

SUNDAY
March 22
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

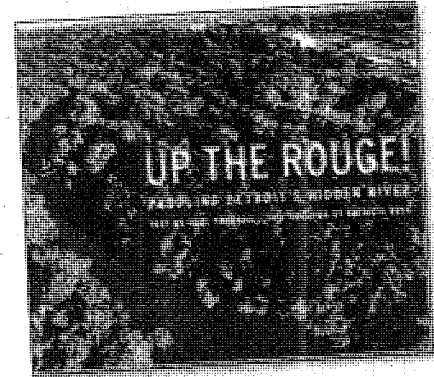
Volume 44
Number 86

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Neighbors, B5

AROUND TOWN

Round 'em up

Five-year-olds don't have to wait until September to have their first school experience. In fact, Wayne-Westland school officials want them to have that experience now as part of the annual Kindergarten Roundup slated for 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, March 31.

The roundup will be held at all 17 of Wayne-Westland's elementary schools. Parents will have an opportunity to tour the school, meet the principal and kindergarten teachers, discuss the curriculum and review registration materials.

Incoming kindergartners will get the opportunity to participate in an activity, visit their kindergarten classroom and receive a free school T-shirt to wear in the fall. They also will be given free backpacks filled with school supplies, books and suggested activities to prepare youngsters for the first day of school.

For parents who can't attend the morning program, school offices will be open from 6-7 p.m. that evening for registration only. If those times don't work, parents can call the school for an appointment.

Youngsters who will age 5 by Dec. 1, 2009, are eligible for kindergarten enrollment this fall. For more information, call the Instruction Department at (734) 419-2096.

Casting call

The Detroit area may be making a name for itself in the movie industry, but a Westland theater group is having its own auditions.

Inspire Theatre is having auditions for the comedy *Father of the Bride* by Caroline Francke at 6:30 p.m. April 6-7 at Inspire Theatre, 33445 Warren Road, inside the Warren Road Light and Life Church. Acting roles are available for 11 men and seven women of all ages.

The production will run June 5-6 and 12-13.

The play involves a father, Mr. Banks, whose comfortable existence turns topsy turvy when, out of nowhere, his daughter, Kay, announces her engagement to groom-to-be Buckley Dunstan. The father is faced with mushrooming expenses just as he is planning for his early retirement.

Those who audition should be prepared to read from the script. Roles will include Mr. Banks, his adult daughter, a younger version of his daughter, the mother, the groom-to-be and quite a few others.

For more information, call (734) 751-7057 or send an e-mail to inspire@inspiretheatre.com.

Family 'blessed' to escape fire

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As Phyllis Rollinson and some of her family members stood outside their burning home on Westland's south side, she desperately yelled for her 11-year-old chocolate Labrador retriever, Cocoa, to come to the door.

"She was never allowed in the front yard, so she didn't want to respond," Rollinson said. "I kept screaming for her. She finally came to the door, and we got her out."

The family's relief didn't last, however, because Cocoa had inhaled so much smoke that she died Thursday, one day after fire damaged much of Rollinson's tri-level,

four-bedroom home on Second Street, between Palmer and Glenwood.

Rollinson, who has six children, had made a quick trip to the grocery store with one of her sons when a fire started about 5 p.m. Wednesday in a lower-level utility and laundry room. Only one of her daughters, 28-year-old Tiffany Welch, was in the house at the time.

"She stops by all the time, and I think she had started to doze off," said 50-year-old Rollinson, whose husband was out of town for work.

Rollinson's family lost their personal belongings — family pictures, clothing, the

Please see **FIRE, A2**



Firefighters arrive to battle flames at Phyllis Rollinson's home on Second Street, on Westland's south side.

PHOTO BY RICHARD STORY



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The view through the fence around Central City Park shows what's left, a pile of rubble, following the tearing down of the wooden playscape in preparation for remediation of a portion of the recreation site.

City gets park site shovel-ready for remediation

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A once-popular play structure, built in 1997 in Central City Park with help from a throng of enthusiastic community volunteers, has been torn down amid hopes by city officials that the state will approve new plans for a 12-acre portion of

the lead-contaminated park.

The wooden playscape, dubbed Imagination Playstation, was razed last week by city workers using machinery to "bust it up, take it down, put it in Dumpsters" and have an outside company haul it away to a special landfill, Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski said.

The latest development came after Wayne County submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality a lengthy proposal to remediate the easternmost 12 acres of the park in hopes of putting in soccer fields, pavilions and concession stands.

Mayor William Wild has said he wants the site ready when city and

county leaders receive the go-ahead from MDEQ to start a first-phase remediation of the nearly 40-acre park.

Wild said "it's kind of bittersweet" to see Imagination Playstation torn down, but he said progress is being made on the site as officials wait for

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County commission to meet in Westland

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After campaigning last year on a promise of openness in government, 12th District Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt has announced that she and her colleagues will bring one of their meetings to Westland.

"It was something I campaigned on — transparency in government," said Gebhardt, whose district includes Westland, south Livonia and Inkster.

To that end, she has invited 12th District residents to bring their concerns and questions as the 15-member commission meets at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 14, in the second-floor Westland City Council chambers of City Hall, on Ford

Road between Newburgh and Wayne.

Gebhardt has put the word out early so residents can mark their calendars, even if they don't have concerns, but just want to watch their county government in action.

It's all part of a commission decision to rotate some of its meetings during the next three years among the communities it represents.

"I think it's a great idea," said Westland senior citizen Georgia Becker, who supported Gebhardt's campaign last fall. "We're part of Wayne County, and I think we should be able to have insight into what's going on. A lot of people can't get downtown. I know I would love to go and see what's going on."

After last November, county

commissioners worked on new rules and procedures to accommodate the community-based meetings.

"I selected Westland since it's the largest municipality of District 12," Gebhardt said.

All of Westland and Inkster are in her district, but only the southern portion of her hometown of Livonia.

Gebhardt brought the idea of a local meeting to Westland Mayor William Wild and Deputy Mayor Courtney Conover, who welcomed the concept.

The commission had one of its community-based meetings Thursday in Southgate, and members chose certain women to be honored for the March celebration of Women's History

Please see **COMMISSION, A3**

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FIRE
FROM PAGE A1

mother's beloved sewing and embroidery machine — but she said she is thankful the situation wasn't worse. "We are very, very blessed," she said. "We are pulling together as family." She also lauded the quick response of Westland firefighters who did their best to save what they could during the fire. "I can't say enough about the

Westland Fire Department," Rollinson said. "They were fabulous." She said Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Tenniswood even took her to a pharmacy so she could replace family prescriptions. Now, Rollinson is awaiting word from her insurance company on whether the house can be repaired. She has been staying with her daughter in Canton. Tenniswood said firefighters arrived to find flames and smoke coming from the back of the house. He said the fire involved a two-story addition

and that flames had spread into the roof of an attached garage. Tenniswood said the fire quickly spread from the utility room to a lower-level family room and then up the stairway to second-floor bedrooms. The older part of the house was damaged by heat and smoke, while the addition sustained heavy fire damage. "Fire got into an area where the new roof was built over the old roof, and it created compartments that were difficult to access," Tenniswood said. Westland firefighters

received help from their mutual aid partners from Garden City, Wayne and Inkster. Tenniswood also said local photographer Richard Story provided photo documentation of the fire. Rollinson said it's hard to describe the feeling of losing everything from clothing to family photos. She had a doctor's appointment on Friday, and she said she was asked to write down her next appointment. "I didn't even have a calendar." dclcm@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

AROUND WESTLAND

Bowling benefit

Westland's Mission: Green, an initiative which promotes environmental wellness practices throughout the City of Westland, is on a roll — literally. The group will host its first fund-raiser on Saturday, April 4, at Vision Lanes, 38250 Ford, west of Newburgh. The cost is \$20 per person and includes three games of bowling, shoes, pizza, and soda. The proceeds will help to fund materials designed to promote environmental awareness and the importance of reducing your carbon footprint.

Registration for the event begins at 11:30 a.m., bowling starts at noon. For more information, call Lori Fodale at (734) 467-3264.

Pancake breakfast

International Order of Rainbow for Girls of Wayne Assembly No. 72 will have their monthly Pancake Breakfast from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at the Wayne Masonic Lodge No. 112, 37137 Palmer, east of Newburgh, Westland. The cost is \$5 per breakfast and feature the "best pancakes in the state," served to you by the Rainbow Girls. No reservations necessary. For more information, call (734) 721-7950.

Needle Arts Show

The Plymouth/Westland Grange's Needle Arts Show is where you'll find quilts, needle arts, adult and chil-

ON THE WEB

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dren's classes, demonstrations, vendors, craft tables, and appraisals all under the same roof. The show is Saturday, March 28, at the Friendship Center. Food and beverages will be available during the show, and prizes and gifts will be awarded throughout the afternoon. A \$2 donation will be collected at the door unless you are a part of the Lap Quilt Project. The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh between Marquette and Ford. For more information, call Sharon Strebbling at (734) 722-4857.

Scrapbooking

The Wayne Memorial Baseball Booster Club is hosting a Scrapbooking fund-raiser from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Rudgate West Clubhouse, 7040 Shawnee Drive, Romulus. The registration fee of \$25 includes a light breakfast, lunch and door prizes. The deadline for registration is April 17. Checks and money orders can be made out to Wayne Memorial Baseball. Registrations can be mailed to Wayne Baseball c/o Deborah Gush, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne, Mi. 48184. For more information, call (734) 260-9517.

PLAYSCAPE
FROM PAGE A1

MDEQ to review the remediation plan. "We're trying to make the site as shovel-ready as possible because we're competing with other projects and other sites across the state for stim-

ulus money," the mayor said. Children who once used Imagination Playstation have found a new, bigger place to play at the nearby Play Planet, which has been built just to the north in Tattan Park. Although the wooden play structure is gone, Kosowski confirmed that the city will be able to use some other park amenities, such as slides from

a nearby plastic play structure and picnic shelters built on concrete pads, in other city parks. "We power-washed the slides, and there's no sediment on there at all," he said. "They're almost like brand new." Workers are expected to begin taking down the picnic shelters as early as this

week, cleaning them off to ensure they're free of soil even though they sat on concrete, Kosowski said. Moreover, Kosowski said the city plans to move special bricks from the old play area to the new Play Planet site. Community donors paid money to have the bricks engraved during a fund-raiser for Imagination Playstation. Those bricks had been placed in sand rather than soil, Kosowski said, but they nonetheless will be washed and cleaned. "We're taking all the necessary precautions," he said. dclcm@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

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Nominations sought for community awards

It takes a lot of campaigning to pick a candidate, but all it takes is a sheet of paper to nominate someone as the 2009 Westland First Citizen or Business Person of the Year.

The call has gone out for nominations for the annual awards which will be presented at the Westland Chamber of Commerce's Spring Awards Celebration Thursday, April 23, at the American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh, Livonia.

The festivities will start at 6 p.m. and feature dinner and recognition of the recipients of the 2009 First Citizen Award, sponsored by the *Westland Observer* and the Westland Chamber of Commerce, and the 2009 Business Person of the Year Award, as well as the chamber's long-time members.

Tickets are \$35 per person and include the buffet dinner and open bar. They are available online at www.westland-chamber.com or by calling the chamber at (734) 326-7222. Sponsoring the event are *The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, Parkside Credit Union, and TDS Metrocom.

Started in 1986, the First Citizen Award honors a person who has contributed to the quality of life in the community and made Westland a better place in which to live, work or play. Individuals or organization may nominate a person for the award. Local residency isn't required, and people currently holding or seeking public office aren't eligible.

The nominations should

outline the individuals service, including its impact on the Westland community, length of time and offices held.

The winner will join such honorees as the 2009 recipient Lou Toarmina of Toarmina's Pizza. The deadline for submitting nominations is 4 p.m. Friday, April 3. For more information, call *Observer* Editor Sue Mason at (313) 222-6751 or the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

The Business Person of the Year Award, sponsored by Parkside Credit Union, was established to recognize a member of the chamber who stands above the rest. Nominees must own, manage or do business in Westland and cannot be an elected official.

Nominations should include information about the individual's demonstrated excellence, creativity and initiative in his

or her business of profession, a history of staying power, innovation and positive response to adversity, participation in activities that promote economic development and/or general interest to the community and be a member in good standing of the Westland chamber.

Last year's recipient was attorney Angelo Plakas of Angelo A. Plakas & Associates. The deadline for submitting

Business Person of the Year nominations also is 4 p.m. Friday, April 3. For more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Nominations for First Citizen and the Business Person of the Year Award can be sent to the Westland Chamber of Commerce, 36900 Ford, Westland, MI 48185. They also can be submitted by fax at (734) 326-6040.

COMMISSION

FROM PAGE A1

Month. Gebhardt selected women who oversee senior citizen programs, including Barbara Schimmel Marcum in Westland, Gaye Ware in Livonia and Denise Champaign in Inkster.

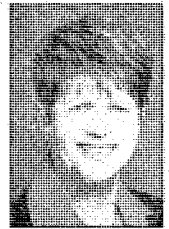
Gebhardt said the commission's agenda hasn't been set

for the April 14 meeting in Westland, but she urged 12th District residents to attend. One bonus, she said, is that people won't have to pay the parking fees

like they do in Detroit.

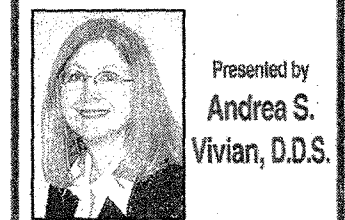
"We as a commission are dedicated to allowing our constituents — the citizens who pay the taxes — to see where their money is going," she said. "We want to take the meetings out to the community. I think it's important that people know what the county is doing for them."

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Gebhardt

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EDUCATION

Glenn rides wave with 'High School Musical 2'

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The adventures of Troy Bolton, Gabriella Montez and Sharpay Evans will fill the stage at John Glenn High School this coming weekend with four performances of *High School Musical 2*.

This is the second straight year the high school's Theatrical Guild has done a stage version of the smash Disney hit. Last year's production of *High School Musical* sold out for all four performances well in advance of opening night and the same is expected for *High School Musical 2* which will be performed March 26-28.

"We're riding the wave while we can," said director Sheri Grove. "We started selling tickets today (March 16) and sold \$1,300. I'm surprised because we haven't publicized it at all. This is all word-of-mouth."

The sequel to the Disney hit musical centers on summer vacation and the students who decide to all get jobs together at the Lava Springs Country Club, owned by Sharpay's father. It's a light-hearted production with a beach party-golf course setting in which Sharpay is the queen, the future threatens to tear the Wildcats apart and where they learn to work together, learn about themselves and help each other, Grove said.

Many of the students appeared in last year's production. Matt Benyo, who played Ryan last year, is starring as Troy. Courtney McKinney who played a Wildcat Cheerleader in the 2008 show, is starring as Gabriella. Other Wildcats moving up include Jordan Burgess as Sharpay and Kelly Sutherland as Taylor McKessie.

Benyo, Burgess and Sutherland also are pull-



Gabriella Montez (Courtney McKinney) and Troy Bolton (Matt Benyo) sing "What I've Been Looking For" during a rehearsal of the John Glen High School Theatrical Guild production for "High School Musical 2."

IN THE FOOTLIGHTS

What: Disney's "High School Musical 2"

Who: Presented by the John Glenn Theatrical Guild

When: 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 26, 27 and 28 and with a 1 p.m. matinee Saturday, March 28.

Where: The auditorium of John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Cost: \$10 for students and \$12 for adults. Tickets can be purchased 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays in the school's main office. For group sales, call (734) 419-2342.

ing double duty as assistant directors for the production. They were selected based on essays they wrote about why



Playing the role of the Sharpettes, Sarah Toarmina, Jordan Burgess as Sharpay, Julianna Stewart and Kelsie Yax running through their lines of "Fabulous" in "High School Musical 2" at John Glenn High School this weekend.

they wanted the position.

"It's a great opportunity to show leadership," said Sutherland. "I love this program and I hope I give everyone what the previous assistant directors gave me."

A senior, Sutherland loves the theater. This is her fifth

production — she started with the 2007 presentation of *Footloose* — and says it's the people and the feeling on opening night that have kept her involved. But she admits that having a presence on and off stage is a handful, although "I'm learning to

Cast, crew work on 'HSM2'

The gang's all here when it comes to John Glenn High School's Theatrical Guild production of *High School Musical 2*. Thirty-nine students make up the cast while another 41 are working on the crew.

The characters of East High School and Lava Springs Country Club include Matt Benyo as Troy Bolton, Tyler Claus as Chad Danforth, Ryan Vaughan as Zeke Baylor, Justin Walkeras Jack Scott, Courtney McKinney as Gabriella Montez, Kelly Sutherland as Taylor McKessie, Shannon Salisbury as Martha Cox, Kimmie Schepers as Kelsi Neilson, Jordan Burgess as Sharpay Evans, Cody Buege as Ryan Evans, Julianna Stewart as Blossom, Sarah Toarmina as Peaches, Kelsie Yax as Violet and Molly Long as Ms. Fulton.

The company includes Rana Ammari, Shane Miller, Dennis Anderson, Brandi Owens, Jeremy Beguhn, Jessica Pesenecker, Brandi Burns, Breanna Reid, Norman Butler, Caleb

Samborski, Sammy Cote, Ashley Dunn, Ed Stone, Tyla Echols, Nick Stone, Queen Gregory, Diamond Taylor, Brooklyn Holbrook, Katelyn Thebeau, Stephanie Lubeck, Nikki Urban, Ricky MacDonald, Brittani Wilson, Sarah Mellas and Erin Zeidman.

Serving as crew members are Megan Abdella, Rachael Alholinna, Ryan Anderson, Andrea Bessinger, Gianna Blannon, Angela Blay, Jessica Brown, Jeffery Clark, Melissa Cover, Kevin Curylo, Michael Damron, Brianne Deleforce, Kelly Dodson, Jessica Dotson, Gregory Gaskin Jr., Sherry Green, Alex Hamlett, Arielle Hines, Nicole Ives, Corey Kelly, Megan Krushlin, Areanna Luckett, Megan McDougall, Devon McMillian, Leanna Miller, Shawn Mitchell, Alex O'Jibway, Rachel Peel, Erin Perry, Jacob Pickett, Bayley Prate, Megan Quinn, Illissa Reddy, Amanda Salisbury, Shawn Salisbury, Holly Sutherland, Jordan Taylor, Katelyn Thebeau, Amy Wilcock, Dayra Williams and Chayla Wood.

juggle them," she said.

"It's hard to get everyone to see you as an authority figure than a friend," she added. "As an assistant director I have to try and get them under control and that's hard when they see you as a friend."

Sutherland also is hoping the cast "will be great" on opening night and that she inspires them to be the best they can be in all aspects of their lives.

Based in a high school, last year's production had cost associated with it that aren't part of *High School Musical 2*. Last year, Grove needed

such things as cheer uniforms for the Wildcats. This year, because of the setting, students are able to use their own clothing for the production. But flu season has been a problem this year, making it hard to hold rehearsals and run them smoothly.

"It's coming together really well," she said watching as students rehearsed a scene from the play. "The first act was pretty slow. Act 2 is going better."

"We hope and expect a great turnout," she added.

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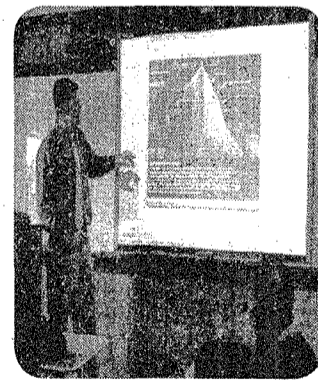
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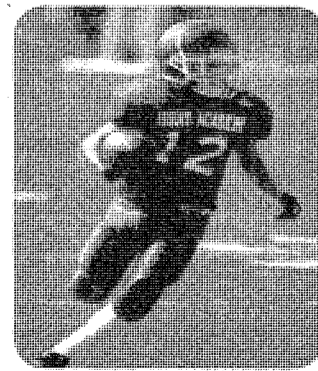


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Reunion
The Wayne High Alumni Association's 24th annual All Class Reunion Banquet will be 5-10 p.m. Friday, May 15, at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne. For more information, contact Wanda Boice at (734) 326-7767 or by e-mail at waynehighalumni@aol.com.

Audition notice
Inspire Theatre is holding auditions for the comedy "Father of the Bride" by Caroline Francke at 6:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, April 6-7, at the Inspire Theatre inside the Warren Road Light and Life Church, 33445 Warren Road, Westland. There are acting roles for 11 men and 7 women of all ages. For information, call (734) 751-7057 or at inspire@inspire-theatre.com. "Father of the Bride" will be presented June 5-6 and 12-13.

Poker fund-raiser
U.S. 12 Bar and Grill, located at 34824 W. Michigan Avenue in Wayne, has a permanent poker room that runs Sunday through Wednesday every week available for local charities in the community. For more information, call John at (734) 216-1688.

Class reunion
Garden City High School Class of 1989 will hold its 20th reunion 6 p.m. to midnight Aug. 29 at Joy Manor in Westland. Tickets are \$75 now through June 1. Tickets includes dinner, premium open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and other gifts. Tickets are available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or by contacting Paula at gchsi1989reunion@hotmail.com.

Fish Fry
St. Raphael is having a Lenten fish fry is open 4:30-7 p.m. or until the fish is sold out on Fridays. Good Friday the doors open at 3 p.m. In addition to fish, shrimp and combi-

nation dinners are offered along with cheese pizza slices. Dinners include choice of potato, cole slaw, roll and butter, coffee, hot tea or milk. Carry-out orders are available. St. Raphael is located on Merriman two blocks north of Ford.

■ St. Dunstan's fish fry is 4-7 p.m. Fridays until Good Friday when the doors open at 3 p.m. There are shrimp and combination dinners available along with cheese pizza slices. Dinners include potato, cole slaw and roll.

St. Dunstan is on Belton south of Ford, just west of Inkster Road. ■ St. Sebastian Catholic Church will have all-you-can-eat fish fries 4-7 p.m. Fridays during Lent, including Good Friday. Cost is \$8.50 for adults and \$4.75 for children under age 10. Dinner includes fish, potatoes, spaghetti, mac and cheese, green beans, coleslaw, roll and butter, dessert, coffee and milk. St. Sebastian Catholic Church is located at 20700 Colgate Ave., Dearborn Heights. All dinners served in the Activity Center.

■ The St. Robert Bellarmine Men's Club will have fish fries 4-7 p.m. or until dinners out Friday, March 27 and April 10, at the church at West Chicago and Inkster Road in Redford. Meals include fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, roll and butter, coffee, tea or milk. Baked cod, fish sandwiches and cheese pizza also will be available. Prices are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children age 12 and under. Carry-out orders will be available.

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 additional 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.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

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

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

Menopause & More
A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. Call (734) 655-1100.

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

Toughlove
A Toughlove support group meets

7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington roads. Newcomers welcome. Call (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748.

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 activities. 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.

Willow Creek
Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is currently accepting enrollment in its Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs. Willow Creek is located at 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. For more information, call the preschool at (734) 326-0078.

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.

Isha Foundation founder to speak in Westland

The founder of Isha Foundation will visit Westland next week to bring inner stability, strength and new vision to a state that has been inundated with bad news.

Sadhguru, a prominent spiritual leader, visionary humanitarian and yogi, will speak on "Re-Engineering Detroit with Inner Engineering" from 7-10:15 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, April 1-3, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 4-5, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, Westland. Created by Sadhguru, Inner Engineering gives people

methods to reduce anxiety, stress and improve health. It offers participants a practice called Shambhavi Maha Mudra, a very simple but profound kriya (inner energy process) for deep inner transformation.

The program cost \$350 and participants must attend all five sessions. A limited number of scholarships and hardship discounts to those in need.

For more information or to register for the program, call (866) 424-4742 or visit www.ishafoundation.org.

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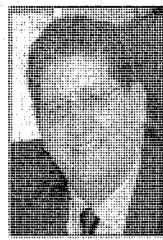
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Individual circumstances determine when to take Social Security

Dear Rick: I am 63 and I just retired. My wife is 60 and she retired a couple of years ago. We both have pensions that more than cover our living expenses. My original plan of action was to wait to collect Social Security to receive full benefits. I am thinking about adjusting my strategy but I want your advice. Friends say that with all the problems we are going through right now Social Security will be cut in the near future. Do you agree?



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

I believe there will be some adjustment to Social Security. I don't know what it will be

or who it will affect. Whatever changes are made — whether you are collecting Social Security or currently eligible — will make a difference.

I believe you should stick with your original game plan and delay collecting Social Security until you receive full benefits.

There has been a lot of

discussion about the future of Social Security over the last few years. There have been articles written suggesting it should be a need-based program and should change the way they calculate inflation as well as raising the age for full benefits.

Despite all the discussion, there have been very few changes. Although eventually we will have some Social Security reform, I don't believe that it will significantly impact anyone who is eligible or currently eligible.

In discussing changes to Social Security, it is important to recognize the political hot potato it is. Politicians know when it comes to Social

Security they have to tread lightly. They recognize the political realities. That is why I believe when reforms are made they will only impact people who are years away from eligibility.

One of the decisions senior citizens are forced to make is when they should collect Social Security. Every situation is different so it depends on one's circumstances

I believe you collect Social Security when you need the income. If you receive a pension that covers your living expenses, I recommend delaying Social Security. If you need additional income to cover living expenses, don't delay.

Dear Rick: I am new to the financial world and have never invested money. I received an inheritance from a grandparent and want to know how I should invest the money.

The issue with investing is not what is good for everyone but what is good for you. Before you invest money, ask yourself: What is my goal regarding this money? Are you saving for a new house next year or saving for retirement 20 years down the road?

Since you are new to the financial world, temporarily invest in a money market account, which is a daily interest bearing account. You can get a money market account through a mutual fund company such as Vanguard or through your local bank or credit union.

Then begin the process of learning about investing. The more you learn, the more successful you will be as an investor. A series of books on investing known as *For Dummies* are straightforward and helpful with the basics.

A number of Web sites with educational articles can also help. My Web site, www.bloomassetmanagement.com, along with www.mfea.com and www.vanguard.com also offer excellent materials.

Understanding the basics of investing will ensure that you don't get taken in a scam.

Recently numerous investment scams have been uncovered. Whether it is Bernie Madoff or Stanford Financial, investors have been ripped off because they didn't understand the fundamentals of investing.

My advice is learn about investing. Once you have done that, send me another letter with your goals, objectives and your risk tolerance and I can discuss how to invest the money.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money@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.

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

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Personal property described below in the matter of:

| | | |
|------------------|------|---------------------------|
| Keyanna Wafford | B048 | tv, washer, bag |
| Charisse Pringle | B049 | boxes, bike, tv |
| Dwain Puryear | B128 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Tracy Walton | B151 | tv, boxes, dryer |
| Nicola Adams | B352 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Connie Volpe | C009 | restaurant equipment |
| Ted Konesky | C013 | boxes, bags, dresser |
| Maribel Calderon | C020 | boxes, totes, luggage |
| Stephen Mitchell | C034 | bags, toys, crib |
| Aaron Daniels | D030 | bags, boxes, refrigerator |
| Sturge Moreland | F014 | bike, dresser, boxes |

Publish: March 15 and 22, 2009

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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

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Personal property described below in the matter of:

| | | |
|---------------------|------|---|
| Mohammad Omar Malik | 1096 | chairs, grill, saw |
| Phillip Guerrero | 1172 | boxes, totes, tv |
| Linda Riley | 1468 | boxes, bags, mattress |
| Antonio Butler | 1540 | totes, bags, sofa |
| Tyrone Johnson | 1548 | boxes, dresser, desk |
| Wesley Parkey | 2260 | totes, boxes, mattress |
| Siriky Bamba | 2336 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Dawn Taylor | 2402 | dresser, totes, boxes |
| Robert Jones | 3004 | bags, boxes |
| Tyrone Johnson | 5012 | vehicle - Truck Ford F150 VIN 1FTEP15Y2TLC14113 |

Publish: March 15 and 22, 2009

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CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 6 03/16/09

- Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Graunstadt, Johnson, Kehrer, Pickering, Reeves, Stottlemeyer
- 45- Appr. minutes of 3/2/09.
 - Appr. req. from WW Veterans Parade Council to hold Memorial Parade on 5/24, from Wayne Ford Civic League, n. to Ford Road, to City Hall.
 - Appr. req. from Lions Club to solicit funds for White Cane Week at Ford & Wayne Rds. from 4/24 thru 5/3 & Christmas Candy Canes from 11/27 thru 12/23/09.
 - 46- Appr. Rev. Site Plan, 450 N. Wayne Rd, parc. #043-02-0232-300, n.e. side of Wayne & Cherry Hill.
 - 47-Set 5/4/09 as Public Hearing for 2009-10 Budget.
 - 48-Conf. re-app't. of Martin Eisenstein to DDA for 4 yr. term to exp. 3/19/13.
 - 49-Conf. of app't. of Scott Shipman to Housing Comm. to fill unexp. term to exp. 5/31/09.
 - 50-Appr. checklist: \$926,180.50 & Prepaid: \$5,734,320.08
 - 51-Meeting adj. at 8:22 p.m.

Minutes available in the Clerk's office.

James Godbout
Council President

Eileen DeHart, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: March 22, 2009

0E08648176_2X4

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 Oraneco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734)479-5442 3/31/2009 at: 10:00 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:

| | | |
|--------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| James Hipshire | 102 | boxes, dresser, sofa |
| David Kaminski | 136 | bags, totes |
| Pro Line Building | 143 | boxes, bags, saw |
| Horace Jackson | 201 | bags, boxes, totes |
| Karrie Boudrie | 346 | boxes, bags, clothes |
| Ronald Worley III | 506 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Lawrence Kenny | 514 | boxes, totes, table |
| Michael A Santwire | 532 | sofa, boxes, vacuum |
| Adam Fockler | 533 | bags, totes, bike |
| Scott Murray | 539 | boxes, bags, washer |
| Rick Carlson | 653 | car - TEMPO - LIC - UNL Z85 |
| Melanie Roberts | 1039 | boxes, bags, totes |
| John Jordan IV | 1116 | boxes, bags, totes |

Publish: March 15 and 22, 2009

0E08648176_2X3

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 Oraneco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 (313) 292-9730 3/31/2009 at: 11:00 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:

| | | |
|---------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| Mark Hendrix | 2069 | dresser, truck cap, boxes |
| Nancyanne Hill | 3009 | tv, boxes, totes |
| Ebony Moore | 3037 | totes, washer, dryer |
| Erma Austin | 3042 | boxes, dresser, chair |
| Ken Beck | 3084 | boxes, chair, dresser |
| Brian Kniffin | 3091 | sofa, love-seat, dresser |
| Justin Proch | 4027 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Patrick Knight | 4043 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Antoine Murry | 4051 | speakers, boxes, totes |
| Sharrie Gardner | 4058 | tv, boxes, bags |
| Edwin Omev | 5003 | snow blower, boxes, dresser |
| Joy Lynn | 5016 | totes, stove, bags |
| Melissa Fonseca | 5028 | boxes, bags, totes |
| Michele Moore | 5059 | bags, tv, totes |
| Marla Parker | 5068 | ac unit, boxes, bags |
| George Bojarski | 5106 | boxes, bikes, stove |
| Tracie Breuer | 6037 | boxes, bags, tv |
| Michael Shepherd | 6049 | tires, boxes, totes |
| Ron Bemby | 6085 | boxes, bags |
| Nancy Emmons | 6091 | totes, bags, vacuum |
| Rosemarie Schafer | 6093 | boxes, totes, dresser |
| Steven Williams | 6107 | boxes, bags, mattress |
| Jeffrey Stonecipher | 7082 | totes, dresser, boxes |
| Brian Murphy | 7118 | totes, tool box, boxes |
| Joseph Lanzilotti | 9028 | mattress, box-spring, boxes |

Publish: March 15 and 22, 2009

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Kettering Elementary students laugh at author Tim Smith's presentation.

Author teaches students about hard work

Youngsters at Kettering Elementary School in Westland learned about hard work and persistence with help of author Tim Smith.

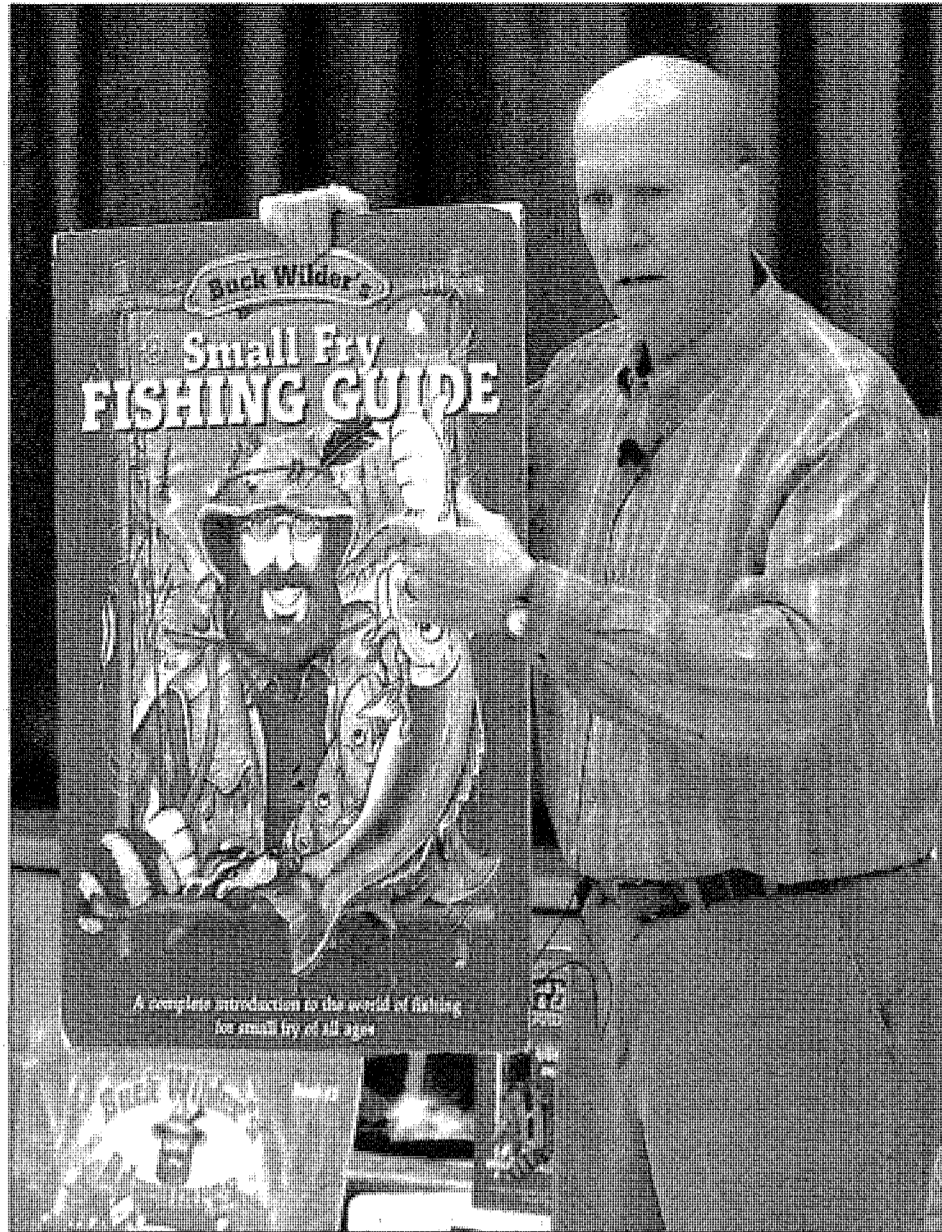
The man behind the titles in the "Buck Wilder" series was at the Westland school as part of a March Is Reading Month program. In his storytelling style, Smith entertained the students as he educated them, explaining the value of hard work and persistence while emphasizing the importance of imagination and creativity.

Smith also stressed the importance of believing in yourself and shows kids how they can get creative.

The message he brought to Kettering students was to create a story, to unlock their imaginations and not to worry about making a mistake.

"Creating and publishing books was new for me," Smith has said. "I made mistakes, kept on working at it even with major obstacles in my way, and did more than was expected to finish the books."

Smith's "Buck Wilder" series provides young readers with an introduction to a variety of natural resources and outdoor pursuits. Inspired by childhood camping and fishing trips he took with his uncle, Smith created the Buck Wilder character in order to help teach his audience how to enjoy the great outdoors in a safe and respectful way. *Buck Wilder's Small Fry Fishing Guide: A Complete Introduction to the World of Fishing for Small Fry of All*



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Author Tim Smith, tells the students at Kettering Elementary how much he enjoys fishing which as inspired him to write children's stories of Buck Wilder Adventures.

Ages, the first book in the series, covers the basics of the sport, including descriptions of lake fish and their habitat.

In *Buck Wilder's Small Twig Hiking and Camping Guide: The Complete Introduction to the World of Hiking and Camping for Small Twigs of All Ages*, Smith includes regional overviews of different hiking and camping locations; a list of recommended gear and information about the more practical aspects of camping, such as first aid and cooking. Smith spends much of the school year speaking to elementary-aged children, giving presentations on his "Buck Wilder" outdoor guides.



Kettering Elementary students take a closer look at the oversized covers of the Buck Wilder's books.

All about castles

Many of the great castles of the Middle Ages are still standing today, often dominating the surrounding countryside in many countries in Europe. Throughout the years castles have been built in a wide variety of ways and sizes. Originally built as fortifications, in order to establish territory and keep enemies out, castles have evolved into opulent palaces for kings, queens and other nobility that some still live in today.

Castles are fascinating for history buffs or just people who are intrigued by the way the rich have lived over the years. If you would like to find out more about castles, your public library is a great place to start. At the Westland Public Library you can check out "Castles of Britain and Ireland" by Plantagenet Somerset Fry, "Castles: An Illustrated Guide to 80 Castles of England and Wales" by Charles W. C. Oman or "Castles: England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland: The Definitive Guide to the Most Impressive Buildings and Intriguing Sites."

We also have several books about castles for kids. If your youngsters like princesses and knights, they might be interested in "Eyewitness Books: Castle" by Christopher Gravett, "Life in a Castle" by Kay Eastwood, "What Were Castles For?" by Phil Roxbee Cox or "The Amazing World of Castles: Discover the Fascinating History of Medieval Adventure, Battle and Romance" by Barbara Taylor.

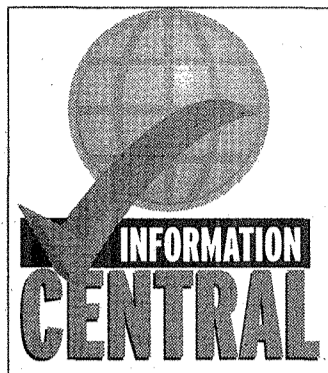
There is also an abundant amount of information about castles online. You can look at pictures of castles from all over the world or plan a castle tour at www.castles.org. You might also want to take a look at www.castlesontheweb.com or for castles specifically in Great Britain, there is www.castles-of-britain.com.

For any of these books or help finding more information about castles, visit the William P. Faust Public Library or call us at (734) 326-6123, and we are always available online at www.westland.lib.mi.us

Highlighted Activities

Anne Feeney in Concert: 7 p.m. March 30

Join us for a free concert by songwriter and folk singer Anne Feeney.



She will be performing songs of the American Labor movement and about Ireland. This is an all age program. Call the library for more information at (734) 326-6123. No registration is required.

Finding Your Voice in Radio: 7 p.m. March 31, ages 12 and up.

As part of our Everyone's Reading programming, join Linda Yohn, WEMU musical director and morning show host for 89.1 FM Jazz, who will speak about the experience of finding her rhythm and style as one of the area's first female jazz hosts. Visit her station at the far left end of your dial or online at www.wemu.org. Also, learn more about her at <http://www.wemu.org/hosts.php?id=19>.

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the library: Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

Everyone welcome. Game Night: 6-8 p.m. every Friday night throughout March.

Want to spend some fun time with your family and friends and not spend any money? Join us at the library for Game Night every Friday night throughout the month of March. Bring a game or play one of the many games available at the library. Whether you want to come alone or meet a new friend, everyone is invited. Chess and card players, we're saving tables for you, too. No age limit. No fun limit.

Information Central was compiled by librarian and Web designer Kristy Cooper. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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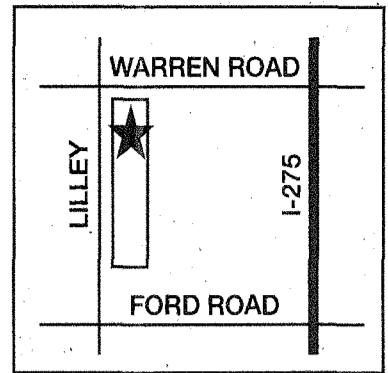
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Wayne County may put expenses online

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne County residents — or anyone who has access to the Internet, for that matter — soon may be able to access county budget expenditures online.

County Commissioner Laura Cox, R-Livonia, who chairs the Task Force on Transparency in Wayne County and the commission's Ways and Means Committee, recently conducted a public hearing at Livonia City Hall with hopes of starting a process where county government can become more transparent, that is publicly accounting for every tax dollar spent.

The transparency discussion has moved to the forefront since 2006, when Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed into law the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act. That bill was supported by then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama. The bill created a publicly searchable Web site for all federal contracts, grants and loans and other financial assistance available in a regularly updated, user-friendly and searchable format.

Several state lawmakers updated the commission on what they were doing on the issue. The meeting was held during Sunshine Week, a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information.

'OPEN GOVERNMENT'

"Our residents have told all of us very loudly and very clearly they want a more open government," said state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland. Transparency would help inform residents that officials voted themselves a 10-percent pay cut. "It allows people to recognize that things are not so good (financially)," LeBlanc said.

Others updated the audience on potential misuse of dollars and how lawmakers were addressing it.

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, said lawmakers were considering a bill that requires lawmakers who leave their office to wait two years before they can be employed as lobbyists. That bill would help remove any potential conflict of interest on votes that lawmakers may make on a contract for a company they may represent later. "We didn't see it as a problem, but more of a building block

to get where we want to be," Corriveau said.

State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, supports transparency. "You may have citizens who look at these numbers and have ideas on how to do our budgets," Walsh said. "And if you try to explain (the budget), they could understand it."

Budget numbers are "astounding," Walsh said. "They would be willing to pay it as long as they know they are getting a return on their tax dollars."

Sue Hall, director of administration for Sheriff Warren Evans, said the Wayne County sheriff department wanted to be transparent on the revenue and expenditure side of it, but reminded commissioners that exemptions were allowed for law enforcement employees.

Scott Hagerstrom, state director for Americans for Prosperity, named six states that list their expenditures online, including Minnesota, Oklahoma and Texas.

"Let every taxpayer see where the money goes," Hagerstrom said. Hagerstrom challenged state lawmakers to bring the transparency bills up for a vote. "We want the state budget online immediately," he said.

Local governments, like Brighton Township, update



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, talks about steps lawmakers are taking to address transparency in government. County Commissioners Kevin McNamara, D-Canton, and Joan Gebhardt, D-Westland, listen.

their expenditure list with a PDF file every two weeks. "We'd like to see you do that immediately," Hagerstrom told commissioners.

WHAT IS COST?

Commission Chairman Edward Boike wondered about the cost of placing the information online and whether taxpayers would want to pay anywhere between \$200,000 to \$1 million for the service. But Hagerstrom believed the costs would be minimal if the information is copied from PDF or other computer files. Several

states were doing it for less than \$300,000, he said.

Lisa McGraw, public affairs manager for the Michigan Press Association, supported transparency as an "advocate for open government," she said. "Taxpayers have a right to know," McGraw said. "It will help to educate the public and help democracy."

Rose Bogaert, chair of the Wayne County Taxpayers Association, said taxpayers need this information.

"We need it to compliment you when you're doing something right and guide you when you're doing something

wrong," Bogaert said. Bogaert also told Boike that she saw county expenses for far more money that made less sense to her.

"I'm asking you to do it for the sake of your constituents and asking you to do it because it's the right thing to do," Bogaert said.

Commissioner Diane Webb, D-Garden City, who also represents Redford Township, said transparency "is an excellent idea."

"Obviously if we didn't support the idea, we wouldn't be here today," Webb said.

Cox wanted to start the conversation of transparency in county government and expects she will talk with the county's information technology officials to discuss the costs. Wayne County would be the third county nationally to initiate transparency online if officials move ahead with it.

"Hopefully, we can push Wayne County to become more transparent," Cox said. "I hope we can do something in committee to find the money. We need to do this. We owe it to the taxpayer."

Cox's staff has already placed her office's expenditures online for the public to view.

Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Westland, who also represents southern

Livonia, said she supports county transparency and ran her campaign on that issue last year. She serves on the Ways and Means Committee, which is expected to study the issue, then make a recommendation to the 15-member commission.

"I've asked that all my (county) financial records be put online," Gebhardt said. "As Commissioner Boike said, all commissioners are on board with this, and hopefully we can expand it to county government. We can be the pilot, start the program and go out from there."

Commissioner Kevin McNamara, D-Canton, said the commission supports transparency, but added that privacy concerns needed to be considered regarding payroll, and checks issued for the care for mental health patients and the indigent. "Do we really want to reveal child support information?" he asked. But the big issue remains what can the commission spend when it has cut nearly \$1 million from the commission's budget and have been asked to cut another 20 percent.

"The 20-ton elephant is what it's going to cost," McNamara said.

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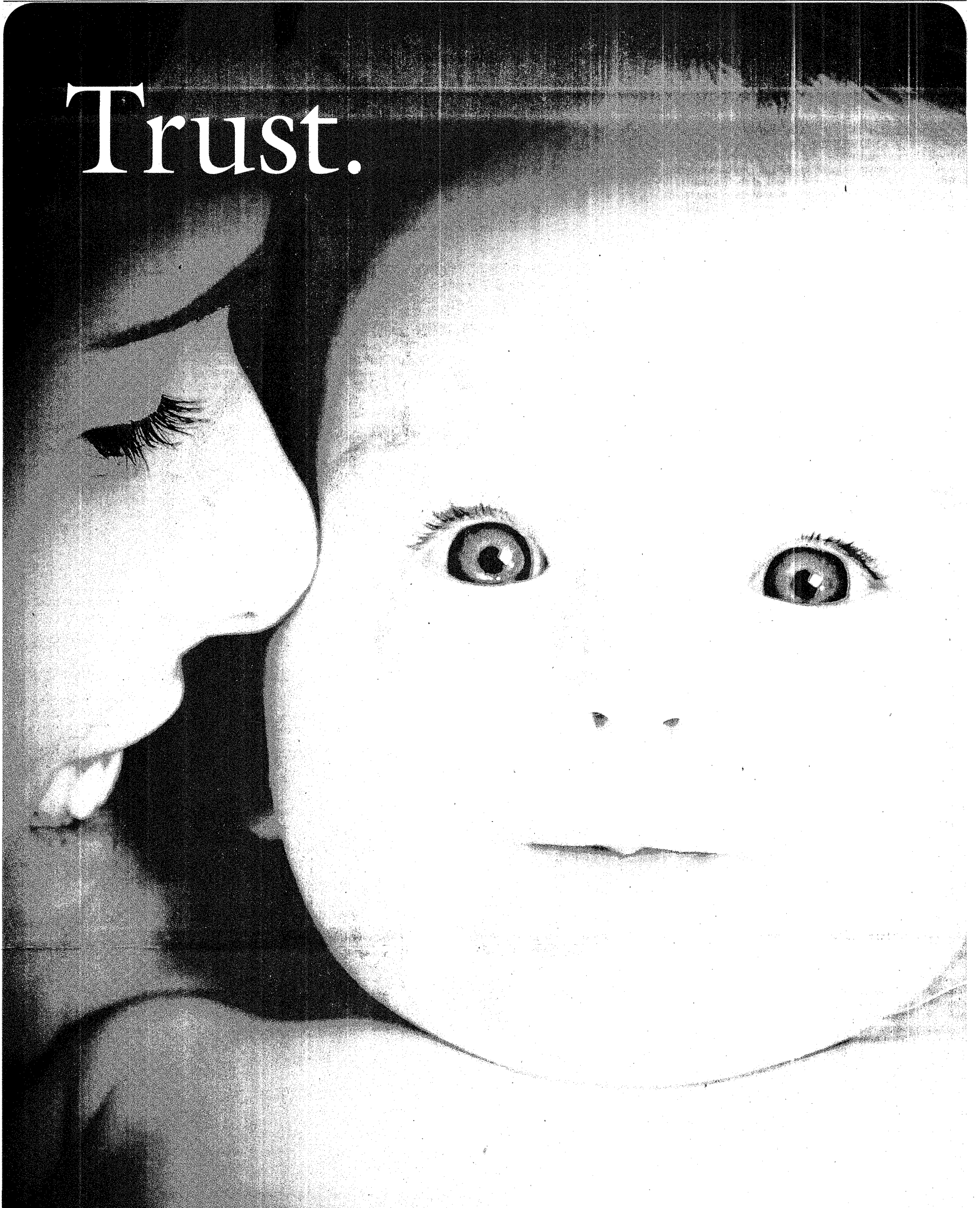
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Taylor-made finish: Franklin stuns Phoenix

0:00 on clock:
Twin Briauna
wins semifinalSee a photo gallery of the state girls
semifinals on www.hometownlife.comBY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With ice water in her veins, Briauna Taylor delivered a moment that will reverberate up-and-down Joy Road for quite some time.

With no time on the clock in overtime in Friday's state Class A semifinal, and the game tied following her miracle putback at the buzzer, the 5-foot-9 senior from Livonia Franklin calmly nailed the game-winning free throw to give the Patriots a mind-boggling 55-54 victory over Detroit Renaissance.

The crowd at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center erupted with a deafening roar as the Patriots mobbed Taylor as she was carried off the court by her teammates following the completion of an improbable three-point play.

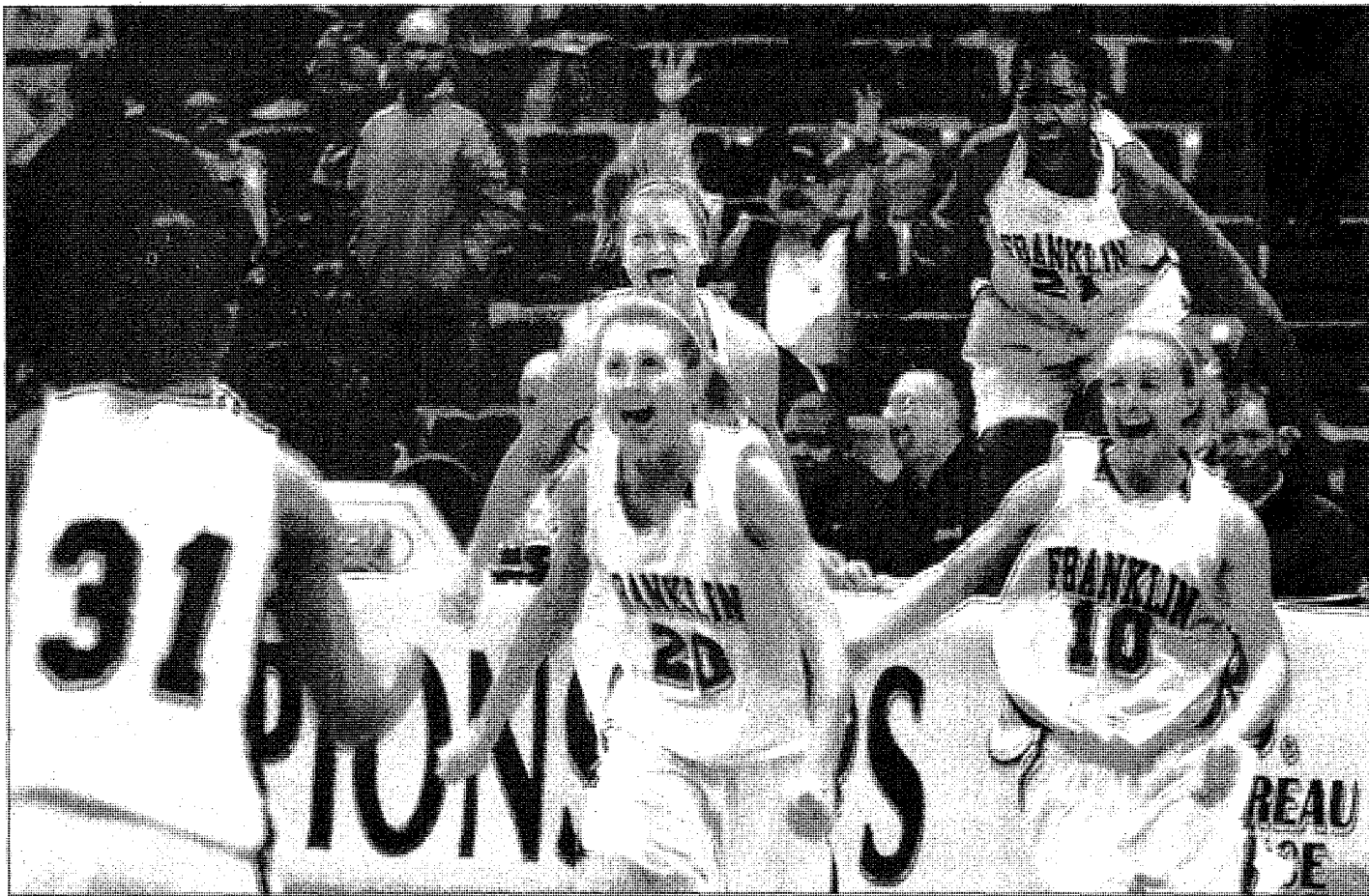
The win put the Patriots, sporting a 24-3 overall record, into their first-ever state basketball championship game against Benton Harbor (25-2). Game time is noon Saturday at EMU.

"At first I was really nervous because I missed the back end of a one-and-one," Taylor, referring to a miss with 1:50 remaining in regulation and the Patriots ahead 47-40. "During the (Renaissance) timeout we had a group hug. I was there by myself. I looked over and saw the Renaissance girls crying and upset over by their bench looking like they had lost. It was all set up for me. It was just like I practice every time out."

Franklin appeared to have the game wrapped up in regulation leading 47-37 on a basket by sophomore Chelsea Williams with 2:30 remaining, but the Phoenix stormed back with a 10-0 run thanks to a pair of three-pointers, one by Jayda Howard and the other by Lorreal Jones.

To make matters worse, Franklin's other Taylor twin, Brittany, fouled out with 1:11 left and Jones' rebound basket with 1:02 left knotted the count at 47.

Franklin missed a pair of front-ends of a one-and-one



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Chelsea Williams (20), Nicole Emery (10), Brittany Milican (behind left) and Seneca Scott (21) leap for joy after teammate Briauna Taylor (31) sinks a free throw after time ran out in overtime to win their Class A state semifinal game Friday over Detroit Renaissance, 55-54.

in the final 1:50 and had three good cracks at the game-winning basket in the final moments of regulation.

Renaissance then led on four different occasions during the four-minute overtime, including a 54-52 edge with only 10 seconds left.

Briauna Taylor, who missed part of the overtime with a severe cramp in her calf, returned to make a pair of baskets, a free throw and the game-tying rebound shot as time expired.

"I knew Chelsea's shot was going to the right and number 25 (Shavon Caldwell) was trying to box me out," Taylor explained. "She was fumbling the ball and I just snatched it from her. I just threw it up there and it went in."

Williams, the 5-9 sophomore, finished with a team-high 17 points, while Briauna Taylor added 15 points, seven steals and nine rebounds.

Junior Seneca Scott also had a big game with nine rebounds and six points. Brittany Taylor had seven points and six assists. Franklin's other starter Nicole Emery finished with seven points as well.

"When Brittany fouled out we did not hang our heads," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "We have 15 other kids on the team and one injured. We're just not a two-man team with the Taylors. They all work and they all pick each other up."

Franklin held its own on the boards against the taller



Phoenix, who had a 42-38 rebounding edge.

"Defensively we were strong on the boards, but a little weak offensively," McCall said. "It's the best game Seneca (Scott) has had. She's 5-9 and she's going against a 6-2, 200-pound girl (Arrice Bryant) and giving up three or four inches. But she'll fight you every step. And what she does defensively by getting steals she gives you 12 points every game."

Renaissance (22-4) got 14 points from Howard and 13 from point-guard Elizabeth Badgett.

The Phoenix led 14-8 after one quarter and 21-18 at halftime before Franklin caught fire with an 18-12 third quarter run. The Patriots led 36-33

going into the fourth thanks to three consecutive free throws by Brittany Milican after being fouled on a three-point attempt with only 0.08 left on the clock.

The Patriots then went on a 9-0 run behind the brilliant play of Williams, who had seven fourth-quarter points. But Renaissance refused to die and pulled even at the end of regulation.

One telling statistic were turnovers as the Phoenix committed a total of 34. Renaissance seemed befuddled by Franklin's extended 2-3 zone defense.

"It's disheartening, I did not know if she (Taylor) got the shot off in time," Renaissance coach Diane Jones said of the game-tying shot. "We should have had

the rebound. Hats off to them. We just never got into a rhythm. Both Asia (Boyd) and Lorreal (Jones) struggled. They never got into the flow. The 34 turnovers is what killed us. You can't win games with that many. And we were not patient."

Franklin got many off its second-half points off the fast-break.

"I thought they (Renaissance) were tired and we were more conditioned," Briauna Taylor said. "If we could run we knew they wouldn't get back defensively."

Benton Harbor, meanwhile, advanced with 65-45 semifinal win over Lake Orion, which bowed out with a 24-3 record.

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GAME WRAPS

College baseball

MADONNA 10, COLL. OF OZARK (MO.) 2: Tom Hansen pitched a complete-game three-hitter Friday to improve his record to 5-1 as Madonna University (19-2) downed host College of the Ozark (6-15) in Point Lookout, Mo.

Hansen walked only two and struck out two.

Ted Toune had two hits, including his second homer of the year and two RBI. Bill Hardin also had a pair of hits and two RBI, while Zach Flavin finished with two hits and RBI. Drew Frey also knocked in two runs.

MADONNA 13, MISSOURI BAPTIST 3: Ryan Morrow went 3-for-4 with four RBI, while Aaron Hacias also went 3-for-4 with an RBI as Madonna University (18-2) dropped Missouri Baptist (12-1) in a game Friday in Point Lookout, Mo.

Kevin Zerbo added his sixth homer of the year for the Crusaders.

Winning pitcher Jeff Sonnenberg (5-1) went all seven innings, scattering eight hits and a walk. He fanned nine.

College softball

MADONNA 4-6, TREVECCA NAZARENE 1-1: In Friday's Lindsey Wilson/Campbellsville (Ky.) Tournament, Madonna University (16-4) swept Trevecca Nazarene University (Tenn.).

MU took the opener, 6-1, as winning pitcher Jess Irwin (8-3) allowed just two hits and a walk while striking out 12.

Danielle Richardson had a 2-run double, while Brittney Scero (Canton) added two hits.

In the nightcap, freshman Hallie Minch (Garden City) scattered six hits, three walks and struck out six in a 6-1 victory.

Richardson went 2-for-4 with four RBI, while Scero and Tedi Johnston each collected two hits.

MADONNA 13-8, IU-SOUTHEAST 0-1: Jess Irwin threw her third career no-hitter to highlight Madonna University's softball sweep Thursday of host Indiana University-Southeast (7-13) in New Albany.

The Crusaders won the opener, 13-0, in five innings as Irwin (7-3) struck out 13 and walked only two.

Danielle Richardson and Tedi Johnston each had two hits and an RBI to pace the offense. Tara LaMilza also drove in two runs.

In the nightcap, freshman Hallie Minch (Garden City) improved to 7-1 on a four-hitter as the Crusaders rolled to an 8-1 victory.

Minch struck out eight and walked only two in going all seven innings.

Johnston led the offensive attack going 3-for-4 with three RBI, while LaMilza went 2-for-4 with an RBI. Rachael Kethe also knocked in two runs while lead-off hitter Brittney Scero (Canton) also chipped in with two hits.

Girls soccer

LADYWOOD 2, WOODHAVEN 1:

Caitlin Szczyka scored a pair of goals as Livonia Ladywood opened its girls soccer season with a 2-1 victory Wednesday at home over Brownstown Woodhaven.

Szczyka scored in the 27th minute off an assist from Emily Chrzasz.

Woodhaven's Lauren Badalamente answered in the 58th minute from Renee Morrison to make it 1-1.

Szczyka then tallied the game-winner in the 78th minute off a feed from Alessia Vagnini.

Blazers goalkeeper Michele Ring made five saves.

W.L. WESTERN 3, FRANKLIN 0: In the season opener for both teams, host Livonia Franklin fell to Walled Lake Western, which jumped out to a 2-0 halftime lead.

Franklin coach Jen Barker singled out the play of seniors Courtney Smith, Brooke Killeen, Sara Ramseyer and Renee Berger.

"They gave us a solid foundation and a strong, consistent game," she said. "We've laid a solid foundation of something to work from in the coming weeks."

Lady Ocelots make NJCAA final

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was gut-check time Friday night for the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team, which needed overtime to beat Pima (Ariz.) Community College, 71-65, in the NJCAA Division II National Tournament semifinal held in East Peoria, Ill.

The victory, Schoolcraft's 23rd straight, puts the second seeds into Saturday night's championship against No. 1-ranked and two-time defending national champion Kirkwood CC (Ia.), which improved to 34-1 overall with a 61-46 victory Friday in the other semifinal over Parkland College (Ill.).

Tip-off is 8 p.m. (CST) at Illinois Central College.

"We really grinded it out, we haven't played in a game like this in a long time," said Schoolcraft College Karen Lafata, whose team is 32-2 overall. "We're playing six

COLLEGE HOOPS

freshmen on the national stage and we're playing against bigger teams. We've just got to outwork people and get up-and-down the floor."

Schoolcraft jumped out to a 36-18 halftime lead, shooting 48 percent from the floor (14-of-29), while Pima shot a woe-ful 13 percent (4-of-31).

The Aztecs came out in a 2-3 zone to start the second half and were helped when Schoolcraft's leading scorer April Goins, who finished with just seven points, fouled out.

The Lady Ocelots still led 46-29 with 12 minutes to go before Pima whittled the deficit to 57-52 with just over two minutes to play.

The Aztecs caught Schoolcraft in regulation at 57-44 and missed on a last-second three-pointer to win it, but the Lady Ocelots regrouped in the five-minute OT with an 8-0 run capped by Amber Avery's

layup with a minute to go for a 67-59 lead.

The Lady Ocelots made 8-of-14 free throws in overtime and were 3-of-5 from the floor after going 8-of-29 (28 percent) in the second half.

Taylor Langham (Salem) led Schoolcraft with 17 points before fouling out. Antania Shepherd added 16 points and 10 rebounds, while Avery contributed 12 points.

Tia Morrison led Pima (27-6) and all scorers with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Adilene Villalobos added 12 points, including 4-of-11 from three-point range.

"We seemed to lose confidence when things did not go the way we planned," Lafata said of the second half. "But I don't care what it looked like, we're playing for a national championship. We'll need a better effort against Kirkwood, which is stocked with talent."

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

Goins gets Schoolcraft jump-started in opener

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team had a few anxious moments during Thursday's NJCAA Division II National Tournament opener.

But April Goins scored 19 of her game-high 22 points in the second half as the Lady Ocelots won their 22nd in a row by downing Louisburg (N.C.), 66-46, at a game played at Illinois Central College in East Peoria.

Goins, saddled with first-half foul trouble, played the entire second half with three fouls. She hit 10-of-20 shots from the floor.

Taylor Langham (Salem) added 13 points, while point-guard Brittany Collins finished with six assists and six steals. Sheray Brown grabbed a team-high nine rebounds.

Schoolcraft, 31-2 overall,

led by only one at halftime, 24-23, before going to a match-up zone defense with 13 minutes to go in the game. The Lady Ocelots held a narrow 42-40 advantage with only 7:54 to go before going on a 14-2 run as coach Karen Lafata notched her 300th career win.

Paquita Wingate and Niesha Searles each scored 10 points for the Hurricanes, who fell to 27-4 overall.

Schoolcraft connected on a total of 28-of-67 shots from the floor (42 percent), but made 17-of-33 second-half attempts (52 percent). The Lady Ocelots shot only 8-of-17 from the foul line and outrebounded Louisburg, 47-44.

The victory moved Schoolcraft into Friday's semifinal against 27-5 Pima CC (Ariz.).

See related story.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Baseball-softball signup

Registration for the 2009 Livonia Baseball and Softball Association (LBSA) will be from 10 a.m. until noon, Saturday, March 28 and Saturday, April 4, at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Divisions offered include High School (15- and 16-year-olds) and High School/Collegiate (ages 17-19).

Within each division two levels of competitive play will be formed including highly competitive select teams for those players currently playing for their respective high school or collegiate baseball teams, and non-select teams for youths currently not playing for their respective high school or college baseball team.

Rosters are limited so please register early.

Coaches are also needed for both divisions, so consider applying. Registration forms will be available at signup or online at www.livoniabsa.com (under forms section).

For more information, call George Coram at (248) 478-5071; or

Curt Kreuzfeld at (734) 522-5413.

AAU spikers wanted

The Crusader Juniors Volleyball Club, run out of Madonna University, is seeking a few more players to help round out their 16-and-under teams.

Those interested should e-mail Brian McClain at bgmccain@aol.com; or call the MU volleyball office at (734) 432-5612.

Girls fastpitch softball

The Livonia Wild is seeking fastpitch 16- and 18-and-

under competitive girls softball players for the upcoming season.

For more information, e-mail info@ljal.com; or call Paul Seewald at (734) 462-9378.

Need cheer coaches

Livonia Stevenson has openings for a varsity cheerleading coach and JV cheerleading coach.

For more information, call Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman at (734) 744-2894.

Steelheaders meeting

Captain John Geer of Bulldog Charters will be the featured speaker 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 7 for the Metro West Steelheaders meeting at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington Road between Farmington and Five Mile roads.

Geer will provide up to date fishing information so you can get out in Lake Erie and catch your limits of walleye and perch.

The Steelheaders have also scheduled a swap meet so members and non-members can buy or sell any surplus fishing items. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call Bill King at (734) 420-4481.

Churchill spring tryouts

Livonia Churchill High has announced its tryout schedule for 2009 spring season. All athletes must have a valid physical on file (conducted after April 15, 2008) in order to tryout, in addition to the Livonia Public Schools \$200 participation fee.

Girls pom pom tryouts will be at 6 p.m. Monday, May 4 at the gymnasium (e-mail

Vicki Middleton at mru-mice@cs.com).

Competitive cheerleading will be at 6 p.m. Monday, May 11 at the gymnasium (e-mail Heidi Barrow at hbarrow@livonia.k12.mi.us).

WYAA baseball-softball

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association baseball and softball will continue from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, through April 4, at the Lange Compound Building, located at 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Baseball registrations will be offered for T-ball (ages 5-6), Coach-Pitch (7-8), Mustang (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16) and Palomino (17-18). The WYAA is chartered through Pony Baseball.

Registration for girls includes slow-pitch (ages 9-18) and fast-pitch (10-through 16-and-under).

The WYAA includes a fund-raiser to offset the cost of the program. Participants will also be given one raffle ticket for every \$5 of paid registration fees. Extra tickets can be used to enter the WYAA draw, or sold to recover the cost of registration.

For more information, call (734) 421-0640; or visit www.wyaa.org.

Girls fast-pitch softball

The Livonia Storm is seeking to add 10-and-under teams girls fast-pitch softball teams - must be ages 8-10 as of Dec. 31, 2008.

For more information regarding a special tryout and learn from experienced coaches, call Ken Jewell at (734) 266-9109.

Girls slow-pitch softball

Late registration for residents and non-residents for Livonia Parks and Recreation girls 10- and 13-and-under slow-pitch softball will be from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (residents) and 10:30 a.m.-noon (non-residents) beginning Saturday, April 4 (through April 21 on a first-come, first-serve basis; or until enrollment or teams are filled) - at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Fees are \$40 per child (resident open registration); \$50 (resident late registration); and \$60 (non-resident late registration). Cost includes hat and T-shirt.

Age requirements include: 10-and-under (cannot be 11 before Dec. 1, 2009); 13-and-under (cannot be 14 before Dec. 1, 2009).

Team assignments will be on May 1. The program includes eight scrimmages during the months of May, June and July.

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

Adult softball

The Livonia Parks and Recreation Department is offering a variety of adult softball leagues including men's slowpitch, co-ed, women's slowpitch and men's modified, which will run from April through July.

Registration for openings in the different divisions at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

The entry fee is \$400 per team.

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

Bowl for the Cure event successful

Despite a downturn in the economy, the Susan B. Komen

Bowl for the Cure events recently were very successful. Right now I don't have the amount raised, particularly with the most recent event held at Vision Lanes on Ford Road in Westland.

Meanwhile, the bowling leagues are winding down to the final stretch drives and I will try to get some information out on many of the big winners. Most area bowling centers are starting to set up the spring/summer leagues at this time.

Check with your local houses and see what will fit in with your other summertime activities. Summer leagues can be lots of good fun for everyone.

Garden City's Larry Walker proved why he is a member of the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame after winning the Metro Detroit USBC Senior Masters title at Classic Lanes in Rochester Hills.

Walker took home the top prize of \$3,000 after qualifying 18th with a six-game total of 1,264.

He remained undefeated with victories over Sam Girgenti (St. Clair Shores) 411-389; Phil Horowitz (West Bloomfield), 452-385; Ed Austreng (Waterford), 433-393; Dwayne Griggs (Orion

Township), 494-430; and David Maiorana (Rochester Hills), 459-389, en route to the championship match.

Walker again prevailed against Albert Amella III of Macomb 417-385 for the title. He averaged 218.3 for 18 games of competition.

"I've always wanted to win a Masters title and to win the Senior Masters ranks third among my bowling highlights - right behind being on Team USA and achieving the triple crown in the Michigan Majors," said the 52-year-old Walker.

Among the other area bowlers who reached match play and cashed in included: Tony Dadeppo, Troy, eighth; Ron Lechevalier, Livonia, 20th; Rick Eiermann, Garden City, 22nd; Steve Hubble, Westland, 22nd; and Larry Dagenais, Troy, 24th.

Tony Stipeak of Redford will the alternate in 33rd.

The Professional Bowlers Association announced plans to hold a World Series of Bowling, which debuts in August with the kickoff, Aug. 1-6, at Taylor Lanes.

The remainder of the series will be at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park.

The entire series will take place in the Detroit area.

It marks the first time for the PBA to spend an extended period of time in one city. The event figures to be a financial boon to Detroit with hundreds of competitive bowlers from around the world.

The seven PBA tour bowling telecasts will air on ESPN, bringing further exposure to Detroit, which boasts far more USBC certified bowlers (approximately 70,000) than any other city in the country.

Al Harrison is a resident of Southfield, and a member of the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame and the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached by e-mail: tenpinalley710@yahoo.com.



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Al Harrison

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ALL-METRO CONFERENCE 2008-09 BOYS BASKETBALL FIRST TEAM

Livonia Clarenceville: Jamie Stewart, Sr. G (co-MVP); Nathan Clark, Sr. G; Corey Reynolds, Sr. G; Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook: Eric Fishman, Sr. G (co-MVP); T.J. Trewn, Sr. F; Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest: Matt Rolf, Sr. G; Lutheran Westland: Sam Ahlersmeyer, Sr. F; Eric Shoats, Sr. G (at-large); Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett: Mark Gharfari, Jr. G; Harper Woods: D.J. Cribbs, Sr. F; Macomb Lutheran North: Kevin Geisler, Sr. F.

SECOND TEAM

Clarenceville: Jeremy Gainer, Sr. F; Darryl Whitaker, Sr. G (at-large); Cranbrook: Joey Legrasso, Soph. F; Mikel Miller, Jr. F (at-large); Lutheran Northwest: Matt Jasmer, Sr. F; Steve Sadler, Sr. F; Lutheran Westland: Josh Kruger, Sr. G; Austin Baglow, Jr. G; Liggett: Jeremiah Manning, Sr. F; Hamtramck: DeWayne Slappy, Sr. F; Anthony Nrecaj, Jr. F (at-large); Jonathan McKenzie, Soph. G (at-large).

CO-COACHES OF YEAR

Corey McKendry, Clarenceville

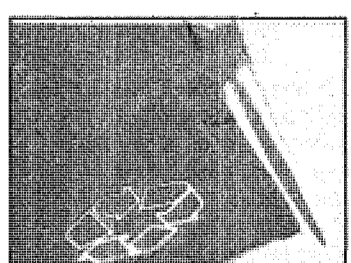
Brandon Bekius, Lutheran Westland

ALL-METRO CONFERENCE 2008-09 GIRLS BASKETBALL FIRST TEAM

Bloomfield Hills Kingswood: Abigail Cohen, Sr. G (co-MVP); Ariel Roddy, Sr. G; Katherine Blessing, Sr. F; Kelly Pace (at-large); Macomb Lutheran North: Allissen Kupp, Sr. F (co-MVP); Michelle Irvin, Sr. F; Kari Wangelin, Sr. G (at-large); Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest: Sarah MacCourtney, Sr. F; Cayla Van Gordon, Jr. F; Kristine Washburn, Sr. G; Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett: Madison Ristovski, Fr. G; Lutheran Westland: Allyson Yankee, Sr. G; Harper Woods: Charita Stewart, Sr. F; Livonia Clarenceville: Kristen Jolly, Jr. G; Hamtramck: Dazhvon Hall, Soph. G.

SECOND TEAM

Liggett: Hannah Baird, Jr. F; Charlotte Waldmeier, Sr. G; Megan Amicucci, Sr. F; Lutheran Westland: Kately Ramthun, Sr. F; Rachel Storck, Jr. F; Harper Woods: Taitler Curtin, Soph. F; Clarenceville: Martine Azar, Sr. F; Hamtramck: Ebony Gaydon, Jr. C.



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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Quite a ride

Franklin senior Brianna Taylor is carried off the floor by her teammates and applauded by Patriots fans after sinking the game-winning free throw with now time left in overtime to beat Detroit Renaissance, 55-54, in Friday's Class A state semifinal at EMU's Convocation Center. For a photo gallery on the game, visit www.hometownlife.com.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Lerg, Condra honored

The Central Collegiate Hockey Association's ninth annual Mike and Marian Ilitch Humanitarian Award was presented Thursday night to Michigan State senior goaltender Jeff Lerg (Livonia) and Nebraska-Omaha senior goaltender Jerad Kaufmann.

The Ilitch Award is given to the league's top citizen based on his contributions off the ice, as well as on, to his team, his program, his school and his community.

Lerg has been involved in a multitude of community service activities including Big Brother/Big Sisters, Spartan Buddies, Children's Miracle Network and the "Shoot for a Cure" promotion that raised more than \$5,000 for cancer research.

Notre Dame senior forward Erik Condra (Livonia) was presented with the Terry Flanagan Memorial Award in recognition of his perseverance, dedication and courage while overcoming severe adversity.

Condra worked all summer to rehab from ACL and MCL injuries and less than seven months after the injury, he returned to the lineup as team captain.

MU's Olech All-America

Madonna University junior forward Kim Olech (Plymouth) was named to the NIAA's Division II third-team All-America squad in

women's basketball.

The All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's Newcomer of the Year, who averaged 11.56 points and 10.44 rebounds per game to go along with 13 double-doubles, became the first MU women's player to be named to the squad since Sarah Thompson earned second-team honors in 2005.

Olech, also named first-team All-WHAC, helped the Crusaders to a 15-17 overall record and a 9-5 conference mark.

MU's Sims All-America

The NAIA national office announced last week its 2009 Division II Men's Basketball All-America teams and Madonna University senior guard Cedric Sims (Wayne Memorial) was tabbed to the honorable mention team.

The 6-0 Sims led MU in scoring, pouring in 15.23 points per night while grabbing just over five rebounds a game. He led the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and was third nationally with 2.9 steals per game.

His 4.4 assists a night were also tops in the conference and placed him 28th on the national stage.

MU finished the year at 12-19 overall after starting the season 0-9 and went 6-8 in the WHAC to finish fifth.

Ignition rides Wave, pulls even

In what can undeniably be called its flashiest game of the season, the Detroit Ignition clawed its way back into a first-place tie with the visiting Milwaukee Wave with a 19-12 victory on Friday night:

Both teams are now 9-7 with just four games to play, and the Ignition locked up the head-to-head tiebreaker, four games to three.

The Wave jumped out to a 2-

0 lead just over three minutes into the third, but the Ignition were quick to stall any momentum thanks to a three-point restart goal from midfielder Miki Djerisilo.

Just under three minutes later, Ryan Mack nailed another three-pointer for Detroit off a ball from Nate Craft. The two teams traded goals through the first three quarters, but the Ignition never lost their lead.

Team captain Kyt Selaidopoulos finished out the third quarter for Detroit with the third three-pointer of the match at 14:04.

Fans at Compuware Arena were treated to more than soccer in the game's final stanza.

A bicycle kick by Ignition midfielder Drew Ducker four minutes into the quarter ended in true soccer fashion - without a shirt. Despite getting a yellow card for unsportsman-

like conduct, Ducker echoed the crowd's enthusiasm and celebrated all the way to the penalty box.

Josh Rife netted the final goal for the Ignition on Milwaukee's open net at 11:20, and paid homage to the night's green jersey theme with an Irish jig at midfield.

The Ignition return to action Sunday when it takes on the Chicago Storm (7-10) at Sears Centre Arena.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
(all double-headers)
Friday, March 27
Franklin at South Lyon, 4 p.m.
John Glenn at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
Wayne at Northville, 4 p.m.
Saturday, March 28
Wayne at Garden City, 11 a.m.
John Glenn at Harrison, 1 p.m.

GIRLS SOFTBALL
(all double-headers)
Friday, March 27
Franklin at South Lyon, 4 p.m.
Wayne at Northville, 4 p.m.
Stevenson vs. John Glenn at Ladywood H.S., 4 p.m.
Saturday, March 28
Annapolis at Wayne, 11 a.m.

GIRLS SOCCER
Tuesday, March 24
Rochester at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 25
Ladywood at Thurston, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 26
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Friday, March 27
Milford at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Marian at Ladywood, 5 p.m.
Farmington at Franklin, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Harrison, 7 p.m.

BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
Saturday, March 28
EMU Relays, 10 a.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Thursday, March 26
Harrison at Franklin, 7 p.m.

BOYS GOLF
Friday, March 27
Huron Valley vs. Oak Christian, 3 p.m.
GIRLS FIGURE SKATING
Friday-Saturday, March 27-28
Individual State Championships at Midland, 8 a.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL
Sunday, March 22
Madonna at Coll. of Ozarks (Mo.), 3 p.m.
Saturday, March 28
Davenport at Madonna (2), 1 p.m.
Sunday, March 29
Madonna at Davenport (2), 1 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Sunday, March 22
(Lindsey Wilson, Ky. Classic)
Madonna at Campbellsville, 10 a.m.
Madonna vs. Union (Ky.), 12:15 p.m.
Wednesday, March 25
Rochester at Madonna (2), 4 p.m.
Saturday, March 28
Huntington (Ind.) at Madonna (2), 1 p.m.
Urbana (Ohio) at Madonna (2), 1 p.m.

OHL PLAYOFFS
(Best 4 of 7)
Sunday, March 22
Plymouth at Sarnia, TBA.
Tuesday, March 24
Sarnia at Plymouth (Compuware), 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 26
Plymouth at Sarnia, TBA.
Saturday, March 28*
Sarnia at Plymouth (Compuware), 7 p.m.
(* If necessary)

Hillsdale's Golden Girl

Canton grad Cezat puts up All-America numbers

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Like bees to honey, defenders would buzz around Hillsdale College senior forward Katie Cezat in force during the Chargers' recently completed season.

Opposing players would shadow the 6-foot scoring dynamo, well, tighter than her own shadow.

But on most nights, it was Cezat who would do the stinging as she left defenders shaking their heads in frustration when the final buzzer sounded, victimized by a player whose combination of skill, instinct and smarts produced almost as many records as Motown in its hey-day.

When Cezat, a 2005 graduate of Canton High School, walked off a college court for the final time following the Chargers' 73-72 loss to Indianapolis in an NCAA Division II game earlier this month, she owned 31 school, conference or NCAA records.

Triple the pleasure

In a Dec. 13 victory over Ferris State University, the humble ex-Chief's stat line would have made Kobe Bryant envious: 36 points, 20 rebounds and 13 blocked shots.

"I'm not sure if we'll see another player like Katie around these parts again," said Hillsdale head coach Claudette Charney. "When you watch her warm up before games, she doesn't wow you with her phys-

icality or size, but her footwork is so good and she's so fluid, she's very difficult to defend. And her speed has improved so much since she's been here, she could easily be on the track team."

"After the GLIAC tournament, the Michigan Tech coach came up to me and said he's never coached against a player better than Katie. And one of the best things about her is the records don't mean a lot to her. She's more into making sure the team wins and making her teammates around her better players."

Cezat rose to prominence last year when she followed up two seasons of primarily serving in a reserve role by leading the conference in scoring and earning All-American status.

She also garnered the attention of opposing defenses, who game-planned not to stop the uncanny scorer and rebounder, but to at least contain her.

Nearly unstoppable

Judging by the numbers she posted this season for the 27-4 Chargers - Cezat averaged 29.1 points per game and 16.8 rebounds - they didn't game-plan long enough.

"Katie's first two years here, we had a lot of upper-classmen, so she had to wait her turn," said Charney. "For a lot of high school players, it's frustrating going from a high school star to coming off the bench. The biggest adjustment Katie had to make was at the defensive end of the court."

"But after her sophomore year, she worked extremely hard that summer because she knew her opportunity was coming and she wanted to make the best of it."

Making adjustments

Cezat said she learned to deal with the constant double-teams she attracted on a game-

to-game basis.

"Obviously, no one wants the extra attention I was getting on the offensive end," she said. "Sometimes, I wondered what it would be like to get single coverage again. It was frustrating. But then I learned to figure out where the help was coming from and to adjust accordingly. If it was coming low, I'd go high and vice versa."

Of all the records she set during her tenure at Hillsdale, one stands out as her most prideful.

"It's exciting for me to have the NCAA DII double-double record," she said, referring to the 28 games this season when she reached double digits in both scoring and rebounding. "I'm proud of that one because it's more than an offensive record."

Bright future

Prior to her record-shattering junior and senior seasons, Cezat's future was set. The 3.4 (grade-point average) accounting major has a post-college job aligned with a Southfield accounting firm that she's interned for the past two summers.

However, the accounting career may be put on hold if the opportunity to play professionally arises.

"Somebody from one of the WNBA teams talked to my coach about me," said Cezat. "If I did get drafted - they only draft about 30 players each year - I have to look everything over before I decided what to do."

WNBA or not, Cezat wants to continue to play basketball, even if it's in a pick-up league.

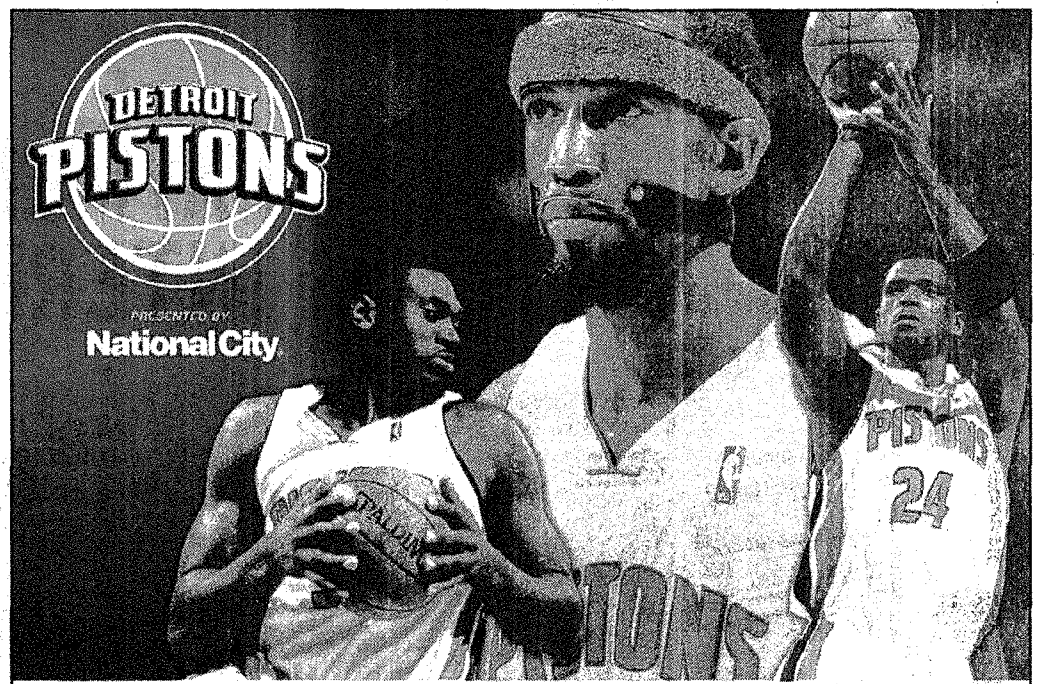
"I played some pick-up over at Lifetime Fitness (in Canton) the other day and it was kind of strange playing in low-key games like that after just playing in the NCAA tournament," she said smiling. "But I enjoyed

it."

Unlike her final NCAA game, no one was keeping stats at Lifetime.

But it's almost a given that Cezat finished with a double-double.

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NEIGHBORS

Laugh while raising funds for hospice

Angela Hospice of Livonia will present its annual women's event, "Laughter Lifts You Up," 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26. Proceeds will benefit the hospice's "Building for Life" expansion project.

The event will be held at Laurel Manor in Livonia and will feature comedian W. Bruce Cameron, author of *8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter* and *How To Remodel a Man: Tips and Techniques on Accomplishing Something You Know Is Impossible But Want To Try Anyway*.

Dinner will be served, and raffle tickets and books will be available, to be autographed

by Cameron. Reservations are \$40 per person and tickets will be sold through March 23 or until sold out. Attire is business casual.

For information, call Angela Hospice's Barb Lovan at (734) 953-6045. The Building for Life project goal is to raise \$10 million to fund a 46,000-square-foot expansion to the Angela Hospice Care Center on Newburgh in Livonia. This addition will double the inpatient capacity and create meeting rooms for grief support and more.

Cameron was born in Petoskey, and pursued writing since age 10.

Parade tests Clancy's canine good citizenship

The girls with green hair probably didn't scare anyone but me, my sister and Clancy. They along with hundreds of St. Patrick's Day revelers would



Linda Chomin

be the ultimate test of our obedience training.

For days, I wondered if our big Irish Wolfhound was finally ready to become a

Canine Good Citizen. My sister Gwen and I hadn't been able to walk in the parade in Royal Oak since he was 6 months old. After that point he'd grown so large as to overpower us anytime a squirrel or neighbors walked by. Last fall, we finally were able to take him to Boule bakery in downtown Plymouth once again for bones made by owners Jason and Natalie. The parade with thousands of people would be another story. To make sure he wouldn't gallop off, our trainer Bonny Wainz and her dog Eclipse accompanied us along with *Eccentric Hometownlife* editor Sharon Dargay and her pooch Hunter. With all that moral support I hoped we wouldn't end up running down Washington after our



PHOTO BY BONNY WAINZ

Clancy (right) and Eclipse wait patiently before marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade with Observer & Eccentric Newspapers reporter Linda Chomin on Saturday, March 14, in Royal Oak.

3-year-old. I slipped the green lei around his neck and we were off to the parking lot at Royal Oak Middle School where it seemed like we stood forever waiting to step off with a contingent of mostly rescue dogs organized by Uppity Puppy owners Patty Livernois and Kim O'Brien.


Clancy is an attention-getter so I was concerned

a child would approach too quickly and spook him. At first he was shy and tucked his tail between his legs but before long was sniffing the newcomer. I was delighted that nearly everyone asked if they could pet my dog before doing so as this is the message Wainz preaches in her Alternative Canine Training seminars on keeping kids safe from dog bites.

It was also good to see so many of the dogs following in Clancy's footsteps as a Canine Good Citizen. One English bulldog did growl at Hunter though and several strained at their leads. Wainz was especially concerned about a Labrador tugging his male owner down the street. Canine Good Citizens don't have to be robots as Wainz says but they need to listen to their human mom or dad and be non-aggressive. Clancy's only problem was he liked to play. He would pull the leash from our hands and race off to run circles around the object of his attention. Clancy's size alone is enough to scare even big dog lovers, so our "real life" training was especially important in crowds of people and dogs. All in all, the day was a real confidence builder for all of us. I'm not sure where we'll go from here. Spring has finally arrived and we plan to resume our daily walks in the neighborhood. I only hope Clancy remembers which side of the leash he's on and who's in charge. At least I think I am.

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at lchomin@hometownlife.com or (313) 222-2241.

Arthritis Today
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AS LONG AS POSSIBLE

If you have a knee in need of a joint replacement operation, you may have been counseled: "stick with your own knees as long as possible." That advice is not as sound as it seems.

The message implies that you should keep going until the pain becomes nearly unbearable. Unfortunately by the time your knees reach that stage, you are walking less than normally. With less walking your leg muscles become small and weak. This means that after your knee operation, rehabilitation will become long and difficult because of the work needed to bring the knee muscles back to the strength required for unimpaird walking. The best timing for a knee replacement is before the leg muscles are weakened by disuse.

Furthermore, a painful and arthritic knee is also an unstable one. Moving on a badly arthritic knee means you run the risk of falls both from give-way weakness by the knee and from being unable to right yourself from the usual slips that occur on stairs, uneven curbs, and cracked sidewalks. When you fall in such circumstances, the chances are great that the trauma will result in a broken bone.

A better way to decide if you should undergo a knee replacement is to take into account the features of your disability. How far can you walk comfortably and what activities are you foregoing because they are too hard to get to or to do? What do weight bearing (standing) x-rays of your knee show? Is it bone on bone? How long do you obtain relief from joint injections? Answers to these questions will tell if you are pursuing a downhill course and need an operation now.

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After waiting all winter long, it's time again to welcome golfers back to the green!

To help get you started, we've created Tee Time, your local guide to golf, a weekly page devoted entirely to golf! Readers will get tips from the Golf Association of Michigan each week on how to perfect their swing, the latest equipment and how to make golf enjoyable all season long.

Be sure to contact us about this great opportunity to keep local golfers excited about their sport spring, summer and fall!

Tee Time Begins April 2nd!

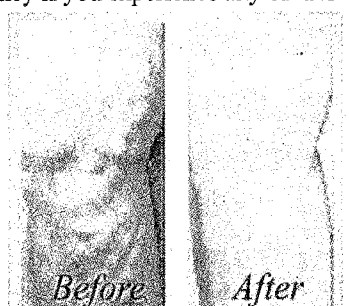
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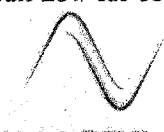


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'Up the Rouge'

Book reveals state of river

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Joel Thurtell and Patricia Beck knew only one thing for certain as they launched their canoe in the Rouge River. There was no turning back. The two *Detroit Free Press* staffers had undertaken the journey to tell the story of the neglected treasure and found the 127-mile long river jammed with fallen trees and branches.

It's probably safe to say Beck and Thurtell won't retrace their route from Zug Island to Nine Mile and Beech any time soon. They won't have to paddle through debris and step their way precariously over log jams because it's easier to turn to their book for a reminder of those five grueling days and 27.3 miles on the river.

Up the Rouge was recently released by Wayne State University Press. It follows the trip that came about after the co-workers approached their editors with an idea for series of articles on the state of the river; 2005 was the target year for the completion of two decades of government projects to make the river accessible for swimming and fishing. So far, \$1.6 billion has been spent in an attempt to clean up sites including Newburgh Lake in Livonia. Although the river and its tributaries run through Northville, Plymouth Township, Canton, Westland, West Bloomfield, Rochester Hills, Farmington, and the suburbs, the major part of the trip went through Detroit.

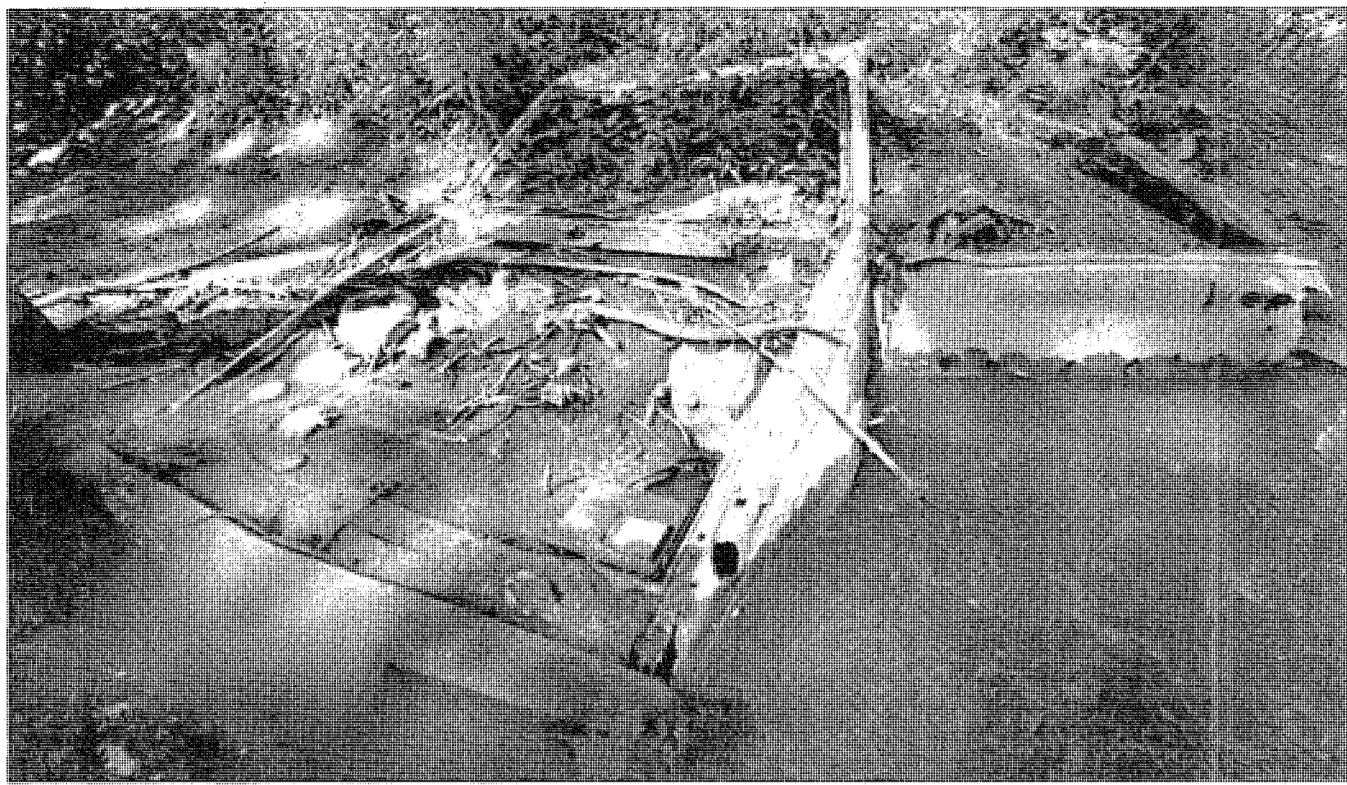
Thurtell had reported on issues surrounding sewage problems since becoming a reporter for the newspaper in 1984. He knew that as Detroit grew, sewage was dumped into the river. In 1940 the city built the wastewater treatment plant, but the problems never went away.

He and Beck worked together in the Oakland newsroom, first in Royal Oak then in Southfield where Beck lives. Beck's been a photojournalist for the paper since 1977. Her images capture the snapping turtles trying to survive amidst the trash. In 2002, they'd taken a short trip on the Rouge in Beverly Hills where Beck grew up. After weeks of planning they knew the river remained polluted.

"We wanted to canoe through the big city," said Thurtell, who lives about a block from Tonquish Creek, the Rouge tributary in Plymouth Township. "We knew there would be more water there. After June it gets low. Why we picked the main branch is settlers came up the main branch. It's the most powerful branch of the river."

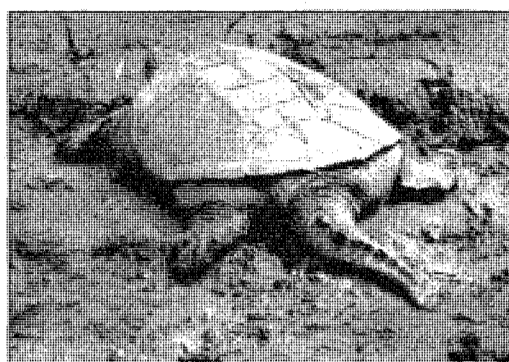
ABLE BOATERS

Both have a love of water even though it's sometimes shadowed by their history. Beck remembers in the early 1960s taking trips on her family's boat up the river, then afterwards having to get in the dinghy to scrub away orange residue. Joel's memories of growing up on Flat



Saplings grow out of the vacant space where a windshield once existed. Dumping the car into the river has caused the bank to reform itself in and around the vehicle, filling the car's engine cavity with sediment.

PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BECK COURTESY OF THE DETROIT FREE PRESS



Patricia Beck and Joel Thurtell paddled past this snapping turtle sunning itself along the muddy bank of the golf course at Detroit's River Rouge Park. They guessed the reptile was 12 inches across.

River in western Michigan sometimes repulse him as he thinks back. He learned to swim in the river where a pipe spewed excrement from a household toilet in the 1960s.

Still, the two were committed to the trip. Their long history of boating made the adventure possible, but there were hazards ahead. A total of 72 log jams impeded their progress. Contaminated water posed the threat of disease.

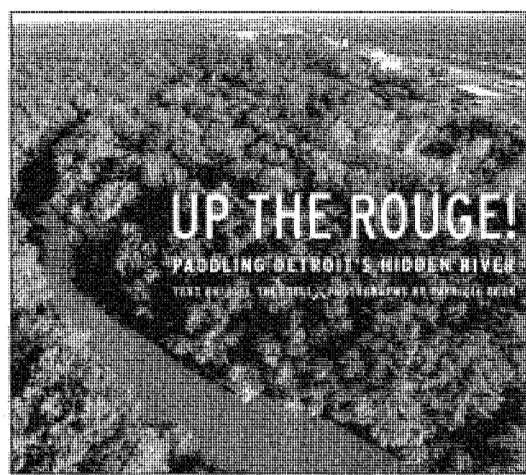
"It was a lot of work, even getting prepared, scouting out bathrooms and launch and exit sites. Steep banks prevented a hasty retreat. We had to deal with safety issues," said Thurtell. "The river would take us into places we'd never been before or couldn't control."

"Ninety-five percent of the time the water was unfit," said Beck. "We wore rubber gardening gloves, leather gloves to minimize contact."

Thurtell ended up with scratches around his legs and feet which became infected from the polluted water. Beck injured her wrist.

"We were in hip boots that if you stepped the wrong way on a log jam it would fill with polluted water," said Beck.

"Log jams can be more precarious than they



Joel Thurtell and Patricia Beck chronicle their adventure up the Rouge River in a book recently released by Wayne State University Press.

look. They can scoot out from under you," added Thurtell. "You could be sucked down. Even though we wore life jackets there are people who drown wearing life jackets. I have a respect for log jams. There's an element of danger waiting."

Beck's photograph of one log jam shows fauna growing. Old tires, abandoned boats, a discarded television, and a golf ball gone astray show the dark side while a dragonfly and great blue heron hint at the beauty. All were shot with two 35mm cameras. Just in case of a tip over Beck protected both in waterproof bags when not in use.

The assignment was definitely challenging. It was "tricky" to not only take photos from a canoe but deal with the changing light as they passed under canopies of trees and back into bright sun.

"I'd like to do it again when it's clean and free of log jams," said Beck. "There were times you thought this could be northern Michigan."

RAISING AWARENESS

The two did draw attention to the plight of the river and in doing so won the Water Environment Federation's 2006 Harry Schlenz Medal for Public Education for the series of articles in October 2005. Today they've returned to their lives. Beck continues to shoot for the *Detroit Free Press* while Thurtell retired. He hasn't given up writing about the river though. Since the trip, he's learned more about the Rouge and toxic chemicals as evidenced by an article in the *Metro Times* December 2008.

Both are still glad they made the trip in spite of the frightening moments with barges coming straight at them.

"One of the reasons was to bring people where people can't go," said Thurtell. "We saw a bird no one else had seen in Wayne County in summer, turtles who always seemed to see us before we saw them. I encourage people to rethink how we deal with pollution. We spent \$1.6 billion and still can't swim in it or fish."

Like Thurtell, Beck wanted to draw attention to the river.

"The world is ours for a short period of time," said Beck. "We are its custodians. We have a responsibility to care for the environment for the next generation. Sewage is an intentional thing by city government. As explorers of the Rouge we needed to find out what was there and let people know."

Up the Rouge costs \$34.95 and is available at the Book Beat in Oak Park, local Barnes & Noble and Borders stores, and online at amazon.com, wsupress.wayne.edu and uptherouge.com. For information on a book signing May 23, at the Canton Historical Society, visit uptherouge.com. Earlier signings are April 1, for the Friends of the Detroit River in Trenton, and April 20 at Barnes & Noble, Allen Park.

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Stations will rotate every 30 minutes.

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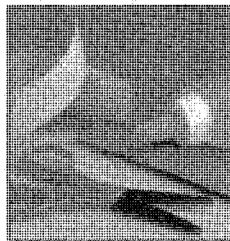
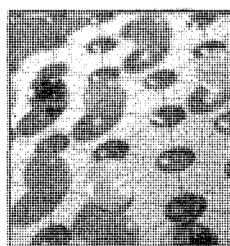
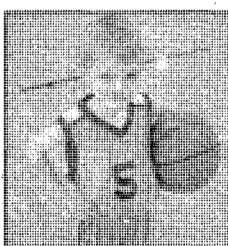
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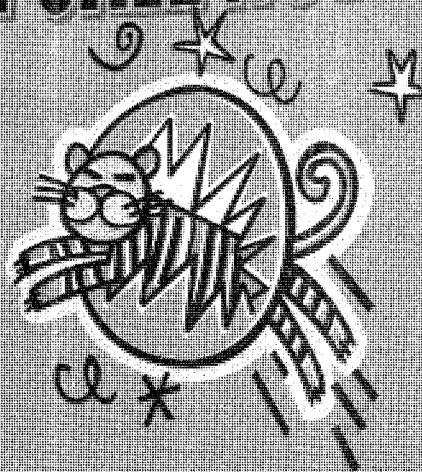
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MILESTONES



Smith-Reeg Paula K. Reeg, of Northville, daughter of Judith Reeg of Livonia and the late Lowell Reeg, wed Jason E. Smith of Northville, son of the late Richard and Carol Smith of Nashville, Tenn. on Dec. 6, 2008 at The Little Wedding Chapel in Taylor.



Lupa-Kegebein Lynn Lupa of Livonia and Tony Lupa of Farmington Hills announce the marriage of their daughter Lisa, to Bradley Kegebein of Royal Oak, on Jan. 17, 2009. Lisa is a 2000 graduate of Stevenson High School and a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University. She teaches high school in West Bloomfield. Brad is a 2001 graduate of Country Day and a 2007 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. He works as a personal trainer in Birmingham. They reside in Royal Oak.

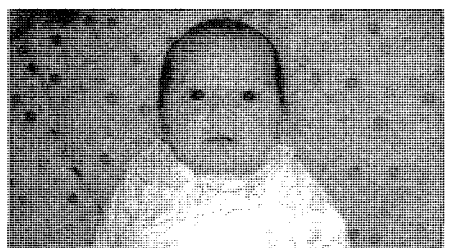


Bonnell-Wright Tom and Terese Bonnell of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Ann, to Brandon Thomas Wright, son of Thomas and Sharon Wright of Belleville, formerly of Canton. The bride-to-be graduated from Grand Valley State University and teaches at Roosevelt Elementary School. Her fiancé graduated from Grand Valley State University and works as a network engineer with Consumer's Energy. The couple plan to wed in June 2009 at Old St Mary's, Detroit with a reception following at Plymouth Manor.

Dupuis-Wendling Michael and Wendy Dupuis of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy, to Jonathon G. Wendling, son of John and Jeriann Wendling of Chesaning. The bride-to-be graduated in 2006 from the University of Detroit Mercy's School of Dentistry with a doctorate degree in dental surgery. She currently practices in Warren. Her fiancé graduated from Saginaw Valley State University in 2008, with a bachelor of science degree in business manage-



ment. He works for Johnson Controls. The couple plan to wed in May 2009 in New Lothrop.



Lea Carolyn Benedict Craig and Laura Benedict of Canton announce the birth of their daughter, Lea Carolyn Benedict. She was born Jan. 25, 2009 at St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor. She joins her sister, Kylie Benedict, 2, and grandparents Dean and Pam Benedict, and Fred and Cindy Ciantar, all of Canton.

Share your happy news!

Engaged and newly married couples may share their news for free in the Observer. Send a non-copyrighted photo — it can be any size, black and white or color — to Wendy Von Buskirk, 615 W. Lafayette, Level 2, Detroit MI 48226. E-mailed photos are also acceptable. Please send in J-PEG format, in as large a file as possible, to wvnb@hometownlife.com.

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the newspaper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your reunion announcement at least two weeks in advance to Linda Chomin, e-mail lchomin@hometownlife.com.
Birmingham Groves Class of 1969 40th high school reunion will be at 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 24, 2009, at The Community House in Birmingham. Contact Sue (Dickson) Carlson at (248) 737-1398 or grovesclassof69@aol.com for further information.
Brighton High School Class of 1989 Planning a July 25 reunion at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. There will be a buffet dinner, DJ, and cash bar. Tickets \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. Contact Kelley (Doan) Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or email4kelley@yahoo.com, or see groups.yahoo.com/group/brightonclassof1989.
Cass Technical High School Class of 1959 50th reunion with activities June 5-7, 2009. Events will include a Saturday evening dinner party at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield. Visit www.casstech59.com or contact Marge Teramino Knable, reunion@casstech59.com; Debbie Friedman, (248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling, (248) 360-9658.
Dearborn Fordson Class of 1969 Planning a reunion. Contact Kathy Nison at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: kaynini@ao.com or Kathy Shoebridge@klivingston@nu-core.com.
Dearborn Heights Riverside Class of 1967 A 42-year reunion is planned for Sept. 18-19, 2009. Event includes: Friday night graduate-only get-together with pizza and salad (\$10) at DeLuca's, 27424 W. Warren Road, Westland; Saturday night dinner at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Road, Westland. Tickets for Saturday event are \$35 per person. Contact Gerry Porta for more information at (734) 718-9401 or gwiatr@gmail.com.
Detroit Blessed Sacrament Class of 1952 Planning a high school reunion on June 27, 2009. Looking for classmates. Call Shirley Boots at (734) 525-8746.
Detroit St. Brigid Class of 1959 Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.
Detroit schools Planning a mini reunion for anyone who graduated from Bagley Elementary in January 1957 or Post Junior High School in January 1960 in Detroit. If interested, call Gloria Weinman Little at (248) 352-9114 or e-mail to Marlene Kutnick Yamron hahatdc@yahoo.com. The reunion is planned for Feb. 27, 2009.
Henry Ford II Class of 1982 Looking for classmates. We are having a reunion picnic on June 6, at Stony Creek MetroPark and we're also planning a reunion in 2010. For details, contact Gwynne (Doerner) Bamburg at (248) 740-9759, ford21982@aol.com or visit www.classreport.org.
Detroit St. Casimir High School Class of 1959 Planning a Sept. 13, 2009 class reunion. All upper and lower classmates invited. Contact Judy (Zimski) Cogan at JudyCoo@hotmail.com or (734) 675-0148 or Pete Rakowski at PjCruisin@wow-way.com.
Garden City High School East Class of 1959 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, 2009 high school tour; 6:30 p.m. Albert's On The Alley; 11 a.m. Saturday Sept. 19, Garden City Museum tour; 6 p.m. to midnight party at K. of C., 30759 Ford Road and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, picnic and old car show at Garden City Park large pavilion. Bring your own picnic and some to share. For more information, call Lana Clark at (734) 721-2331, Jim Mc Kendrick at (734) 788-5165, Carl Gowan at (517) 548-1523, or Jim Porth at (734) 522-1845.

Guide to Employment CHECK OUT THESE EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES! For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Observer Newspapers wants to know what's going on in your neighborhood. Send items to Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226-3124 or lchomin@hometownlife.com.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Trinity Church is once again hosting a Mobile Food Pantry Saturday, March 28, at the church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., west of Beck, Plymouth. Reservations can only be made Monday-Thursday, March 23-26, between 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. To schedule a time for pick up on March 28, call (734) 459-9557.

The free food distribution is a way for the church to offer assistance in these trying economic times. This is the fourth food pantry that Trinity members will host.

NOTED AUTHOR

Reyna Grande, author of the novel *Across a Hundred Mountains* speaks and signs books 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, in the Presentation Room at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Grande's book received critical acclaim in 2006 for its portrayal of the perils of immigration and crossing the U.S. border, the heartbreaking cycle of poverty and the fractured family ties and identities of those who make it to the other side. *Across a Hundred Mountains* was inspired by Grande's life. Her father left her to work in the U.S. when she was only a year old. Copies of her book will be available for sale.

This Meet the Author event is supported by a grant from the Schoolcraft College Foundation. For more information, call Ela Rybicka at (734) 462-4400, ext. 5685, or send e-mail to erybicka@schoolcraft.edu.

THEATER AUDITIONS

Inspire Theatre is holding auditions for the comedy *Father of the Bride* by Caroline Francke 6:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, April 6-7, inside Warren Road Church, at 33445 Warren Road, south of Venoy, Westland. Acting roles are available for 11 men and 7 women (all ages). For details, call (734) 751-7057 or visit inspire@inspiretheatre.com. Performances of *Father of the Bride* run June 5-6, and June 12-13.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The City of Farmington Hills is seeking artists to participate in Art on the Grand, a juried fine arts fair to be held July 17-19, in Memorial Park on Grand River next to Farmington Road in downtown Farmington. The fair is held in conjunction with the Farmington Area Founders

Festival which attracts more than 50,000 people annually. A small but elegant fair, Art on the Grand has enjoyed much success. The fine arts section also will feature entertainment and activities for children making it an attraction for families as well as art fans.

Artists in all media are invited to apply for a booth. The application fee is \$250 for the three days with no jurying fee. A prize award for "Best of Show" and two honorary "Mayor's Awards" are given each year. Interested artists should call the City of Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division at (248) 473-1856 for information and an application form.

ZIMBABWE LECTURE

Everyone is invited (including men) to the American Association of University Women-Livonia Branch meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, in Livonia, to hear Ann Taber talk about her latest trip to Zimbabwe. Taber received an award from the Livonia Branch of the American Association of University Women in December 2008 for her service in the troubled country of Zimbabwe over the past decade.

The women of the AAUW Livonia Branch, like Taber, have dedicated their time, energy, expertise, and compassion in numerous ways. They have been helping at the Women's Resource Center (now the Transitions Center) at Schoolcraft College averaging three hours a week each for many years. Members of the local University Women's group volunteer in schools, hospitals, food banks, domestic abuse shelters, homeless shelters, museums, gardens, libraries, television stations, prisons, churches, and a myriad of other places locally. AAUW members sew "Little Dresses for Africa," knit chemo caps for breast cancer patients, mentor young girls, visit Alzheimer's patients, donate to numerous charities and serve in countless ways.

The women leaders of AAUW of Livonia encourage everyone to participate in the renewed spirit of service. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., "everyone can be a leader, because everyone can serve."

Besides helping others, AAUW members enjoy socializing. Every month there is an informative presentation. There are numerous opportunities available to members in areas including books, cards, international affairs, travel, sewing, eating out, and others. Any women who have an Associates degree or better are invited to join the Livonia Branch. The monthly meetings are 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.



An artist works in the Goldner Walsh greenhouse on a sketch.

GARDEN CALENDAR

If you have an item for the garden calendar, submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Garden art

Goldner Walsh Garden & Home, along with Thursday Company of Art, will display and sell drawings and paintings done during winter in the Goldner Walsh greenhouse, 6-8 p.m. Friday, March 27, at the store, 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. Refreshments will be served. Free admission. (248) 332-6430

At English Gardens

Learn about the new varieties of roses, proper care, maintenance, planting procedures, insect and disease control, pruning and fertilizing in a free presentation, 1 p.m., Saturday, March 28, in all stores. Visit local English Gardens stores at 44850 Garfield at Hall in Clinton Township, (586) 286-6100; 6370 Orchard Lake Road at Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 851-7506; 4901 Coolidge, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; 22650 Ford Road at Outer Driver in Dearborn, (313) 278-4433; and 155 Maple at Jackson, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900.

Mark your calendars

The Michigan State African Violet Society will hold its annual spring display and plant sale, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, April 4 and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, April 5 at

Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro, Ann Arbor. African Violets will be on display and available for purchase. Gesneriads will be available, along with supplies. For more information call (248) 698-3628 or e-mail to INGRIDBOWMAN07@comcast.net.

Farmington Garden Club

Mary Krzeckowski of the Taylor Garden Club will talk about efforts to make the Downriver area a butterfly-friendly zone at the Farmington Club's next meeting, Monday, April 6, at Spicer House in Heritage Park. She'll also offer advice on attracting butterflies to backyard gardens. Meetings start at noon with coffee and refreshments. For more information call (248) 473-0822 or visit farmingtongardenclub.com.

Livonia Garden Club

7 p.m., Tuesday, April 7, at the Livonia Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Road, in Livonia. Joe Barson of Barson's Flowers, will give pointers on how to make beautiful containers for outdoor living spaces. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Susan Rakay at (734) 464-7915.

Koi symposium

The Michigan Koi & Pond Club presents a unique all-day convention with local vendors and lecturers from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at The Bailey Center, 36651 Ford Road, Westland. Taro Kodama of Kodama Koi Farm, Milihani, Hawaii, will be

the keynote speaker. Registration, open to age 16 and older, is \$30 for club members and \$35 for non-members through April 11. Add \$5 for registrations after April 11. Registration includes access to all vendors, lectures and a catered lunch. Lunch is not guaranteed for those who register after April 11. Doors open at 8 a.m.; the first session will start at 9 a.m. Mail checks, payable to Michigan Koi & Pond Club, to Bruce Modetz, 32525 Six Mile, Livonia, MI 48152. For more information call Ray Alexander at (734) 846-8588; Ron Kardynski at (734) 646-7606 or Bruce Modetz, (734) 673-4868.

Water solutions

Beth Rowley, owner of Landscape Beauty by Design, will offer practical, water-saving advice on mowing, fertilizing and watering your lawn at 7 p.m., April 21, at the Canton Public Library, 1200 South Canton Center, Canton. She'll also talk about creative landscaping to save water. The program is free, although registration is required. (734) 397-0999.

Yard Scraps to Garden Treasure

Advanced Master Gardeners and composers Nancy Perry and Luann Davis of the Canton Garden Club, will talk about using inexpensive vermicomposting methods to enrich soil and reduce waste, at 7 p.m., April 22, at the Canton Public Library, 1200 South Canton Center, Canton. Register for the free program by calling (734) 397-0999.



Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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JOAN CAROL STARKWEATHER STERN

Age 71, passed peacefully on March 19, 2009. Beloved wife of Joseph Stern Jr., devoted mother of Eric (Julie) and Bradley (Kelly), dear sister of Barbara (Ron) Osburn and Carolyn (the late Robert) Dillon, and loving grandmother to Gabrielle and Emma. Joan was an agent at Prudential Cranbrook Realtors, past treasurer of Alpha Xi Delta sorority, former president and treasurer of Birmingham Kiwanis Club, past treasurer of the Salvation Army Royal Oak Women's Auxiliary, and corresponding secretary and board member of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra. Donations may be made to Beaumont Hospice or the Salvation Army Royal Oak Women's Auxiliary. A memorial service will be held at noon on Saturday, April 18, at the Salvation Army Royal Oak Citadel. Arrangements by Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, Royal Oak, 248-541-7000. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

DORIS MARSHALL WEINBERGER

Of Encinitas, California, and formerly of Birmingham, Michigan died March 11 of age-related causes. She was 84. Mrs. Weinberger (nee Klass) was born in 1924, in the small town of Antioch, Illinois. She was her high school Valedictorian, and received BA and MSW degrees from the University of Chicago. She married Robert Marshall (1920-1988) in 1948, and they lived in Ann Arbor and then Birmingham, where he was minister of the Birmingham Unitarian Church for 22 years. They divorced in 1978. She worked as a clinical and psychiatric social worker in Michigan for almost 20 years, and was an active volunteer in many organizations. Mrs. Marshall travelled extensively. At age 62, she joined the Peace Corps in the Philippines and also travelled to Peru, Chile, Japan, Egypt, Greece, England, Italy and extensively in Israel and the United States. She met Arthur Weinberger on an Elder Hostel trip in 1999, and they were married on July 16, 2000. Together, they traveled to Alaska, Hawaii, China, Vietnam, Mexico and the Danube region, and continued to attend Elder Hostel programs. Mrs. Weinberger is survived by her beloved husband Arthur, who will turn 101 on July 18. She is also survived by her five children, Stephen, Barbara, Robert, John and Joy, and four grandchildren. Remembrances to the Nature Conservancy or Stand for Children.

Let others know...

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

Observer & Eccentric

Call 1-800-579-7355

In Memory Of

In Loving Memory Of ALFRED VIDRIO

April 10, 1933 - March 22, 2007. Deeply missed and forever loved. You are always in our hearts knowing that you are at peace and with our Judy. Your loving wife, Patricia, Rick, Rendy, Alex, Lana, and extended family and friends.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

Should I buy energy-efficient or top load washing machine?

Please understand, as you read this column that as a talk show host on two different radio stations I must always watch what I say and write. The old saying, "don't bite the hand that feeds you" is always prevalent whenever I'm



Appliance Doctor
Joe Gagnon

using brand names in my column. I refer to the several area businesses who are advertisers on my shows. These companies in the appliance industry have never given me a hard time or tried to influence me in what I have to say about the products they sell. There is no doubt that I make money from these advertisers and I try not to do anything to alienate them. Let me be clear the before you read further, Home Depot is not an advertiser with the Appliance Doctor. Beverly writes: "Dear Appliance Doctor, read your article on Sunday in the *Observer and Eccentric*. Most helpful consumer advice I have ever received. I'm in the market for a washer/dryer and hoped to go energy efficient (Energy Star). I went to Home Depot today, took the article with me and had a good long conversa-

tion with the salesman who was knowledgeable.

"During my visit, a man came up to me and asked if I was going to buy a front-load. He told me he had never been as disappointed in his life as he was with his two-year-old energy efficient front-load. I let him read your article and he said it made great sense. They have a bad smell coming from their washer.

"Another salesman at Home Depot just happened to mention that his wife noticed a really bad smell in their washer, too. Who wants to wear clean clothes fresh out of the washer/dryer that smell? Unbelievable. Well, the good knowledgeable salesman showed me the LG brand front-load energy efficient washer. It has a small door in the lower front of the door panel. When you open the door there is a screw cap that you unscrew and out comes a plastic filter that you can clean easily — no brush bristles — looks more like a plastic scoop with slots.

"Salesman said this prevents the problem you speak about in the article. He made no mention of any water that would drain out or need to be drained out. The washer is built so that the wash drum tilts slightly back which he said avoids water drain problems. What do you think? The washer is LG model# Wm2016CN.

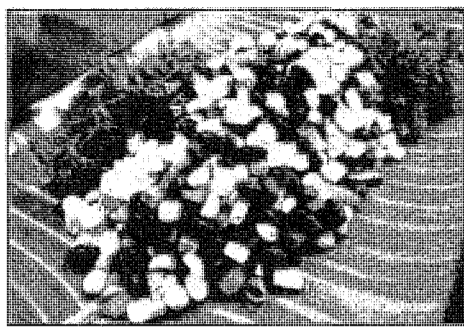
"If I have to clean a hard to get at filter and have water building up in my machine, then I'm not ready for energy-efficient! I'll just stick with a good quality top load. Please advise me as to whether you think this front door filter on the LG will do the trick to avoid a smelly filter and avoid a buildup of residual wash-water. Thanks for your report."

After some 20 years of writing this column never have I received the responses like I'm getting lately and this is all due to the articles on the front load washer with the smelly or mold problem. It's no wonder and all you have to do is go into your computer and google front load washer complaints. Beverly's letter to me refers to a column I wrote dated the last Sunday of February. I talked about a filter that some manufacturers have and that should be cleaned. Some people have written me, saying that once they found the filter and cleaned it, the odor problem disappeared. Can the cure be that simple? If it is, why don't all machines have a filter you can clean? If you would like a copy of that previous column, drop me a note. I'll send it to you. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twm1.r.com

HEALTH & FITNESS

Better living



Corn and black bean salad.



For dessert, Jeanie Weaver combines raspberries with crumbled almond granenut bar.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeanie Weaver (left), Dr. Arthur Weaver, and Natalie Weaver are pictured with several of the dishes for the Plant Based Diet Seminar at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School in Plymouth.

Seminar touts benefits of plant-based diet

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Back in the 1960s, Dr. Arthur Weaver used to pull a blackened lung from a bucket to shock participants at stop smoking seminars into quitting. Today he's mellowed and sticks to statistics when trying to convince an audience to change unhealthy habits.

On Sunday, March 29, he reveals the latest studies that add to a growing myriad of reasons for choosing a plant-based diet to reduce the risk for cancer, diabetes and heart disease. The afternoon-long session presents nutrition information, cooking demonstrations and exercise tips for a holistic approach to prevention.

Weaver spent more than 40 years as a cancer surgeon. During his career the causes remained elusive, but in the last decade studies increasingly show a link to eating animal products.

In addition to the March 29 event at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School in Plymouth, Weaver's Better Living Seminars offer a week-long Health Camp in Northern Michigan in early May to stop smoking, introduce exercise into daily routines, control stress and weight, and eat healthy by preparing vegetarian dishes. The

Plant Based Diet Seminar on March 29 concludes with a meatless meal.

"Most chronic diseases are lifestyle induced," said Weaver, 85. The Northville resident has been a vegetarian since birth. "At least 80-percent of cancer is preventable. About 1/3 of that is tobacco and alcohol related, the rest diet. Heart disease is mostly lifestyle. What people eat is very important to how they live and when they die. We know now it's what you put on your fork."

Natalie Weaver and her daughter-in-law Jeanie recently filled a table with dishes for getting started on the road to meatless eating. They suggest cutting back gradually by making food that not only tastes but looks good.

Black bean and corn salad, red pepper bean dip, golden rice, and asparagus soup tempt the eye as well as taste buds. The recipes come from several cookbooks resulting from the annual Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza at the church.

The second week in November nearly three dozen vegetarians and vegans prepare everything from entrees to desserts. Last year more than 60 samples left guests wondering which recipe to try first.

"Everybody's so busy it has to be simple and quick," said 84-

year-old Natalie, Dr. Weaver's wife. The two have been giving their Better Living Seminars since the early 1980s. "We like to make it easy so they think, 'I could try that.'"

Laurie Novotny not only made one of the burgers from the Extravaganza, she entered an altered version in the Michigan State Fair last August and won third place for her Hamtramck Health Burger.

The Livonia woman is always looking for nutritious recipes to add to her semi-vegetarian menus, especially since she began studies to become a registered dietitian. The Madonna University senior grew up eating a steady diet of high-fat Polish food. At age 50 she's concerned with every aspect of health. Her brother died of juvenile diabetes at age 24, her mother of diabetes in mid-life.

She was determined her daughter, Anna, a college freshman, would avoid developing the disease by eating a semi-vegetarian diet.

"My favorite thing about the dietetics field is that you can keep the food you like and alter it to make it healthier for you," said Novotny. "I still get the flavor and taste I grew up with. I used oatmeal and nut meal for the burger then topped it with sauerkraut and presented it in a healthier format."

Association sounds alert about diabetes

The American Diabetes Association will sound the alert about diabetes on American Diabetes Alert Day, March 24. The one-day call to action encourages those at risk for developing type 2 diabetes or those with loved ones at risk to take the Diabetes Risk Test and, if at high risk, to schedule an appointment to see their healthcare provider. The Diabetes Risk Test is available in English and Spanish by calling the Association at 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383) or online at www.diabetes.org/alert.

The American Diabetes Association is leading the fight against the deadly consequences of diabetes and fighting for those affected by the devastating disease. More than 800,000 people in Michigan, nearly 6 million nationwide, are unaware they have diabetes. An additional 57 million Americans have pre-diabetes, which puts them at greatest risk for developing type 2 diabetes. Among the primary risk factors for type 2 diabetes are being overweight, sedentary, over the age of 45 and having a family history of diabetes.

African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders are at an increased risk as are women who have had babies weighing more than nine pounds at birth. Diabetes is a leading cause of death by disease and has no cure.

The Association funds research to prevent, cure and manage diabetes; delivers services to hundreds of communities; provides objective and credible information; and gives voice to those denied their rights because of diabetes.

PLANT-BASED DIET SEMINAR

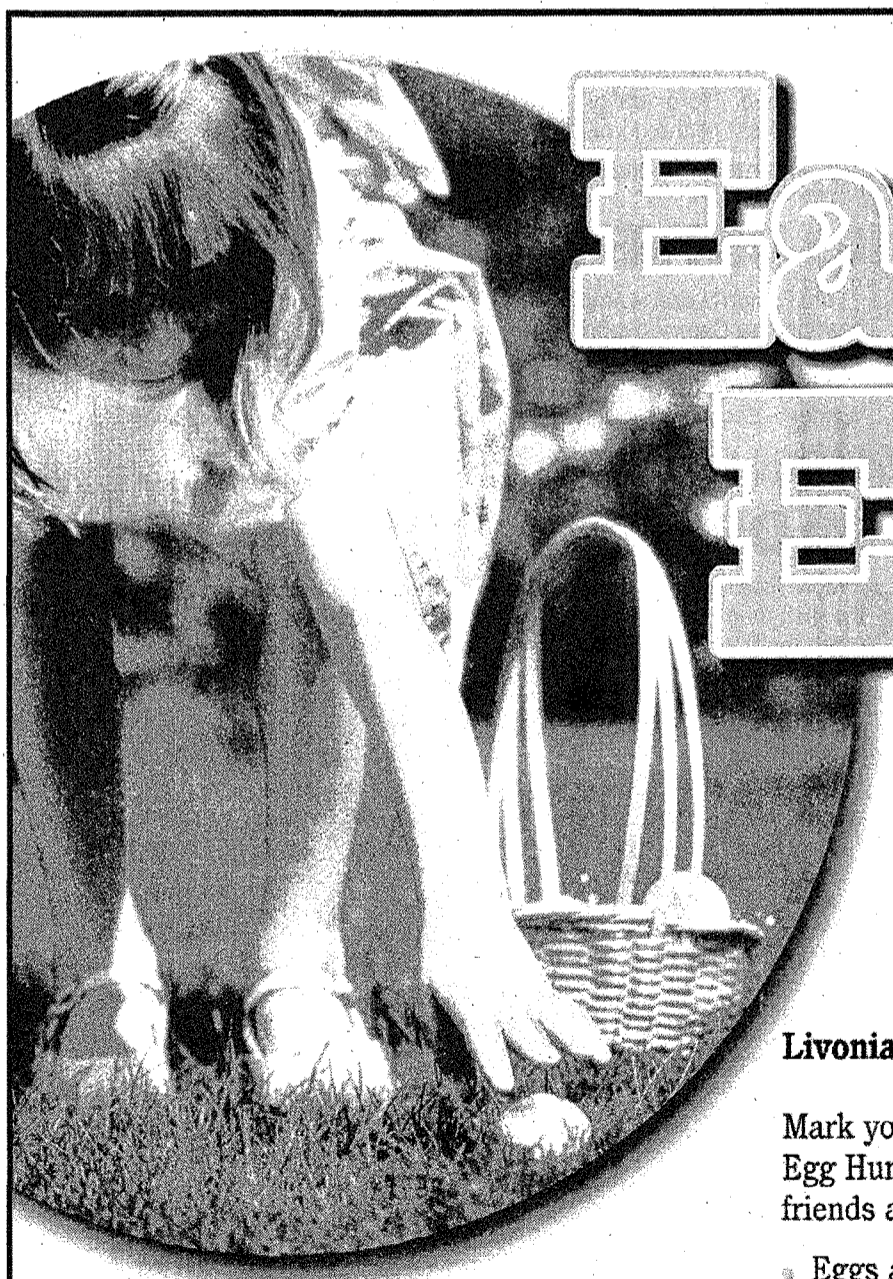
When: 2-6 p.m. Sunday, March 29
Where: Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist School, 15585 N. Haggerty, between Five Mile and Six

Mile, Plymouth
Cost: \$15 each; \$25 per couple
To register: Call (248) 446-9176 or (248) 349-5683.

tips on reaching fitness goals.

"More people need to eat more plants," said Jeannie Weaver of South Lyon. "They need to put volume into their eating for fiber and so they won't be hungry."

The Plant Based Diet Seminar runs 2-6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist School, 15585 N. Haggerty, between Five Mile and Six Mile, Plymouth. The cost is \$15 each or \$25 a couple. To register, call (248) 446-9176 or (248) 349-5683.



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 29th

1:00 p.m. - Ages 3 & Under and Ages 4-6
1:30 p.m. - Ages 7-9 and Ages 10-12

Livonia Branch • 37401 Plymouth Road (SW Corner of Newburgh & Plymouth)

Mark your calendar to join in the fun at the Community Alliance Credit Union Easter Egg Hunt for kids age 12 and under. Everyone is welcome — so bring your family, friends and neighbors, too!

• Eggs are filled with candy or tags for special prizes — Easter baskets, toys, and more



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We look forward to seeing you there!

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WHAT YOU DRIVE DRIVES AMERICA

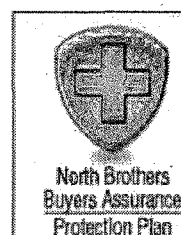
Our message of what you drive, drives America is not a marketing scheme, it is the truth. We invite you to do some research at www.levelfieldinstitute.org and see the facts surrounding American car companies. Auto jobs matter to America. Nearly five million U.S. jobs depend on automakers. They are America's number one exporter, a leading buyer of parts and materials, and our largest source of R&D.

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