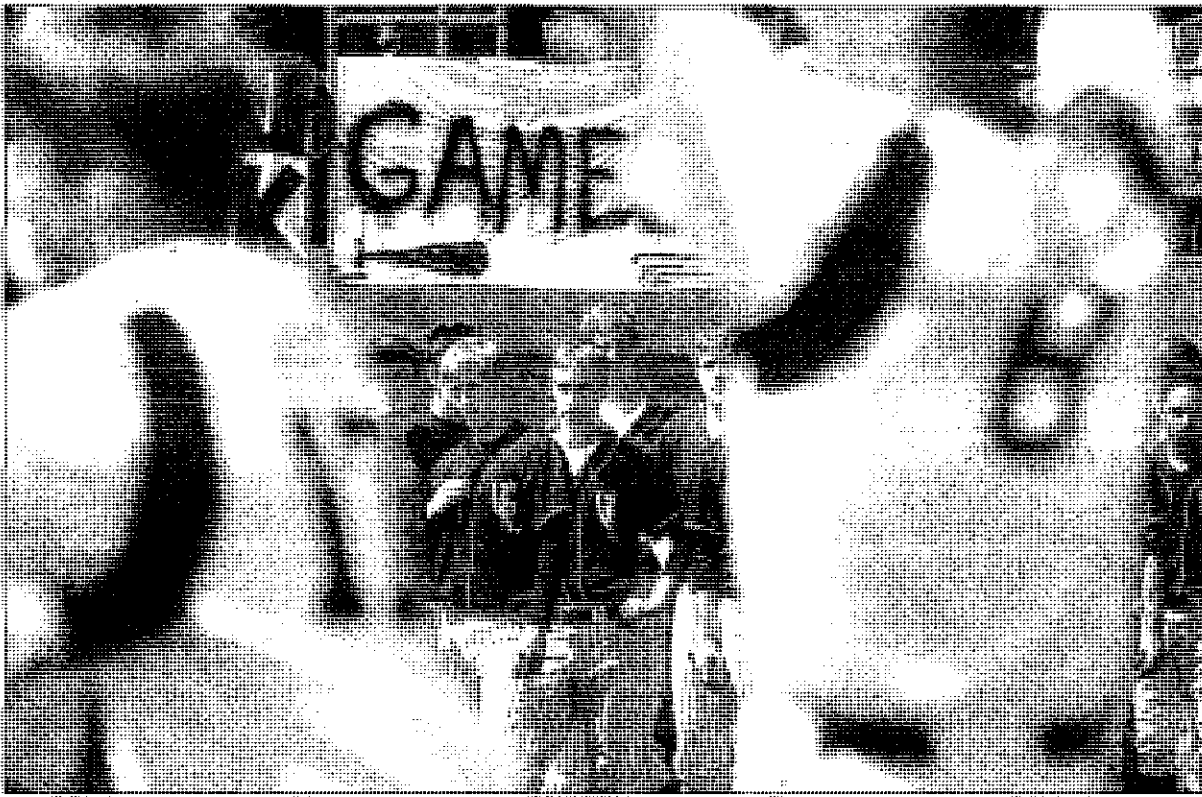
Intro to tennis

The city of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer its three-week Introduction to Tennis II for ages 6-10 from 10-10:55 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 8 through July 24 (Session II); and July 29 through Aug. 2, at the Bicentennial Park Courts, located at Seven Mile and Wayne roads.

The fee is \$75 (resident) or \$85 (non-resident) per session.

Tennis racquets will be provided to those who do not have their own.

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



Lutheran High Westland baseball players watch as the Bay City All Saints celebrate after the final out in Saturday's 2-1 state final's loss.

This tourney run was certainly fun

I learned recently it's tough to be two places at once. A week ago Saturday, I had that dilemma with two teams — Livonia Franklin and Lutheran High Westland — both still alive in the baseball regionals.

While my alma mater (Franklin) was playing at Saline, the other (Lutheran Westland) was at Allen Park Inter-City Baptist. (The two locations are exactly 31.4 miles apart, according to Mapquest.com.)

I figured I'd see Franklin in the 10 a.m. game against Dearborn and then shoot over to Allen Park to see Lutheran Westland if it made it to the finals later in the afternoon against No. 1-ranked and 29-0 Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett.

Of course, it turns out I made the wrong decision. I saw Franklin whip Dearborn, 12-2, in a six-inning



Brad Emons

Please see **EMONS, B2**

Gunderson's Father's Day no-hitter special

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER SPORTS WRITER

Ryan Gunderson couldn't have scripted this Father's Day any better.

On Sunday, the 6-foot-3, 185-pound right-hander for the Blue Knights of the Michigan Collegiate Baseball League threw a complete-game no-hitter to beat the Tecumseh (Ontario) Thunder, 1-0, in the first game of a doubleheader at Livonia's Bicentennial Park.

Gunderson, who will be a senior this fall at Albion College, struck out six and did allow a walk.

He presented the game ball afterward to his father Mike, who ironically arrived to the park "a couple of innings late."

"The whole game, he didn't know," said Ryan, who has a 14-7 career record at Albion and was a second team all-MIAA pick his freshman and junior years. "It was kind of cool. It was great and he was

extremely happy. He asked for the (game) ball and it's in a safe place for sure."

Concordia University's Tony Ponders (Livonia Stevenson) delivered the game-winning RBI sacrifice fly in the bottom of the seventh to provide the one-run victory.

The Blue Knights also turned a pair of timely double plays to preserve the win.

"This is my first one ever. I never had one, even in Little League," said Gunderson, who played his high school baseball at Grosse Pointe South. "I came close once before during my freshman year against Calvin (College)."

"I probably didn't throw more than 12 balls (out of 65 pitches). Every pitch was right there. I was able to put my fastball where I wanted. And my catcher Tony Fazi (of Oakland University) caught a great game and that's all you can ask. And we have a great group of guys."

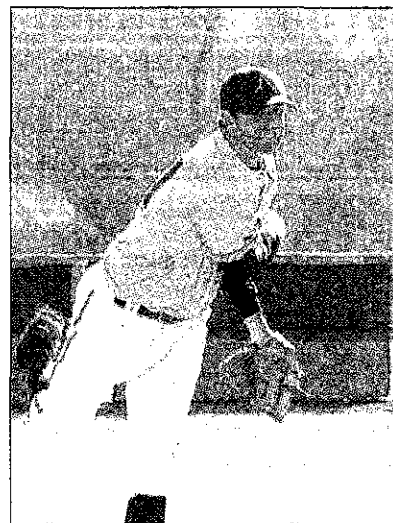
After Gunderson retired the Thunder

in the top of the seventh, the game was halted 35 minutes by a rain delay.

"Nobody really said anything, but a couple of guys mentioned it while we were batting (in the bottom of the seventh)," he said. "They didn't jinx me, but if I had to go back out there, who knows? Thankfully we scored, so I didn't have to go back out there."

Gunderson pitches on the weekends in the MCBL and spends the summer days during the week coaching 14- and 8-and-under youngsters for the city of Grosse Pointe's summer swim team. He also serves as a lifeguard and gives swim lessons.

Gunderson has earned six letters at Albion, including three in swimming as a sprinter, where he excels in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle events. He has helped the Britons to school records in the 200



MIKE KISH

Ryan Gunderson, seen here pitching for Albion College, tossed a no-hitter Sunday for the Blue Knights of the MCBL.

Please see **NO-HITTER, B2**

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1st-place Dodgers sweep Rams, Blue Knights triumph in makeup

The Michigan Rams' lost weekend in the Michigan Collegiate Baseball League didn't get a better on Monday night.

The 20-and-under Rams fell to 5-5 in the MCBL following a 4-1 setback in nine innings to the 22-and-under Blue Knights in a makeup game at Livonia Churchill High School.

The Rams were also swept Sunday at Livonia's Ford Field by the unbeaten Michigan Dodgers in a twin-bill, 10-5 and 4-2.

The Blue Knights scored three times in the top of the ninth to break a 1-all deadlock Scott Boyer's sacrifice bunt attempt was thrown away at first bringing home Matt Rodeghier and Tony Fazi with the go-ahead runs. Scott later scored on a sacrifice fly by Brent Opland as the Blue Knights improved to 7-4-1 in the MCBL.

Losing pitcher Brett Shankin pitched well, going eight innings allowing three earned runs on six hits. He walked four and struck out three before giving way to

Bret Spencer (Madonna University).

Casey Haggerty went the first eight innings for the Blue Knights, allowing just one on six hits. He walked only one and struck out seven. Jim Shafo, despite three walks, got the win in relief.

Canton's Shawn Little (MU) and Brad Herman combined for four of the Rams' six hits. Herman drove in Little with the Rams' lone run in the second inning.

Rodeghier, Fazi and Dominic Benevidas each collected two hits for the Blue Knights. Keith Kampe also had an RBI double.

The Dodgers improved to 10-0 in the MCBL by sweeping the Rams on Sunday.

Winning pitcher John Ballerin went all seven innings in the opener, scattering 11 hits, three walks and two hit batsmen. He fanned six.

Casey Dishman went 3-for-3 with a pair of doubles, two RBI and three runs scored to lead the Dodgers. Dan Harder went 2-for-3

with four RBI, while Sean Falvo was 2-for-3 with one RBI. Kyle Horvath also knocked in a pair of runs.

Derek Mosher belted a pair of solo homers for the Rams, while Joe Barnes and Brett Mazmanian added two hits apiece. Little and Dan Augustine each knocked in runs.

Losing pitcher Aaron Wick went five innings, allowing six runs on seven hits and three walks. Livonia Stevenson's Matt Tuttle (Adrian College) and James Bertakis finished up.

The Dodgers' Tom Whiting pitched a complete-game four-hitter in the nightcap. He did not allow a walk and did not have a strikeout.

Losing pitcher Colin O'Connell went the first five innings, allowing two earned runs on four hits. He struck out six and walked four. Mosher pitched two scoreless innings in relief.

Horvath had a hit and two RBI in the Dodgers victory.

Mosher and Ryan Abraham each collected RBI for the Rams.

WARRIORS

FROM PAGE B1

Westland fourth-year coach Kevin Wade said. "He (Pijaszek) pitched well and he got out of a couple of jams where he came up with big pitches. He got ahead in the count with a good first pitch and we took our hacks. They also made plays when they had to."

The Warriors, despite an uncharacteristic five errors, had their chances, putting at least one runner on in every inning.

Lutheran Westland starter Derek Fleetham, a senior left-hander, gave up both runs in his five innings of work before giving way to reliever Ryan Baglow.

All Saints' first run, coming in the top of the third inning, was unearned and scored without the benefit of a hit.

Justin Gielda drew a one-out walk and went all the way around to third when Fleetham's pickoff throw sailed past first baseman Nate Bachert.

After catcher Marc Kwapiszewski was hit by a pitch on a questionable ruling by the home plate umpire, Matt Mikolajczak came through with a sacrifice fly to right field to make it 1-0.

The Cougars then scored what proved to be the game-deciding run in the fourth.

Drew Bauer singled with one out. Following a fielder's choice, Josh Sutton reached base on an infield single and Kevin Gwizdala singled crisply to left field, bringing home Aaron Janer.

The Warriors, however, responded with their only run to cut the deficit to 2-1 in the bottom half of the inning.

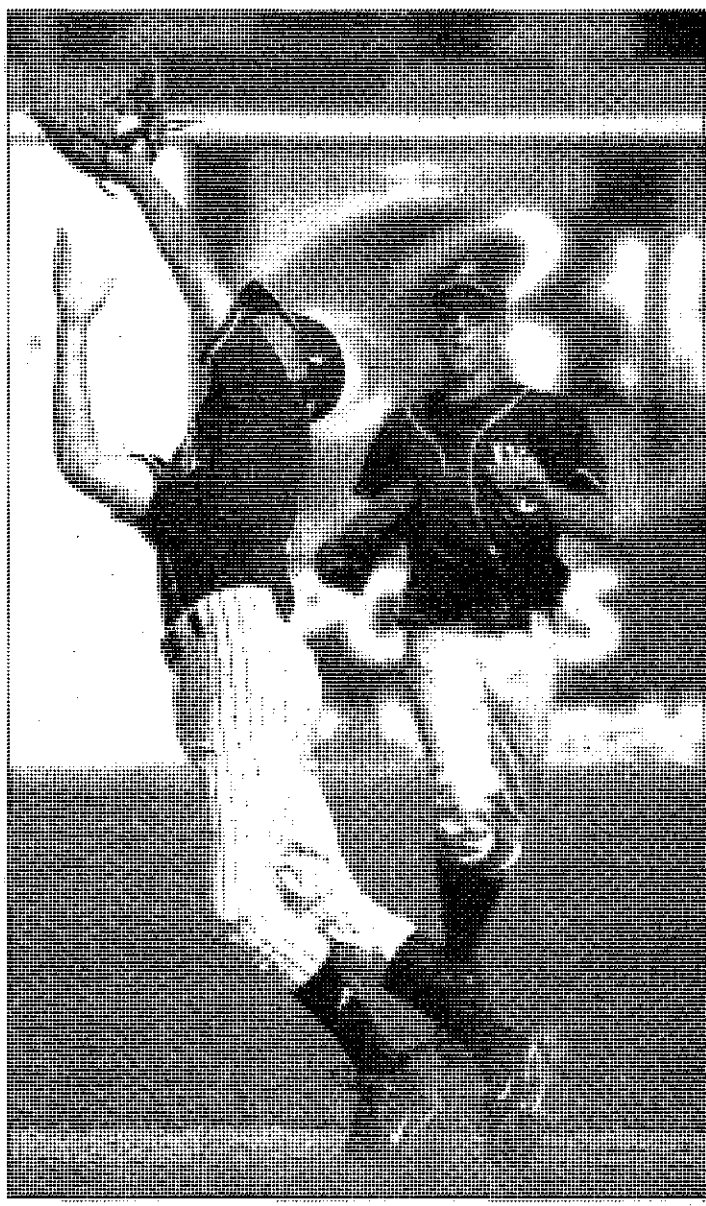
Bachert fanned, but advanced to first when the ball got by the All Saints catcher on the third strike. Baglow followed with an infield single and Aaron Derminer brought home Bachert with a single.

Lutheran Westland leadoff batter Adam Zehel then drew a walk to open the fifth inning, but Pijaszek ended any threat with a pair of strikeouts and a groundout.

In the sixth, Baglow and Tony Cipolla (filling in for the injured Billy Meier) each singled with one out, but were left stranded as Pijaszek got a pair of groundouts to end the threat.

Meanwhile, Baglow, who pitched a complete-game victory the previous day in a 9-3 semifinal win over Frankfort, shut down the Cougars over the final two innings to keep it a one-run game.

And with one last chance, Lutheran Westland kicked up its heels again in the bottom of the seventh.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lutheran Westland shortstop Austin Baglow stretches out to catch a pop fly during Saturday's Division 4 state final against Bay City All Saints at Battle Creek's C.O. Brown Stadium.

Zehel led off with an infield single and was bunted to second by Micah Hausch, who nearly was safe as Pijaszek made a great throw to cut down the Warriors' runner at first.

The Warriors' top hitter, Sam Ahlersmeyer, drew a walk to put runners at first and second, but Pijaszek again slammed the door, getting Dan Abbott on a fielder's choice and fanning junior pinch hitter Ryan Rakovalis on a called third strike to end the game.

"I couldn't ask for anything else but a chance in the sixth and seventh innings," Wade said. "We did not play bad today. I thought Derek and Ryan pitched fine, too. They gave us a chance. We had good pitching, but a couple of errors cost us — the botched pickoff in particular. Both teams hit about the same. They had a few lucky hits and we did as well. They (All Saints) were able to manufacture a couple of runs and us only one."

All Saints coach Mike Regulski knows the feeling of losing and winning in a Division 4 championship game. In 2004, the Cougars lost 6-5 to Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest after winning their first state title in 2000.

Pijaszek, meanwhile, got

plenty of help from his battery mate Kwapiszewski, a senior catcher, who dug several breaking balls out of the dirt when Lutheran Westland was threatening and had runners on base.

"I've never seen better blocking skills for a catcher," Regulski said. "He just is a natural and it's also his ability to call an excellent game."

"Adam (Pijaszek) pitched a lot of games early in the season when we were sputtering. Our defense was not strong and we had some holes. But he's pitched excellent all year — he's got around 90 strikeouts — with good control and good pitch selection."

"We also had the defense today. And that was a big difference."

Meanwhile, the most successful baseball season in Lutheran Westland history, which included an upset 3-2 win over No. 1-ranked and 29-0 Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett in the regional final, came to a close.

"It stings, but we have nothing to be ashamed of," Wade said of the 2-1 state final setback. "For us to be here was beyond anybody's dream."

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NO-HITTER

FROM PAGE B1

and 400 medley relay events, and was only two 100ths of a second off Albion's record in the 50 freestyle (21.12).

He attends Albion on a Presidential Scholarship, is studying economics, business and history and is a regular



Gunderson

member on the Dean's List.

Last summer, he pitched for manager Rick Berryman and the 20-and-under Michigan Rams of the MCBL.

And to make it icing on the cake, the Rams also beat the

Thunder, 1-0, in the nightcap as Oakland University's Shane McCatty (Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest) tossed a two-hitter over eight innings and got the game-winning RBI single from teammate Scott Boyer in the eighth to score Fazi.

The 22-and-under Blue Knights improved to 6-4-1 in league play with the win.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

MICHIGAN COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE
Friday, June 20
(at Livonia's Ford Field)
Blue Knights vs. Det. Eagles, 5:45 p.m.
Monarchs vs. Mich. Dodgers, 8:15 p.m.

(at Livonia's Bicentennial Park)
Mich. Rams vs. Trailblazers, 5:45 p.m.
Mich. Bulls vs. Tecum. Thunder, 8:15 p.m.
Saturday, June 21
(at Livonia's Ford Field)
Mich. Rams vs. Det. Eagles (2), noon.

Monarchs vs. Blue Knights (2), 5 p.m.
(at Livonia's Bicentennial Park)
Mich. Dodgers vs. Mich. Bulls (2), noon.
(at Tecumseh, Ontario's LaCasse Park)
Tecum. Thunder vs. Trailblazers, noon.

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- **Beverage Garden nightly brought to you by Budweiser & Leone Imports**
- **Festival Food Court, Commercial and Craft Exhibitors**

Saturday, Free Ice Cream Social brought to you by Cold Stone Creamery, and Michigan Milk Producers, Bike Parade, Free bike helmets from Bright House Networks to first 200 kids, while supplies last.

Entertainment Nightly brought to you by Bright House Networks
Under the entertainment tent:

Wednesday	The Teen Angels	Free Admission
Thursday	Steve King and the Dittilies	\$.50
Friday	Rocky and the Rollers (Fireworks at dusk)	\$.50
Saturday	Charlie Thomas and the Drifters, The Reflections, And Rocky and the Rollers	\$.10.00

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*No lawn chairs allowed, no coolers, tickets are non-refundable, no advance ticket sales, general seating only, events subject to change

Visit www.michigan50sfestival.org
or call 248-349-1950 for up to date schedule

EMONS

FROM PAGE B1

mercy and then decided to stay for the regional finals as I watched eventual Division 1 state finalist Saline mercy the Patriots in another six-inning game, 11-1.

Meanwhile, I was getting reports via cellphone from Observer photographer Tom Hawley, who was shooting the epic 3-2 upset win over Liggett by the underdog Warriors in the Division 4 regional final at Inter-City.

Although I probably missed the best game of the spring season, I did get a reprieve.

I'd be putting plenty of miles on my car the following week with a pair of trips to Battle Creek and another to Adrian College watching the upstart Warriors gun for their first-ever baseball state crown.

I had seen the Warriors play earlier in the season against Livonia Clarenceville (also a mercy), but it was hard to get a gauge on how

good they really were.

But after watching them play in Tuesday's quarter-final against Ottawa Lake-Whiteford (7-0 win); Friday's semifinal game against Frankfort (9-3 win); and Saturday's state championship game against Bay City All Saints (2-1 loss), I gained a great respect for the Warriors.

Sometimes the caliber of play between Division 1 (big schools) and 4 (the smallest) is wide, but these guys proved they were all of their 25-8 final record, and a little better.

The Warriors didn't have overpowering pitchers, but they knew how to pitch.

They fielded their positions adeptly and, for the most part, were well-schooled in the fundamentals.

They got timely hitting, they played hard and they played smart. They were simply having fun while being oblivious to the pressure.

The Warriors were riding a wave and nearly pulled off a fantastic tournament run.

As heartbreaking as the 2-1 defeat to All Saints was Saturday at Battle Creek's C.O. Brown Stadium, I gained a lot of respect on how the Warriors and coach Kevin Wade handled the whole thing afterward.

They and their loyal fans seemed to keep everything in perspective. Yes, baseball is important at Lutheran High, but I learned it doesn't overshadow their faith in God.

Watching a surprise team like Lutheran Westland evolve out of nowhere and make a tournament run like it did makes this job all the more fun — despite the fact that reporters often make the wrong decision at the wrong time.

Maybe next time around, the little guys will get a little more respect — even from a reporter who has to be two places at once.

Brad Emons is the Livonia-Westland Observer sports editor. He can be reached at (734) 953-2123; or via e-mail at bemons@oe.homecomm.net.

Area performers shine in Midwest Meet of Champs

Observerland track and field athletes figured prominently in Saturday's Midwest Meet of Champions held in Jackson.

The meet drew the top invited seniors from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

Livonia Stevenson's Mitchell White, the Division 1 state champion in the high jump, took third with a leap of 6 feet, 8 inches.

Ohio's Ryan Fleck captured the event by clearing 7-2.

Mitchell's twin brother Myles added a fifth in the 110-meter hurdles in 14.41 and added a sixth in the 300

hurdles (38.68).

Westland John Glenn's Larry Dawkins went 10.86 to finish seventh in a tightly contested 100 dash where first seven were all within .21 of each other.

Division 1 boys shot put record holder Mike Martin (Redford) of Novi-Detroit Catholic Central was runner-up to Indiana's Brandon Pounds, who threw 61-7.5. Martin's toss was 60-4.25.

On the girls side, Glenn's Ashley Parker placed fifth in the 100 dash (12.61) and was a member of Michigan's third-

place 400 relay team (48.26).

Livonia Churchill's Rachel McFarlane added an eighth in the 1,600 run (5:10.43) won by Indiana's Alex Banfich in 4:52.17.

Michigan won the women's team title with 201 points followed by Ohio and Indiana with 149 and 125, respectively.

Ohio captured the boys team crown with 184 followed by Indiana and Michigan with 145 and 144, respectively.

Michigan took the combined team title with 345 to edge Ohio (333). Indiana was a distant third (270).

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!
SWPF, 42, smoker, seeks WPM, 40ish-50ish, smoker, who enjoys concerts, relaxing, bowling, dining, time at home. **☎289456**

LET'S DANCE IN THE RAIN!
Petite SBF, 38, 150lbs, brown eyes, mother of two, enjoys cooking, music, church. Looking for SM, 35-75. **☎281372**

NURSE
Attractive SWF, 64, 5', 135lbs, dark hair, blue eyes, fair skin, looking for N/S, honest gentleman, 60-70, who has numerous interests including history, traveling, and home life. **☎405879**

HELLO
SAF, 49, 5'2", 110lbs, slim and pretty, independent, loving, caring, and down-to-earth, loves movies, fine dining, travel and quiet times home. Seeking well-educated SW/AM, 47-55, clean-cut, handsome, independent and warm. **☎249756**

WHY NOT CALL?
SBF, full-figured, seeks a SM, 37-60, for friendship, possible LTR. Call me, let's get together and get to know each other. **☎217234**

READY FOR A FRESH START?
DWF, 47, 5'5", 120lbs, long blonde/blue, well-proportioned, very feminine, attractive, self-employed. Seeking SWM, 45-57, 6'1", 225lbs+, good sense of humor, energetic, traveler, outdoorsman, adventurer, mainly gentleman. **☎92549**

DOWN-TO-EARTH AND HONEST
SBF, 36, 5'10", N/S, short hair, no children, looking for SBF, 35-50, who enjoys festivities, travel, spending time together. **☎280950**

HARD WORKER SEEKS SAME
SBF, 44, N/S, mother, seeks old-fashioned BM, 29-49, N/S, homebody, to explore all life has to offer! I enjoy reading, bike rides, playing tennis. **☎274619**

COULD IT BE YOU?
SBF, 44, professional, hard-working, independent, enjoys church, shopping, more. Looking for a SPM, 44, employed, open-minded, warm-hearted and considerate, to share all life has to offer. **☎235988**

BEAUTIFUL MAKEUP ARTIST
Sincere, kind SWF, 53, proportionate, 5'6", 124lbs, professional, attractive, intelligent and educated, loves music, dancing, motorcycles, outdoors, movies and creative pursuits. Seeking attractive gentleman, 42-53, with like interests/qualities, for friendship/LTR. **☎246846**

OVERGROWN TOMBOY
SBF, 54', 118lbs, easygoing, straightforward, honest, enjoys playing pool, photography, working on cars, reading, love to laugh, very clean-cut, fit, good looking inside and out, loving, who likes traveling, for friendship first leading to LTR. **☎147056**

STARTING OVER
DBF, with two teens, 5'3", 140lbs, short hair, would like to meet a nice, honest, down-to-earth man for friendship, possibly leading to LTR. Race open. 40-50. **☎277526**

CUTE AND CUDDLY
SF, 45, tall, long brown hair, big baby blue eyes, tall, looking for fun, down-to-earth guy, 38-55, who enjoys camping, travel, big trucks, Harley's. **☎279724**

IN THIS BOX U CAN FIND...
A 42-year-old SW/ISO SWM, 38-45, for friendship and possibly more. I'm scorable, affectionate 5'7", 120lbs, long dark curly hair, N/D, N/S, D/D-free, never married, no children. Interested? Call **☎224748**

GREAT EXPECTATIONS
Good looking SBF, hwp, intelligent, mature, spiritual, seeking a SM, 57' +, 40-50, physically fit, good looking inside and out, loving, who likes traveling, for friendship first leading to LTR. **☎147056**

LET'S GET TOGETHER!
Sexy SBF, 40, N/S, seeks fun and witty WM, 35-60, for friendship first, maybe more. **☎270132**

PERSONABLE AND SPECIAL
SWF, retired, talented, fun-loving, attractive, 132lbs, 5'5", blonde, seeks well-groomed gentleman, 65+, to share life and enjoy each other's company. **☎691247**

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...
40-60, who is looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 2-year-old who's bright, spunky and pretty. Only Jewish men please. **☎982317**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Sexy, mature, intelligent BF, 35, 5'5", 130lbs, seeks mature, intelligent man, for casual dating and friendship. **☎267624**

LOVE IS THE GOAL
DWCF, 71, looks younger, 5'2", long dark brown hair, brown eyes, positive attitude, seeks faithful SWM for LTR. **☎656284**

LOOKING FOR SOUL MATE
Hi my name is Lois, I'm a 59-year-old widow with dark blonde hair, blue eyes, and I wear glasses. I have no children but have 3 cats. I enjoy reading, music, old movies, going up north, museums, historical places, quiet evenings at home, gardening and also enjoy a lot of other things and open to many more. I've got a sense of humor, love to laugh, very caring and considerate person. Looking for someone with similar interests, not necessarily the same as mine. Seeking a long-term relationship and see what happens. **☎137067**

SUMMER IS COMING!
BF, 45, seeks special someone to share picnics, walks in the park, quiet days at home and concerts with. If you have the cheese and wine, I have the blanket. **☎271006**

HELLO OUT THERE
SWF, 39 years young, seeks SWM who enjoys life simple pleasures. I enjoy dining out, computers, movies, the parks walks, travel and life in general. Friendship first. **☎241298**

GORGEOUS SMILE!
SBF, 26, 5'6", 130lbs, slim build, smoker, D/D-free, seeks BF, 18-60, smoker, for friendship, possible romance. I enjoy movies, dining, television, cuddling. **☎257889**

ONLY SERIOUS NEED REPLY
Voluptuous SBF, 42, would like to meet a nice, serious SBF, 38-50, who would like to become acquainted with a woman and who is ready, willing, and able to commit. **☎273603**

LOVELY VIRGO
SBF, 47, with a young heart, enjoys cartoons, music, dancing, good food, good fun. Looking for SF, 30-65, with same interests. **☎269375**

BEAUTIFUL SBF...
37, seeks SWM, 30-50, who is spontaneous and knows how to have fun. Casual relationship first, maybe leading to more. **☎271883**

BEAUTIFUL
BIBF, 37, beautiful, classy and open-minded, looking for BIF, 26-40, race open, D/D free, H/W proportionate. You must be confident with who you are. **☎271860**

HEART OF GOLD
SBF, 39, 5'9", average build, smoker, enjoys crossword puzzles, old-school lifestyle, movies, dining. Seeking athletic, active BM, 30-42, 6+, smoker, for friendship, possible romance. **☎289442**

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?
Bright, spunky, pretty SF, 48, educator, outgoing, pretty eyes, wanting to meet a kind Jewish man, 45-50, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. **☎230694**

DOWN-TO-EARTH
Easygoing DWF, early 50s, would like to meet a really nice WM, 50-65, with the same qualities, minimal baggage, to share the ups and downs of life. Seeking possible LTR. **☎279171**

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP

SBF, young 60s, w/good morals, caring, nice-looking, 5'3", 168lbs, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, clean, honest living, party retired, enjoys art, card playing, casinos, and movies. Seeking honest man 50-60, race open. **☎34425**

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

COUNTRY GIRL
Good-natured, classy, attractive, fun-loving SWPF, 54, platinum/blonde, 5'5", H/W-proportionate, enjoys travel, horseback riding, exercise, dancing. Seeking SWM, 55-65, N/S, N/Drugs, for serious relationship. If you love motorcycles call me. **☎758945**

TAKE A CHANCE!
SWF, 30, middle school art teacher, likes nature, music and learning new things. ISO nice gentleman, for dating and to share life together. **☎283945**

CLASSY LADY
SBF, middle-aged, attractive, enjoys dining, movies, playing and bowling, seeks a SM, 48-69, N/S, good sense of humor and good values/morals. **☎207254**

DO YOU EXIST?
DWF, 58, 5'7", slender, very attractive, college-educated, enjoys movies, theater, sports, concerts, dining and travel. Seeking widowed/divorced WPM, 55-63, athletic, healthy, tall, N/S, D/D-free, with good sense of humor. **☎200296**

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

HELLO THERE
Asian woman, 5'2", 180lbs, slim, attractive, health-conscious, vegetarian, N/D, N/S. Enjoys dining, movies, quiet times. Seeking clean-cut, fit, attractive, respectful, professional Asian or White male for dating and possibly more. **☎113901**

A WOMAN OF CLASS
SWF, 68, looks younger, in search of a SWM, 62-69, who likes movies, dining, theater. Is it you? **☎271088**

FOLLOW THIS HEART
DWF, 59, 5'2", attractive, sincere, loveable, is waiting for you. Loves life in general, likes doing anything with that someone special. Call me, you won't be disappointed. **☎276729**

LOOKING FOR ME?
Attractive SBF, 54, full-figured, sincere and warm, enjoys reading, cooking, walks, people. Seeking loving, good-humored, Christian gentleman, 49-57, 5'11"-6'2", employed, easygoing and kind to share all life offers. **☎246877**

FUN & OUTGOING
SBF, 18, 190lbs, brown eyes, loves walks on the beach, movies, basketball. Seeking SM, same age, for friendship or more. **☎257908**

GET TO KNOW ME
BF, 57', full-figured, brown eyes, N/S, social drinker, looking for a gentleman, 45-60, to share good, clean fun with. **☎260756**

SEEKING SAVED MAN
SBF, 27, N/S, seeks one good man, 29-51, N/S, no games, who enjoys movies, bowling, church, for friendship first. **☎265509**

HI THERE!
Mature SBF, 50, seeking sexy, handsome SWM, to develop a lasting relationship and maybe more. Let's meet soon! **☎268278**

VERY LOVING PERSON
Looking for a spontaneous, professional male, 25-40, race open, who is willing to go and have fun. **☎273284**

GET TO KNOW ME
Loving, open-minded SBF, 60, 145lbs, attractive, enjoys music, dining, concerts, travel. ISO honest, compassionate SM, 57-65, N/S, possible LTR. **☎963780**

ARE YOU HERE?
SBF, 61, enjoys going out, having fun, dancing, playing, laughing, and enjoying life. Seeking an honest SBF, 56-62, with varied interests, for possible LTR. **☎269770**

LADY IN THE WOODS
SWF, 50, looks younger, blonde/hazel, 5'5", average build, educated, dog lover, classy, sassy and fun, seeking compatible, outdoorsy, rugged, good-hearted male to share the good things in life. Livingston county. **☎210247**

I NEED A LOVE...
to keep me happy. Attractive, classy, delightful, charming WF, 49, no kids, seeks SWM, 45+, no kids, N/S, fun, loving, caring. **☎568059**

ARE YOU SEEKING?
DWF, 63, 5'2", Italian, brunette, attractive, well-dressed, enjoys dining, optimistic, likes theater, travel, dining, fitness. Wanting to meet N/S WM, 58-70, financially secure, easygoing, good morals, loves family, for dating. **☎930808**

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

A GREAT GUY
Good-natured, good-looking SWM, 41, energetic, versatile, fun, passionate, into boating, casinos, flea markets. Seeking conversation SWF for conversation and connection. **☎176478**

GOOD BETTER BEST!
SWM, 49, 5'9", 185lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. **☎929243**

A SPECIAL GUY
DWM, 56, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest S/DWF, w/sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, cooking, etc. Friendship, possible LTR. **☎259286**

A LOT TO OFFER
SWM, 30, 5'6", 185lbs, brown/blue, looking for SWF, 28-45, who is open, friendly, likes getting out and having a good time. **☎273691**

HONEST AND SINCERE
DWM, 52, 5'10", 150lbs, likes roller skating, computers, biking, boating and some old movies. Seeking SW/HF, slim to medium build, for dating and LTR. **☎255289**

READY FOR RELATIONSHIP
SM, 22, 5'8", light smoker, hazel eyes, looking for SF, 21-40, for friendship or more. **☎279902**

SHY
SM, 26, 5'5", light complexion, red hair, in search of fun and friendship with a single female. Let's talk and see if we click! **☎261335**

LOOKING FOR MZ RIGHT
WWM, 45, 5'11", 220lbs, is easygoing, fun-loving, enjoys a variety of activities, indoor/outdoor. Looking for LTR, with the right person. **☎265340**

WAITING FOR YOUR CALL
Affectionate SWM, 40, 5'9", 210lbs, dark brown/brown, easygoing, friendly, enjoys dining, movies, talks, walks, and waterfront talks, quiet times home. Looking for compatible lady who knows how to enjoy life. **☎238130**

IMMATURE
WM, 61, good-looking, good sense of humor, interested in politics, sports, the arts, food. Seeking BF, 45-63. Glasses a plus. **☎278802**

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!
Handsome, mature gent SWM, 60, traditional values, romantic, and thoughtful, enjoys cultural events, antiquing, short trips, etc. Seeking SWF for friendship and companionship. **☎176467**

I ENJOY LIFE
DWM, 62', 225lbs, two teen sons, looking for gal, N/D, N/S, medium build, who is ambitious, likes to laugh and have fun. I like walks, bike riding and more. 49-50. **☎276844**

MOTORCYCLES AND FUN

DWM, 53, 6', average build, likes bowling, concerts, movies and motorcycling. Seeking a lady, 40-55, that can enjoy my things and have you add your fun things to the mix. **☎243739**

BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS WANTED
SBM, early 40s, cooks attractive, younger lady, 28-45, for romance, companionship, must be independent and shapely. Serious replies only. **☎684601**

COUGAR LOVER
Some things do get better with age. Blue-eyed, handsome SM, mid 40s, physically fit, laid-back, good sense of humor, seeks woman, with like qualities, who likes travel, music, exercising, etc. **☎244280**

A LOT TO OFFER
SBM, 38, N/S, loves walking, jogging, dinner and a movie, having fun, partying. Looking for SF, 28-70, for friendship first, maybe more. **☎278442**

LAIID-BACK GENTLEMAN
BM, 6', 255lbs, N/S, occasional drinker, nice sense of humor, likes dining out, bowling, some travel and having fun. If you would like to join me, please call. 30-40. **☎278843**

BOATER SEEKS 1ST MATE
SWM, N/S, good-looking, trustworthy, enjoys boating, good music, working out. Seeking very attractive SF, 28-40, race unimportant, for friendship leading to possible LTR. **☎205048**

MUST LOVE THE LORD
SBM, 45, 5'6", medium build, wonderful personality, looking for special, laid-back, college-educated SF, 30-40, 5'5"-5'7", slim/medium build, outgoing, non-smoker, non-drinker. **☎280627**

VERY ROMANTIC
Honest, open, faithful SHM, loves cooking, cleaning, writing poetry. Looking for SH/BF, 18-36, who needs passion and love in her life. **☎280643**

ENJOY THE VIEW
Romantic, thoughtful SWM, 39, is looking for love, enjoys hugs, kisses and cuddling, seeks kind, attractive SWF, age and area open. **☎113835**

EASYGOING
Sherp, sociable SWM, 45, with good character and pleasant personality, likes the outdoors, fishing, motor sports etc. W/LTM SWF, for dating and fun times. **☎187614**

SINGLE DAD
WM, 44, with one child, 6', 280lbs, enjoys car shows, cooking and watching movies at home. If you're a WF, 40-48, who shares my interests, call me. **☎279083**

WEST SIDE
SBM, 36, 5'9", 150lbs, light brown eyes, smoker, seeks woman, 20-40, race open, who is open-minded. **☎280319**

LAIID-BACK GUY
BM, 6', 178lbs, athletic build, likes going out sometimes. Looking for a BF, 19-45, who enjoys life. **☎272875**

CUTE CUDDLY COWBOY
Wise and kind SWM, 46, enjoys simplicity, art, flea markets, festivals. Seeking the company of a lady with similar interests. **☎200459**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
WWM, 5'11", 160lbs, works in construction, looking for a woman, 30-50, to go out and do things with. I enjoy racing, the water and more. **☎257001**

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR
WM, 6'3", dark/blue, easygoing, down-to-earth, enjoys sports, concerts, movies, dining out. Would love to meet an attractive female for dating. Foreign born a plus. **☎25729**

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR
WM, late 30s, 6'3", dark/blue, enjoys sports, concerts and going to movies. Looking for an attractive Latin/Hispanic female, 25-50, for dating. **☎257496**

LIFE IS TOO SHORT
Very athletic SBF, 37, 5'9", 175lbs, loves volunteer work, pets. Seeking nice-looking, fit BF, 28-35, with sweet personality. **☎274599**

TALL, ATHLETIC
SWM, 49, 6'2", 200lbs, part-time personal trainer, brown/blue, decent, outgoing personality, enjoys outdoors, working out, new activities, seeking friendly SF, age/location open. **☎631308**

LET'S GET GOING!
SWM 40s, attractive, good shape, great listener, enjoys good conversation, friendship, spontaneous fun, decent, seeks a personable SWF for dating and more. **☎128302**

SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED
SBM, 46, looking for that special person for LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies, sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. **☎692418**

LOVELY & READY
SWM, 49, average build, Italian, heart of gold, N/S, enjoys dining, movies, and travel, ready for LTR. Serious replies only. Redford Area. **☎860305**

SEARCHING FOR YOU
Affectionate DWM, 65, brown hair, N/S, D/D-free, enjoys craft shows, flea markets, movies, dining, camping. The Red Wings. ISO a special lady, 48-59, to share friendship, dates, possible LTR. **☎209089**

HANDSOME & FUN-LOVING
Sincere, fun-loving SBF, 45, N/S, 44, ISO romantic, honest, intelligent BF, 25-55, with great SOH, for companionship, possible LTR. **☎68147**

HOPE 2 HEAR FROM U SOON
SWM, 43, in shape, 5'8", 170lbs, brown/brown, looking for older woman 50-60, fit and attractive, easygoing and secure, who knows how to have a good time in life. **☎251226**

FOREIGN FEVER
New to Michigan WF, 65-65, white male good sense of humor, enjoys sports, concerts, movies, dining out seeks foreign female for dating, possible relationship. **☎253132**

LOOKING FOR A DREAM
SM, Black and Native American, 43, 5'8", 175lbs, enjoys camping, soft rock music, fishing. Looking for a nice, honest, caring SW/HF, 30-43, average with few extra pounds, for possible LTR. **☎257082**

SEEKING EBONY WOMAN
Attractive SWPM seeking BF for dating. New to area and looking to explore the city. Sense of humor, easygoing, attractive, H/W proportionate, affectionate, established, likes to travel. **☎282579**

LOOKING FOR ME?
SM, 53, outgoing, confident, honest and easygoing loves Italian/Mexican food, racquetball, camping, travel, and much more! looking for fit, fun and active lady to share talks, good times, friendship/fun. **☎250719**

A GOOD MAN
SM, 45, 5'8", looking for a full-figured female, 25-50, for dating, possible LTR. Race unimportant. **☎264071**

GOOD MAN FOUND
Recently divorced BM, 43, 5'8", 200lbs, educated, enjoys movies, nights out, intelligent conversation, weekend trips, seeking easy going, smart, affectionate female. **☎267088**

SEEKING A SLIM GOODIE
Attractive SBF, 43, 5'11", 190lbs, medium build, light complexion, N/S, seeks slender BF, 18-43, who wants to be treated like a princess! **☎257583**

TIRED OF BEING ALONE
SWM, 47, homeowner, looking for some female companionship. Seeking a woman, age open, who wants to meet a good man. **☎265640**

DOWN-TO-EARTH

Slim, hard-working SBGM, 48, 140lbs, looking for a SF, 33-53, N/S, N/D, for friendship leading to marriage. **☎266674**

COUNTRY BOY-AT-HEART
Hardworking WM, 62', 195lbs, blonde/blue, enjoys comedy movies, horseback riding, soccer, softball, camping and more. Seeking outgoing A/WF, 25-45, for dating, possibly leading to more. **☎288231**

NEW TO THE AREA
SWM, 35, 5'11", 200lbs, brown/hazel, smoker, seeks woman, 25-40, for dining, movies, quiet times at home. **☎269861**


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Golf Guide

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U-10 Wings 2nd

The under-10 Livonia Wings split a pair of games over the weekend, beating the BUFC Mavericks once (2-1) and losing to them once (3-1) to finish in second place in the Michigan Youth Soccer League's Green Division with an 8-2 record. Members of the Wings include (back row, from left): coach Michael Gatt, Zach Obsniuk, Valjon Qejvani, Jordan Cottrill, Maxwell Hoover; (front row, from left) Devin Smith, Dylan Zupko, Brendan King and Conner Rash.

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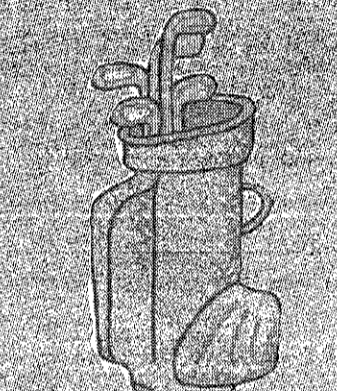
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Well-rested Bucks to resume PDL action vs. Toronto Lynx

DAN STICKRADT
 ECCENTRIC STAFF WRITER

Losing in the first round of the Lamar U.S. Open Cup might be a blessing in disguise for the Michigan Bucks.

The Bucks, who have reached the national title game of the USL-Premier Developmental League each of the past two years, can now focus the rest of their regular season schedule to making the postseason once again, along with winning the Great Lakes Division title in the PDL's Central Conference.

The Bucks, 8-1-0 overall, will resume play Thursday at home at the Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac against the Toronto Lynx. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Michigan was ousted in the Open Cup June 10 with a 2-1 loss to the Cleveland City Stars, a USL Second Division team. Thursday's game will end a nine-day lay-off, after the Bucks played nine games in less than a month.

Last season the Bucks also lost in the first round of the Cup, but in 2006, they went 2-1 before a 4-1 loss to MSL's Columbus Crew in the third-round.

"Obviously, if we had our way, we'd still be playing (in the US Open Cup)," Bucks coach Dan Fitzgerald said. "It gives you more games against better competition. But on the other hand, we got some much needed rest. We have some players that have been playing

hurt that are starting to get healthy now."

While midfielder Nata Jafta and forward Kenny Uzoigwe both seem to be healed from some nagging injuries that has limited their play, starting goalkeeper Steve Clark will miss the game due to personal reasons.

In his place will be Bret Mellon, who recently transferred from Oakland to Temple. Mellon was the back-up keeper two years ago but was not on the roster last season. This will be his first minutes of the year and his first-ever start with the Bucks.

"He's steady shot-blocker, getting stronger and more aggressive," Fitzgerald said of Mellon. "He's maturing a little bit. Bret is becoming a solid goalie."

Defenseman Fabian Lewis might also miss the game due to an injury suffered against Cleveland, although Fitzgerald say he's already rotating five players in the backfield this season, so there's not an issue with depth.

"I think we'll be fine," he said. "We have depth at every position."

Bucks notes

The Bucks recently picked up midfielder Billy Weaver of Indiana, who was the 2003 Michigan Mr. Soccer as a prep senior at Lake Orion High School . . . Midfielder Besmier Bega will be heading to Greece in early July top train, ending his season with Michigan.

Log on to www.TeeltUpMichigan.com for everything you need to know about golf in Michigan.

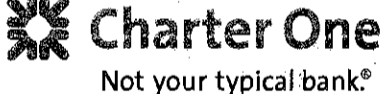
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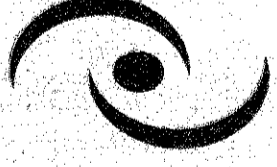


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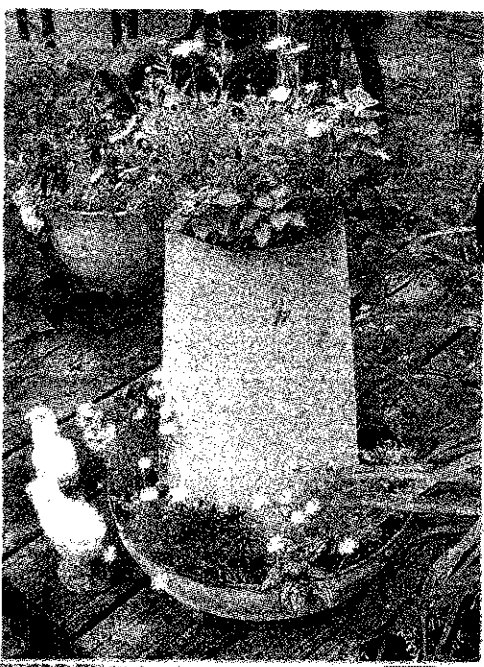
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Glamorous gardens

gardens



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pat Ribar works in her garden, one of seven on the Flowers are Forever garden walk in Plymouth June 24. Above, an antique chicken feeder is now a planter.

Plymouth, other walks extol summer's blooms

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
O & E STAFF WRITER

Pat Ribar loves phlox because they are "tall, showy and quite fragrant," she says.

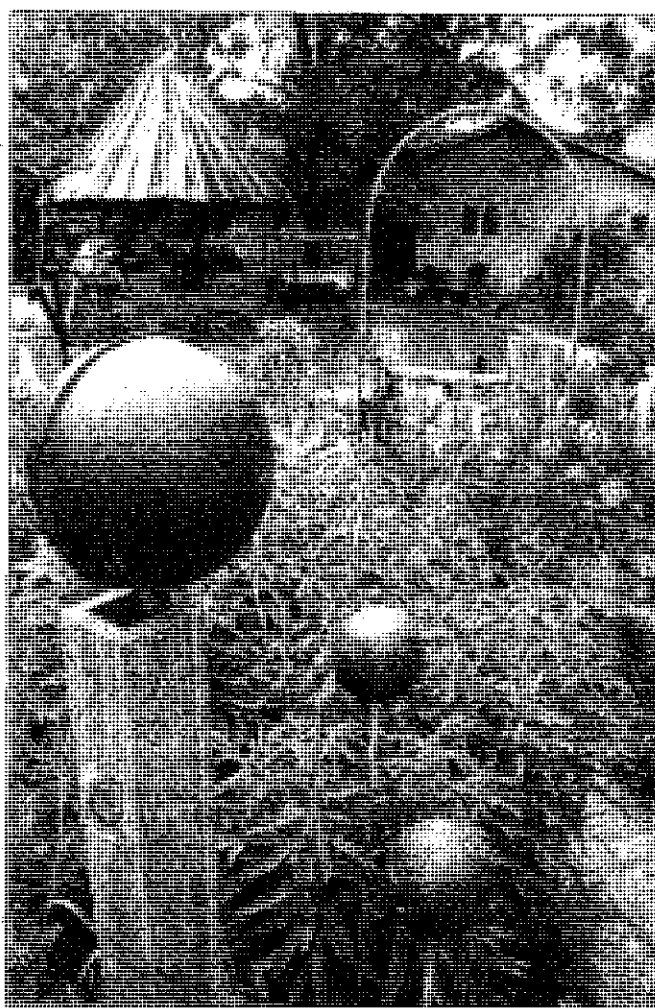
She enjoys zinnias and valerium. Her favorite colors are red and yellow. "I like a bright blast of color," she said. "I like fragrant things that sprout seeds. Everything has to grow by itself."

Pat and Steve Ribar's yard is a slice of Plymouth's "country," one of seven on the Trailwood Garden Club's 13th annual Flowers are Forever garden walk June 24.

Visitors can expect to be surprised by the Ribar's three-story barn, pond and natural gardens, all tucked into a downtown city lot. Winding brick and stone paths lead to patches of

ferns, lilies, coneflowers and grasses.

The Ribars use a former corn crib for a gazebo. A windmill stand (without the windmill) will be draped

Please see **GARDEN, D2**

Antiques decorate the gardens at Pat and Steve Ribar's home.

LOCAL GARDEN WALKS

June marks the end of the school year and the beginning of summer. It's also garden season, a time of year when gardeners reap seeds sown and seedlings planted, inviting the public into their yards at local garden walks.

You probably live near one of the scores of garden walks offered from now through August. Most are scheduled in late June.

Here is a schedule:
Rochester Hills Museum Garden Tour

Seven gardens ranging from small lots surrounding historic homes to sprawling gardens in Oakland Township, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. June 19. Guests can tour the Museum Dairy Barn, enjoy exhibits, children's garden and historic plantings surrounding the 1840 Van Hoozen Farmhouse and refreshments. Tickets are \$8 in advance for museum members, \$10 for

Please see **WALKS, D2**

FLOWERS ARE FOREVER

What: 13th annual garden walk of the Trailwood Garden Club, featuring seven gardens.**When:** Noon-8 p.m. June 24, rain or shine.**Tickets:** \$8 presale; \$10 day of the walk. Available from Garden Club members; Backyard Birds, 627 S. Main, Plymouth; and Saxton's Garden Center, 587 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth.

For information about the walk, call (734) 454-4625.

Replace lost manuals, create a wiki, and explore the new iPhone

Question: I lost the instruction manual for my PC/printer/cell phone/blender. How can I replace it?**Answer:** Head to SafeManuals (safemanuals.com), an online repository of instructions and user guides for a whopping 900,000 products. (Okay, the actual count is 883,542, but still.)

You can browse the guide database or search for a specific brand, product, or model number. All manuals on the site are stored in PDF format, so you should be able to view them on Macs,

PCs, and even most smartphones.

If you have some user guides of your own that aren't in the directory, you can upload them and they'll be preserved for future reference (and shared with other users).

A couple weeks ago I mentioned FixYa (fixya.com) as a great destination for getting tech help from fellow users. SafeManuals deserves a bookmark right below it.

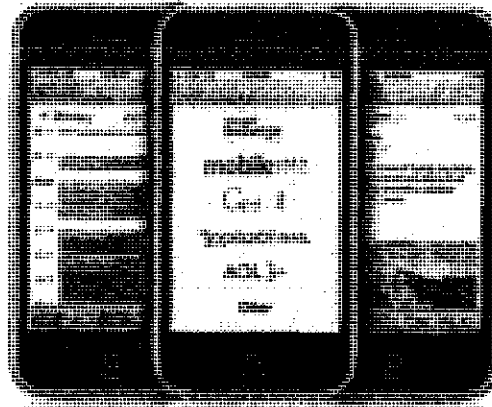
Question: What's a wiki, and why should I care?**Answer:** A wiki is a batch of Web pages containing custom content that you and/or others can edit at will. By far the most prominent example is Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia written and edited by everyday

people.

But you can also use a wiki as a kind of personal online filing cabinet, one that's great for keeping track of notes, ideas, links, and other information.

For example, I've got a wiki page called "house stuff." It contains notes about home repairs we've had done (dates, contractor names and numbers, etc.), quotes we've received, and so on.

Another page, "Patio table," details my attempt to get warranty service on a table. It has the contact info of the manufacturer's customer-service rep, the dates and details of our conversations, and even a scanned image

Please see **TECH, D3**

The new iPhone may be cheaper, but it'll actually cost you more over the course of your two-year contract. Buy one anyway.

ACCENTS

COMPO AWARDED

James D. Compo, a Farmington Hills-based custom builder and remodeler, was awarded the 2008 Energy Star grant for south-east Michigan.

David Compo, president, said every Compo custom home features a 5-Star energy-efficiency package.

"Staying abreast of the energy-saving technology developments and incorporating them in our homes has been a priority in our company for years," Compo said. "Our continual commitment to energy efficiency played a key role in our being selected for this much coveted grant. We are proud to be able to provide our customers with a home that conserves energy and saves them money year after year."

In addition to receiving the Energy Star Grant, Compo also won the 2008 Blue Ribbon Award for Home Design from the Building Industry Association of SE Michigan (BIA) for their new model in Northville, the Dawson II. This home included many step-up features.

Compo also was awarded 4 Sales & Marketing Awards from the BIA, including Best Web site, two Best Interior Merchandising awards, and Best Broker/Realtor event, which was held at The Whitney.

James D. Compo, Inc. has been designing, building, and remodeling custom homes since the company was formed in 1961. The Compo family business, now in its third generation, looks forward to providing unique residential building solutions to the metro Detroit market for years to come.

Visit online at www.jdcompo.com or call (248) 474-0499.

ASH BORER TIPS

Homeowners, commercial property owners and municipalities can catch a video highlighting efforts to control the emerald ash borer on the newly launched Web site www.TreeResearch.org.

The video is hosted by Dave Roberts, specialist and district horticulture agent with Michigan State University Extension, who first identified the emerald ash borer in 2002. The video provides details about the signs and diagnosis of EAB, as well as an overview of chemicals and fertilizers used to successfully treat ash trees.

Southeastern Michigan arborists demonstrate the procedures for the survival and recovery of ash trees. They explain the most effective method is to utilize trunk injections that do not require drilling since the holes permanently damage a tree's ability to move nutrients.

The recommended action, as shown in the video, is for annual applications of the pesticide imidacloprid in areas with heavy infestations and in the curative stages and the use of it every other year in preventive situations.

Pointer, an Imidacloprid product from ArborSystems that is labeled by the EPA for two-year control, is used along with various fertilizers and root stimulants to keep trees as healthy as possible.

For more information, visit www.TreeResearch.org.

Tech Savvy

Rick Broida

The new iPhone may be cheaper, but it'll actually cost you more over the course of your two-year contract. Buy one anyway.

UN: Our meats impact the environment more than cars

A Gore is ignoring what the United Nations says is one of the leading contributors to global warming: Meat.

Gore, like most of us, isn't willing to give up a meat sandwich for the sake of trying to save the entire planet.

Cows raised as food generate more global warming gases, in CO2 equivalent, than all forms of transportation, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reports.

"The environmental costs per unit of livestock production must be cut by one-half, just to avoid the level of damage worsening beyond its present level," the U.N. warns.

The matter is on our hands. No more debate.

We can change a light bulb and claim to be green, but that's like cleaning the ocean with a net the size of a soup can. Babysteps of success aren't good enough and we can no longer say "every little bit helps" because global warming's progression is running at top speed while we're just strolling along. Time is ticking.

We must end juvenile jokes about cows and methane. It's time to put on our grown-up pants and admit we have a major problem.

The UN report "Livestock's Long Shadow—Environmental Issues and Options" reveals a startling revelation: a vegetarian who drives the biggest SUV on the market is more eco-friendly than a meat-eater

driving a hybrid. Scary.

YOUR KIDS

I don't have children, but I care about yours and the Earth is their home. Whether global warming is real isn't debatable anymore by the world's top scientists.

Boiled down, the U.N. report indicates a choice: meatballs vs. human/plant/species/planet survival.

Seriously. Are we willing to sacrifice your kids' or grandkids' planet for a burger?

Going vegetarian to save our land sounds simple. But is it?

We live in a world addicted to animal flesh. We kill for it (animals). We risk disease for it (obesity, some cancers and heart disease). We destroy rain forests for it (forests cleared to raise animals cheaply). World starvation is partially caused by it (most of the planet's grains are fed to animals, not to people). Animals who are killed for meat only feed a fraction of the world's population, Amnesty International and other human rights groups explain.

SAY IT AGAIN

"Livestock are one of the most significant contributors to today's most serious environmental problems," said Henning Steinfeld, senior UN Food and Agriculture Organization official. "Urgent action is required."

The report warns that livestock generates 65 percent of human-related nitrous oxide, which has 296 times the global warming potential (GWP) of CO2.

But chances are we'll still eat meat tonight. Is it because we're selfish? Or do we mini-

mize the true impact each of us has on the Earth's health?

Replacing cows with fish isn't the solution, because of over-fishing problems in our oceans. Farmed fish isn't as energy-efficient as veg diets. Pigs aren't the answer because of the problematic waste lagoons on those big farms. Chickens aren't the solution because sometimes there's mercury in their waste and other issues.

And, according to the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, meat production takes 6-18 times more land, 4-26 times more water, 6-20 times more fossil fuels and more chemicals than vegetarian diets.

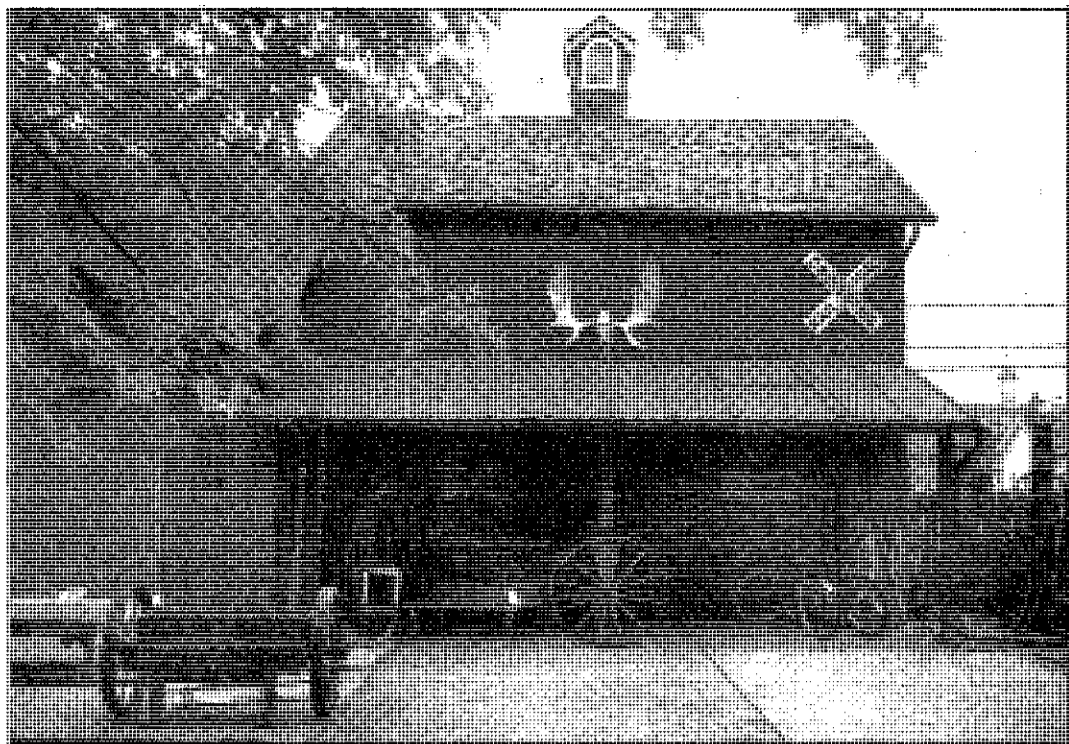
Protein level concerns aren't an excuse to avoid vegetarianism because Americans eat too much protein anyway, according to the American Heart Association. Concern for our iron levels isn't an excuse. Leafy greens contain iron. I'm vegan and never need energy drinks to keep me going. Some of the world's strongest athletes are vegan like Dave Scott, a six-time winner of the Ironman triathlon.

The solution to help seems easy: An avocado instead of animal protein. A portobella instead of a steak.

Black bean tacos rather than a meat taco. The trouble is convincing your neighbor to join you - for the sake of his or her grandkids.

We can do it, if we care. Americans are strong. And if we start, other countries will follow.

Lana Mini is a staff writer with the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (248) 901-2572 or by email at imini@hometownlife.com.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The original barn remains on the property.

GARDEN

FROM PAGE D1

with vines, and a table set for tea. Figurines stand throughout the yard.

Pat has gardened since she was a little girl. "To me, it's very therapeutic. It's a wonderful way to relax. My mother was a farm girl, and her garden was 85 percent vegetables and 15 percent flowers. Mine is 100 percent flowers. The vegetables just take up way too much space."



A grassless front yard means less watering.

Keeping the garden full of flowers and plants keep out the weeds, too, she says.

"There's just so many plants, there's no room for the weeds," Ribar said.

And there's always something in bloom, too.

The gardens were chosen from references and residents who

volunteered their gardens for this year's walk, according to Kate Kerr, first vice president of the Trailwood Garden Club. "Sometimes we hear about these yards through volunteers or references and we'll talk to them to see if they're interested," Kerr said. "We do look at it and see if it will work for us."

Another homeowner on the tour lost four trees to the emerald ash borer, changing the light and look of the property. Having a large yard mostly made up of lawn required weed and grub control and hours of mowing, so low-maintenance areas were created.

Next door is another garden that is home to flowering shrubs, fruit trees, perennials and Heavenly Blue Morning Glories. The flower beds in the front yard have expanded to include flowering shrubs, perennials, River Birch trees and hostas.



An old cow crib was converted into a gazebo.

Fairies will greet at another garden on the tour. Small special gardens were created in between, with a Michigan wildflower corner, a tiny Japanese moss garden, and cutting and vegetable areas.

Further along the tour, another garden is comprised of several areas or rooms, each with a different feeling - some more formal, while beds are more natural in style. For interest, the homeowners fill areas with pots of annuals and garden ornaments. The garden attracts many birds and butterflies, several hummingbirds, yellow finches, downy woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees, redwing blackbirds, nuthatches and occasionally a red-tailed hawk or two.

Move onto the next garden and visitors will see added shrubs and perennials. The owners love creating window boxes and container planting.

The gardens at the final home are the reflection of favorite times spent in gardens, cottages, countryside visits from childhood memories and travels in gardens throughout the United Kingdom, Canada and Michigan. The mix of plantings are mostly perennials, trees and shrubs with container plantings of summer annuals.

WALKS

FROM PAGE D1

nonmembers, \$12 day of event at the Rochester Hills Museum, 1005 Van Hoosen Road, one mile east of Rochester Road off Tienken Road. Call (248) 656-4663.

Greenmead Garden Walk

19th annual Garden Walk features seven gardens and yards in Livonia, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. June 21, presented by the Friends for the Development of Greenmead. Proceeds benefit the restoration and preservation of Livonia's Greenmead Historical Village. Tickets available at Livonia libraries, Civic Center Library Gift Shop and the Greenmead office. Call

(734) 466-2540, or (734) 425-4855.

Sylvan Lake Garden Walk

Eight homes plus five additional gardens, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., June 21. Tickets, \$12 prior to day of tour, \$15 day of tour, are available at Sylvan Lake City Hall. Call (248) 615-6296 or visit www.sylvanlaketour.com.

Garden City Garden Walk

The 15th annual Garden City Garden Walk features six gardens, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. June 28, rain or shine. Tickets, \$6, are available at Barson's Greenhouse, 6414 Merriman (at Maplewood), Garden City City Hall, or from garden club members. Call Paula Relich at (734) 525-2524 or (734) 776-6258.

Royal Oak Garden Walk

Royal Oak Woman's Club Home and

Garden tour, showcasing eight private homes and gardens, starts at 404 South Pleasant, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. June 28, tickets available at William Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Road, and The Ladybug Craft and Framing Shoppe, 210 W. Sixth. Call (248) 543-0064 or visit www.royalokwomansclub.org.

Country Garden Club of Northville

Six gardens will be featured on the 15th Annual Garden Walk, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. July 9. Tickets are \$10. Call (248) 348-3263 or visit www.cgcnv.org.

Farmington Garden Walk

Strolling Through the Gardens in Time highlights one public and eight private gardens, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 2. Tickets will be available at Steinkopf Nursery, 20815 Farmington Road.

GARDEN CALENDAR

If you have an item for the garden calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Wendy Von Buskirk at wvonb@hometownlife.com.

Great Lakes Roses

The final year of popular rose programs continues as owners Nancy & Roger Lindley plan to retire in the fall. Sunday sessions start at 1 p.m.; Monday at 11 a.m., Yesterday's Rugged Rugosa roses, June 22-23; Rose Propagation Workshop, June 29-30; Japanese Beetle Control for Roses, July 6-7; Herbs from Head to Toe, July 13. Dress for the weather. Except for the rose propagation workshop, events are free and open to the public without reservations. Great Lakes Roses is located at 49875 Willow Road, Sumpter Township. Visit www.GreatLakesRoses.com or call (734) 461-1230.

Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association

"Good Bug, Bad Bug," how to identify and manage the bugs in your yard to have a butterfly garden without pesticides with Kristine Hahn, 7-8:30 p.m. June 18, \$3 for non-members; members are free, Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, (734) 326-0578, www.sembutterfly.com.

Farmington Garden Club

22nd annual Good Neighbor Garden Contest, open to all residents of Farmington/Farmington Hills. Send gardener's name, phone number, address and name of person entering garden (if not the gardener) and their telephone number. (If the garden is not your own, get permission from the gardener first before entering the contest.) Deadline for entries is July 1. Judging will be done the week of July 9-13. First, second and third place winners will receive a gift certificate

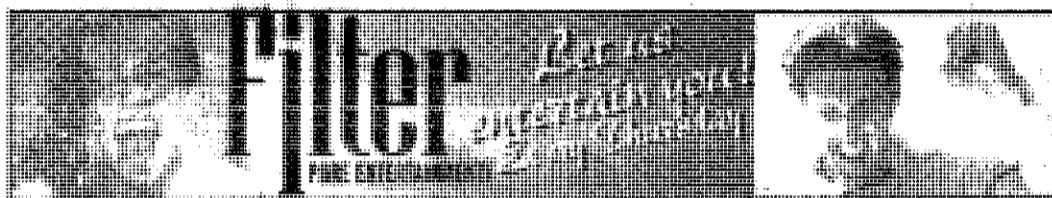
from a local garden center. Mail entry to Joann Jenkins, Good Neighbor Garden Contest, 34621 Beechwood, Farmington Hills MI 48335. For an online entry form, visit farmingtongardenclub.com. For more information, call (248) 474-0866.

Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan

36th annual bonsai show, June 21-22, featuring bonsai master Roy Nagatoshi at a demonstration at 2 p.m. June 21 and workshops June 22, Telly's Greenhouse, 3301 John R, Troy, Call (248) 585-9916, or visit www.fourseasonsbonsai.com.

Michigan Hosta Society

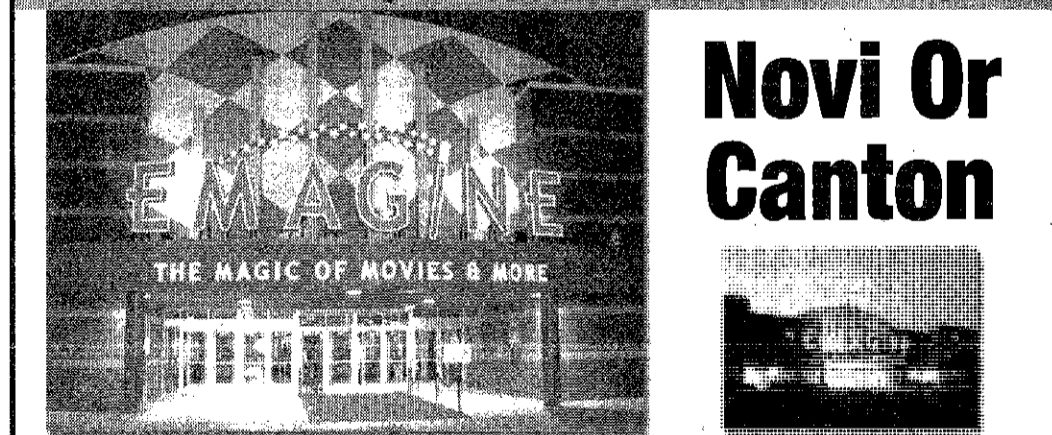
Hosta show and sale with a large collection on sale, along with hundreds of hosta leaves on display, miniature container gardens featuring hostas, 1-4 p.m. June 28, at the Plant and Soil Science Bldg., Bogue and Wilson, on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing.



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ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD PLEASE

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

Lago collection features rich finishes

California Closets, has introduced a new Lago collection – an assortment of premium finishes inspired by the picturesque landscapes and architecture of Italy's Lake Como.

Imported Italian materials with rich finishes and unique wood grains, as well as exceptional craftsmanship define the collection. This combination results in a European-inspired line of five color finishes: Venetian Wenge, Milano Grey, Roman Walnut, Umbrian Oak and Florentine Rosewood.

"The introduction of the new Lago collection offers consumers a classic European style and design that works well with any décor," says Ray Markham, owner of California Closets in Walled Lake.

"Lago exemplifies the evolution of the California Closets brand by enhancing the breadth of our product line to extend beyond closets, bringing more furniture-like spatial design solutions to every room in the home."

In addition to being the premium line within California Closets' product assortment, the Lago collection provides environmental benefits.

Lago is made with E1 wood, which has reduced emissions potential and is processed according to a strict European standard for clean and safe wood manufacturing (BS EN 13986).



California Closets has introduced a new Lago Collection, with assorted finishes including Venetian Wenge, Milano Grey, Roman Walnut, Umbrian Oak and Florentine Rosewood. California Closets has locations in Rochester Hills and Walled Lake. For more information, call (248) 624-1234 or visit www.closets4u.net.

California Closets provides individually-designed custom storage solutions. Ray and Sheilah Markham opened their California Closets manufacturing and showroom location in West Bloomfield in April 1988.

The company also added a location at the Village of Rochester Hills. The company has grown from four employees to over 30 since 1988.

For more information, call (248) 624-1234 or visit www.closets4u.net.

Combine patterns for modern effect

Cathy of Westland asks: "I keep noticing in decorator magazines and model homes that the designers use many different patterns in the same room. It looks great, but I would never think to put so many patterns together. Is there any advice you can give about using different patterns in one room?"

Design Solutions

Terri Guastella

There is certainly a skill needed to pull together multiple patterns and colors in the same room; however, there

are many tools out there available for the do-it-yourselfer to accomplish this task.

To begin, start with your main pattern.

This pattern will need to use all of the colors in the room.

It can be plaid, stripe, floral or paisley; it really doesn't matter, as long as it uses all of the colors you wish to incorporate into the design of the room.

Notice the scale of this pattern. When mixing patterns you will want to vary the scale of each pattern. If all of the patterns in the room are the same size and scale, the room will look too busy. Varying the pattern size and scale will add interest without being overwhelming.

Next, bring in another pattern with only two of the colors from the main pattern. For example, if your main pattern was a large floral with five or six colors, you could bring in a stripe with only two or three of the colors from the floral pattern.

Now look for a smaller pattern in textural solid. This could be a tone-on-tone fabric using a dot or fleck for interest, but not too busy. As you will start to see, these patterns will all work together, providing you vary the pattern size and try to incorporate different parts of your color palette in different pieces of fabric.

With all of that said, there are many companies out there that cater to this look and have

already pulled together varying patterns and textures on their furniture lines or fabric bolts at the store. Take a look at what's out there. These companies have paid top interior designers to incorporate that custom, designer look into their product line.

Don't be afraid to use multiple patterns. You can be a little daring, but if you are terribly unsure of the pattern mix, seek the advice of a professional interior designer.

Terri Guastella, an interior designer and a Canton resident, specializes in space planning, design and color consultation. Do you have a question about interior design or decorating your home? Contact Terri Guastella at www.exclusiveinteriordesign.com.

FOOD CALENDAR

If you have an item for the food calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Wensdy Von Buskirk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48009, or e-mail wvnb@hometownlife.com.

Healthy Cooking Classes

Learn how to prepare healthy, delicious meals and get "hands-on" experience preparing the recipes at vegetarian, whole foods cooking classes with macrobiotic chef, Valerie Wilson. Each class includes discussions on the healthy benefits of the ingredients. Upcoming classes include: Fundamentals of Healthy Cooking 2008 – Feed and Nurture Your Body, Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m. June 25, fee: \$35 each class. Classes are held at Val's house in Westland, visit www.macroval.com or call (734) 722-4553 for more information.

Cooking classes

Williams-Sonoma at The Village of Rochester Hills will offer Summer Entertaining Menu, 5-7:30 p.m. June 29, \$40 to attend, appropriate for any level of experience in the kitchen. Pre-register by calling (248) 375-5891 or by visiting Williams-Sonoma at the Village. The Village of Rochester Hills is located at the northeast corner of Walton and Adams Visit the Village website at www.villageofrochesterhills.com.

Healthy Eating Made Easy

Learn how to cook gourmet yet healthy meals with Michigan Health coach Cheryl Heppard and chef Matt Schellig, the first and third Thursdays of every month. June, barbecue; July, summer seasoned; located at Aunt Olives, 525 N. Old

Woodward in Birmingham, classes are 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$50 per person, for more info and to pre-register call (248) 592-0869 or visit www.MichiganHealthCoach.com.

The Community House

"Summer Whites on the Terrace," summer tasting classes of wines suitable for entertaining, instructed by Nidal Daher and Marc Jonna, series of four classes \$99, \$29 for each class, including Mediterranean Region Wines, June 19; All American Wines, June 26, all classes 7:30-9:30 p.m., 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or online at www.communityhouse.com.

Goldner Walsh Nursery

"Delicious Edible Flowers RawRelations Style" with Chef Mary B, techniques and tips to incorporate

herbs and living foods into meals, samples available, meet the team, noon; talk and tastings 1-3 p.m. June 22, Goldner Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac (halfway between Telegraph Road and Woodward), \$25.

To reserve a space call (248) 779-7000, www.lovingoodies.com.

The Community House

Several classes offered during the months of June and July, including Salads and Vinaigrettes, June 24; Gluten Free and Loving It, 6:30 p.m. July 8; Tarts and Quiches for Bastille Day, 7 p.m. July 14; Summertime and the Cooking is Healthy, 6:30 p.m. July 22; Tasty Tempting Thai Cooking, 7 p.m. July 28; Eastern Market Tour, 8-11 a.m. Aug. 9, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or online at www.communityhouse.com.



Pet of the week

Chief was found in Detroit wandering the streets alone, hungry, trying to get someone to take him in. His ears were infected and he was suffering from sores on his legs - the vet says from laying on hard uncomfortable surfaces like concrete or a cage. Chief is a 2-year-old year old yellow Labrador retriever mix who is a sweet boy and loves giving kisses. Today he's healthy as can be! And he is very smart! He already knows some actions (sit, down, stay, shake, etc). He likes other dogs, cats and kids. He is neutered, vaccinated and housebroken. Can you rescue him? Please call Michigan Animal Adoption Association at (248) 545-5055.

TECH

FROM PAGE D1

of my receipt.

Yep, wiki pages can accommodate not just text, but also documents, photos, Web links, and other materials. Some wikis let you add tags to your pages so they're easily searchable (important once you start amassing large numbers of them). And you can usually invite others (like family members) to view the content and add their own.

Lots of services will host a free wiki for you. I've been using Zoho (wiki.zoho.com), though in all honesty I don't love it.

Other services worth trying include PBWiki (pbwiki.com), Google Sites (sites.google.com), and WikiDot (wikidot.com).

Question: What's your take on the new iPhone 3G? Should I take the plunge?

Answer: With prices as low as \$199, faster Internet connectivity courtesy of AT&T's high-speed network, and built-in GPS, what's not to like? Plenty, actually. Although the hardware itself is cheaper, plan on spending a minimum of \$70 per month (up from \$60) on data and voice plans from AT&T. Ten bucks multiplied by a 24-month contract equals \$240 extra dollars the iPhone 3G will cost you. So much for savings.

Equally disappointing, Apple didn't increase the iPhone's

storage capacity — you're still limited to 8GB or 16GB. That's fine for some people, but it doesn't take much music and/or video to burn through the available space.

Apple's new App Store, which will bring countless way-cool programs and services to the iPhone (and iPod Touch), only exacerbates the problem: The more software you install, the less room you have for other stuff.

(That said, do I want Super Monkey Ball on my Touch? Oh, yes.)

Meanwhile, the built-in GPS receiver works only with Google Maps to pinpoint your location — it doesn't offer actual navigation (yet — software developers should fill in this particular gap).

Finally, the iPhone 3G inexplicably lacks stereo Bluetooth, meaning you can't listen to music through wireless headphones or stream it to wireless speakers. Adding this capability would probably cost Apple about 35 cents. What gives?

Let me conclude by saying that for all its faults, the iPhone is still the coolest and most versatile phone on the planet, and absolutely positively worth owning if you can afford it.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, also writes the Cheap skate blog for CNET (blogs.cnet.com/cheap skate). He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

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

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pink

Wensdy Von Buskirk . Features Editor . wvonb@hometownlife.com

Enter to win Girl's Night Out to Pat Benatar!

What gal didn't get a taste of girl power growing up to the songs of Pat Benatar? One lucky winner will get the chance to grab three friends and see Benatar in true "Pink" style with a special Girl's Night Out package at the RenCen on June 27.

Pink's "Rockin' on the Riverfront Girls Night Out Giveaway" includes:
 ■ Four VIP seating passes to the kick-off concert for Rockin' on the Riverfront featuring Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo (her hubby).

■ Four manicures at Clippers (in the Ren Cen) prior to the show.
 ■ \$100 gift certificate for dinner at Andiamo Detroit Riverfront restaurant.
 ■ A goodie bag from BonBons Candy and Godiva Chocolatier.

To enter: E-mail your name, age and address to scasola@hometownlife.com by noon, Monday, June 23. The winner will be notified by noon, Tuesday, June 24 and will pick up their tickets at the



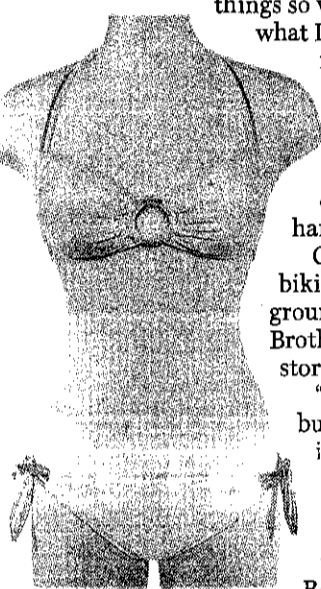
Pat Benatar

Customer Service Desk in the Wintergarden on June 27. The prizes are non-transferable, so you must be ready to get the girls together on short notice for a fun night out!

Michigan-based swimsuit designer makes waves

BY WENSDY VON BUSKIRK
 O&E STAFF WRITER

For Trisha Geftos, life's a beach. The 29-year-old Riverview resident has parlayed her love of sand and surf into a career as a swimwear designer. Geftos became enamored with life on the water at an early age. "Ever since I was little I just loved vacationing and traveling and being at the beach and swimming," she said. "And I love glitzy and embellished things so when I couldn't find bathing suits that were what I thought they should look like, I started making them."



Geftaki's figure-flattering "Two Tone" suit is adorned with adjustable metallic ties and metal O-rings (\$67 for the top; \$63 for the bottom).

Eventually, her hobby grew into a business. The 2008 Geftaki Swimwear collection is characterized by sexy cuts, flattering colors and flashy hardware.

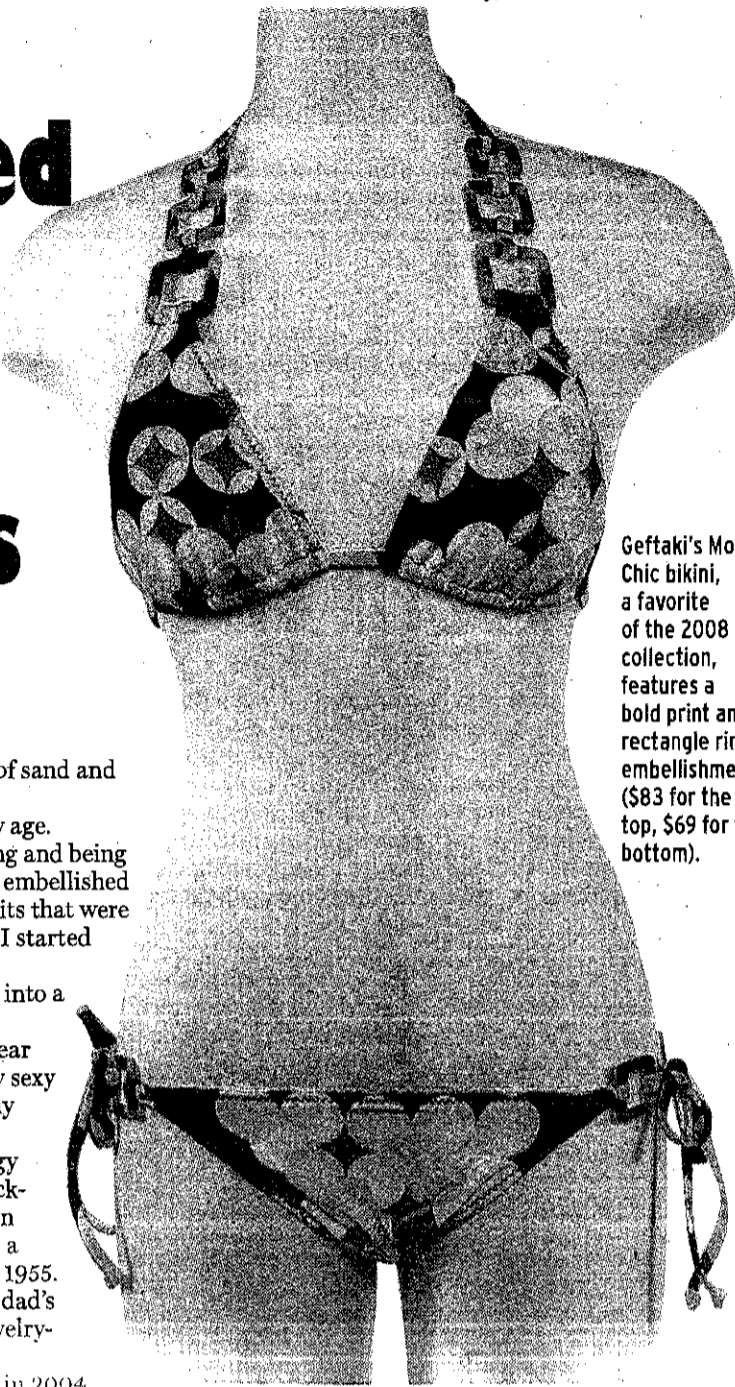
Geftos said her passion for blingy bikinis comes from her family's background in jewelry. Her father co-owns Brothers Fine Jewelry in Southgate, a store opened by her grandfather in 1955. "I get a lot of my ideas from my dad's business. A lot of the suits are jewelry-inspired," she said. Geftaki Swimwear launched in 2004, and is now sold in five states. Vendors include several Las Vegas resorts, and famed Lisa Kline boutiques in Malibu, Beverly Hills and Los Angeles. Kim Kardashian, Denise Richards and Jessica Simpson have been spotted in Geftaki Swimwear. Geftos exhibits each year at the MAGIC fashion trade show in Las Vegas, and makes sales calls in targeted markets across the country.

She recently returned to Michigan to sell suits during a "Beach Party" event at Saks Fifth Avenue in Troy, and has high hopes her line will be carried at Saks next year.

The suits and cover-ups are manufactured in Los Angeles, and she sells about 1,100 each year. Geftos gets help from her sister, Keri, 31, but aside from that runs every aspect of Geftaki Swimwear herself.

If you purchase something from Geftaki.com, it's Geftos who will pack the suit by hand at her headquarters within Brothers Jewelry, and ship it to your home.

It's a lot of work, Geftos said, but the swimwear business has its perks.



Geftaki's Mod Chic bikini, a favorite of the 2008 collection, features a bold print and rectangle ring embellishments (\$83 for the top, \$69 for the bottom).

She spends plenty of time on the beach — wearing her own suits of course. "I have to go to the beaches see the trends, what people are wearing what they like and why, that's how I get my feedback," she said. Jason Hochstein, owner of Chaud Jeans in Royal Oak, began carrying Geftos' suits this spring and said they are selling better than expected. "We're a jeans store so we didn't know how it would go, but it's going really well," Hochstein said. "Whenever people come in I always tell them she's from Michigan. I'm all about supporting local designers." Geftos said her home state is a great market for her suits. "We have a ton of customers from Michigan," she said. "They like to change up their suits more than anybody because they're on their boats, they're on the water all summer and they want to look great."

Geftaki Swimwear is available locally at Chaud Jeans, Royal Oak; Flash Accessories, Birmingham; Essence Clothing, West Bloomfield; Posh, Ann Arbor; Brothers Jewelry, Southgate; and online at Geftaki.com.



Are our co-workers "Sex and the City" personalities reflected in their shoes? You be the judge. From left are "Charlotte," "Samantha," "Carrie" and "Miranda."

Are you Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte or Miranda?

BY LANA MINI
 O&E STAFF WRITER

Ever identified with one of the four BFFs on *Sex and the City*? Now there's an online quiz that lets you see who you represent best. Visit <http://quiz.ivillage.com/astrology/tests/sexandthecity.htm>, and answer the questions honestly. Don't think about



Lana Mini

how Carrie or Charlotte would respond. Four writers here took the quiz, myself included, with some surprising results. I wanted to be Carrie — but I'm the Samantha. My Carrie qualities came in second.

Pink Editor Wensdy Von Buskirk is a Miranda. (Shocked. I thought she would be Carrie — she's stylish and has creative ideas. And hip — she's in a rock band.) Writer Stephanie Angelyn Casola is all Charlotte — and she knew it. We all knew it. She's feminine, smart and wears great shoes — today they're pink and brown. (But unlike classical Charlotte, Stephanie knows all about garage music.) Writer Susan Steinmueller teeters between Miranda and Charlotte, but she's a Miranda with her non-nonsense style. We weren't terribly shocked on that one. Today she's dressed in perfectly professional beige and black. I refused to accept my Samantha-ness and took another quiz on another site but had the same results. Perhaps that's why I'm her —

I don't quit, and I mingle with the creatives in town. But I don't wear power suits — I prefer Betsey Johnson. Shockingly, both Casola and Von Buskirk said yes, I'm the Samantha. The fun part of the quiz is how others see us.

Here's some reaction from my fellow writers:

Casola here: While I love Charlotte's classic style and romantic point of view on life, I was actually a bit disappointed in my clear lack of Samantha qualities. She's completely uncensored, uber-independent and highly successful. Who couldn't use a dash of that? And Mini has it — don't let her fool you. It just isn't wrapped in a power suit, that's for sure. As for the Mirandas in my newsroom — who wouldn't want to be recognized as driven and forthright? I'd say those are great qualities for an editor and reporter, right?

Steinmueller: Miranda all the way, said: "I thought about this but I have to get back to my work!"

From Von B: Miranda is the least glamorous of all the girls, and I was disappointed at first to find out I was 60 percent her. But, alas, I think it's true. Practicality always wins out for me, even when it comes to fashion. Yes, my dresses might be Max Studio or Diane von Furstenberg, but more importantly I got them on sale, and don't have to waste time mixing and matching when I pull them on. Also, at least I'm a good listener — and a good foil to my fabulous friends!

Staff Writer Stephanie Angelyn Casola and Wensdy Von Buskirk contributed to this report.

pink picks

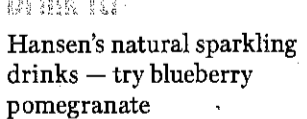
Wear it!
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Don't Wear it!
 A bikini if you shouldn't — there are tons of cute one-pieces, skirt suits and cover-ups out there!

Tote it!
 Kate Spade Ava Clutch

Kick it!
 Coach Sari Sandal

Eat it!
 Chicken Greek Salad at Grecian Cafe in Plymouth — luv the dressing!



Click it!
 StuffWhitePeopleLike.com

Play it!
 Croquet

TV it!
 The Daytime Emmys on June 20 — Livonia's own Nicole Forester is up for an award for her role on *Guiding Light*!

See it!
 Get Smart

DVD it!
 The Other Boleyn Girl

Hear it!
 Jukebox by Cat Power

Use it!
 Poo-Pourri at Catching Fireflies

Shop it!
 LittleOnesBabyGifts.com — a new online business by Livonia's own Jill King

Read it!
 The Enchantress of Florence by Salman Rushdie



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